

Report of Holy Ghost Catholic School Project—October 14, 2005
The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Environmental study and documentation:

Winter, 2004. Photographed McAdam Branch area of Little Platte River near Dickeyville, prior to Hwy.151 construction and noted types of trees (mixed oaks, box elders, cottonwoods, junipers) and general condition of area.

March, 2005. Discovered that construction crews had already begun work on the hillsides of the area near McAdam Road, removing the road itself and closing the area to all traffic. It was not possible to take school children to the area.

April, 2005. Classroom teachers walked through the area, photographing and collecting water samples, aquatic animals and plants. These samples were placed in the classroom for identification and discussion. Horsetails, Dutchman's breeches, water cress, side-swimmers (Amphipods/Scuds), aquatic sowbugs (Isopods), planaria, and water striders were found. We compared photographs of the area and also invited an engineer from the construction company, who is a school parent, to visit our classroom. He had just finished work on the new highway between Dickeyville north to Platteville. He set up surveying instruments and demonstrated their use; shared photographs, maps and rock samples from the area; talked about the difficulties and purposes of the construction; and discussed his work on the Little Platte River, where it had been necessary to relocate many fish from the river. We began work on our map of the area. Five reference books were purchased for the classroom, which we continue to use.

May, 2005. Sixteen second grade students visited a stream and a wetland/pond area near the Mines of Spain in Dubuque. We collected several types of soil samples; noted vegetation; observed tadpoles, small fish, a Great Blue heron; toured the nature center.

September, 2005. Thirty-one second and third grade students toured the Mississippi River Museum, where they learned much about fresh water animals as well as the history of the river. We visited a wetland area near Potosi, where we collected soil, water, and animal sample, discussed seed dispersal, observed birds including pelicans, and examined plants of the area.

Fall through spring, 2005-2006. As soon as the highway project allows, we will take a field trip to the McAdam Road area to document the changes to the area. We will take photographs, complete our map, and monitor the living things in and around the stream. We will summarize and display our project for other students.