

# NEWS FROM THE CREW

## CONSERVATION CREW SPRING 2024

### FROM THE TRAILHEAD

Conservation Crews are abuzz with activity this spring. They are constructing raised garden beds, filming captivating stop-motion videos, nurturing pollinator gardens and so much more. As we celebrate Earth Day, let's marvel at the diverse projects blooming within our Crews and the positive impact they promise to have on the environment and their local communities.

### CREW VIEWS

On April 26th, **Prairie Seed Academy**'s 6th grade Conservation Crew members will lead their K-5th grade student peers in an Earth Day celebration. With guided station activities, students will learn about animals, experience a petting zoo, and share their individual action projects.

**Cathedral High School** Crew members will spend Earth Day installing a loon nesting platform they created on a pond at Saint John's Outdoor University. Students will experience life on the water as they canoe their creation into place, then take a hike to learn about the different habitats.

**Mounds Park Academy** has a tradition of creating stop-motion animation for Earth Day. The videos express their creativity, teach new skills, and help share a special message about caring for our Great Outdoors. View a sample video from last year on YouTube. →



**Hmong College Prep Academy** completed a school planting project to populate classrooms with plants. They made "seed bombs" to start a native plant garden and showcased their "Journey North" tulip garden with sidewalk art.

**Hopkins North Junior High** will soon add raised garden beds to their outdoor native habitat. Staff will assemble the garden boxes together, and Conservation Crew students will spread mulch, fill the boxes with dirt, and plant the raised beds with native flowers and vegetables.

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## TEACHER & CREW SPOTLIGHT

Jess Paulson is an environmental educator and naturalist working with Terra Nova school in Buffalo. She leads the middle school Conservation Crew and the high school Envirothon Team. Jess says her students are always enthusiastic for art and nature activities.

This winter, her Conservation Crew has maintained the bird feeders around campus. As spring approaches, they are excited to start a summer garden project to create a pocket prairie and rain garden in front of the school. Their project has overseen the brainstorming, research, and project planning, and they will now move on to site prep, planting native prairie plants, and building a water drainage feature.

Jess is a big fan of Conservation Crew:

**"The program is working and the kids love it. Whatever we can do to keep it rolling, I'm in 100%."**

**CONSERVATION CREW**  
  
**CONSERVATION MINNESOTA**