



# Teacher Survey Results

This document was assembled by various members of the We Love Warner group. Our mission with constructing this survey and report was to garner evidence that the Warner Nature Center fulfills its purpose as an educational place that builds lasting relationships between people and the natural world.



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## Overview

“Building lasting relationships between people and the natural world” is the mission of the Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center. A large part of that is fulfilled by the school programs. To obtain feedback from teachers who bring their students to Warner to experience nature first hand, a group of volunteers created and sent a survey.

The survey included the guidelines pertinent to Warner’s school programs. Sixty-seven teachers from 33 schools of the 45 that received the surveys responded.

For a summary of the Likert Scale responses to the 20 questions, please refer to the first page of the survey results with the heading beginning, “The following statements are adapted from guidelines taken from “Guidelines for Excellence: Early Childhood Environmental Education Programs (NAAEE). The North American Association for Environmental Education is taking the lead in establishing guidelines for the development of balanced, scientifically accurate, and comprehensive environmental education programs and materials. The section following asks for responses to two questions.

How satisfied have you been with Warner Nature Center? Please explain. Responses include:

- Warner Nature Center far and above exceeded any expectations. It is a field trip like no other. It was by far, the best field trip destination. The staff and volunteers are AMAZING.
- Warner is a beloved tradition that is part of our school culture.
- Their staff have an incredible wealth of knowledge.
- For some (students) it’s their only opportunity to be out in nature and learning about the natural ecosystem around us.
- It was always an educational and fun outing for our students that aligned with our science standard!
- This has been one of the most rewarding experiences my students have experienced every year.
- Warner Nature Center has provided an excellent supplement to our science curriculum.

What impacts or challenges will the closing of Warner Nature Center have on your students and/or your school? Responses include:

- We are scrambling to decide how we will cover the state science standards that Warner covered for us.
- We will no longer get to bring a real world experience to our kids with respect to our natural ecosystem.
- Our school population is diverse and has a lot of low-income families which means our students don’t get opportunities to experience something like this.
- The students won’t get the real life experiences they have gotten in the past.
- Environmental Literacy is essential for our future generations.

Teachers were asked for Additional Comments. Here are sample responses.

- It is a huge part of our school culture.
- The experience that is provided by Warner Nature Center is one that cannot be replicated.

The teachers' comments are reflective of five themes:

- Warner is irreplaceable
- Warner is a part of the schools' culture and curriculum.
- The programs meet state educational standards.
- Staff and volunteers are highly professional, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic.
- The closing is a loss to the teachers and their students, to the Warner staff and volunteers, and to the community at large.

## Demographics

The survey request was sent to private schools and public school districts totaling 44 elementary, intermediate, and middle schools that brought students to Warner Nature Center for programs during the 2018/2019 school year. Sixty-eight teachers completed the survey. The teachers were from 32 different schools plus one independent teacher. The responding teachers taught the following grades

<b>Grades</b>	<b>Count</b>
Kindergarten	13
First grade	4
Second grade	11
Third grade	13
Fourth grade	15
Fifth grade	8
Sixth grade	2
School Forest Coordinator	2

The teachers were asked to estimate how many years they had been bringing students to Warner Nature Center. The responses ranged from 1 to 28 years with an average of 11 years.

## Questions Answered By Teachers

Question 1: How satisfied have you been with Warner Nature Center? Please explain.

- Very satisfying experience. Very engaging and fun.
- Very. The program is very kid friendly and the kids have a great time
- Extremely satisfied
- Extremely satisfied. The programming is engaging and the employees and volunteers care about kids and their learning.
- Extremely satisfied! Very organized programs! Several hands on activities that kept students interested and engaged. Most of our students had never been snow shoeing or tried a kick sled. Having this first time opportunity was great for our students!
- Extremely satisfied. The trips have been very informative for the students and a great opportunity for them to learn about nature and different ecosystems.
- Extremely. The programs are so well organized and the students walk away with such an appreciation for nature. It is always a highlight of the year and a place where we know we can take our kids to learn and be one with their surroundings. The leaders always did an amazing job providing age appropriate, hands on, exploration type activities for our kids.
- Extremely satisfied! We (teachers) weren't sure what to expect on our first visit there. Warner Nature Center far and above exceeded any expectations! It is a field trip like no other. It was by far, the best field trip destination. The staff and the volunteers are AMAZING. Every little detail has been thought through. Our kindergarteners were given the opportunities they would probably not had otherwise. Like snowshoeing through the peaceful forest, looking and listening for signs of wildlife and exposing students to nature. And the kick sleds? The students couldn't stop talking about how fun they were. The teachers had just as much fun as the students!
- Warner is a beloved tradition that is a part of our school culture. They meet science standards for the teachers and offer long lasting education for our students and their families. Our students remember what they learn year to year. They are excited for trips to Warner and to see the staff they love. Fourth grade is when our students make their final trip to Warner and it is not uncommon for them to be truly saddened to learn that their field trips are coming to an end.
- Extremely satisfied. Very essential experience and part of our Owl Research project
- We LOVED Warner Nature Center!! The insights into the world around us, allowing children to explore nature outside of their technology-based world was so impactful.
- We have always been EXTREMELY satisfied with Warner. Their staff have an incredible wealth of knowledge. Every class they have provided for us has been well thought out. Classes spend most of the time outside experiencing nature and learning first hand about the topic they've been taught. My favorite classes have always had to do with bird classification and banding. As the years have gone on, they have honed this class into one that keeps students engaged the entire time. It has been great to see the evolution and learn something new even after 20 years. We also do aquatic ecology. This class has

