

School Forest Use Report

2025-2026 School Year

July 2026

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Overview

A school forest is a place where teachers can teach the subjects outdoors, including instruction about natural resources. It is a partnership between the DNR and school districts. The goal is to improve comfort in the natural world, improve literacy about natural resources, and support for natural resources stewardship.

School forests are required to designate a site coordinator who completes and returns an annual report of use at the end of every school year. The School Forest Program requires that each school report at least five activities every year. Activities may include teachers leading lessons outdoors, physical education activities (snowshoeing, running), mental health and behavior regulation breaks, and stewardship activities.

All schools are required to send the report, even if no activities were reported that school year. The school forest manager follows up with schools that fail to submit a report to address barriers to school forest use or reporting.

The charts that follow provide an overview of data found in the reports.

Reporting school forests in Minnesota 2026

At the end of the 2025-2026 school year, 145 out of 164 schools in the School Forest Program completed their annual report.

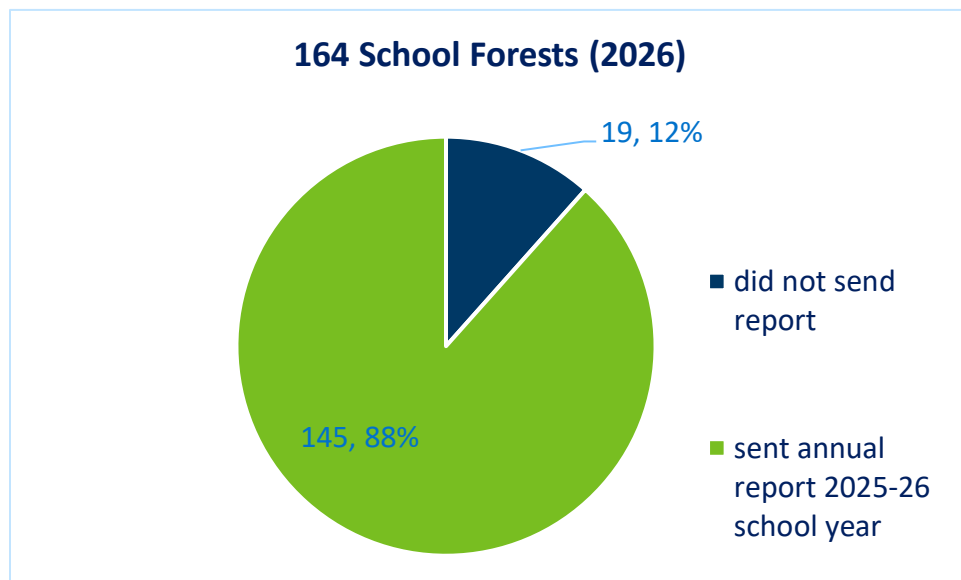
Schools removed or in the process of removal for non-compliance:

- Indus
- Bellaire Education Center (White Bear Lake)
- American Indian Magnet (St. Paul)
- Staples-Motley Elementary
- Walker-Hackensack-Akeley
- Clearview (Clear Lake)

Schools added to the program:

- Harambee (Roseville)
- La Crescent Montessori
- Myers – Wilkins (Duluth)
- E-STEM (St. Paul/Woodbury)
- Jefferson (Mankato)

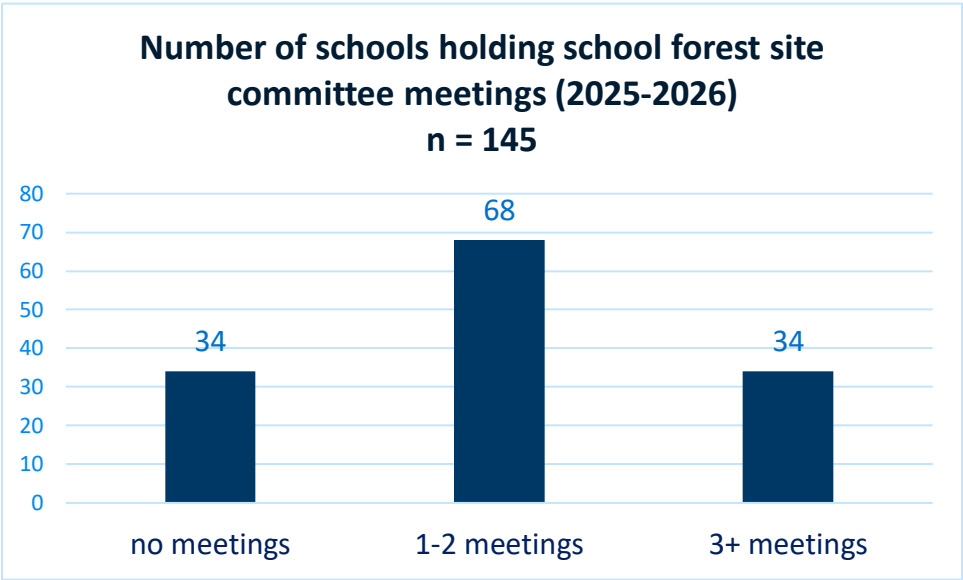
Most (88%) schools completed the required annual report.



