



PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

1462 STRONGS AVENUE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54481 • PHONE: 715-346-1334 • FAX: 715-346-1677

PRESS RELEASE

Please publish release and photo at your earliest convenience.

Contact: Patty Benedict, Portage County Land and Water Conservation Division – 715-346-1334

benedicp@co.portage.wi.us

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Team Serves in Portage and Waushara Counties

The Central Wisconsin Windshed Partnership (CWWP), a program administered under the Portage County Planning and Zoning Department, Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD), the Waushara County Parks Department, and the White River Flowage Lake Management District recently benefitted from the assistance of the Maple 6 team through AmeriCorps NCCC.

The team arrived on July 13 and departed August 6, assisting with the removal of terrestrial invasive species and clearing trails in various Waushara County parks. On the White River Flowage, the team maneuvered in kayaks and hand pulled Flowering Rush, an aquatic invasive species. While working with the CWWP, the team assisted in maintaining approximately 11.5 miles of windbreaks and living snow fences.

“The Maple 6 AmeriCorps team worked on invasive plant control for the Waushara County Parks Department,” said Scott Schuman, Waushara County Parks Superintendent. “The Maple 6 team was a pleasure to work with. They completed tasks assigned effectively and efficiently,” he added.

White River Flowage Lake Management District Chair, Mike Geier, said, “After two days of hand pulling, it is estimated that the AmeriCorps NCCC members helped remove approximately 1,300 pounds of the Flowering Rush, which amounted to approximately 50% of the infestation. The AmeriCorps NCCC members provided much needed assistance to the District in its quest to eliminate this invasive plant.”

From Shannon Rohde, CWWP Project Coordinator: "The CWWP has worked with the AmeriCorps NCCC organization for the past two summers and the partnership has been wonderful. The workers have assisted with planting trees, installing fabric weed barrier, and pulling weeds. The groups have been enthusiastic and very interested in learning everything about what we do and having a bunch of extra hands to help us out with our day to day activities has been very beneficial. I hope to continue this partnership in the future."

In addition to the Portage County projects, the team also volunteered their time on weekends. At the Ice Age Trail in Waushara County, they cleared low hanging branches, widened paths, removed dead trees, and pulled invasives such as honeysuckle and buckthorn. They also worked at the Destiny Point Women's Restoration Home in Blenker, which helps rehabilitate women who are victims of addiction and/or abuse. The team moved furniture, filled in trenches on the grounds, cleaned, and did general house maintenance.

“Maple 6 was an enthusiastic, cohesive, hardworking team! They were quick to learn and worked efficiently on each of the projects,” said Patty Benedict, Portage County LWCD. “They also enjoyed exploring many Central Wisconsin sites and events, such as Roche a Cri State Park, the Redgranite Quarry, and concerts at Pfiffner Pioneer Park in Stevens Point,” added Benedict. “It was a pleasure getting to know these exceptional individuals. I encourage non-profit organizations to apply for an AmeriCorps team. It is a win-win situation for your organization and the team.”



PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

1462 STRONGS AVENUE, STEVENS POINT, WI 54481 • PHONE: 715-346-1334 • FAX: 715-346-1677

Based out of the North Central Region campus in Vinton, Iowa, Maple 6 team members home states are California, Florida, Indiana, Missouri, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Washington. Prior to arriving in Portage and Waushara Counties, the team worked on a variety of projects in the North Central Region, which consists of the States of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Vermont. Following their service in Central Wisconsin, the team moved on to Minnesota, working with the Bemidji Community Food Shelf.

AmeriCorps NCCC and its FEMA Corps unit engage up to 2,800 young Americans in a full-time, 10-month commitment to service each year. AmeriCorps NCCC members address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, and urban and rural development; FEMA Corps members are solely dedicated to disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery work. The programs are administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS is the federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.



Maple 6 Team-AmeriCorps NCCC

From bottom to top: Levi Farlee, Ty Ray, Alex Jensen, Maya Giddings, Veronica Conley, Kyle Cunningham, and Team Leader Krystal Otworth.