

Place-Based Education at the Newaygo Riverfront Park

Newaygo County Career-Tech Center Agriscience Program

Community Partners

- Mrs. Sarah Pregitzer, WMGLSI Field Coordinator
- Newaygo Invasive Plant Project, Mr. Randy Butters
- City of Newaygo, Mayor Jon Schneider
- Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Ms. Terry Stilson

Newaygo Riverfront Park Clean-Up

Students in the agriscience program at the Newaygo County Career-Tech Center improved the Newaygo Riverfront Park along the Muskegon River in the city of Newaygo. Students removed more than 1300 pounds of garlic mustard, seeded native plants, and installed fishing line recycling stations. The students in the agriscience program learned how to identify and remove invasive plants based on the plant physiology. They also researched native plants that would be found in the area that could be planted to replace the removed invasive plants.

Fishing line recycling

stations were installed at the park to decrease the amount of fishing line dropped in the Muskegon River.

Agriscience students spent 30 hours working at the park. After identifying the invasive plants in the park, students heard from the Newaygo Invasive Plant Project on the best strategies used to remove the invasive plants. After removal, agriscience students reseeded in bare areas. Future work will include an annual garlic mustard pull until it is fully removed from the park.

In the fall, students will plant native trees to provide shade and visual barriers along the sidewalk.

**More than
1300 pounds
of garlic
mustard
pulled!**

“I wish we could do this in class every day. I really feel like we accomplished something.”

- Senior
Agriscience





After pulling the garlic mustard, agriscience students reseeded with native woodland plant species.

Skills Learned

- How to identify invasive plant species
- How to remove invasive plant species based on plant physiology
- How to identify native plant species
- How to promote alternative options in place of littering
- How to provide a service to the community
- How to collaborate with community groups and organizations with similar goals
- How to plan and implement a project from start to finish
- How to communicate with individuals of all ages

2013 Project Timeline