School forest site committee meetings

Schools are required to establish and maintain a school forest site committee that meets at least twice annually to increase school forest use and to keep the site safe, healthy, and accessible. An active site committee correlates with actively engaged sites.

Of the 145 schools that sent in reports, 34 held no meetings, 68 held 1-2 meetings, and 34 held 3 or more meetings during the 2025-2026 school year.



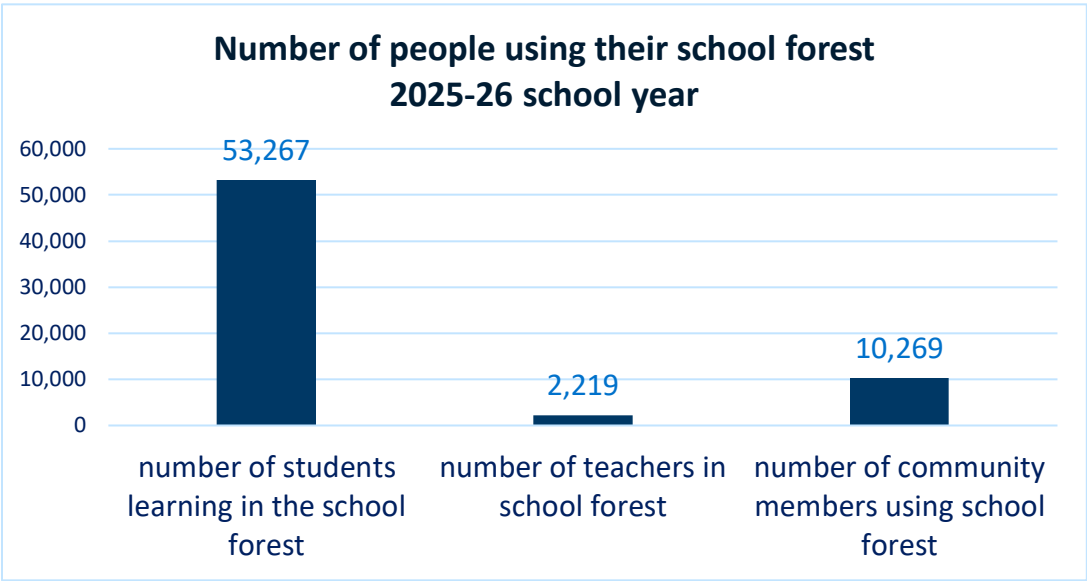
A teacher and one of her students at the Duluth Edison School Forest.



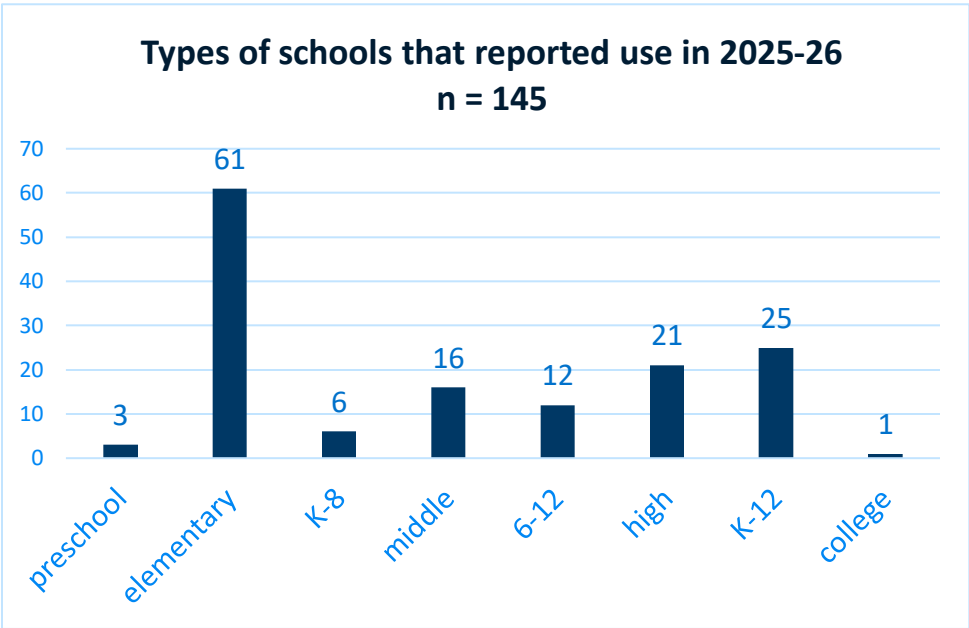
Discovering wonders together at the Cedar Park School Forest in Apple Valley.

