Minnesota GreenCorps
Host Site Projects

2009 - 2010

Minnesota GreenCorps

October 2, 2009

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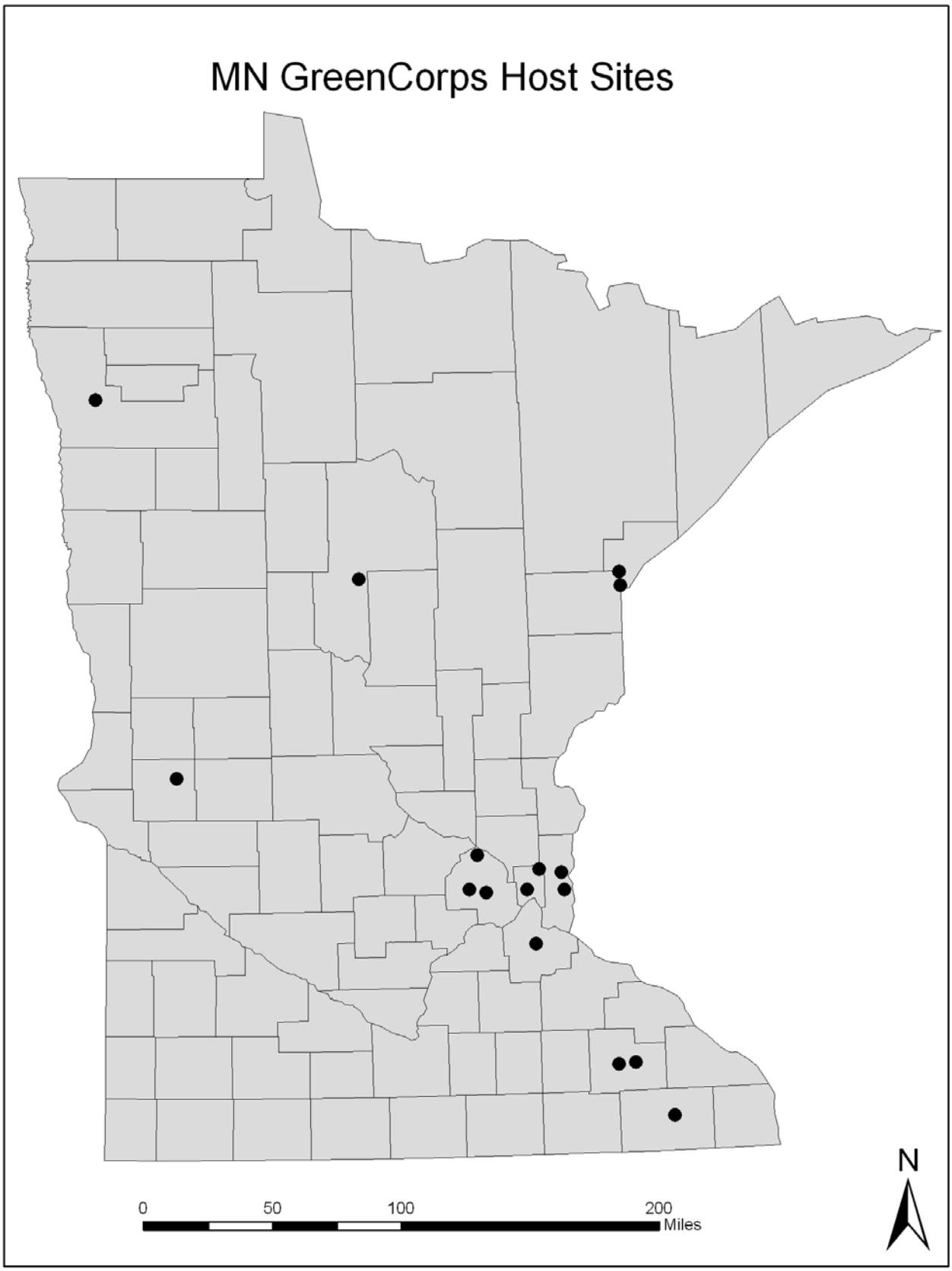
MN GreenCorps Host Sites
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Minnesota GreenCorps is a statewide initiative to help preserve and protect Minnesota's environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals.

