

THE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE



About Us:

The ESI Youth Advisory Council is a group of high school students working towards environmental education and equity through community engagement. Young people gain leadership skills and learn about important environment and equity issues.



WHAT WE DO:

The council educates themselves and others on environmental issues, takes leadership roles and collaborates with the community to address environmental problems. Council members work alongside FMR staff and share input with both our staff and board on future youth program development, including the summer ESI intensive.

PROJECTS/EVENTS WE'VE DONE:

- Youth Climate Summit at the Capitol
- Protest at the East Phillips neighborhood
- Trash cleanup at the Mississippi River
- Invasive species removal in Minneapolis



ESI'S VALUES AND GOALS

Education

Leadership

Advocacy

"Through an immersive and interdisciplinary program of local river issues and professional development, ESI fosters a diverse generation of environmental leaders."

HABITAT CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY GARDENS



THE ISSUE



Lack of native species, plants, and tree cover



Lack of connection with nature



Lack of food and plant knowledge

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



- Community gardens foster connections between community members and create food security
- Native habitat supports wildlife, pollinators, human well-being, and climate resiliency
- Direct exposure to nature is needed to care about the environment



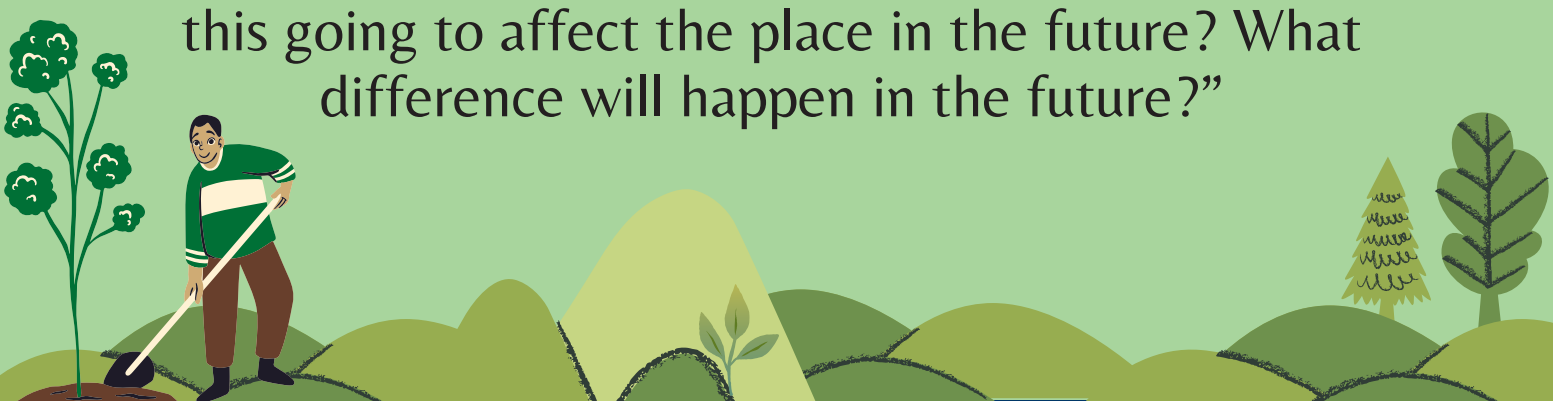
GOALS & VISIONS

Our region's cities have abundant tree canopies, green spaces, natural habitats, and community gardens.



Our region strives to create a strong bond between humans and nonhuman species by promoting horticulture events, educating residents about agriculture, and conserving native habitats.

“Think about the cause and effect of what you do. How is this going to affect the place in the future? What difference will happen in the future?”



PARK ACCESS & CONNECTION

THE ISSUE

Pollution, poor transportation options to parks, lack of awareness, and safety concerns prevent people from visiting parks.

Parks are less accessible for certain demographics, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and BIPOC.

Young people are the least likely to visit parks, due to lack of transportation options, safety concerns, and lack of education.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



- Parks are one of the only free spaces that offer a communal activities for a multitude of demographics. Offering a safe space for different communities is vital for creating a healthy social environment.
- Parks are place of connection and are beneficial for our mental health, as it offers a peaceful space for a multitude of people
- Educational programs for youth and other demographics promotes awareness, connection, and even empathy for the natural environment.

GOALS & VISIONS

Parks are clean and safe for everyone regardless of age, gender, race, or ability.



We encourage youth to visit regional parks by providing inclusive programming and transportation options. This promotes passion for parks which results in better protection and accessibility of green spaces in the future.

“Parks and outdoor recreation spaces are important to destress, build communities, make friendships bloom.”