Who uses the school forest?

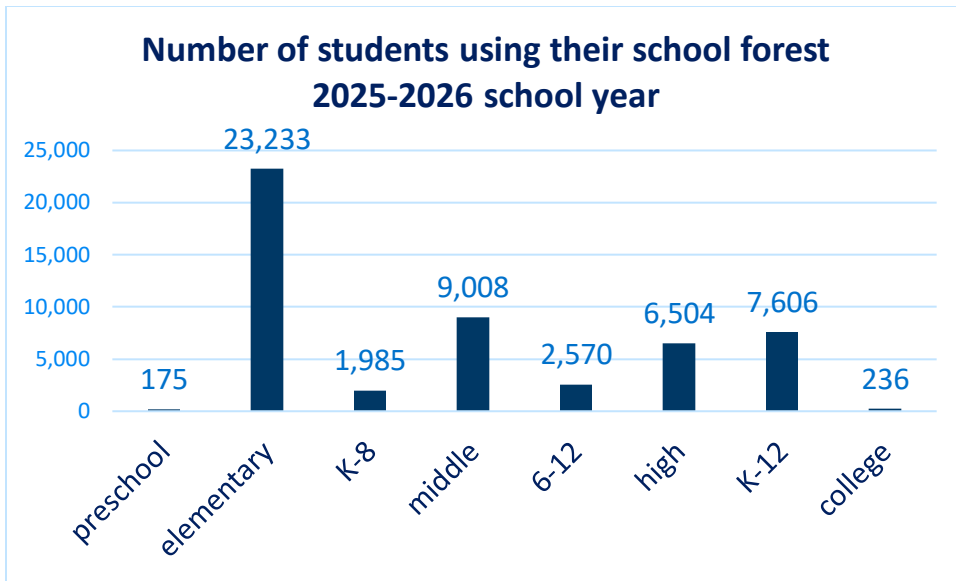
Of the 145 schools that sent in reports, 53,267 students and 2,219 teachers used their school forest during the 2025-2026 school year.



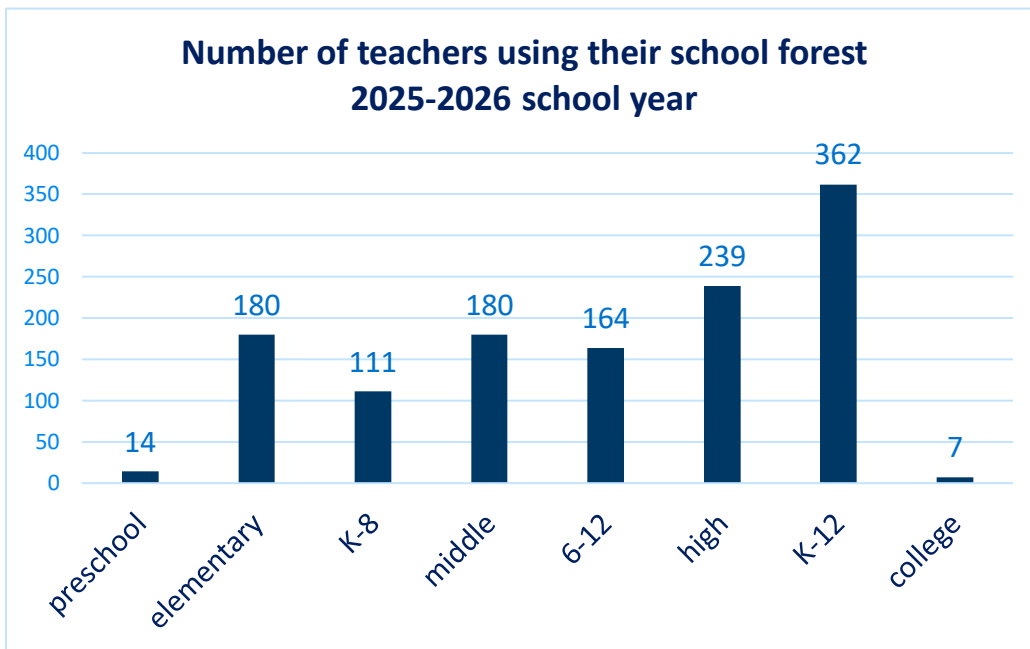
Of the schools that reported using their school forest, three were preschools, 61 were elementary, 16 were middle, 21 were high schools, and one was college. Additionally, six reports were from K-8 schools, 12 were from secondary grade 6-12 schools, 25 were from K-12 schools, and one college (Bemidji State University).