Minnesota GreenCorps is a new program, coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), starting in September 2009. It was initiated in response to a variety of statewide needs, aiming to:

- Respond to higher energy costs by local governments
- Assist community members to take eco friendly actions
- Reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
- Transition to a green economy
- Train new environmental professionals

Minnesota GreenCorps included in its first year 18 full-time members supported and deployed statewide by the MPCA. In addition, working in a strategic first-year partnership with University of Minnesota – Morris (UMM), 4 part-time members are being hosted at UMM's campus.

Eligible host sites included local governments, school districts, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations. For-profit entities were not eligible to serve as host sites.

15 host sites were selected to participate in this program for 2009 – 2010. These sites were chosen from 56 applicants through a competitive process.

Placement of MN GreenCorps members at these host sites is from September 2009 through August 2010. Members are serving in one of the five following positions:

Local Government Energy Conservation Specialist: Reducing energy use and costs for buildings and fleets for local governments.

School Waste Prevention Specialist: Increasing reuse, recycling and composting at schools, and reducing solid waste.

Living Green Outreach Specialist: Promoting environmentally friendly actions by community members, and reducing waste.

Local Food System Specialist: Encouraging marketing of locally-grown food and/or encouraging community members to grow their own food.

Urban Forestry Specialist: Inventorying trees on public lands, assessing their benefits, and providing public outreach on the value of trees.

This document summarizes the specific project activities to be implemented at the MN GreenCorps host sites.

This program is funded through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service as well as through ServeMinnesota.

Project category: ***Local Government Energy Conservation***

Name of host: ***Hennepin County***

Project overview:

Hennepin County's Energy Conservation Specialist will assist with projects to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from internal operations and to raise awareness among residents about energy conservation.

Project activities:

- GreenCorps member will assist efforts to collect benchmarking data and report on energy use and GHG emissions from internal operations. County staff are streamlining existing tracking functions and the work of a GreenCorps member will be at the heart of this effort.

- The GreenCorps member will assist in updating B3 Benchmarking and Energy Star data, will establish templates for quarterly reporting of building energy use, will verify EnergyCap data (the county's data management software), will utilize verification instruments and sub metering technology, will create a GHG reporting template, and will compile 2009 GHG data utilizing the ICLEI Clean Air and Climate Protection (CACP) software. Using these tools the GreenCorps member will produce graphs and analyze energy conservation information, assess system trends, identify energy conservation opportunities and calculate project paybacks and life cycle cost analysis and make recommendations for energy conservation opportunities.

- The GreenCorps member will also contribute to education and outreach activities for Hennepin County employees and residents. The GreenCorps member will be encouraged to engage MetroCERTs in the development of new ways to engage the public on energy conservation and climate change issues. Internally, the county is establishing a Green Team, and the GreenCorps member will assist in outreach to all county departments.

Projected results:

- Energy use data is collected, updated and tracked for county buildings
- Greenhouse gas emissions are analyzed
- County employees and the public receive energy conservation education
- Energy conservation opportunities are identified

Project category: ***Local Government Energy Conservation***

Name of host: ***Three Rivers Park District***

Project overview:

Three Rivers Park District's Energy Conservation Specialist will establish baselines for greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption for district facilities and fleets, and will identify and recommend areas for energy and water conservation as well as fuel use.

Project activities:

- Establish current baseline greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption for all district-wide facilities as well as district-wide vehicle fuel use.

- Establishment of a living database of district-wide utility meters. This includes aligning utility meters and fuel sources with actual buildings and recreation areas, as well as determining the need for sub metering in order to capture more detailed information

- Creation of a living database or spreadsheet containing baseline data for all facilities and vehicles with full reporting capabilities, including potential incorporation of GIS technology

- Creation of a Park District procedure that will maintain baseline data indefinitely

- Create a comprehensive list of potential facility improvements

- Identify areas of greatest potential to eliminate wasted energy; and to recommend areas for reduction of fuel use.