also come a long way from sharing a couple docks and working on the shoreline to having quality docks for each group and an outdoor classroom where kids can really focus on finding out if the lake is healthy based on the organisms they found. Warner has always treated our school like part of the WNC family. They seek us out and greet us when we arrive. We are devastated that they have lost their livelihood. They have served the children and schools of Minnesota so faithfully. In addition, their volunteers are amazing. They have been trained so well and have a wealth of knowledge of their own to share with our students. In addition, Warner Nature Center has always been accommodating for our special needs students. A couple years ago I had a student who could not walk the trails because of a disability. Warner's President (unsure of title) took a student and me to each location. He stopped along the way to share bits of information with us and made the outdoors come alive for this one student. He joked with her and helped her feel that she wasn't being left out.

- Very! The chance for students to get out and experience nature is awesome! Many children do not have these experiences without Warner Nature Center providing them. It has been a student favorite field trip every year that we have brought them.
- Very! The programs offered align with our 4th grade standards. Besides that, getting the kids outside doing things that are important to our state's nature is wonderful!
- Very satisfied. This is always the students (and teachers) favorite and most enjoyable field trip.
- Extremely satisfied! Our students love Warner. For some it's their only opportunity to be out in nature and learning about the natural ecosystem around us. It's a trip we cherish and look forward to every year.
- Extremely! It's one of the best trips we take each year.
- I love our partnership with Warner Nature Center. Warner has helped bring the natural world to life for my students! I have seen them engage and explore in various hands-on activities over the years. My students love the activities both in our classroom (through Warner's outreach program) and on site at the nature center. I am continually impressed with how well Warner can meet my students where they are and create authentic science lessons that meet my instructional objectives and standards.
- Greatly satisfied!
- Exceptionally pleased!
- Very happy....ALWAYS!!! No matter snow, rain or sunshine, it has always been our best field trip of the school year for our students. Our parent volunteers come away with a great appreciation for the Warner educators. The teachers think the Warner facility, programming and experience is top notch!! They challenge students, have patience with students and stretch their brains!!
- Beyond!!! It was always an educational and fun outing for our students that aligned with our science standard! It had a perfect balance of teaching, exploring and hands-on learning for our students. The teachers and volunteers were wonderful and so loving to all students!
- Very satisfied. They work with children extremely well; provide enriching experiences and teaching important material.

- The staff at Warner has been awesome to work with. They have always provided a great experience for our students. The volunteers have been great also. They are patient with the kids and they are willing to answer their questions.
- This has been one of the most rewarding experiences my students have experienced every year. From the time I started bringing my students to Warner Nature Center until last year the program has worked with the schools to build programs that support and enhance the curriculum. I specifically gave feedback with what would be beneficial for second grade students at the Nature Center. This program was developed at the beginning of our experience when I started bringing students to Warner Nature Center. Each year the lessons and experience have been made better and more enriched for my students due to the staff asking for feedback through surveys after our field trip. The staff at Warner Nature Center has worked tirelessly and with great pride to keep the programs going for the students. Their dedication and hard work have provided so many students with a wonderful experience of the outdoors.
- Extremely satisfied! The experience for all is one we carry with us long beyond that day. The volunteers make sure that all attendees have a fabulous day. The activities are fun but also wonderful learning experiences for the students.
- Highly! Over the years I have brought at least 800 kids to Warner. The time I have spent at Warner has not only impacted my students, but myself as well. We have learned so much over the years of visiting! Not only have my students and I learned facts and names of plants, birds, trees, etc., more importantly we have learned to value our natural world. The kids held birds right in their hands. They jumped on the boardwalk and felt the bog move. They dip netted organisms from the lake and examined them with their own hands. This first hand experience with nature is rare, especially in our world of screens and technology. We have become better stewards of our planet, I think, by better understanding the world around us.
- Very Satisfied! The volunteers are amazing! The hands on experiences are so meaningful and the kids absolutely love them! They learn so much and we talk about the trip throughout the year!
- Extremely! Warner Nature Center offers students a chance to experience the outdoors while educating them to all the nuances in nature, increasing their awareness of what "outdoors" is.
- Overly satisfied! Every year the staff and volunteers were just wonderful! Their knowledge of the subject matter and understanding they shared with kids was excellent. Kids were engaged and information provided was always appropriate for their learning level.
- Love it beyond words can explain. It is ALWAYS one of my students' favorite days and memories of 4th grade. The program is engaging and filled with hands on learning opportunities.
- Extremely satisfied! Staff was excellent, students learned so much! So, so sad about the closing of the nature center. This was a special place, especially for troubled students---I could see their stress and anxieties melt off them as they interacted with nature. I treasure a picture I have of a tough, troubled student who prided himself on never, ever smiling, with the biggest grin on his face at Warner Nature Center.



