

CITY OF CHINO HILLS

PRESS RELEASE



PR14 – 039

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Date: April 23, 2014

AYALA STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT STREAM ECOLOGY

Over 50 students from Rhonda Fellows' and Matthew Jankowski's biology classes at Ayala High School had the opportunity to learn about stream ecology as part of a field study coordinated by the City of Chino Hills. The event on April 19 at Strickling Park was part of the City's Earth Day activities and included support from resident volunteers Pat Tait, Milasol Gaslan, and Paula Hollis. Tad Garrety, the City's Environmental Program Coordinator, took the opportunity to teach the students about basic water quality analysis, stream habitat, biological indicators, and social responsibilities related to keeping pollutants out of streams and waterways. The event was designed to teach students how pollutants get into urban water runoff, and what effects pollutants in urban water runoff have on the ecology of streams. The students earned extra credit for participating.

"The City began offering the Earth Day Stream Event to High School students in 2009," said Mr. Garrety. "Thanks to strong support from Ayala biology teachers Rhonda Fellows, and Matthew Jankowski, the event has grown in popularity, giving more students a "hands on" opportunity to become familiar with the science of field ecology."

Mr. Garrety oversees the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program which strives to meet Federal regulations by preventing pollutants from reaching water sources.

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The students broke into working groups led by City staffers Mark Wiley, Brad Hollis, and Brenda Trujillo. Each group made a presentation reporting their findings at the end of the event. Members of the group that made the best presentation received a free Cici's Pizza buffet coupon and a Trader Joe's shopping bag full of snacks. Generous sponsors included Chick-fil-A, who donated coupons for a free chicken sandwich; and Yogurtland who donated a coupon for a free 5 oz. Yogurtland serving.

Photo Caption: Chino Hills resident Pat Tait leads a group of Ayala students as part of a field study to learn about stream ecology for Earth Day



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Photo caption: Chino Hills Water and Sewer Manager Mark Wiley works with Ayala students as part of a field study to learn about stream ecology for Earth Day.