Projected results:

- Energy use data is collected, updated and tracked for district buildings
- Greenhouse gas emissions are analyzed
- District employees and the public receive energy conservation education
- Energy and water conservation opportunities are identified
- Fuel use reduction opportunities are identified

Project category: Local Government Energy Conservation

Name of host: U of Minnesota - Crookston

Project overview:

This MN GreenCorps member will collect data to track greenhouse gas emissions and identify opportunities to reduce energy consumption for the City of Crookston, Crookston School District, and University of Minnesota – Crookston.

Project activities:

- Collaborate with facilities management staff and UMC Sustainability Center Director in implementing the education and outreach activities associated with the Otter Tail Power Company Campus Energy Challenge Grant.

- Assist departments and administrative offices of the City of Crookston, Crookston School District and UMC in developing systems to collect data for the Clean Air Cool Planet calculator used to track greenhouse gas emissions and outline ways of reducing energy consumption through planning, purchasing decisions, and behavior modifications.

- Assist facilities management staff, student leaders, and faculty in implementing Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon energy saving initiatives.

- Develop outreach program for campus community regarding UMC Climate Neutrality Plan scheduled to be completed by 1 January 2010 by U of MN's Center for Sustainable Building Design and promote it as a model for emulation by other institutions in the local and regional community.

Projected results:

- completion of data collection
- identification of energy conservation opportunities
- reduction in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- education and outreach to community on energy conservation

Project category: ***Local Government Energy Conservation***

Name of host: ***Washington County***

Project overview:

The MN GreenCorps member will assist Ramsey and Washington County staff with establishing a system for tracking energy use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) and determine baseline data for county operations. The GreenCorps member will also assist with energy reduction activities for Ramsey and Washington County employees.

Project activities:

- Collect baseline data required to establish long term goals in energy conservation and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)

- Establish an energy tracking and reporting system

- Identify energy conservation opportunities

- Assist with an employee survey on behavior related to energy use and with the development of an employee energy reduction program in Washington County

- Help with identifying energy reduction opportunities in the management of employee computer equipment and other electronic devices in Ramsey County

Projected results:

- Completion of data collection
- Establishment of tracking and reporting tool
- Development and implementation of employee energy-use survey
- Development and implementation of employee energy-use reduction program
- Reduction in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions

Project category: ***School Waste Prevention***

Name of host: ***Hennepin County***

Project overview:

Hennepin County's School Waste Prevention Specialist will aid in expanding and improving organics recycling at public and private schools throughout Hennepin County. 70 percent of the member's time will be dedicated to working on Minneapolis Public Schools projects and 30 percent working on projects with other five to ten other districts and schools in the county.

Project activities:

The MN GreenCorps member will spend the majority of time assisting schools in the county with their organics collection pilots and improvement of their existing recycling programs. Tasks performed by the member will include:

- Help choose areas where organics and recyclables will be collected
- Assist with design of the sorting stations
- Determine training needs; design and schedule training sessions
- Conduct trainings for staff, students, and/or volunteers
- Determine needs for educational and promotional materials
- Prepare promotional and educational materials
- Assist with on-site audits to identify waste prevention opportunities and track progress being made
- Assist with implementation of waste prevention activities identified in the waste audits
- Review/evaluate existing programs and provide suggestions for improvement
- Track challenges encountered in program implementation and operation and what was done to resolve these issues
- Track performance at participating schools with regard to quantities of organics diverted and levels/types of contamination observed
- Assist with development of carbon footprint profiles
- Assist with cost-benefit analysis of waste prevention efforts at participating schools
- Document best practices through case studies and "how to" guides

Projected results:

- Number of students educated
- Number of schools receiving outreach
- Pounds/Tons of waste reduced or prevented
- Pounds/Tons of recycling and/or organics collected (or increases in collection volumes)

Project category: ***School Waste Prevention***

Name of host: ***Washington County***

Project overview:

The MN GreenCorps member will build upon what Washington and Ramsey Counties have accomplished through the Resource Recovery Project and enhance the existing relationships with schools, with a focus on ISD 622. The member will provide direct assistance to ISD 622 to help green their internal operations and educate building staff, teachers, and students in the areas of waste prevention, recycling, food-to-hogs organics, and waste management.

