

Forest Restoration

By Jennifer Klein, Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve

Where the Emerald Ash Borer has caused deforestation, it's also harmed communities by higher death rates due to heart and lung disease. To protect our coastal water quality and enhance our public wellness, Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve in Two Rivers planted approximately 5,600 trees and shrubs in an ash tree dominant wetland forest in 2018 - 2019. Species included: maple, oak, willow, birch, elm, white spruce, tamarack, hackberry, dogwood, witch hazel and others. Invasive woody plants were also removed from 100 acres.

In 2020 - 2021, staff and volunteers will plant and protect an additional 5,000 new trees and shrubs. The goal of this project is to improve coastal wetland filtration, fortify the forest against the threat of emerald ash borer and improve public health.

This valuable project was funded by grants from the U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Natural Resources Foundation CD Besadny Conservation Fund and Wisconsin Public Service. Special thanks to our superheroes! A total of 2,566 volunteer hours have gone toward both the tree planting and invasive species removal!

Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve contains over 1,500 acres of forests, wetlands and prairies between Two Rivers and Manitowoc. This rare land and its creatures attract thousands of visitors year-round and serves as an interactive outdoor classroom for thousands of students.

To learn more visit: <https://www.woodlanddunes.org/>