

## The Future

2,300 native trees and shrubs have been planted as part of the Grove Community School Forest Trail:

- Butternut
- Black Cherry
- Sugar Maple
- Red Oak
- White Oak
- Swamp White Oak
- Bur Oak
- Shagbark Hickory
- Basswood
- Black Walnut
- Serviceberry
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Am. Plum
- Prairie Crab
- Silky Dogwood
- Hawthorn
- Am. Hazelnut
- Ninebark

The 1-3 year old seedlings were planted in spring of the years 2008 - 2016.

Many hands and much community expertise helped to plant and continue to care for this young forest trail.

If you would like to be a part of "a growing project", please contact:

Phil or Nancy Kress @ 289-0707  
Kendall Wethal @ Pleasant Prairie Nursery,  
882-0501

**Note:**  
**If you would like to donate a native WI tree in memory or honor of a special occasion or loved one, please contact the numbers above.**

## Project Committee Members

### Staff:

Jerry Roth, District Superintendent  
Steve Shulta, Building/Grounds Dir.  
Joanie Dobbs, Elementary Principal  
Christina Ross, Elem. 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Tcher  
Renaë Smith, MS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
James Kvalheim, HS Career Ed. Tcher  
Brian Benson, HS Science Teacher  
Evansville School District Principals

### Community:

Butch Beedle	Isaiah Janisch
Cindy Beedle	Ann Larson
John Gishnock	David Huset
Kendall Wethal	Audrey Shomos
Nancy Kress,	Philip Kress,

Nicholas Koltz, Rock Co. Forester  
WI School Forest Education Specialist,  
UW-Stevens Point

## Information Sites

WI School Forest website:

[www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/SF](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/leaf/SF)

WI Environmental Education Board:

[www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb)

Evansville Community School Dist:

[www.ecsdnet.org](http://www.ecsdnet.org)

Click on "School Forest."



## **The Grove Community School Forest Project**

**2007-2016**

**“Teaching children about the natural world should be treated as one of the most important events in their lives.”**

**Thomas Berry**

## The History

During an Evansville School District building project in 2002, a landscape architect worked with a focus group of staff, students and community members to design an outdoor environmental learning landscape plan for the school grounds. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Service Forester, Mary Ann Buenzow, visited the proposed site and wrote an overview recommending native trees and plants that will be successful in this area.

In the fall of 2007, a group of school district staff members met to move forward with the plan to establish a school and community forest trail that will serve as a *naturally* diverse outdoor classroom and walking trail for students, staff and the Evansville community

Students, parents, school staff, Boy Scouts, Lions Club members and other community groups have completed significant projects on the trail to provide positive outdoor experiences and promote use that enhances lessons and hands-on learning opportunities for all ages. Community members have also donated mature, native trees in memory or honor of family members or special occasions. Each activity and each individual's input contributes to the growth, use and success of the project.

## The Location

The Grove Community School Forest Project includes Wind Prairie (currently maintained by the City of Evansville), J.C. McKenna Middle School and the Grove Campus e.g. Levi Leonard Elementary, Theodore Robinson Intermediate School and Evansville High School:



In 2015 a **Nature Center**, adjacent to District Office, opened to provide hands-on learning for community children of all ages. Donations of “*taxidermied*” animals, fish, insects and birds fill the room as well as collections of rocks, shells, plants resource materials and tools for outdoor work and investigative experiences.

Contact District Office to schedule a visit!

## The Rationale

School Forests...

- Provide educational, cultural and recreational opportunities;
- Develop a working knowledge of conservation, management, and stewardship of natural resources;
- Are *outdoor classrooms* that offer real-life, hands-on experiences;
- Encourage research, communication, problem-solving, consensus building, critical thinking and leadership skills;
- Bring together organizations, businesses, and education institutions to form partnerships for shared environment improvement and preservation;
- Enhance the health of a community by providing “green space” and aesthetic beauty, and

***“Where trees are planted,  
communities grow.”***

*Environment Research Lab.*