Project activities:

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of garbage and recycling volumes and frequency of service for 15 schools in ISD 622
- Identify recycling container needs for infrastructure for 15 schools
- Implement food-to-hogs organics management programs in elementary schools
- Create labels and signage needed to implement a general recycling program
- Develop a cost and benefit analysis of waste reduction
- Train students and staff on how to participate in recycling programs
- Train students and staff about paper waste reduction and reuse strategies

Projected results:

- Number of schools implementing food-to-hogs organics management and general recycling,
- Number of students impacted by programming,
- Tons recycled or diverted from garbage,
- Number of reams of paper purchased reduced

Project category: ***School Waste Prevention***

Name of host: ***Western Lake Superior Sanitary District***

Project overview:

The School Waste Prevention Specialist will work with school districts within the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District's boundaries in northeast Minnesota to develop and implement new recycling and food waste diversion programs, and to improve existing recycling programs in area schools. A minimum of Five Duluth schools, and one school in each of the remaining districts including Cloquet, Esko, Proctor and Hermantown will benefit from new or improved programming executed by the GreenCorps member.

Project activities:

- Participating schools will be surveyed to determine the current status of their waste prevention programs and anticipated future needs of the school to improve and implement more comprehensive solid waste programming. An overall program development kit will be created by the GreenCorps member as a guide for future program development. Each program will then be customized to best fit the needs of the schools. Students and school staff will have access to the progress and overall impact of the programs throughout the year. The successes, struggles, and cost benefits of the programs will be documented in order to provide a complete guide for school waste prevention programming.

- A comprehensive education program will also be a key element of this project. Students will be educated through classroom activities and hands on participation in the programs in order to increase their understanding of the importance of solid waste prevention. Educational pieces will also be created for each school district to send home with students. Parent and families will be frequently provided with information regarding the success and overall environmental impacts of the solid waste prevention programs that are occurring at school. Students will be encouraged to implement similar programs at home and in their communities.

- A teacher in-service curriculum will be developed and utilized within the participating school districts. Teachers will receive hands on education to better understand the importance of environmental education and waste prevention. The in-service will include modification options for primary and secondary educators along with classroom activities and lesson plans to make solid waste prevention education readily available to teachers and students within the District.

Projected results:

- Number of students educated
- Number of schools receiving outreach
- Pounds/Tons of waste reduced or prevented
- Pounds/Tons of recycling organics collected (or increases in collection volumes)

Project category: ***Living Green Outreach***

Name of host: ***ISD 832 – Mahtomedi Public Schools***

Project overview:

This Living Green Outreach Specialist will have the opportunity to contribute to and gain experience in providing environmental outreach and education by carrying out two key sets of activities: coordinating a community environmental fair; and designing and implementing educational campaigns focused on proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Project activities:

- The Living Green Outreach Specialist will have the opportunity to take on leadership for this year's R.I.T.E.* (*Really Into the Earth) of Spring, an annual Earth Day environmental fair that was initiated two years ago by a group of citizens in the Mahtomedi area. The event has school district involvement and takes place in school facilities. In addition to coordinating the 2010 event, the specialist will solidify its organizational structure for the long term, and document best practices to share with other communities interested in establishing similar events.

- The Living Green Outreach Specialist will also, with the participation of students in pertinent high school classes and student service groups, develop and implement educational efforts related to improving proper handling and disposal of pharmaceuticals, and advance the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products. The toxics program will be targeted at three main audiences: 1) middle and high school students; 2) adult community members via community education, City of Mahtomedi and local media outlets, and Century College; and 3) parents of children in ECFE and preschool programs, building on parents' concerns about contaminants in their children's environment and their desire for a healthy and sustainable future for the next generation.

