

# Groundswell

[www.groundswellmi.org](http://www.groundswellmi.org)

We are excited to inform you that Groundswell, an initiative housed in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University, will be working with your child's school this academic year. Groundswell is a coalition of community partners that creates opportunities for hands-on environmental learning for K-12 students in the Grand Rapids region. The program is committed to fostering a generation of stewards to protect our Great Lakes. Groundswell is funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust (through Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative), the Wege Foundation, the Baldwin Foundation and Grand Valley State University's College of Education.

Groundswell provides resources for teachers and students to explore problems facing the Lower Grand River Watershed and Great Lakes through place-based education. This approach helps develop collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving skills.

We are happy to be in our ninth year working with students and educators in local schools. Projects this year include native plant restoration and installation, developing and maintaining a community garden, and investigating water quality in the community, just to name a few. These student-led projects are generating vital change in our West Michigan communities.

To "show off" the excellent work teachers and students are producing, we often document our projects and events through photographs, videos, and other media. We then use these to share and promote our work through publications and materials including but not limited to: printed publications, our website and newsletters, and social media sites. Therefore, we ask that you sign the accompanying photography release form and send it back to school with your child. We assure that no personal information will be included with your child's photograph.

Thank you, we look forward to a great year of environmental stewardship and learning!

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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