



Home Watershed Activities!

Feeling like you're stuck inside? These are a few activities to not only encourage everyone to get some fresh air, but also learn a little about your local watershed in the process!

Green Space Garden Design

Materials: Paper, pens/colored pencils/crayons

Resources: <https://green2.kingcounty.gov/gonative/Plan.aspx?Act=list>

Find a local green space—this could be your backyard, a nearby park, or really any patch of grass. How is the space being used now? Sketch an outline of the area, and start drawing in your own garden plan (see the link above for examples). What native plants would you include, and for what purposes (food, bee-friendly, flowers, etc.)? How could your new garden benefit the community in ways that your green space hadn't before?

Local Bird and Plant Safari

Materials: Binoculars/magnifying glass (optional), camera (optional)

Resources: 1) <https://www.wnps.org/starflower> (plant ID guides)

2) <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/> (bird ID guides and app)

How many different birds and plants live near your home? Find a comfortable space outside (or, if the weather is bad, find a window with a good view to look out of) and stay there for three minutes, trying to count as many different plants as you can see from where you are. How many did you see? Can you identify them all? After three minutes, walk around and get up close to those plants—are there any more distinguishing features you didn't notice before? Take a picture of every different plant you can find, and try to identify them using Resource 1 above. Do the same with your local birds by using Resource 2!

Ecofriendly Architect

Materials: Glass jar, black/white/colored paper, other household materials

Resources: <https://www.asla.org/greenroofeducation/index.html>

On a sunny day, find a space outside with both pavement and grass in direct sunlight. Place your materials in direct sunlight and leave for 15 minutes. Touch the pavement, grass, and each of your own materials (careful, they may be hot!). Which is the hottest/coolest? Which would you want to build a house out of if you wanted to keep it cool during the summer? Would could be other benefits/challenges of using this material to build a house?



Explorer Journal

Materials: Paper, pens/colored pencils/crayons

Go outside and imagine that you have traveled back in time to a year when nobody lived in this spot. What would be the biggest differences between now and then? Is anything the same? If you wanted to record this place and describe it to others, how would you do it? Create a drawing, poem, or short story based off of the environment around you. What would you name this location? What would you use it for?

Runoff Race

Materials: Water (and cup/bottle), timer

Find a spot outside with multiple different surfaces - grass, dirt, pavement, blacktop, mulch, etc. Make sure these surfaces are as level as possible. With your timer ready, pour an entire cup/ bottle of water on a particular surface and start the timer. Stop the timer when you cannot see any more water droplets (it's okay if the surface still looks wet). Record your results, and do the same test for each type of surface. Where did the water go? Which surface absorbed water the fastest/slowest? If possible, try the same tests on a slanted surface. Did the water stay where it was, or slide down the hill? If it rained over this surface, where do you think all the water would go?

Paper Watershed

Materials: Paper, markers (water-based), spray bottle w/ water

Resources: <https://omsi.edu/sites/all/FTP/files/expeditionnw/4.E.1.Crumple.pdf>

Take a piece of white paper and lightly crumple into a ball. Un-crumple the paper and set it outside (or inside on top of a piece of cardboard). Imagine this paper as a landscape - if you were in a plane flying overhead, what would you see? Using markers, color in some areas where you might expect to find mountains, trees, or buildings. Now use a blue marker to color in areas where you'd expect to find water - rivers, lakes, ponds, etc. Using the spray bottle, spray the paper until the colors begin to run, or droplets of water start running down the paper. Did the water follow the path you expected? How many different watersheds are there on your paper?

Want to share your work with us? Use the hashtag #GREENfromhome, tag us on Instagram (@southsoundGREEN), or send us an email us at snadell@thurstoncd.com. We'd love to see everybody's projects! And remember to stay safe and wash your hands after going outside!