- The specialist will also help reduce junk mail and office paper use and improve recycling in school district facilities, begin 'zero waste' education within our community events, collect data and report on results of projects, and produce a final report for the MPCA that includes information that can be used to guide other communities in achieving similar successes.

Projected results:

- Number of people reached via outreach
- Number of households, businesses or organizations receiving outreach or technical assistance
- Pounds/Tons of waste reduced or prevented
- Pounds/Tons of recycling organics collected (or increases in collection volumes)
- Quantity (weight or volume) of toxic cleaners replaced by alternatives

Project category: ***Living Green Outreach***

Name of host: ***Olmsted County***

Project overview:

The Living Green Outreach Specialist will conduct community campaigns to reduce solid waste generated in Olmsted County and will encourage environmentally protective decision making through the development of a 2010 Think Green Fair. .

Project activities:

- The Living Green Outreach Specialist will support the County's mission to reduce the volume of solid waste consistent with its adopted policies and will help the County to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals that are being developed for the County's Solid Waste Management Program.

- Basic outreach materials that will be developed by the Living Green Outreach Specialist will be used in ongoing solid waste reduction and greenhouse gas reduction programs for the next several years and possibly longer.

- The member will support a fledgling community sustainability collaborative that was put in place with the 2008 Think Green Sustainability Fair. Many of the partners in that collaborative have expressed an interest in hosting a similar fair in 2010. The Fair will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions by providing information and encouragement regarding solar, wind, geothermal, energy, as well as water conservation for homeowners and small business owners.

Projected results:

- Number of people reached via outreach
- Number of households, businesses or organizations receiving outreach or technical assistance
- Number of outreach materials created
- Pounds/Tons of waste reduced or prevented
- Pounds/Tons of recycling organics collected (or increases in collection volumes)
- Quantity (weight or volume) of toxic cleaners replaced by alternatives

Project category: ***Living Green Outreach***

Name of host: ***Three Rivers Park District***

Project overview:

The Living Green Outreach Specialist will work with Park District staff, community partners, volunteers and the Park District's contracted trash hauling vendor to educate park visitors about waste reduction, recycling and organics management.

Project activities:

The MN GreenCorps member will help the Park District create waste reduction educational and incentive programs for park guests, specifically targeting: Park District program and special event participants; non-Park District event coordinators, caterers, and reservation groups; overnight campers; and day use and trail users.

The Living Green Outreach Specialist will serve on the Park District Sustainability Committee and Waste Management sub-committee. The MN GreenCorps member will work with Park District staff and volunteers to develop recommendations and strategies for each area. Possible strategies include:

- Sending waste reduction information with every camping or group picnic reservation;
- Implementing a "pay as you throw" program where reservation groups pay more when they leave more trash at a reservation site
- Selling beverages at a discounted price for those who bring their own containers
- Creating visual educational campaigns to encourage park visitors to recycle and compost
- Providing recycling information at every regional trailhead kiosk
- Developing exhibits for nature centers that highlight ways for residents to reduce waste
- Working with staff to determine strategies for encouraging waste reduction in general picnic areas
- Working with the Park District's trash hauling vendor to analyze trash composition and devise strategies to reduce waste

The Outreach Specialist will also work with the Park District's established Environmental Wellness Committee to implement employee education campaigns geared towards generating awareness and changing behavior both at work and at home.

Projected results:

- Number of people reached via outreach
- Number of households, businesses or organizations receiving outreach or technical assistance
- Pounds/Tons of waste reduced or prevented
- Pounds/Tons of recycling organics collected (or increases in collection volumes)
- Quantity (weight or volume) of toxic cleaners replaced by alternatives

Project category: ***Local Food System***

Name of host: ***City of Rogers***

Project overview:

The City of Rogers started its first farmers market this past season and it grew very quickly (20+ vendors). The MN GreenCorps member will help get information out to the community about the market, provide education on the nutritional and other benefits of local foods, and help to make the farmers market a cornerstone of the community. In addition, the MN GreenCorps member will work with the Community Education program of the local school district (ISD 728) to resurrect a local school garden and to make the farmers market an educational tool for students.