Of the students in the 145 schools that completed annual reports, there were 175 preschoolers (one report did not report the number of students using the school forest), 23,233 elementary students, 9,008 middle school students, 6,504 high school students, and 236 college-level students. Additionally, there were 1,985 K-8 students 2,570 grade 6-12 students, and 7,606 K-12 students.



Of the teachers in the 145 schools that completed annual reports, 14 taught preschool, 180 taught elementary, 111 taught K-8, 180 taught middle school, 164 taught grades 6-12, 239 taught high school, 362 taught K-12, and 7 taught at the college level.



Student demographics

The Minnesota Department of Education collects demographic information from all public schools in the state. MDE categories from the Minnesota Report Card: 2025-2026 include American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islander, other indigenous, white, and two or more races.

The demographic charts in this section explain data from 132 school forests.

Explanation of excluded data

While 145 of 164 school forests completed annual reports of use, data from nine schools were excluded because MDE's Minnesota Report Card does not collect data on private schools or preschools. Data from four additional annual reports were also excluded because they were from large districts where it is impossible to determine which schools within the district used the school forest.

MDE does not collect demographic data on private schools or preschools.

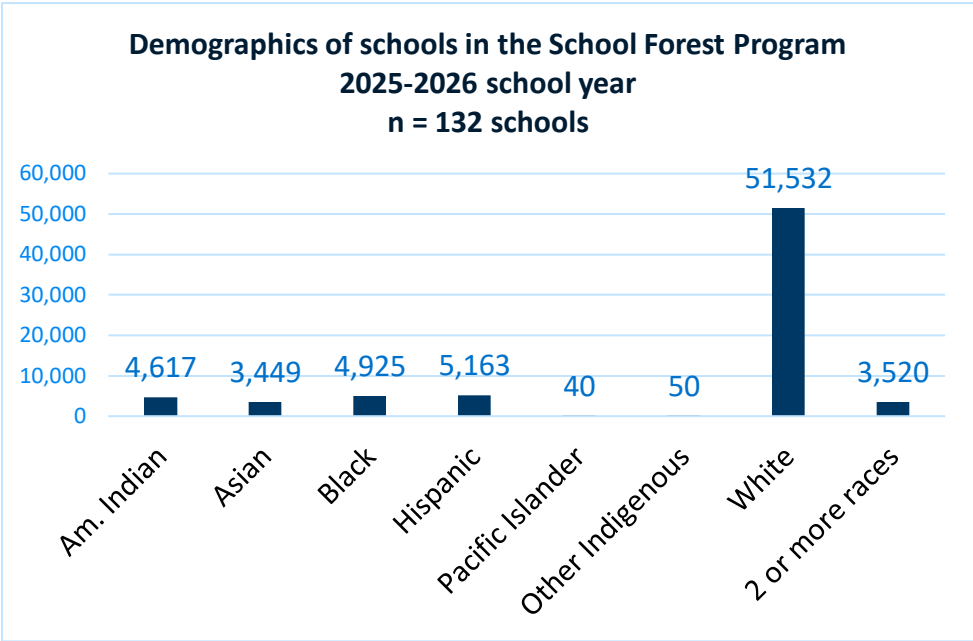
List of private and preschools with no demographic data:

1. Blake (private)
2. Breck (private)
3. St. Therese (private)
4. Trinity Lone Oak (private)
5. St. Croix Montessori (private)
6. Center for Learning (preschool)
7. St. David's Center (preschool)
8. Turnquist Child Enrichment Center (preschool)
9. Freshwater Education District – no MDE data

