

Student input needed for DNR Parks & Trails

The Minn. Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Trails needs input from TEENS and ADULTS on future spending and priorities. This is a great chance for your students (and you) to provide input! And this just might help you meet your technology requirements for your classroom!

We're now launching the first Students Speak Out project on Citizens League's own software platform – CitiZing! Youth and adults like you will inform the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (the DNR) about your experiences with Minnesota's State Parks and Trails as well as your ideas about how to spend the legacy funds (new tax dollars MN's voted to specifically be targeted toward parks and trails in the 2008 election).

This will be a 5 week discussion, with one poll and discussion per week. The first discussion (up right now) will last 2 weeks. After all the discussions, a plan for spending the funds will be drawn up based on what we learn from you. You'll have a chance to review and comment on the results, and then they'll be submitted to the Minnesota Legislature!

Here's how you get started (6 steps: about 15 minutes of your time):

1. Sign-up for CitiZing and customize your page.
2. Join the SSO DNR Project for teens: <http://www.citizing.org/projects/ssodnr> : Adults please join here <http://www.citizing.org/projects/parkslegacy>
3. Click on "Introduce yourself" and share one thing you love about Minnesota Parks and Trails.
4. Take the weekly quick poll: What milestones and markers will we (the DNR) reach in 3-5 years that show we're on the right path with the legacy funds?
5. Elaborate on your weekly quick poll answer in the weekly discussion.
6. Visit the SSO Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/studentsspeakout> If you haven't already, please "like" it. Facebook is a great way to stay informed as new polls and discussions come up.

Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals

An independent association of current or former resource or conservation professionals whose mission is to promote science-based stewardship of natural resources including air, water, land, native plants, fish, and wildlife and to support aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem.

Check out the [November 2010 Newsletter!](#)

The 4th Annual Workshop and Meeting of the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals will be Friday, February 25, 2011 at Camp Ripley Military Training Center, just north of Little Falls. This will be a one day workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a MNACP business meeting to follow. Registration is \$25 which includes lunch & refreshments as well as a year membership to the MNACP. The workshop, "Contaminants and Natural Resource Management" will focus on current and emerging issues of contaminants affecting resource management in Minnesota.

Dr. Deborah Swackhamer from the University of Minnesota will present an overview on emerging contaminants, possible effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and human health, and possible policy initiatives for limiting exposures and harm. Dr. Shawn Schottler from the St. Croix Watershed Research Station will discuss novel techniques for tracing the origin of sediment deposits into lakes and streams (i.e., sediment "fingerprinting"). Molly Tranell, DNR Wildlife Management Section, will give a

presentation on effects of lead on wildlife. Additional presentations on the agenda include contaminants from hard rock mining and mercury methylation in wetlands. Registration information will be finalized in late December. Watch for the announcement by checking the MNACP website: <http://www.mnacp.org/>

Citizen input sought for Parks and Trails Legacy Plan

A draft State and Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Plan will be available for review and comment, starting in December. This legislatively mandated plan establishes a vision and guides funding from the 2008 constitutional amendment for the next 25 years of state and regional park and trail efforts in Minnesota.

DNR is partnering with the Citizens League - a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization to offer a variety of opportunities for citizens to provide input on the plan before it is presented to the Minnesota Legislature by Feb. 15, 2011. Citizens are asked to comment on recommendations regarding:

- connecting people to the outdoors
- buying land, developing opportunities
- taking care of existing parks and trails
- working better together

Starting in early December, citizens can review the plan and provide feedback on it by visiting this website <http://www.citizing.org/projects/parkslegacy>

For more information please contact:

Project Manager Laurie Young, Email: laures.young@state.mn.us, 651.259.5638 or
Planner Emmett Mullin, Email: emmett.mullin@state.mn.us, 651.259.5556
or call the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-646-6367

Job Opportunities:

Program Coordinator

The Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute is seeking a 75% time Program Coordinator to manage our grant program, educational and outreach events and marketing and communications. For more information contact: Kristine Igo, MPP; Assistant Director; Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute; University of Minnesota; 1334 Eckles Ave.; St. Paul, MN 55108; Office: (612) 625-8693 Cell: (612) 986-5222; kigo@umn.edu

To view the full job description,

https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp

McKinley Community CSA Operational Director

The McKinley Community is proud to announce that we have posted a job opening for a newly created position McKinley Community CSA Operational Director. The McKinley Community CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) had its inaugural year this year and due to the success of the project and immense plans for growth the McKinley Community Board of Directors approved the hiring of a full-time Director who will steer this project forward to be the success that all parties involved know that it can (and will) be for many years to come.

