

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2025

**Media Contact: Kae DonLevy**

414.588.0617 or kaemdonlevy@gmail.com



### ***Students Explore Local Waters at Lakeshore State Park***

*On Tuesday, May 13, more than 380 Milwaukee-area students and community partners will gather for a day of hands-on learning as part of the **Milwaukee Waters Investigation (MWI)**.*

Milwaukee, WI. Now in its third year, the MWI project brings together students from the Milwaukee area to the confluence of Milwaukee's three rivers and Lake Michigan at Lakeshore State Park. Throughout the day, students will rotate through a series of interactive, water-focused activities hosted by local scientists, environmental educators, and community organizations.

This important project is a collaboration of educators in the water industry. Eight classes, spanning grades 3 through 8, will participate in investigations focused on water quality, pollution sources, plastic waste and microplastics, water safety, and the journey of water — from drinking water to wastewater treatment. Activities also include hands-on research in the park's lagoon.

"This project is such a powerful experience for students—many of whom are visiting the lake for the first time," said Kae DonLevy, Project Manager and co-creator of MWI. "Our goal is to collaboratively connect students to their local waters and inspire them to care for these resources. We also support teachers by providing free online tools and resources through [FreshwaterToolkit.org](https://FreshwaterToolkit.org)."

The timing of the event is especially fitting. On May 14, Milwaukee will host the annual conference of the **Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative** at Discovery World. This year's theme, "The Future of Fresh Water, underscores the importance of local engagement in global water issues. "These students represent the future of water stewardship," said Pete Reynolds of Learn Deep Milwaukee. "By connecting them to meaningful, real-world experiences, we hope to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders and water-focused professionals."

Lakeshore State Park, Wisconsin's only urban state park, is proud to host the event. "We're thrilled to support this important project that gets students outdoors and engaged with their environment," said Melissa Shaw, President of the Friends of Lakeshore State Park. "This park is a true gem of the city." To better accommodate future educational programming and the park's 450,000 annual visitors, the Friends of Lakeshore State Park have launched a \$5 million fundraising campaign to build a 2,500-square-foot, green-roofed **Visitor and Education Center**. The Friends hope to complete fundraising by Spring 2026.

####

---

**For more information contact:**

**Milwaukee Waters Investigation Team**

Kae DonLevy: Freshwater Tool Kit.org - 414-588-0617

Melissa Shaw: Friends of Lakeshore State Park - 262-365-9949

Joost Allard 734-431-8365 and Pete Reynolds: Learn Deep Milwaukee - 414-630-5980

**Project Sponsors:** Kohl's Cares, Fund for Lake Michigan, Xylem Watermark, The Nature Conservancy, Veolia Milwaukee, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program through NOAA and Milwaukee World Festivals Inc.

**Project Partners:** In addition to the coordinating team of the Freshwatertoolkit.org, Learn Deep Milwaukee, and the Friends of Lakeshore State Park, the following organizations are collaborating on this initiative: Discovery World - EarthEcho International - Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District - Milwaukee Riverkeeper - Milwaukee STEAM - Plastic-Free MKE - Reflo - Riveredge Nature Center - Schlitz Audubon Nature Center - Shorewood Waters Project - UW Sea Grant - UWM School of Freshwater Sciences - UW Extension - Veolia Milwaukee - Wehr Nature Center and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