- Extremely satisfied and grateful!! We love bringing our students to Warner Nature Center! Each trip is unique year after year because of the changing natural landscape. Students receive an excellent outdoor experience that meet our MN science standards. The naturalist teachers are so knowledgeable and have great activities that engage our students.
- Very satisfied. It's the best field trip we take each year. No other field trip is as hands on, educational, and full of wonder as Warner. We have been blessed to be able to go each year.
- Extremely satisfied! The kids learn so much and leave with a bigger appreciation for nature. They also have a great time!
- Warner Nature Center has provided an excellent supplement to our science curriculum. The topics and courses offered have always been relevant and appropriate for our learners. We have always been very satisfied with what Warner Nature Center has had to offer. I am very sad to hear about the closing, as this has always been a highlight of our school year. The students learn about nature and science in a way that we could never provide in our classroom.
- Completely satisfied! Every single visit is magical and appropriate for the kids. The staff is like family and couldn't be better. The students are awestruck with each part of their Warner experience, from the puppet show to the animals, to snow shoeing or kick sledding. My old school (Withrow) closed 3 years ago...I felt so strongly about continuing with Warner that I talked my team at my new school into making it one of our destination field trips. The staff at Warner has been proactive in working with teachers and highlighting learning Standards. They have been responsive to suggestions for tweaking a program to make it an even better experience for the kids.
- Very! My students and families love going on this field trip.
- Very satisfied. Every visit we had to Warner Nature Center exceeded our expectations! The staff and volunteers are so knowledgeable and do so much to engage and teach our students. Warner has been one of the favorite activities of the Island Lake 3rd graders for several years.
- We LOVED Warner!!!  
Warner Nature Center far exceeded our expectations! Our kids learned so much from our day there! We were able to do hands on learning all while having fun & gaining respect for wildlife!  
While there we were under the organized & expert supervision of volunteers & staff. They were well trained & experts on their area.  
I have taught Kindergarten for 16 years & our trips to Warner Nature Center were by far my favorite field trips!! I am so devastated to hear it's not going to be open any longer. What a terrible loss.
- Absolutely. We have loved our visits to WNC. A class act. The programs offered are second to none and have the students best interest at all times!
- Our trips to Warner every year have been a highlight for the students, as are the visits they make to the classroom. They have helped our kids develop a deeper love of nature and be curious about the animals and scientific processes that they learn about while at Warner.

- We have been EXTREMELY Satisfied with all of our trips to Warner Nature Center! It is one of the highlights of all of our students elementary academic career! They love how much they learn and how much they get to interact with nature. I still have students came back 10 years later to tell me how much they enjoy our field trip to WNC. Releasing birds and exploring the bog are some of their greatest school memories!
- Very satisfied! The programs at Warner have been well thought out, address Minnesota learning standards and are very engaging for students.
- We are extremely satisfied with WNC. This is the most educational field trip that we take our 5th graders to. The entire is science and student centered.
- Lakeside Elementary
- Warner Nature Center has been such a great field trip! It aligns with our science standards. It is so fun to take a day to be outdoors learning about the animals, plants, migration, and ecosystems. You also get to enjoy the beautiful nature and learn things you hadn't thought about or known before.
- Warner Nature Center has been an awesome field trip that we look forward to taking our students to each year. It has hands-on activities that all of our students were able to participate in. The setting of Warner Nature Center also exposed our students to a variety of animal habitats where they could explore, investigate and learn about the different aspects of nature in MN & WI. All of the staff that we worked with at Warner were delightful, knowledgeable, and shared their passion for nature with our kiddos too. I feel our kids had a different view of nature, wildlife, and an appreciation of it after we had left because of their experiences at WNC. IT WAS AMAZING!
- Very - it is an amazing experience. Wonderful teachers & volunteers.
- So very satisfied. I have begun to build this trip into my curriculum in all disciplines. It is the best trip we take all year and I build on the concepts taught at Warner all year. We even had a lunch garbage challenge in our dining room!
- Very satisfied. The Lee and Rose Warner nature center has been the highlight to all 4th grade NB students for more than 20 years. The hands-on science lessons leave our students asking questions and wanting to explore the great outdoors.
- VERY satisfied. We LOVE Warner!!! I can't imagine anywhere else that we would get such amazing hands-on learning in biology and the environment. Not only do kids learn a ton that they remember for a long time, they also gain an appreciation and respect for our natural world. It plants the seeds of being good caretakers of our earth.
- Very satisfied. The staff is always friendly and knowledgeable. They come prepared with activities and hands-on learning. The students always love going to the WNC. There is so much to learn in every season.
- Very satisfied. Many students in our area don't have opportunities to get outside in actual nature often at all. Our trip to Warner always put them in awe and engaged them highly. Staff there are always prepared and planned. Students participate in a variety of hands-on activities while learning. The staff understands kid's need to move while they learn. They get to touch, feel, talk about, and observe the actual wildlife they are learning about.
- I have been extremely satisfied by our experiences at Warner Nature Center. The naturalists have created well thought out lessons that spark children's curiosity and

interest in the outdoors. Everything they do is hands-on and they present information that makes students think critically and problem solve. I have loved students enthusiasm as they have explored the lakes, birds, animals, bogs and the nature around them.