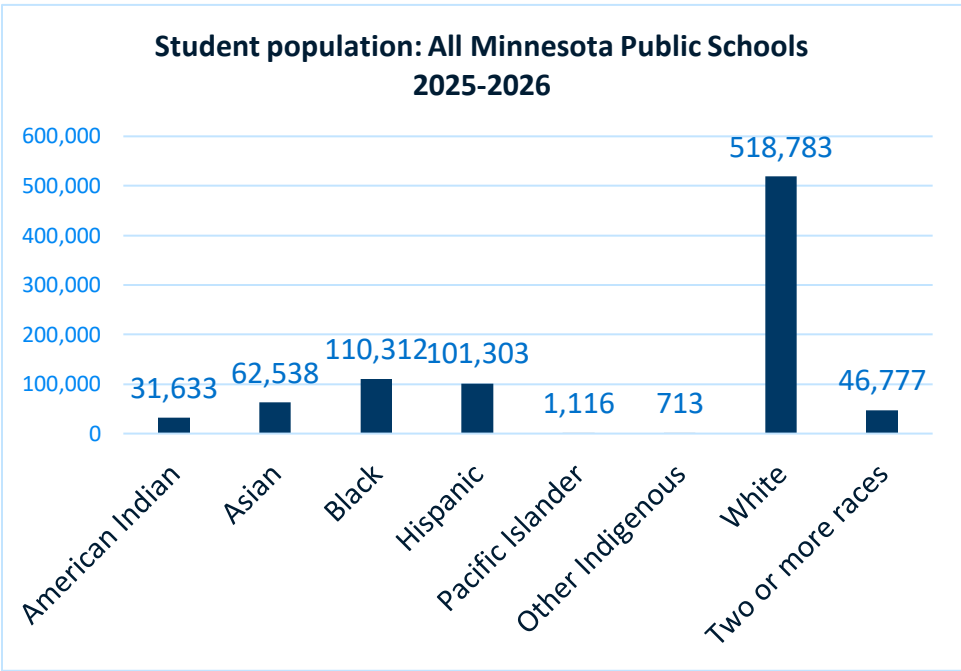
Large districts who either reported no use, or because it's impossible to know which specific schools went to the school forest

10. Bemidji State University
11. Hinckley-Finlayson District
12. South Washington County Schools (Bailey School Forest)
13. Bemidji Area Schools (Bemidji at Guthrie)