Project activities:

By helping to establish a vibrant and viable farmers market, the member will be able to encourage local and healthy eating habits within the community, including community gardening. Specific MN GreenCorps member activities will include:

- Outreach to the community to encourage shoppers to attend the farmers market
- Doubling participation by local farmers in the market
- Increasing community gardening in City of Rogers
- Work with the Community Education program of the local school district to educate students about gardening and nutrition, and to provide the opportunity for community gardening on school district land
- Promoting backyard gardens in the City of Rogers

Projected results:

- Energy and carbon savings associated with local food
- Reduced stormwater runoff
- Increased quantity of locally produced food (dollar volume, added gardening/farming land)
- Number of community members involved (gardeners, shoppers, sellers, buyers, and students)

Project category: ***Local Food System***

Name of host: ***Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center***

Project overview:

In cooperation with Eagle Bluff and the nonprofit Lanesboro Local, the MN GreenCorps member will conduct a community-wide needs assessment with regard to local food sales and will work to double the sales of local foods in the community. Lanesboro Local represents five farmers markets: Lanesboro, Caledonia, Chatfield, Preston and Spring Grove.

Project activities:

- Conduct a community-wide needs assessment with regard to local food sales, including in-depth interviews of each producer member (including Eagle Bluff) and the five farmer's market organizations, and walking surveys of farmers market shoppers.

- Identify barriers standing in the way of connections between producers and consumers, and make recommendations for how to expand sales of local foods in farmers markets, as well as schools like Eagle Bluff, grocery stores, restaurants and the Lanesboro Local Marketplace.

- Design and conduct an educational outreach campaign to raise awareness of how to find local foods. This will include improvements to the website, weekly email updates, and presentations at related public events, as well as using the Minnesota Grown/buy fresh buy local outreach materials.

- Designing and conducting educational outreach to producers, and identifying and providing information to potential growers in the county, including staging informational sessions to invite speakers to provide requested information (such how to display produce effectively at the market, how to preserve food, or how to become licensed to sell foods wholesale.)

- Contacting potential buyers (schools, nursing homes, restaurants, BBs) to assess and assist in matching new markets to farmers in time for them to adjust spring planting plans, and to generally improve farmers' placement of their projects.

- Staging promotional events, such as Pick up your Turkey Day to encourage advance purchases.

- Calculating and publicizing energy and carbon savings of the local foods efforts to increase awareness.

Projected results:

- Energy and carbon savings associated with local food
- Increased quantity of locally produced food (dollar volume, added gardening/farming land)
- Number of community members involved (gardeners, shoppers, sellers, buyers)

Project category: ***Local Food System***

Name of host: ***Gardening Matters***

Project overview:

The MN GreenCorps member will assist in creating an environment supportive of community and home-based gardening that will enhance urban food production significantly in the Twin Cities metro area, with a focus on Dakota County.

Project activities:

Work to overcome barriers to getting started and being successful in vegetable gardening in the Twin Cities, such as lack of educational opportunities, misperceptions around vegetable gardening, and lack of a support system through activities including:

- Help establish 5-7 new community gardens in Dakota County and report on outcomes/benefits.

- Assist in developing an ongoing system of support for community gardens in Dakota County that uses a model to be replicated with other metro community gardens.

- Conduct research and prepare educational/assistance materials to support new community gardens in Dakota County and around the Metro Area.

- Strengthen the capacity of community garden leaders through trainings and networking.

- Provide targeted assistance to select community gardens (existing and new), as time allows, in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Projected results:

- Energy and carbon savings associated with local food
- Increased quantity of locally produced food (dollar volume, added gardening/farming land)
- Number of community members involved
- Soil carbon sequestered
- Reduced stormwater runoff

Project category: ***Local Food System***

Name of host: ***Initiative Foundation***

Project overview:

The GreenCorps member will work with an established volunteer group to expand the Pine River area Farmers' Market. The member will also work on establishment of a local community garden.

