



Essex Region  
Conservation  
Authority

# Hillman Marsh Conservation Area Environmental Education Programs



## Attention **Biology** and **Environmental Science** Teachers!

Come and experience the new curriculum-based Benthic Macroinvertebrate (Bugs in the Mud!) program at Holiday Beach Conservation Area!



In this half- or full-day science program your class will:

- Learn about Water Quality Monitoring and the use of Benthic Macroinvertebrates as an indicator of water quality
- Use chest waders and D-Frame nets to wade into Big Creek and collect bug samples for analysis
- Pick through samples to identify benthic macroinvertebrates using a dichotomous key
- Conduct water quality tests such as pH, total dissolved solids, and oxygen content
- Record and analyze the data gathered using scientific measures such as the Hilsonhoff Biotic Index
- Draw their own conclusions on the health of Big Creek based on their findings
- Visit Holiday Beach, an Important Bird Area, at the height of the Raptor Migration!

Or contact Environmental Educator Phil Robson, *O.C.T.*, to arrange a customized trip for your class!

**For more information or  
to book a program,  
please contact us at:**

Phone: 519-776-5209 ext. 308

Email: [education@erca.org](mailto:education@erca.org)

### **Program Fees**

Half Day

\$150.00 per group of 30 students

Full Day

\$250.00 per group of 30 students



Holiday Beach is located on Essex County Rd 50 west of Colchester and east of Malden Centre and Amherstburg on the shore of Lake Erie.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority is a community based organization that has been running education programs in the Essex Region for over 30 years.

