

UPPER DAKOTA RC&D COUNCIL, INC.



Youth prepare site for Backyard Conservation Project at Roosevelt Park Zoo, Minot, ND

RC&D COORDINATOR MAKES FIRST COURT APPEARANCE FOR EARTH TEAM

(Minot, ND 8/28/09) – After several months of working with youth from the Juvenile Drug Court, the Roosevelt Park Zoo, the NRCS Plant Materials Center and Upper Dakota RC&D Council, Allan Pfliger, RC&D Coordinator made his first appearance before the court!

No, Allan was not there as part of a court order, but appeared before Judge Mattson with the NW Judicial District in Minot to make a presentation to youth who participated as Earth Team volunteers to complete the Roosevelt Park Zoo's Backyard Conservation Project.

The youth participated in a special four path program which involved community service. With the court providing the opportunity, the youth chose to participate in the Roosevelt Park Zoo project to create a Backyard Garden with emphasis on creating awareness of the use of native plants in the home landscape. The Garden is part of the Zoo's North American section and involved the youth in land preparation, planting, mulching and creating rock borders for more than 50 plants representing 6 species of native grasses and several species of broadleaf plants. The PMC in Bismarck provided 6 varieties of native grasses for the project and several broadleaf native plants were purchased from local nurseries.

The participants contributed at least 30 hours each to this project and their time was valued at more than \$600 for completion of this project.

Allan read a letter to the court from State Conservationist J. R. Flores, which explained that the goals and ideals of both the NRCS and Earth Team were reflected in the efforts of these youth and thanked the youth for helping to create an educational opportunity to help Zoo visitors of all ages learn about the environment

Along with Mr. Flores' letter being included in their case file, each youth was presented with an Earth Team water bottle for their efforts.

Val Potter, Coordinator, commented this project was the best project to date for involving the youth with a worthy community project and she was hopeful similar projects could involve the Upper Dakota RC&D in the future. As a result, Allan is looking forward to a future court appearance!

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