Project activities:

- Work with local newly established Pine River Market Square, a local growers' and crafters' market, to double producer involvement, and to increase consumer participation.

- Coordinate with local task force to establish a Community Garden with links to food shelf, including identifying where excess produce will be most useful in between food shelf open days.

- Work with other food system projects such as local schools and health services programs as time allows.

- In addition, that member will help to explore the feasibility of a local Food Co-op; whether a Co-op would be an extension of the new Farmers' Market or work in collaboration with the Farmers' Market as a separate entity.

Projected results:

- Energy and carbon savings associated with local food
- Increased quantity of locally produced food (dollar volume, added gardening/farming land)
- Number of community members involved (gardeners, shoppers, sellers, buyers)

Project category: ***Urban Forestry***

Name of host: ***City of Duluth***

Project overview:

This MN GreenCorps member will assist the City of Duluth in its work to implement a boulevard tree inventory that will involve citizen volunteers. The member will also assist with Emerald Ash Borer response planning, implementation of a citizen tree pruning program, Arbor Day outreach, and Duluth Tree Commission activities.

Project activities:

- Design and implement a Boulevard Tree Inventory program that trains and utilizes citizen volunteers.
- Design and implement "Citizen Tree Pruning Program" in collaboration with City Forester, Duluth Tree Commission, and Friends of the Parks.
- Review data on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) control and draft an EAB response plan.
- Plan and implement one Arbor Day activity in collaboration with the Duluth Tree Commission, Friends of the Parks and the Duluth Public Schools.
- Facilitate Duluth's re-application to Tree City USA.
- Participate in the Duluth Tree Commission activities.

Projected results:

- Based on the number of trees inventoried, create an environmental baseline that documents the multiple environmental benefits of existing trees, such as volume reduction of stormwater runoff, reduction in urban heat island effect, storing and sequestering carbon dioxide, and mitigating global warming by reducing greenhouse gases.
- At least 50% of all Duluth boulevard trees are inventoried by the end of the member's service term (August, 2010).
- At least 10% of the trees planted within the past 15 years receive pruning (approximately 1000 trees) by the end of the member's service term (August, 2010).
- EAB response plan is codified in City Specifications and City of Duluth Tree Ordinance.
- Member plans and implements a minimum of 1 Arbor Day event.
- Duluth receives Tree City USA designation by August, 2010.

Project category: ***Urban Forestry***

Name of host: ***City of Rochester***

Project overview:

The MN GreenCorps member will facilitate better management of Rochester's urban forest, with all of the associated benefits in terms of energy, diversity, quality of life, and stormwater management. The member will assist that City of Rochester has in conducting a park and public lands tree inventory to assess the types and distribution of trees on public land, determine deficits in canopy related to storm water management, and identify long term needs. There will be a special focus to identify ash trees at risk for Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Project activities:

- Conducting a park and public lands tree inventory using GIS to assess the types and distribution of trees on public land, determine deficits in canopy related to storm water management, and identify long term needs.

- Identify ash trees at risk for emerald ash borer infestation, and assess park and public lands to see if there are hazard or high risk trees that may pose a public nuisance.

- Assist with information useful for the City's Urban Forest Master Plan.

- Work with community members to help achieve the City's urban forestry goals and to identify opportunities for applying volunteer resources effectively.

- Assisting in the establishment of a Missouri gravel bed system for tree transplanting.

- Assembling the Tree City USA award and growth award for 2009 and 2010.

- Coordinating and leading at least one volunteer tree planting day.

Projected results:

- Based on the number of trees inventoried, create an environmental baseline that documents the multiple environmental benefits of existing trees, such as volume reduction of stormwater runoff, reduction in urban heat island effect, storing and sequestering carbon dioxide, and mitigating global warming by reducing greenhouse gases.
- Percentage of trees inventoried on public land
- Number of participants at Arbor Day celebration
- Contribution to Urban Forestry Plan

Project category: **Urban Forestry**

Name of host: **City of St. Paul**

Project overview:

The MN GreenCorps member will work to address challenges of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in the City of St. Paul, including planning, assisting with development of a removal plan, and selecting replacement species. The member will also be active in the planning and expansion of Saint Paul's Arbor Day ceremony and associated community volunteer tree plantings.

