



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Lester River White Pine Forest Dedication

Back in 2007 and 2008, elementary students from Lester Park and Holy Rosary schools planted trees in an effort to re-establish a white pine forest on a parcel of land that burned in the Cloquet fire of 1918. Now, the public is invited to see how much the forest – and the students – have grown. A dedication ceremony for the Lester River White Pine Forest will be held on Thursday, August 14, at 6 p.m. The original students and other project partners will reunite at the project site, located at the northern part of Brighton Beach Park, (Gitche Gumee), Congdon Blvd and 63rd Avenue East in Duluth.

The Lester River White Pine Forest has become a model for the re-establishment of white pine all along Minnesota's North Shore. Following the dedication, there will be a discussion about the Cloquet fire and white pine forests in northeast Minnesota.

“This has been a fascinating project, and through it we have gained a lot of useful information about re-establishing white pines,” said Bob Olen, a horticulturist with St. Louis County Extension. “We are so grateful to the students and their families who have continued to maintain the trees they planted. We also need to thank the county Land Department, University of Minnesota/St. Louis County Master Gardeners and the City of Duluth for their support of this great community project.”

To learn more about Lester River White Pine Forest and other Extension projects, call St. Louis County Extension at (218) 733-2879 or visit stlouiscountymn.gov/extensionservice.

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