

Battle Creek Middle School Habitat Restoration

The Battle Creek Middle School Habitat Restoration project will fix flooded areas on the east side of Battle Creek Middle School. Flooding has damaged the sidewalk and field along Winthrop Street, and has created an environment that attracts invasive plants. The project will transform the damaged field into a wet prairie habitat. Surrounding the wet prairie will be trees and outdoor classroom spaces.

The project involves moving soil to change the shape of the land to redirect water away from the bus stop, sidewalk and field into a new area that will become a wet prairie filled with native plants. To prevent water from pooling on the ground's surface, sand infiltration basins will be built below the surface to help absorb rainwater into the soil.

Native plants will provide a home for native pollinators like the rusty patched bumble bee and leadplant flower moth. With its closeness to Battle Creek Regional Park and Battle Creek, the restored habitat will serve as a refuge for insects, birds and animals as they travel in all three areas.

This is an exciting opportunity to restore native habitat, reduce erosion, protect water systems, beautify community spaces, and teach students how they can positively impact the natural environment. Through this project, students will learn first-hand about the importance of maintaining sustainable relationships between humans and natural environments.

The restoration project is an exciting partnership with Battle Creek Middle School, Davey's Resource Group, Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, and the SPPS Facilities Department's Environmental Services Group. The project will begin in summer 2023.