- My favorite field trip of the year! I love how knowledgeable and prepared the staff and volunteers are!
- It has been the best overall field trip that I can remember, year after year.
- Very impressed. The property itself is varied with many habitats for students to experience and the staff knowledgeable, enthusiastic and able to engage students.
- Very impressed. The property itself is varied with many habitats for students to experience and the staff knowledgeable, enthusiastic and able to engage students.
- I have always been very satisfied with Warner Nature Center. It is a wonderful place to learn about nature and learn about respecting nature. There aren't many other places that can offer the same type of field trip and experience for all! It is important to learn about the animals and the environment. Parents and teachers all jump at the opportunity to chaperon on the field trip. Learning about bird banding is a special thing that doesn't happen many other places around the state. The volunteers and staff are all wonderful at WNC and it is special to tailor the lessons to the different grades and standards.
- Warner Nature Center has provided for my students an excellent experience getting out in nature, looking closely at plants and insects, having fun together learning about the outdoors. This experience has always been a culmination for our plants and insect unit we study in first grade. Both students and parents comment on what a wonderful way to end our unit. It has also been a trip that is close to our school. Through the generosity of the Warner Foundation, it has been very affordable for our students to attend. I cannot express enough how saddened we are at losing this wonderful experience for our students. We were so looking forward to our spring date at Warner this school year!
- We've always loved our visits to Warner; the lessons are always so engaging and developmentally appropriate for our young learners.
- Loved the experience every year. To be able to get kids to experience hands-on nature activities is invaluable.
- The field trips and services that the Warner Nature Center has provided for our students have been above and beyond. The trips are always organized, educational, and the content covered relates to many of our state standards.
- VERY!! The staff and environment have been incredibly kind, knowledgeable, creative, flexible with the littlest of learners, fun, and inspire love of nature!
- 100 % satisfied. My fifth grade students love the field trip!
- Extremely satisfied, the staff provide a wonderful and engaging curriculum to our students.
- WNC has been the most valuable hands-on field trip that my students have experienced over my 22 years of teaching.

Question 2: What impacts or challenges will the closing of Warner Nature Center have on your students and/or your school?

- Miss out on one of the few fieldtrips we are permitted per year. Hands-on learning and applied exposure to what is learned within the classroom.
- We are sad and disappointed. This is a trip we look forward to.
- Not learning the beautiful and exciting things in nature/experience
- Especially at my new school I have students who have very limited experience with nature. We will look for an alternate nature center experience, but it won't be like Warner!
- Our students will not receive the Winter Animals program. We were fortunate to receive some bus scholarships in the past to attend which helped our close to 70% free and reduced school.
- Future students will miss out on the opportunity to see the amazing things offered through the field trip to Warner Nature Center
- It's a definite loss to our curriculum. This field trip ties in well with our academic standards and was so nice because it was close to our school. With the rising cost of busses it is nice to have a wonderful option close to home and doesn't cost us a small fortune to travel to.
- Our choices for field trips, especially outdoor ones, are extremely limited. Nothing compares to the experiences we had at Warner Nature Center.
- All of our students will feel the impact of Warner closing. They have already asked when we will be going this year. They will miss out on learning and the unique hands-on opportunities Warner has to offer. As for the teachers, we are scrambling to decide how we will cover the state Science standards that Warner covered for us.
- This is very important to our 3rd grade experience and wonderful enhancement to our curriculum.
- Our kids are being bombarded with technology. They are not being exposed to the wonderful world around them as much as in past generations. Warner Nature Center, year after year providing a wonderful learning environment, full of adventure, knowledge and even more important, helped kids to see the world around them in a different light.
- The classes Warner offers fit perfectly with our Minnesota State Science Standards. WNC gives our students the nature experience to go along with what we have taught them. It is close to our district, so the cost of getting to Warner is within our very tight budget. The cost of attending a different nature center could make this kind of field trip unattainable for our students.
- Students will not get the experience of interacting up close with nature. I cannot put into words the spark of interest Warner has provided for so many of our students. Not only that, but the no/low cost experience is unheard of.
- Our scheduled field trip this year has been canceled. It will impact over 200 of our 4th grade students. Our staff is deeply disappointed to hear of the closing. It's been our favorite field trip.

- This will take away students opportunities to take their learning outside of the classroom. We will lose the opportunity to help give students an outdoor experience and the chance to learn about the animals and nature in their community.
- We will no longer get to bring a real world experience to our kids with respect to our natural ecosystem. They will now have to learn it in an abstract way in the classroom instead of getting out there and really experiencing it hands on and in real life.
- There just isn't anything else like it and it will be hard to find a similar experience for our kids. This is the one trip that is unique for all the kids. Many have been to museums, concerts, plays, etc. In this age of technology, what a refreshing opportunity for kids to get outside and get unplugged.
- We will lose the chance to have students explore what they are learning about in the classroom. In Kindergarten, my students learn about animals in winter. During our outreach programs and our field trips, Warner Nature Center has given my students a chance to explore what we are learning. Many of my students don't have any other opportunity to do this. The closing of Warner Nature Center means that my students are missing out on this educational opportunity. On our field trips to Warner, my students have had the opportunity to snow shoe and kick-sled, how to follow animal tracks, observe animals, and explore plants. They have the chance to see some of the habitats, plants and animals in the real world. They also get to learn more about these things in a way that is appropriate to them. I am devastated that this won't be available to future classes.
- Our school population is diverse and has a lot of low-income families which means our students don't get opportunities to experience something like this.
- The tradition of going to Warner Nature Center has always been a favorite and I am so sad that my students will not have the unique experience. I also loved when Krista would come to our class and instruct students. It was a wonderful hands-on lesson.
- There are no other experiences like this around for our age/grade level. The centers close to our close are for upper grades.
- Our students will miss out in an opportunity that isn't available with costing and bussing. There are no other nature centers within driving limits.
- They will not have the opportunity to learn about the outdoors and see first hand the connectivity within an ecosystem.
- We are extremely disappointed to hear that the students of Somerset Elementary are not going to be able to have the experience at Warner Nature Center. The kids loved the bird banding and release a life bird. Some of our students have never had the opportunity to explore water creatures like they do when they scoop the bottom of the lake.
- Not every student has the opportunity to experience the great outdoors the way they can at the WNC. The bog, the lake, the nature walks, the bird banding and the list goes on. Where can they learn about and experience these things? My grown sons still talk about this field trip! It is a tremendous loss for our Mn students.
- We are only allowed 2 field trips each year. I don't know if is possible to replace our trip to Warner Nature Center with anything that will give us anything CLOSE to the impact of



