

Arboretum

The tree and shrub planting along the bike path is a demonstration site for native woody plants. A plant is considered native if it originated in the area. Some of the advantages to planting native, rather than introduced plants, are that they are adapted to the local climate and weather patterns. They can withstand periodic wet or dry cycles and are hardy during average winter temperatures. Maintenance is reduced with native plantings. Once established, they do not need fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, or additional watering.



Notice how the wood chips are placed around this Golden Current seedling.

Cass County Soil Conservation District

This arboretum is a cooperative project of River Keepers, the Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation, and Cass County Soil Conservation District (SCD). Cass County SCD designed the arboretum and provided all of the plant materials. The Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation provided the funds for the plant interpretive signs. Each species is planted in groups of 5–7 plants and is labeled with a sign.

River Keepers is a non-profit organization that works with the Red River of the North and manages the Living Lab. It promotes riparian restoration, river safety, water education, water quality, river

recreation, and connecting the urban community to the river.

The Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation is a non-profit organization. It manages contributions that accumulate perpetually and generate interest income to support charitable needs in Cass County, North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota.

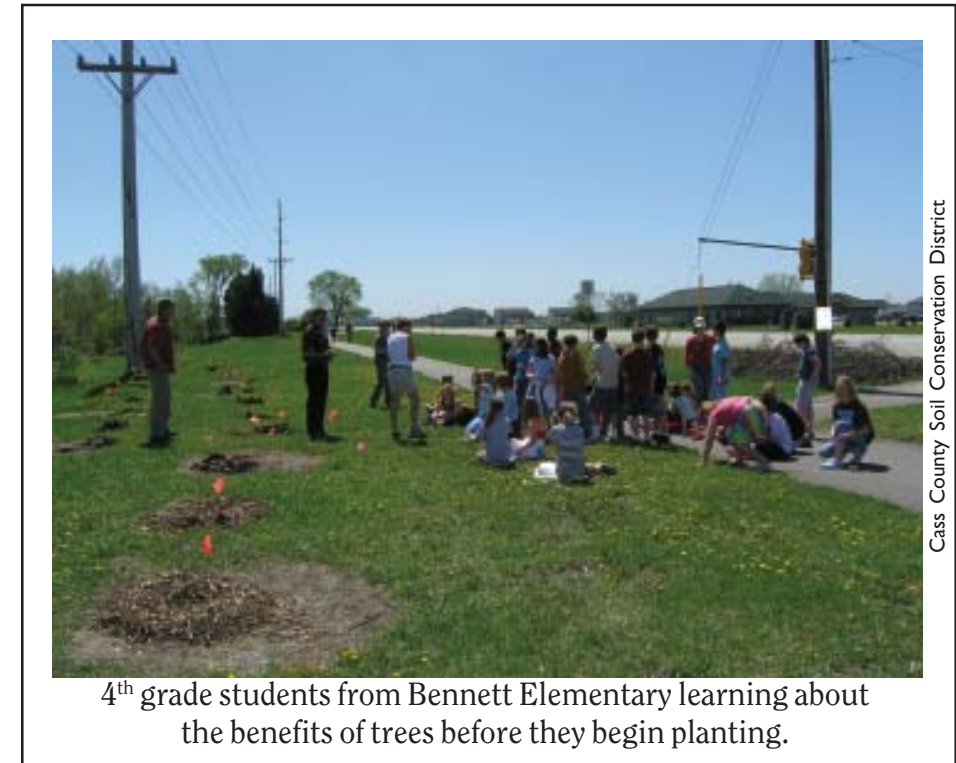
Cass County SCD is a legal subdivision of the State, organized under the North Dakota Soil Conservation Districts Law enacted in 1937. Their mission is to inform, educate, and provide leadership in conservation and stewardship of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Volunteers and a nearby 4th grade class planted all these trees and shrubs in the spring of 2007. All the plants were seedlings, about 12–14 inches tall. Each hole was dug 2–3 times deeper than the roots. Each seedling was watered after the hole was backfilled.

Wood chips (mulch) were placed around each plant, with care not to have it touching the trunk. Piling mulch up against the trunk will cause damage from insects, mice, and fungus. Mulching a 2–4 inch layer around the plant:

- Reduced the amount of grass and weeds growing by the new plants.
- Reduced competition for nutrients and water from other plants.
- Made it easier to mow around the plants without damaging them.
- Retained moisture for roots.
- Protected roots from temperature extremes.

The plants in this arboretum are considered to be “power line friendly”. When mature they will not interfere with the overhead power line wires. Look at other trees north and south of the Living Lab and you will see trees are “topped” because they want to grow taller than the wires.



4th grade students from Bennett Elementary learning about the benefits of trees before they begin planting.

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