McKinley Community CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) Operational Director Key Responsibilities:

- * Directly report to McKinley Executive Director and present written updates to the McKinley Community Board of Directors.
- * Develop viable short and long-term business plans for the CSA.
- * Develop and maintain a yearly planting schedule. Keep accurate records of land use and crop yields. Keep records of pest and

weed occurrences. Keep current on organic growing and small-scale agriculture practices and regulations. Keep informed

regarding food safety and agriculture policies at the city, state, and federal levels.

* Act as the liaison between the community and the CSA Market through attendance at conferences/meetings, brochures,

internet presence. Recruit and train volunteers. Foster a welcoming environment. Increase membership. Develop relationships

with members and other partners.

* Keep McKinley Community CSA members informed of farms progress throughout the growing season.

* Stage educational events that support or enhance the mission of the McKinley Community CSA.

* Do grant writing and develop complimentary revenue streams.

* Assist ED & Bookkeeper with business records and accounts.

* Manage and train other farm staff.

* Other duties as required and needed.

Goals: * Make McKinley CSA a successful and viable farm and Increase memberships and participation.

Experience and qualifications: Required: Demonstrated knowledge of organic and small-scale agricultural practices. Experience working in an organic or small scale agricultural enterprise. Experience in a supervisory position. Preferred: College degree in an agricultural related field or other appropriate credentials (such as Master Gardener). Experience directing an organic or small-scale agricultural enterprise. Compensation: This is a salaried position.

Please send resumes to either our street address or via email. Feel free to contact us with any questions. McKinley Community Center for Families; 3333 North 4th Street, Suite 1; Minneapolis, MN 55412; 612-276-1541; mckinleycommunity@yahoo.com

CSA Farm Manager

MRCI of New Ulm is looking for a qualified individual who is interested in working with people with disabilities, has commercial experience in organic gardening and has supervisory skills. duties will include being the Farm Manager for the Growing Green Mini-Farm. This person will have the opportunity, along with their other duties, to help build a young CSA into a diversified work site offering many healthy job options to MRCI clients and high quality food products to the community of New Ulm.

MRCI-New Ulm is a branch of MRCI based out of Mankato, one of the largest providers of vocational services for people with disabilities and disadvantages in Minnesota. In 2007, MRCI-New Ulm partnered with Putting Green, Inc., a non-profit environmental learning center, to create Growing Green Mini-farm, an organically grown produce CSA operation in New Ulm. MRCI-New Ulm provides workers with disabilities to do the growing/farm work.

Putting Green, Inc. has the mission to educate and inspire people to make informed choices for a healthy planet. An environmental themed Mini-golf park designed, developed, and operated by young people was their starting project. Another one of Putting Green's goals is to inspire and train our young people to be the leaders of tomorrow by giving them the opportunity to discover, create and innovate, and be the next, better stewards of our natural resources.

Growing Green Mini-Farm started growing in 2008. We served 50 CSA members in 2010 and plan to expand to 70 members in 2011. Future plans include developing value added products and animal husbandry projects along with educational projects.

MRCI-New Ulm position description: Community Work Site Coordinator – This position coordinates the activity of 5 to 7 production crews and 10 to 12 individuals working at various business sites in the New Ulm area. The type of work includes packaging/assembly, cleaning and food service sites as well as the Garden. The primary duties include supervising 6 to 8 crew leaders, scheduling staff and client daily work

assignments, maintaining relations with Employers to insure their needs are met, assessing productivity of clients and covering site supervision if necessary.