this field trip. We have always felt so lucky to have such a treasure right in our own backyard!

- The students won't get the real life experiences they have gotten in the past.
- Warner Nature Center was often the first experience our student population had to experience immersion into "the woods". It will be almost impossible to find an affordable experience to replace our visit to Warner Nature Center.
- I believe so many kids (these days) do not get an experience outside with natural surroundings. From birds, to bats, tapping trees, catching water inhabitants, the list goes on... Warner provided an educational experience in nature - priceless!
- For many of our students this is their first exposure to this type of environment. I worry for many of them, this will be a missed opportunity to be introduced to the beauty and awe of nature. Environmental Literacy is essential for our future generations.
- Loss of access to nature for my fourth graders.
- We will need to try to find a new outdoor experience for our students but we don't know where. Warner is located in our own district and meets our needs so beautifully!
- The closing of Warner would create a void in our repertoire of experiences that we provide for children. Kids would be missing out on the basic understanding of ecosystems, animals and nature. Without this foundation of knowledge and content, kids have a weaker and more limited view of science.
- We won't have a place to go to where we can be out in nature. We won't see wildlife and nature in real life. It takes away what is usually the children's favorite field trip of the year.
- Our students will not have the opportunity to explore a bog, collect and analyze water samples from a fresh water pond, and take part in bird banding while releasing birds into the wild. These are only a few of the opportunities that will not be available to our students if Warner Nature Center closes.
- We are devastated. Warner offered the chance for all of our kids, but especially our in-town, low-income, no transit, no natural experience kids to be able to experience the wonder of nature. Many of these kids live in apartments (or are homeless) and talk about how they can't go outside and play, so they stay inside and play video games instead. Our trips to Warner opened their eyes to a whole different world for them. A world filled with nature and animals, with fun and with stewardship. It's a lesson I truly feel they won't get unless visiting Warner Nature Center. How are we to raise environmentally conscious kids if they don't have the opportunity to see and experience this in action, if they aren't given the opportunity to spark their curiosity and passion for the outdoors? How many opportunities will be lost as generations of kids no longer have this incredibly rich resource to draw on? Warner simply can't close...the kids and the environment needs you!
- Very sad and disappointing for our students and families. We are very sad.
- Our students (and prior students) are very disappointed that Warner is closing and that we will no longer be able to take groups of students to Warner. The closing has also put strain on the teachers as we now have to find an alternative field trip. Unfortunately, there is really nothing comparable to Warner.

- Our students will miss an incredible experience of hands on learning like no other. There is nowhere else that can provide what Warner staff & volunteers provided.
- Our city kids will not get the chance to experience the great outdoors that Warner offers. Many of our students just do not get exposed to the things WNC offers.
- There is simply no other alternative site to visit or staff to teach our kids what the Warner staff and volunteers have been able to do. It will be a tremendous loss for the students we work with.
- The closing of Warner Nature Center is going to present a large challenge for the entire school district of New Richmond, Wisconsin. It has been the most impactful field trip for our 5th graders that aligns to our state standards about Life Science. The knowledge they gain about ecosystems, habitats, and the ways organisms interact is irreplaceable despite what our best efforts will be to try mimic these activities in our classrooms. The closing of Warner Nature Center will have a dire and extremely negative impact on our school district, our school, and our 5th grade classrooms. Our hearts are broken!
- The programs offered at Warner are not available in our area. It will be a great loss to our students to not benefit from the knowledge and hands-on experiences that Warner offered.
- We will miss out on an outstanding educational experience.
- We have had to cancel our spring field trip to Warner Nature and will obviously not be going on any field trips there in future years. The fact that Warner was free for our students was amazing and gave us the budget to have two or two and a half field trips. Our students this year will entirely miss out on the outdoor natural learning that Warner provided. We looked at going to Dodge but simply couldn't afford it this year. For future years, we might look at other nature centers like Dodge, but that will hamper our budget for additional field trip options due to costing much more money than Warner. Beyond the cost, Warner was a truly unique experience. Warner Nature Center field trip day was a full day outside, observing, running, playing, and joyfully learning about the natural world in a beautiful and unique setting. Warner Nature center field trip day was the best day of third grade for most of our students.
- It will be a loss as our students will not be able to learn about ecosystems in a setting common to Minnesota. Warner Nature Center has friendly and knowledgeable staff that explain the different needs of birds and plants.
- Sadly, we will have to search out another spot that we can try to experience the same quality activities/learning in similar environments, but it will be hard to do.
- There are kids even here in Stillwater who do not get any time in the woods. With all of the current research on the positive impact that nature has on children, we need to find any avenue we can to get them out into the woods.
- It will be a huge loss for us. The school talks about it to one another and gets excited for the 3rd and 4th graders when they hear that we have a trip scheduled. There is not another place that could teach what and how that the teachers and staff at Warner can...I am amazed what the students retain after one day at the center. The lessons are not only part of my state standards, but they hit all learning styles and cultures and are taught with such respect, patience, and passion. Our children learn about the care and

beauty of our world and respond to the lessons taught by the application that occurs in my classroom throughout the entire year.

