

Garbage to Green: Improving Konkel Park's Wetlands

Partners of Greenfield Parks & Recreation

Introduction

The Partners of Greenfield Parks & Recreation is a non-profit organization dedicated to:

- The preservation and improvement of Greenfield's local park and recreation environments
- Beautification of green spaces and waterways
- Securing of park amenities and
- Development of park site activity areas for the benefit of the community

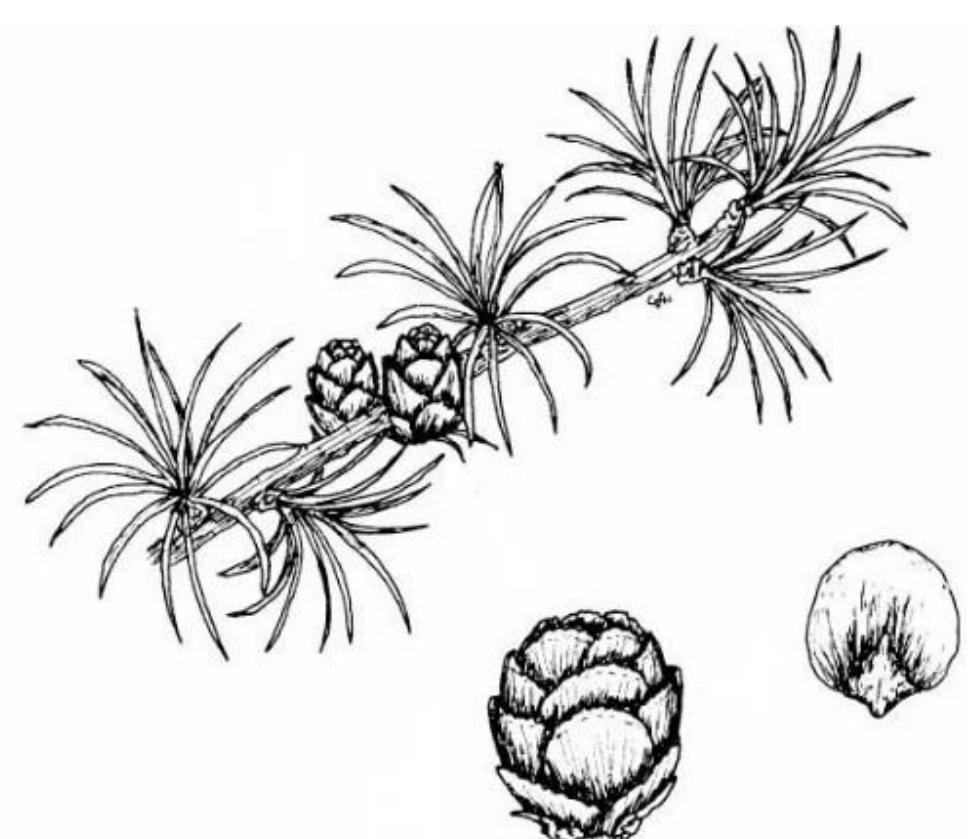
Project Mission

Native tamarack trees will contribute to the restoration of Konkel Park, transitioning it from the municipal landfill it once was to the healthy, community green space it aims to be. The project site is located along Honey Creek in the Menomonee

Watershed. Trees planted at the site will help mitigate surface water runoff, decrease soil erosion and reduce the accumulation of sediments in the Honey Creek.

Why Tamarack Trees?

The Tamarack variety is native to Wisconsin and thrives in cold, moist areas like swamps or along streams and lakes. Its hearty nature makes it the perfect tree to plant in the wetland areas of Konkel Park.



Tamarack Needles
(*Larix Laricina*)

Project Highlights

The foundation of this restoration project relies on harnessing the power of trees to enhance the quality of Konkel Park and improve the health of Honey Creek.

The trees planted for this project will help:

- Mitigate storm water runoff
- Reduce accumulation of sediments in Honey Creek
- Revitalize polluted or poor quality soils
- Create an attractive parkland



A young Tamarack Tree planted at Konkel Park in 2017 with funds from a related Sweet Water Mini Grant.



Konkel Park is the most visited park in Greenfield, with the Honey Creek walking paths serving as a very popular attraction.

Project Location

Konkel Park is located in the heart of Greenfield's newly developed City Center and is situated between Greenfield High School and Edgewood Elementary School.



Education Goals

Storm water runoff impacts a wide range of areas, from private properties, to parks and to watersheds and beyond. The Garbage to Green project aims to:

- Inform the community about runoff issues
- Educate about methods that can be applied privately and
- Demonstrate these methods through the application of this project in public spaces



Greenfield City Arborist, Dennis Fermenich (right), involves the community as much as possible in tree planting events. Dennis believes that, "People are more invested in something if they had a hand in making it happen."



Project information will be distributed at many Greenfield events throughout the summer, including:
• Sunday Farmers Market
• Clean Up/Green Up Day
• Arbor Day
• Forestry Festival Day

Conclusion

The Honey Creek Native Plant Restoration program embraces the mission of Sweet Water by:

- Working to improve water quality in the Menomonee Watershed
- Implementing conservation efforts by mitigating storm water runoff
- Restoring natural habitats near the Honey Creek
- Educating residents about the importance of water-quality management

Acknowledgements

This project was made possible through support from Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc., the Greenfield Beautification Committee, the Partners of Greenfield Parks & Recreation and the City of Greenfield, WI.