The Growing Green Mini-Farm is one of these sites. MRCI-New Ulm wants to build this to be its primary work community worksite (currently it is the 4th largest site). Benefits: This is a full time position with Vacation, Sick leave, Holiday, Retirement Plan, Health, Dental and Life insurance benefits. Contact: Georg Marti, Branch Manager 507-276-5637 gmarti@mrciworksource.org

Events:

December 21st (Tuesday) is the **Winter Solstice Celebration** at 170 Good Counsel Drive (School Sisters of Notre Dame) in Mankato. In the midst of the hectic holiday season, plan in some simplicity! A light supper, seasonal reflection, and the ancient tradition of a community bonfire to celebrate the season. The event starts out at 4:30 with a snowshoe hike; 5:30 is a light supper and seasonal reflection and 7:00 is the bonfire near the orchard. RSVP by December 18th to 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

January 27th (Thursday) is **Electrofishing in the MN River** starting at 7pm at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo, MN. Brad Koenen, MN DNR Fisheries Biologist from the Hutchinson Area Office will tell us about what the MN DNR is finding with their electro fishing surveys of the Minnesota River. Prepare to be surprised and to see awesome footage of hibernating catfish!

February 12th (Saturday) is the **Cure 19th Annual Meeting** from 6-10pm at the Hollywood on Main Street Montevideo. **Invited Guest Speakers: John Hickman & Jon Carlson** will tell us about their past year making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. Come hear the stories of all the fantastic people they met along the way and get a sneak preview of portions of the documentary! For more information visit <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html>

April 16th (Saturday) is the presentation "**Waterfalls and the River Warren**" by Professor Bob Douglas starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Professor Bob Douglas will talk about waterfalls in the Minnesota River including many discovered by him. A tour of the waterfalls will follow the presentation.

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th annual fun shoot** at the River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland, MN starting at 8am. For more information call (507) 359-5770.

May 21st (Saturday) is the "**Caring for God's Creation**" with Jim Gilbert, Minnesota's most well-known naturalist and former director of the Linnaeus Arboretum starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bring your walking shoes.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Good management makes the difference in pastures](#) (Agri News). Cattle can utilize pastures year-round with good management of winter feeding areas and pasture restoration.

[Family farm prepares to give way to growth](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A fixture for nearly a century, the Brooklyn Park farmland on Hwy. 169 is likely to fade into history to make way for a reworked interchange.

['Sacred space' in Belle Plaine](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A Belle Plaine family with prime real estate for development opts instead to make it a place to "give people a chance to reflect."

[Ammonia leak in southern Dakota County sends students to hospital](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Ammonia leak in southern Dakota County sends students to hospitals

[Mpls plan promotes urban ag](#) (Minnesota Daily). A new plan would allow urban farmers to sell produce locally.

[New gov, same old folly to come](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Whomever Mark Dayton appoints as the DNR's next commissioner will be another puppet on a string.

[University of Minnesota Vice President Karen Himle resigns after Troubled Waters brouhaha](#) (Twin Cities Daily Planet). University of Minnesota Vice President for University Relations Karen Himle resigned today, after months of dispute over her attempt to suppress or delay the Troubled Waters documentary.

[Himle resigns as U vice president](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Karen Himle touched off a tempest by canceling airing of U documentary, but she and President Robert Bruininks said her resignation was not connected to the controversy.

[Minnesota wolves coming off endangered list next year](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). But their future will likely get tied up in court again.

[DNR to allow overnight youth camping at Fort Snelling State Park](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Fort Snelling State Park plans to allow overnight camping, a move that would let kids sleep under stars in the heart of the city.

[Edina trail to follow the creek](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The council resolution includes requirements that homeowners next to the trail get buffers like fences or plantings if they want and that final design should minimize the impact on properties.

[A danger, but no regular inspections at ammonia storage facilities](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Agriculture Department says it can't afford to conduct more frequent checks of ammonia storage plants.

[Costs tallied for ammonia leak in Randolph](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Farmers' cooperative said that its insurance will cover medical and response costs for the accident that forced the evacuation of about 1,000.

[Debt-free, Prairieland mulls future](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). A significant event has occurred rather quietly at the Prairieland compost facility in Truman: The plant has paid off its debt.

[Ozone rules could cost state](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). When the Environmental Protection Agency announced last week it would again delay issuing a tighter standard for ground-level ozone, Minnesota got a bit of a reprieve.

[Raise your green IQ this Christmas](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). At a time of the year that produces loads of waste, maybe it's time to rethink how you do it all.

Wetlands have a poor public image . . . Yet they are among the earth's greatest natural assets . . . mankind's waterlogged wealth. – Edward Maltby

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance:
<http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

[Thanks,](#)

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