- For many of our students this is one of the few times they have away from their electronic devices. The Warner Nature Center allows students to see that the outdoors is fun and there is a lot to explore. Many of our challenging students thrive at the Warner Nature Center. The activities and environment of the Warner Nature Center gives those an opportunity to be successful, when the usual school setting is challenging for them.
- It will be a major loss. We have 2 in school field trips and 1 on site field trip each year. Our students learn and gain experience in areas that match what we are teaching in our curriculum. Warner Nature Center even covers a few of the MN State Standards for science--in a much more impactful and profound way than we ever could at school on our own. They start going to Warner at the beginning of their school career and go each year until 5th grade. Their learning builds on previous years. It's such a remarkable format.
- I will have to find other ways to incorporate nature into my classroom. Warner Nature Center was a huge resource for our school. I'm very sad to see it leave.
- Our school has a goal every year of providing a minimum of two out-of-school enrichment activities for the students. We feel they are extremely beneficial. We have been going to the nature center for years and always feel it positively impacts our students which brings us back each year. With the Nature Center closing, we will have to search for other activities that are of educational value (and cost-friendly) to our students.
- First of all it has been the only field trip that we have gone on for over ten years due to our funding. This is one of the students most memorable fourth grade experience and the bonding that occurs between students and staff in this unique experience will be missed.
- This field trip met some of our standards that we are required to teach. Warner has always been very well prepared and so much fun for our students. We will now have to find another location that is close by and as knowledgeable as your staff and volunteers.
- We are devastated by the closing of WNC. First of all, the breadth of programs and seasons gives so many options. The grouping of students with exceptionally qualified leaders/teachers was unbelievable --- my favorite and students' favorite every year was the bird banding and release. Our school now has to find an alternative nature center (or other) field trip, at additional cost, and not as much bang-for-the-buck.
- The Warner Nature Center provides experiences and exposure to the natural world that cannot be easily duplicated. The property with its lake, prairie and woods is an invaluable learning tool that has been developed so well over the years; other facilities don't offer that variety. The learning activities that the students are involved in are hands on, memorable, and presented by staff that have in depth knowledge and are passionate about the natural world. A classroom teacher doesn't have that expertise.
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hands on, memorable, and presented by staff that have in depth knowledge and are passionate about the natural world. A classroom teacher doesn't have that expertise. Even though our students visit our own school forest, we can't offer the depth of programming available through Warner.

- Students will miss those specific standards that relate to science and the environment. Students will miss out on the bonding time as a class in the beginning of the year on a field trip like Warner's. Students will miss out on being in nature, learning how to love, respect, and appreciate it. There are also unique environmental concepts talked about at Warner that the students won't be able to experience anywhere else.
- This is truly a loss of an awesome experience for our students. With our world being such a technology saturated system, kids don't just get out into nature to spend time listening to birds and looking closely at evidence of nature, turning over logs to find treasures of life, snowshoeing through the woods in the winter and breathing in fresh air. I am not being mellow dramatic when I say that this experience is priceless for our students. Usually, at the end of our trip to Warner, we teachers talk about how this experience is so important for students. It makes them more aware of being in the outdoors enjoying nature rather than cooped up in a classroom just talking about living organisms. Our students always say that Warner is one of their most favorite field trips we plan each year.
- Our students and staff were extremely disappointed to hear of this closing. The students that we serve rarely have the opportunity to explore the natural classroom and glean all the invaluable lessons it has to offer. I'm saddened that they won't enjoy the wind in their face via teamwork on the kick sleds or experience taking perspective while looking through the simulation glasses.
- We look forward to this trip year after year. We will have to find other ways to teach many of our state standards--the Nature Center did a great job at teaching them in a way that was fun, educational, and hands-on. They also incorporated real-life experiences and inquiry that we can't provide in a normal school setting.
- We will not be able to find a comparable experience that will give our students such a wonderful first exposure to nature, animals, and ecosystem, AS WELL as providing fun outdoor experiences, especially in the winter! Our trip there always inspired families from our building to take their kids to Warner after, because the activities were so much fun and it is so close to home. EVERYONE loved kick sledding!
- They won't have an opportunity to visit a bog or witness bird banding.
- We will no longer have a field trip that is so closely linked to our science standards.
- Students will miss out on the valuable environmental lessons of Warner. Their experiences at WNC always come up in highlight discussions as we reflect on each year. Conservation education is dire to the future of our environment!

The following statements are adapted from guidelines taken from “Guidelines for Excellence: Early Childhood Environmental Education Programs”, 2016, North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Based on your experience with Warner Nature Center (WNC), to what extent does Warner Nature Center fulfill these guidelines?

