



# Lakeville Volunteer Projects 2018

## Overview

Each year various groups contact Environmental Resources with the desire to do various volunteer projects. The groups include Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, or high school students looking to complete capstone projects. Most volunteers know what type of project they want to do and are looking for a location, or they are looking for ideas and locations for possible projects. In 2018, there were many students who wanted to complete projects on city property. Details about each project is listed below.

### Pollinator Garden at Ritter Farm Park Cistern

Emma Tessmer and Emma Niesen

Girl Scout Silver Award

After many hours of planning, on July 7, twelve volunteers spent 3 hours to plant 46 pollinator friendly plants around the cistern near the Environmental Learning Center at Ritter Farm Park. Each girl is required to put in 50 hours of work (volunteer's time included) to receive the Silver Award.



Environmental Resources and the Parks Maintenance staff worked together to provide guidance, site location and preparation needs, water source, and signage. Environmental staff reviewed and revised the planting plan as well as ordered the plants and edited the sign. The parks department donated the cost of the 46 plants and the sign (\$195.50). This project provides connectivity to other native plant areas near by and supports pollinators.

**Benefits (City)**

- ◆ Low cost projects
- ◆ Completion of projects that would not have been possible

**Benefits (Student)**

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Experience with real life project management
- ◆ Volunteering
- ◆ Guidance and coordination for project location & supplies from Env. Resources staff
- ◆ Community connections

**Timeline**

- Year round



### Buckthorn Bust at Casperson Park between boat launch and playground

Shannon Gallagher

Girl Scout Gold Award

On October 6, 2018, approximately 25 volunteers removed a 1/2 acre of buckthorn from the shoreline and woodland area near a pedestrian trail at Casperson park. One local business, Arbor Barber Tree Experts, provided chainsaw work to cut down a portion of the buckthorn.

4 projects completed in 2018

Env. Resources Staff provided guidance, site location and coordination with Parks Maintenance staff. Park Maintenance staff chipped and hauled away 40 yards of buckthorn with 20 to 25 man hours spent to complete the task.



## Raingarden Habitat Enhancement and Inlet Maintenance at Casperson Park Raingarden

Brandon Stachewicz

Eagle Scout Award

On October 13, Brandon lead nineteen volunteers to complete two main aspects of habitat improvement to the raingarden at the Casperson Park Boat Launch. The first part of the project was to plant 40 ferns under the tree canopy of the River Birch and Swamp White Oak Trees. Ostrich ferns were chosen for this location in hopes that they spread through the understory of the garden to create a fuller look to the understory and provide more habitat. The second portion of the project involved removing the old permanent turf reinforcement (PTR), sod, and accumulated sediments at the inlet. The area then needed to be re-sloped so that the water from the boat launch can freely flow into the raingarden. Brandon reported 66.3 hours for the project completion. 33 of those hours were his work toward project completion.

Environmental Resources staff created the project, ordered the ferns (\$266.50), purchased the blanket and staples (~\$200), and provided the layout for plant locations, mulch, & where to replace PTR. Eagle Scout supplied the sod.



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## Woodland Habitat Enhancement at East Lake Community Park Woodland

Carson Davis, Andrew Hanson, Owen Dugan, Alex Haugen, and Logan Sampson

Lakeville North Business Academy Project

On October 27, seven recruited student and parent volunteers helped 5 Lakeville North Business students plant 10 bur oak, 10 red oak, 10 hackberry, 10 white cedar, 20 hazelnut, & 10 nannyberry. Plants donated at no cost from Outback Nursery in Hastings. The 12 volunteers completed the planting in 1.5 hours (18 project hours).

Env. staff assisted with layout locations, plant pick up and placement, fabric, water pump & hose, and also installed browsing protection for the trees (~\$300).

This is the first attempt at reforestation in the East woodland. The area chosen had very low buckthorn presence. Staff plan to continue buckthorn control in the woodland and adding native trees and shrubs to the woodland over the coming years.



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## Juno Trail Shoreline Capstone Project

Jordan Lang

Lakeville South STEM Capstone Project

For Jordan Lang's STEM Capstone Project she participated in the review process of the Juno Trail Natural Resource Management Plan in November. In 2019, she will complete the project by planning a potential shoreline restoration that will demonstrate 3 different types of restoration methods. She will also have the opportunity to educate residents on shoreline stabilization alternatives.

