

North American Association for Environmental Education 35th Annual Conference - October 10-14, 2006

Gathering AT THE Headwaters



**BUILDING EE
IN SOCIETY**

ST. PAUL 2006

Get Outside and Restore MN Nature Sanctuary

Once again this year, NAAEE Conference attendees can give back to the host community with a few hours of service while enjoying some valued time in the fresh air. Join us in St. Paul as we help restore a unique natural area in the heart of the city, just minutes from the conference site.

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Directly across the Mississippi River from downtown St. Paul, the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is an area with a rich ecological and cultural history. Before European settlement, the Sanctuary area was a vibrant floodplain where Trout Book and Phalen Creek flowed together to join the Mississippi River. The confluence of tributaries at this sharp curve in the Mississippi River made a focal point for the native Dakota people who gathered for trade and ceremony.

More than a century of industrial use has changed this land significantly. Wetlands were filled, trees were removed, and the soil was contaminated and compacted. A cave entryway called Wakan Tipi, where petroglyphs were thought to be located, was destroyed to make room for rail operations. For decades, the land was left

degraded and vacant.

Recognizing its potential and the need to bring change to their community, concerned citizens formed the Lower Phalen Creek Project in 1997 to create a nature sanctuary that combines restoration of riverfront habitat with public access to the natural world in the midst of the urban core. After years of work, and with assistance from many partners, the land was acquired for public use in November 2002 and opened to the public in 2005.

What You Can Do to Help

At the site, you can plant trees and shrubs, do some weeding and mulching, and provide expertise on future plantings and signage. The project will go on rain or shine, so bring your work clothes! Sign up sheets will be posted in the registration area at the conference. We hope you'll plan your conference schedule to include some time on one of the three service project work days:

Thursday	October 12	2:00 – 3:45 p.m.
Friday	October 13	8:00 – 9:30 a.m. AND 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Saturday	October 14	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Buses will be available to take you to and from the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel to the Nature Sanctuary. (Check the registration desk for the bus loading location.) After arriving, you'll be given a site orientation and more details about the history and restoration efforts, including the involvement of the East-side Youth Conservation Corps.

More about Service Learning

To find out more about designing curriculum-based community projects, register for preconference workshop "M" – Designing and Implementing Successful Community Service Learning Projects. Students who organized last year's community service project in Albuquerque will talk about how NAAEE volunteers helped improve their school. Workshop participants will visit the MN service project to get things started there this year, receive copies of several curricula, and be eligible to apply to the Dunn Foundation for grants to implement projects with students. NAAEE gratefully acknowledges the Dunn Foundation for a grant that partially funds this year's community service project.



Early Bird Registration Deadline is August 1!

For more information, go to www.naaee.org
or www.naaee.org/maee