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I Don't know
WNC’s philosophy, goals, and objectives related to nature, the environment, and the education of young children are established and clearly articulated	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
WNC’s philosophy, goals, and objectives reflect the need for the early childhood environmental education programs to incorporate, mirror, and accommodate the cultural traditions of the audiences served.	90%	7%	0%	0%	3%
WNC’s program has an evaluation and assessment plan that is instrumental to the improvement of teaching and learning.	84%	6%	0%	0%	10%
WNC helps build positive relationships among children and between children and adults that are essential for developing a sense of personal responsibility, building a sense of being a community member, and promoting a feeling of personal worth.	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
WNC educators understand and apply appropriate research and learning theory.	93%	7%	0%	0%	0%
WNC programs respond to children’s needs to explore, discover, and discuss their experiences in the environment.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
WNC programs are child-directed and inquiry based.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
WNC provides the context and supervision that maximizes the learning and development possibilities from play and exploration.	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%



WNC provides opportunities for young children to participate in a variety of social interactions, including play and exploration in the outdoors that allow them to grow as contributing members of their community.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
WNC provides children with opportunities to develop curiosity, ask their own questions and begin to develop reasoning and problem-solving skills.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
WNC provides opportunities for children to experience a variety of environmental conditions and encourage them to investigate topics of their own choosing. These investigations may, when appropriate, lead to the development of action strategies.	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%
WNC models environmentally responsible actions and provide opportunities for children to make decisions about their own activities.	97%	3%	0%	0%	0%
WNC provides young children with a wide variety of physically challenging experiences, including opportunities to run, jump, and climb in the natural environment.	90%	9%	1%	0%	0%
WNC provides a comfortable and inviting place necessary for learning and development to occur.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Places and spaces must be well maintained to provide a safe, exemplary environment for the program that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. WNC ensures that the children are protected from harmful situations that can be prevented through appropriate maintenance.	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
WNC programs and facilities model environmental sustainability.	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
WNC educators possess the understandings, skills, and attitudes associated with environmental literacy and teaching.	96%	4%	0%	0%	0%

WNC educators provide interdisciplinary, investigative learning opportunities that are central to environmental education and developmentally appropriate for young children.	96%	4%	0%	0%	0%
WNC educators create a climate in which children are motivated to learn about and explore the environment.	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%
WNC educators possess the knowledge and skills to assess learner progress and evaluate the effectiveness of their own programs. Through these assessment activities, educators can identify children who may need additional assistance as well as evaluate progress toward meeting goals.	90%	7%	1%	0%	1%

## Additional Comments

- Thank you for all the positive experiences
- We really were sad to hear of the closing of Warner Nature Center. We were looking forward to the field trips we had scheduled in February! The nature center has been one of our favorite field trips that helped educate students outside of the regular school setting.
- Being a current third grade teacher at Lakeside Elementary, I was extremely disappointed to hear of Warner Nature Center's closing. We will have our final field trip there in a couple weeks and are praying that there is some way that this decision to close the center will be changed.
- It is a shame that so many other children are going to miss out on the opportunities offered at the Warner Nature Center.
- I sincerely hope that the funding for Warner Nature Center be renewed. It provides a unique experience for students, teachers, and families. It is a huge part of our school culture. The planet we live on is in grave danger. Today's students are the ones who must tackle this challenge. Without Warner, I don't know how to give my students the background knowledge they need to protect our planet. Closing Warner Nature Center has drastic and far-reaching consequences. It is my sincerest hope that this decision will be reversed.
- It truly saddened me to hear of the closing of Warner Nature Center, such a huge loss.
- Warner Nature Center is a first class facility in my book. They are finding a way to staff our upcoming field trips on October 8, 9, 10, and 14. They could have gone the easy and selfish route, but instead they did what they have always done... put kids first! Please realize how devastating the closing of Warner Nature Center will be for the children. Please reconsider your decision to close this important center that gives nature opportunities to children who may never get the chance to experience it in their normal lives.
- Please keep WNC open for our students. The experience that is provided by Warner Nature Center is one that cannot be replicated by anyone else.
- I would love to hear that WNC is re-opening!
- There are no words for how sad and disappointed our staff, students, and parents are about the closing of Warner Nature Center. We are so thankful to all the incredible staff for the many years of excellent field trips and learning.
- This will be a huge loss for all of the kids who have experienced this wonderful place!
- We were so sorry to hear about Warner's closing. This is by far my favorite field trip, I have taken students on.
- Please reconsider your decision to close Warner. Our students don't get to participate in anything outdoors that isn't incredibly expensive! Every time we have been there the students have been engaged and have learned something. They also had the opportunity to try new things like the kick skis. Our students are a challenging group but

Warner handles them well and the students and teachers are always grateful for the experience. Thank you!

- We are losing an incredible asset and legacy that cannot be replaced.
- You have Afton Lakeland Teacher support to continue with open doors and learning at Warner Nature Center. Please let us know what more we can to help!
- WNC has made a huge impact on our students and their learning and I really hope can remain open to continue to provide these opportunities for learning and exploring nature!
- My students have looked forward to going to Warner every year. It is a wonderful place with important lessons about earth science and working together.
- The closing of Warner Nature Center is a terrible loss for children who will never get the chance to explore nature in the unique manner provided by Warner. As an educator, I am extremely disappointed in this center being closed knowing how students who attend the center in the past skill visit me and bring up the field trip to Warner. The center makes an impact.
- Please reconsider closing Warner Nature Center. Many children are positively impacted by the experiences they have with Warner Nature Center because it offers the opportunity for them to be outside and to experience nature first hand with knowledgeable people. It is with great sadness by many with the news of this closing for many of the teachers here in the Stillwater School District.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this request to keep Warner Nature Center open.