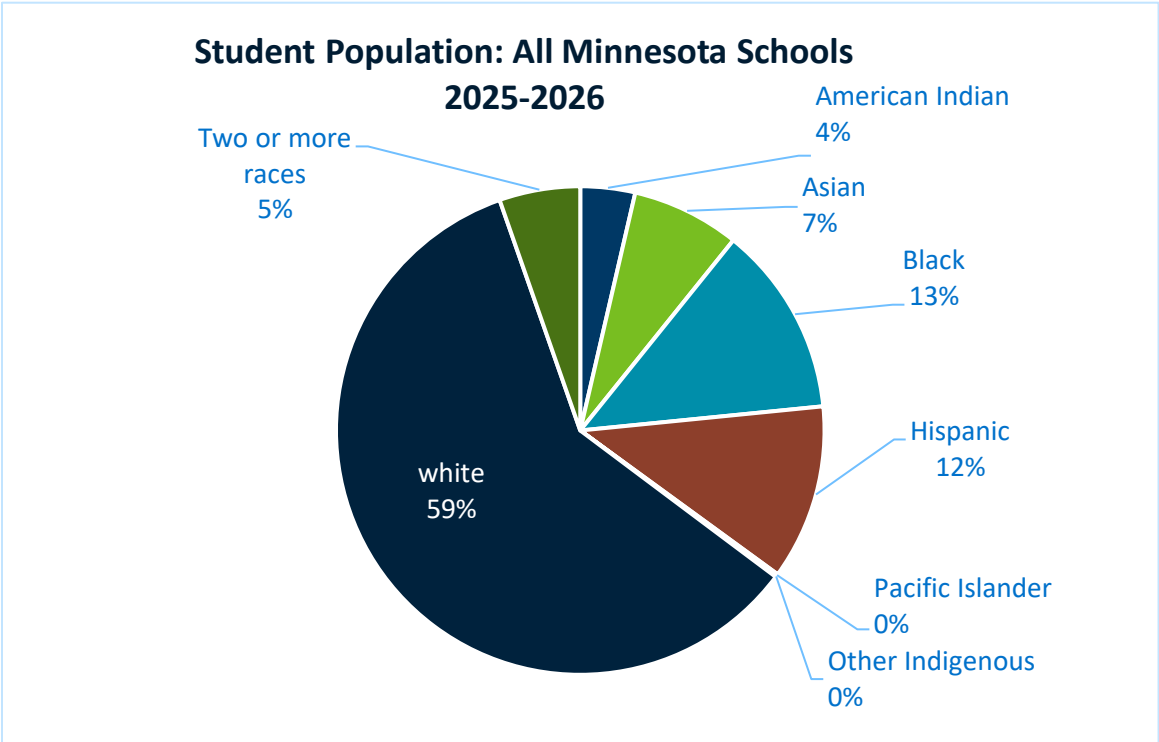
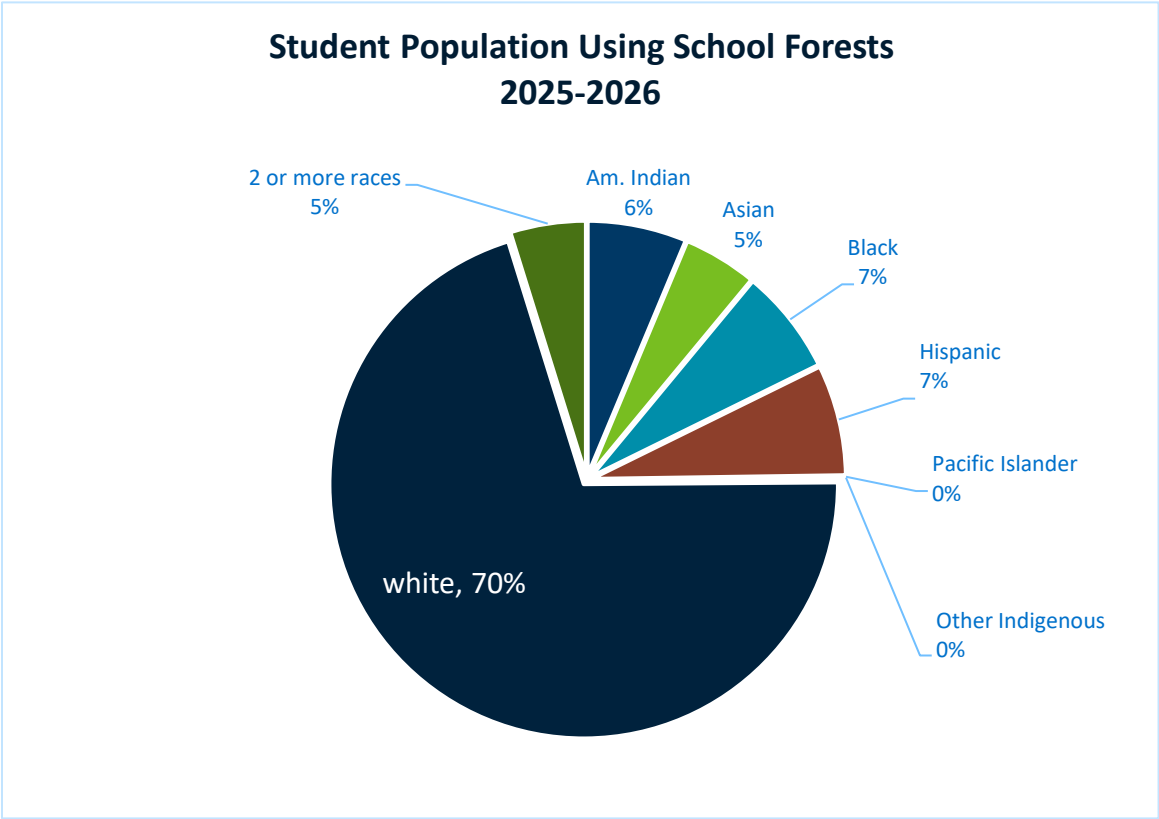
Of the 132 schools in the school forest program for which the Department of Education provides demographic data, the student population breaks down as mostly white (51,532), followed by Hispanic (5,163), Black (4,925), American Indian (4,617), two or more races (3,520), Asian (3,449), Pacific Islander (40), and other indigenous groups (50).



The proportions of students in the school forest program roughly match the proportions of the total number of students in Minnesota public schools.



More white (70% vs. 59%) and American Indian (6% vs. 4%) students take part in school forest experiences than students who attend public schools without a school forest. However fewer Black (7% vs. 13%), Asian (5% vs. 7%), and Hispanic/Latino (7% vs. 12%) students participate in school forests than students in all Minnesota public schools.



Types of activities reported

Annual reports of use most often list academic activities followed by stewardship. However, there is a growing trend toward using outdoor spaces by school special education and counselors to address student mental health. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, Minnesota will mandate that all schools provide age-appropriate mental health instruction for students in grades 4 through 12. This requirement offers increased opportunity to integrate the natural outdoor spaces such as school forests.

