



Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program 2019 Outreach and Education Report

Each year, the Mount Agamenticus Conservation Program expands efforts to engage visitors and local residents. The goal is to create an immersive experience, promote responsible use of the area, instill a greater appreciation, love, and respect for the environment and inspire future advocates for protecting our natural resources.

The following section highlights annual an ongoing public outreach and environmental education that is designed to help visitors understand the unique resources located here and the importance of responsible low-impact recreation as they set out to explore the area.

Highlights

Provided access to the summit Learning Lodge visitor center to the general public on weekend from Memorial Day Weekend through Indigenous Peoples' Day. Staffed by the Outreach and Education Coordinator and volunteer docents, it provides a variety of intriguing resources and interactive displays for discovery of all ages.

Continued support of several organized functions for diverse groups: group functions, outdoor ceremonies, trail runners, scouting trips, school group visits, summer camps, etc. (Annual)

- 71 groups registered to visit including over 2,800 people.
- Over 1,680 children in 43 groups were identified with school and summer camp groups. Of these, 974 students or campers visited the Learning Lodge exhibits, and 20 groups participated in staff-led programming.



Led or co-led with partner organizations 14 guided nature walks, presentations and/or educational programs for the public. (Annual)

Continued to maintain Agamenticus.org website; managed social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), e-mail distribution list, and produced press releases and other media with program listings and other newsworthy events.



(Photo Above) Worked with Limerick, Maine 6th graders to plant the summit pollinator garden to help Mount A become an official Monarch Waystation site.

Worked with the York Water District and Friends of Mount Agamenticus to plan, promote, and host Earth Day clean-up event.

- 10 volunteers helped collect and dispose of 9 full garbage bags of trash, 4 full Clink bags of deposit cans and bottles, and three recycling bins of plastic, aluminum, and glass!

Hosted Third Annual Trail Challenge.

- 48 people completed 5K; 24 people completed 1 mile.

Worked with the York Sewer and Water Districts and the Maine Water Environment Association to host the fifth annual “Imagine a Day Without Water” campaign to raise awareness about the value of water. During event, presented interactive watershed models to kindergarten and first grade students from Coastal Ridge Elementary and Village Elementary schools.

Conducted Visitor Use Survey. (Annual)

- 472 groups (over 1,400 visitors) were surveyed.
- Information gathered to track trends and evaluate public opinion about the area. For a full survey report, please see Mount Agamenticus *Visitor Use Survey Results 2019*.

Conducted Learning Lodge Visitor Survey for the first time since 2015.



- 93 surveys conducted between August and September
- Helped staff gain better insight into the interests and preferred learning styles of seasonal visitors to the Learning Lodge. Information will be used to develop new exhibits and programming.

(Photo Left) Swapped out StoryWalk pages quarterly to coincide with changes of season. Introduced two new books in 2019: What Makes an Opossum Tick by local author Lyn Smith for summer and fall, and Over

and Under the Snow by Kate Messner for the winter season.

Coordinated and managed volunteer work with Lodge docents who interact with visitors each weekend.

Continued to support, engage and develop Friends of Mount Agamenticus group, which became a 501c3 non-profit group in 2019. Provided input into quarterly “Summit View” newsletter. (Annual)

Continued to provide tens of thousands of visitors with access to unique and memorable nature connections!

It takes a community!

It has long been established that the volunteer workforce efforts are a critical element facilitating the quantity of work completed for on the ground stewardship. Volunteers have also been essential to our ability to engage and reach out the community. This year we tallied 268 volunteer outreach hours. Volunteers helped prepare and staff the Learning Lodge, run educational programs, conduct surveys, and assist in managing community events. Note that these hours do not include invaluable time contributed by the Friends of Mount A members!