- This is an amazing environment and we are sad that it is closing.
- My sadness over the loss of this wonderful opportunity is immeasurable.
- An outdoor educational experience has never been more important for our kids. Warner provided that experience. Nature's treasure!
- It will be a crime to close Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center. They provide unique and important learning for the children of Minnesota.
- We will sadly miss the amazing experiences provided to us and our students by Warner Nature Center. I hope that a new plan can be developed to help Warner remain open.
- I am so very saddened about the closing of the nature center! The learning and experiences there cannot be replaced. So Sad!
- The entire staff at Warner Nature Center understands the needs of children and has always provided a learning environment that is professional and knowledgeable. Please consider continuing this program as it has always been an amazing asset to our science program.

- Warner Nature Center is an amazing educational experience that all kids should have the opportunity to experience. I am devastated to hear of it's closing. I hope that there is something that can be done. I am happy to speak of my experience to anyone who cares to listen!
- We are so sad the WNC is closing. The nature center has been impacting the lives of Holy Spirit students for a long time (at least 27 years) and is always a favorite memory

for our students. Please if there is a way to keep it open and continue to impact the lives of children we would be forever grateful!

- Thank you to everyone who has made Warner such a wonderful place to visit and to educate our 4th graders for so long. It's a tragedy that Warner cannot stay open. Thanks.
- Thank you for taking the time to make this survey. I'm wishing you all the best in your efforts.
- My coworker, Jessica, and I were very sad to hear the news that WNC was being closed. It was such a special place to take our kids because it was a very unique experience about so many aspects of nature that we could never create for our students in our classrooms. It taught them so much about nature, how to observe it, respect it and learn from it while being immersed in it. Thank you to all of the staff members, too, you're all gems!
- Warner will be a huge loss to the community.
- Please keep the Lee and Rose Nature Center open to teach our children.
- On the evaluation and assessment question, I answered IDK, but I see strong evidence that they MUST have this in place, because they are always working to make things better to really hone in on the goals of their lessons.  
I am heartbroken that Warner is closing. Nothing else is going to be able to replace it. I don't even want to think about what it will mean to no longer go there and be connected to such wonderful teachers. This is truly a monumental loss.
- Warner Nature Center is a great resource for our school and many other schools around the state of Minnesota. It will be missed dearly.
- Warner Nature Center would be missed!
- Please...please consider funding the exceptional program at Warner Nature Center for our youth. This center does should not be shut down for any reason. Funding must be found to keep this unique program going.
- Learning that they were closing WNC was devastating
- The Warner Nature Center is an irreplaceable facility and service to the area's educators, school system and community. With an over 50 year tradition of environmental education, the people involved with it have established an outstanding program that connects students to the natural world around them and helps them realize that their actions make a difference. Certainly hoping and praying that funding is restored so that Warner Nature Center can continue to make a difference.
- The Warner Nature Center is an irreplaceable facility and service to the area's educators, school system and community. With an over 50 year tradition of environmental education, the people involved with it have established an outstanding program that connects students to the natural world around them and helps them realize that their actions make a difference. Certainly hoping and praying that funding is restored so that Warner Nature Center can continue to make a difference.
- We have been very grateful for the many years of being able to come out to Warner Nature Center and experience plants, animals, bugs, hiking, snowshoeing, investigating, dipping nets in the pond to discover little critters that are unseen above the surface, spending time with the staff at Warner year after year, spending time in nature with our



students and parents, learning about so many different topics. This will really be a loss for our students and for us as teachers. We would hope that there would be some way that this decision to close would be reversed! I cannot imagine what other option our school would have to get our students the outdoor experience we have loved at Warner Nature Center. Thank you so much for the many years of being able to come to Warner. You have provided years of experiences to so many students who never would have had this type of experience just being in the classroom.

- Children need more experiences in the outdoors and nature in this world, not less. It's heart breaking that Warner Nature Center is closing.
- I can't say enough good things about the amazing staff at Warner. They've always found ways for my school to be engaged and to learn in a fun and safe way. They provide many opportunities for inquiry, they're extremely knowledgeable in what they're teaching, and they keep my students engaged the entire time we're visiting. It would be a huge loss for our school, and for the community, to be losing such a valuable place.
- WE LOVE Warner Nature Center. It is a treasure and a GEM in our St. Croix Valley area. Recently I spotted one of the nature educators out in public and went up to her to praise how WONDERFUL she is at puppet show teaching AND how wonderful they are at teaching kids in a fun and interactive way. We built REAL connections to people and connections to place at Warner and it is devastating that it is closing.
- It will be impossible to duplicate this experience for our students. Closing Warner Nature Center is devastating news for our students and community.
- I am floored and immensely saddened by the prospect of losing all that Warner has to offer! The staff and volunteers work so hard to provide valuable learning opportunities for preschoolers through adults! The impact Warner has had on me and my students is immense! There are waiting lists to get into programs offered at WNC and have been for years. We need their programs and the health of our environment does too!