



Community Partners

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- Michigan Environmental Research & Education Society (MERES)
- Muskegon Conservation District (MCD)

Project Overview

The Muskegon Area Career Tech Center Landscaping and Greenhouse Management Class consisting of 14 students began working at the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve in September 2009. The Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve was in need of informational signs to educate the visiting public. Groups of students were each assigned to create a sign for each specific ecosystem (pond, river, wetland, or upland forest). The information showcased on each sign would be the types of animals and plants found there, invasive species, a general description, and how the ecosystem benefits humans.

A tree census was also conducted at the nature preserve. Groups of students were each assigned specific areas of the nature preserve to identify and count the trees. These

counts were then analyzed to see how many native and non-native trees are located at each site. This information will be used to help the Muskegon Conservation District and the Muskegon Environmental Research & Education Society determine the best restoration process for the preserve.

Specimen trees were also identified in each section of the preserve. These trees were identified as quality examples of that particular species. A identification tag was nailed into the tree and a brochure will be created to give visitors a self-guided tree tour of the nature preserve.

Following their tree counts, the student groups each planted white pine seedlings in their designated sections. In all, eighty white pines were planted across the nature preserve.



Statistics:

- 1253 total trees were counted at the nature preserve
- 314 of the trees counted were found to be invasive
- Black Locust and Tree of Heaven are invasive trees
- 80 White Pine seedlings were planted





“I really enjoyed being outside and seeing a variety of species in such a small area.”

-Ashley Bullard
MACTC Student



White Pine Tree Planting

Learning Objectives:
Students learned....

- All about specific ecosystems
- The number of trees in the nature preserve
- Native and non-native species
 - Invasive species
- History of the nature preserve
- Importance of natural areas in an urban area

2009-2010 School Year Project Timeline

