

ALC students celebrate Arbor Day with service

Nine students and two teachers from White Bear Lake Area Learning center celebrated Arbor Day by volunteering with 134 others at a former Excel Energy coal storage site. The group collectively planted 4,200 trees and shrubs, which are intended to close a gap in the forest canopy in an effort to help ensure the ecological health of the surrounding floodplain forest and Mississippi River.

The event was sponsored by Great River Greening and Xcel Energy. The shrubs were planted where Xcel Energy used to store coal. The area is being made into a park, which will allow the students to one day visit their children and family members to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

This is the 13th year that the planting has been organized for this area and other need areas. The project as a whole helps protect the water quality of the Mississippi River which positively impacts the entire metro area watershed.