Academic

- Reading practice (in hammocks or quiet sit spots)
- Literature - discussion
- Writing – poetry, stories, science writing
- Math/measuring
- Orienteering, geocaching, map-making
- Sugar bush/maple tapping (science, math, indigenous studies)
- Vocabulary building (English, Spanish, Ojibwe, Dakota)
- Bird watching, animal tracking, habitat studies
- Scavenger hunts
- Soil studies
- Weather studies
- Quadrat sampling
- Sensory studies (kindergarten)
- Phenology/observations/science journaling/dichotomous keying
- Engineering (Fire building, survival shelters, fort building)
- Macro- and micro-invertebrate exploration

PE and extra-curricular

- Snowshoeing, cross-country running and skiing, obstacle course
- Track and field practice
- Music/band practice
- Industrial arts (making & installing benches, signs, outdoor whiteboards, bird houses, etc.)
- Art
- Foraging/culinary/indigenous foods
- Angling, canoeing

Mental health

- Yoga/mindfulness
- Mental health restoration/"brain breaks"
- Forest bathing
- Nature play

Stewardship

- Bird feeding
- Beekeeping
- Forestry field days/Future Farmers of America groups
- Buckthorn removal
- Trail clearing and maintenance
- Planting
- Forestry (inventory, harvest, scaling, etc.)
- Wildland fire-fighting demos
- Water quality monitoring
- Wildlife cameras

Management assistance reported

While schools are expected to lead their school forests, DNR foresters are available to advise and assist. Managing a forest so that it is safe, easy to access, and healthy takes more effort than teachers can provide on their own. A DNR forester, usually from the Cooperative Forest Management Program, is assigned to every school forest. Schools often tap into other local sources of help and funding to improve and maintain their school forests.

DNR forestry staff can

- Create maps and land descriptions
- Write stewardship plan (school forests get a free stewardship plan)
- Set up timber sales, logging, prescribed burn activities
- Loan buckthorn removal tools from area offices
- Help organize buckthorn removal events
- Help organize Arbor Day tree planting events (provide seedlings, planting bars, day-of planting assistance)
- Help with field days, visit classrooms
- Gather limbs and poles for fort-building
- Provide DNR School Forest signs
- Present at School Forest Conference
- Provide in-person teacher professional development
- Provide teacher lesson kits and student books

Other partners and their donations

- DNR parks staff and UMD students: on-site naturalist programming
- DNR-administered state grants: ReLeaf, No Child Left Inside
- Stewardship organizations: Great River Greening, Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa
- City: Nature playground construction, picnic tables and pad
- County SWCD: Garden bed construction, bussing funding

- DNR-Fish and Wildlife: No Child Left Inside Grant funding
- Local hardware store: Brush cutter
- Local nurseries and arborists: plants, wood chips, mulch
- Local scout groups, families, PTAs, churches: Mowing, trail maintenance, trash/debris clean-up
- Local construction companies: Materials and construction of observation deck, bridges, pavilions
- Local trail organizations: Trail clearing
- Local prairie/landscape restoration companies: seed and technical assistance
- Retired DNR forestry staff: Help as needed planting trees, monitoring forest health
- Youth Eco Solutions: Food forest funding
- University of Minnesota Food Forest program



An instructor and a class of fifth graders in the Dean Makey School Forest.

Summary

Elementary students are the most frequent users of school forests. This could be attributable to elementary teachers having more flexibility in their schedules than middle and high school teachers. Some elementary teachers have designated regular “Forest Fridays” or some other consistent day on their schedule. While there is more reported use of high school *teachers* using the forest with students, high school experiences are often limited to fewer experiences during the school year.

Compared to demographic population of Minnesota public schools as a whole, higher percentages of white and American Indian students have access to school forests. Black, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino students are less likely to have access to a school forest.

The most active school forests have site committees that meet one to two times each year. However, some site committees that meet often may have fewer student experiences because these sites are in the process of reinvigorating a neglected site. Successful committees include more representatives from school partners who can help with site stewardship.

Qualitative findings from comments not included in this annual report

Common stewardship challenges include trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and cleaning sites from storm damage. School grounds staff often lack the tools or capacity to mow trails and remove fallen trees, and site committees must find creative ways to fix these problems, often from local volunteers or non-profit groups such as Great River Greening.

Schools with school forests use a variety of lessons that come from popular sources such as Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and Project WILD. Teachers also have access to the School Forest Activity Board, which is a password-protected clearinghouse of outdoor lessons created by and for Minnesota teachers.

Successful school forests have support from their school district to use their sites as an outdoor classroom, such as allowing flexible schedules; providing on-demand bussing to the school forest; and grants for equipment such as snow and rain gear, snowshoes, and boots.

Since the pandemic in 2020-2022, there is a growing trend toward using outdoor spaces by school special education and counselors to address student mental health. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, Minnesota will mandate that all schools provide age-appropriate mental health instruction for students in grades 4 through 12. This requirement offers increased opportunity to integrate the natural outdoor spaces such as school forests.

