



SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

Northeast Soil Survey Region

Grand Rapids, Michigan, Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Office (SSO)

Inspiring Young Minds: Middle School Career Fair

Purpose

Staff from the Grand Rapids MLRA SSO provided a short presentation at the Grandville Middle School career fair to educate students about potential career paths following high school graduation (fig. 1).

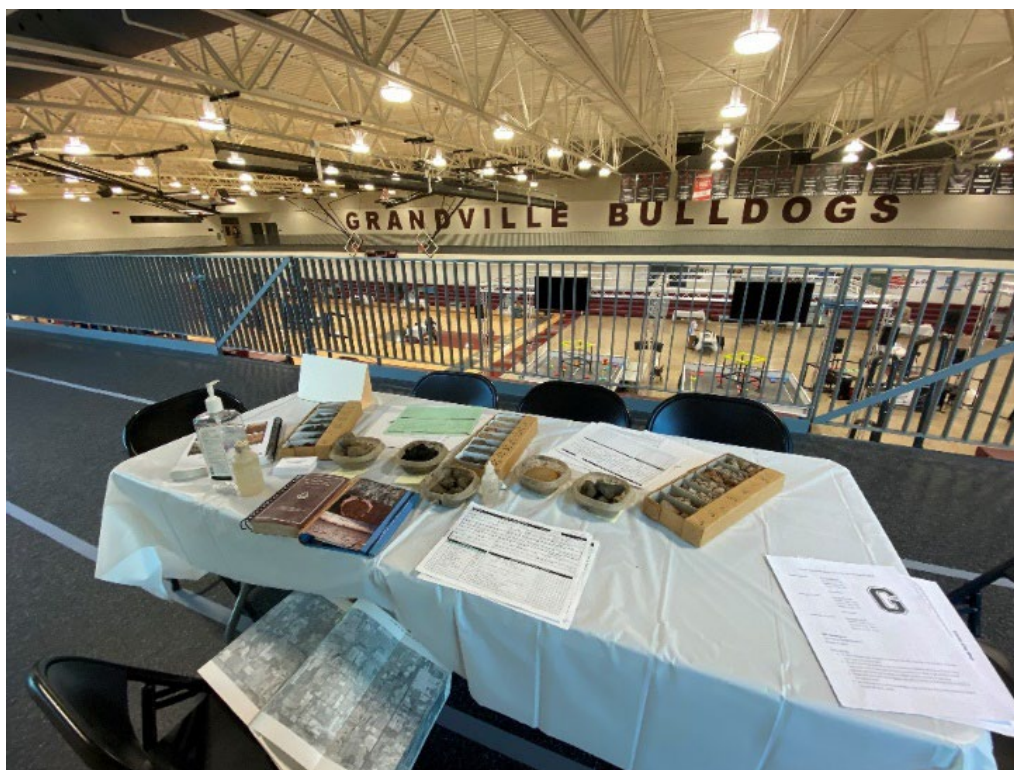


Figure 1.—Grand Rapids MLRA SSO table at the Grandville Middle School career fair including soil samples, description sheets, and a county soil survey publication.



Background

On November 8, Sydney Lance from the Grand Rapids MLRA SSO attended the Grandville Middle School career fair. The career fair consisted of three total sessions with three 15-minute breakout periods per session. Five to eight students joined for each breakout session to hear a typical day for a soil scientist (field and office season), benefits, education requirements, internship opportunities, and any personal stories to connect further with the students.

Key Outcomes

Through this career fair presentation, a Grand Rapids MLRA SSO soil scientist reached a young audience who were interested in professions within the environmental science field. The presentation provided background on the importance of soils and overall pros and cons of this occupation while briefly educating the students on a typical field and office day.