Project activities:

- Assist City staff, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in monitoring EAB and bolstering community outreach and education efforts, including the development of a survey used to gauge the public perception of EAB and efforts for control in the original infested area.

- Work with a newly acquired web-based public tree inventory software program to analyze information that can target areas in need of increased diversity by prioritizing reforestation and restoration opportunities. Use the information gathered to assist with a plan aimed at targeting declining ash trees, and help select replacement species for ash.

- Use the tree inventory to identify research opportunities that would prove the high value trees have on intercepting storm water and improving water quality.

- Assist with planning and expanding St. Paul's Arbor Day ceremony and community volunteer tree planting events.

- Assist with the planning of spring & fall tree planting, including boulevards and parks.

- Research current or recent canopy statements from communities and watersheds nationwide, and work with stakeholders on the development of a plan for a canopy assessment.

Projected results:

- Based on the number of trees inventoried, create an environmental baseline that documents the multiple environmental benefits of existing trees, such as volume reduction of stormwater runoff, reduction in urban heat island effect, storing and sequestering carbon dioxide, and mitigating global warming by reducing greenhouse gases.
- Percentage of trees inventoried on public land
- Number of participants at Arbor Day celebration
- Contribution to City forestry plans

Project category: ***Urban Forestry***

Name of host: ***City of Woodbury***

Project overview:

The MN GreenCorps member will assist in the initial inventory and assessment of existing tree canopy cover throughout the City, and will aid in the goal setting process for increased urban tree canopy cover by 2030 and creation of an implementation plan for achieving those goals. The member will also work to quantify the benefits of urban trees including stormwater management benefits, and to conduct public outreach on urban forestry.

Project activities:

- Work with a consultant to complete an urban tree canopy cover assessment using GIS technology and collect detailed information on existing trees in select public lands.

- Assist with development of an Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) Implementation Plan that will include long-term goals for canopy cover; an implementation process for achieving those goals; and a monitoring program to track progress.

- Use the information from the inventory to quantify the benefits of urban trees including use in stormwater management and energy conservation, and developing a contingency plan for the Emerald Ash Borer. Use inventory information to specifically determine population of oak, ash and elm trees.

- Conduct public outreach and assist forestry staff with existing events and projects including the Arbor Day volunteer tree planting event, the Tree Incentive Program and the Buckthorn Busting event. The member will develop new education and outreach opportunities as appropriate.

Projected results:

- Based on the number of trees inventoried, create an environmental baseline that documents the multiple environmental benefits of existing trees, such as volume reduction of stormwater runoff, reduction in urban heat island effect, storing and sequestering carbon dioxide, and mitigating global warming by reducing greenhouse gases.
- Percentage of trees inventoried on public land
- Number of participants at community outreach events including Arbor Day and Buckthorn Busting events
- Contribution to City forestry plans
- Creation of database for urban forestry activities and UTC Implementation Plan

Partner site: **University of Minnesota, Morris**

The University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM) is hosting on its campus four half-time Minnesota GreenCorps members for the 2009 – 2010 program year. These half-time members are currently enrolled UMM undergraduate juniors or seniors, and will be serving 900 hours from September 30, 2009 through August 31, 2010.

This cooperative effort between MPCA and UMM provides an opportunity to demonstrate that current students can also make valuable contributions through Minnesota GreenCorps while continuing with their studies and taking advantage of the support and structure that an academic institution can provide.

These members will be working with two of UMM's community partners: Stevens Forward! in Morris, MN and the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center's Youth Environmental Summit Program in Spicer, MN.

Outcomes for these positions will be comparable with those in the Minnesota GreenCorps full-time positions, with expectations consistent with the half-time status of these members.