School forest highlight: Dean Makey School Forest

This school forest in rural Baxter, Minnesota, is located next to one of the largest middle schools in the state: Forestview Middle. This site is a good example of having an engaged site coordinator who has developed strong relationships with local communities to leverage partnerships, neighbors, and teachers who are interested in keeping the site safe, healthy, accessible, and well-used. The forest's namesake, Dean Makey, is a retired DNR forester who lives in the area. Makey organizes a fall field trip for all the kindergarten classes in the Brainerd-Baxter School District. He gives each kindergarten class a tree to plant, labeled with the teacher's name and year. Makey makes sure each tree survives so that when the kindergartners eventually return as middle schoolers, they can track their tree. The school also hosts running trails for the community. Teachers use the site to teach a variety of topics such as geocaching, math, and wildlife habitat studies.



Forestview Middle School maintains a variety of community partnerships to keep the 22-acre Dean Makey School Forest safe, accessible, healthy, and well-loved.



Forestview students doing a project with local natural resources professionals in the Dean Makey School Forest.

School forest highlight: Dowling School Forest

This heavily used school forest is located in south Minneapolis next to the Dowling Environmental Magnet School. Teachers use the grounds in all seasons to teach a variety of topics such as reading, writing, math, and science. The school involves the community in the stewardship of this site, including maintaining trails, providing benches, weeding garden beds, and assisting with campouts on school grounds. Interesting fact: The school grounds are the site of one of the longest-running community gardens in the state, established originally as a 1940's-era "Victory Garden."

After a stressful school year in 2025-2026, school counselors have increased taking students into the school forest to ease mental stress and address behavior issues that interfere with student learning.



Students in the Dowling School Forest, Minneapolis



Students engineering shelters in the Dowling School Forest, Minneapolis

Appendix 1: School Forests in Minnesota, 2026

Schools in *italic type* did NOT submit an annual report of use for the 2025-2026 school year.

School Forest Name	School	City
Aitkin School Forest	Rippleside Elementary	Aitkin
Anwatin-Bryn Mawr School Forest	Anwatin Middle School	Minneapolis
Anwatin-Bryn Mawr School Forest	Bryn Mawr Elementary	Minneapolis
Bagley School Forest	Bagley Elementary	Bagley
Bailey School Forest	South Washington County Schools	Cottage Grove
Bay View School Forest	Bay view Elementary	Proctor
Bayview School Forest	Bayview Elementary	Waconia
Becker Big Woods School Forest	St. Michael Albertville Middle School East	St. Michael
Bemidji at Guthrie School Forest	Bemidji School District	Bemidji
Bemidji Middle School Forest	Bemidji Middle School	Bemidji
Big Urban Woods	City Academy	St. Paul
Bigfork School Forest	Bigfork School	Bigfork
Blackduck School Forest	Blackduck Public Schools	Blackduck
Blake School Forest	Blake School	Hopkins
Breck School Forest	Breck School	Golden Valley
Cannon Falls School Forest	Cannon Falls Area Schools	Cannon Falls
Cass Lake/Bena High School Forest	Cass Lake-Bena High School	Cass Lake
Cedar Creek School Forest	Cedar Creek Community School	Cedar
Cedar Lake Park School Forest	Kenwood Community School	Minneapolis
Cedar Park School Forest	Cedar Park Elementary STEM	Apple Valley
Centennial Middle School Forest	Centennial Middle School	Lino Lakes
Center for Learning School Forest	Center for Learning	Mankato
Chaska School Forest	La Academia Elementary	Chaska
Chris Holmes/Virginia School Forest	North Star Elementary	Virginia
Clearbrook-Gonvick School Forest	Clearbrook Public Schools	Clearbrook
Cloquet School Forest	Cloquet Middle School	Cloquet
Cloquet School Forest	Cloquet High School	Cloquet
College Park School Forest	Murray Middle School	St. Paul
Como Woodlands School Forest	Great River School	St. Paul
Cromwell-Wright School Forest	Cromwell Wright High School	Cromwell
Crosslake Community School Forest	Crosslake Community School	Crosslake
Dean Makey School Forest	Forestview Middle School	Baxter
Discovery School Forest	Discovery Middle School	Alexandria
Dover-Eyota School Forest	Dover-Eyota Elem School	Eyota
Dowling School Forest	Michael Dowling Urban Environmental Magnet School	Minneapolis

School Forest Name	School	City
Duluth East High School Forest	Duluth East High School	Duluth
Duluth Edison Charter School Forest	North Star Academy	Duluth
East Bethel School Forest	East Bethel Community School	Cedar
Edgewood School Forest	Edgewood Middle School	Mounds View
Esko School Forest	Winterquist Elem & Lincoln High	Esko
E-STEM School Forest	E-STEM Middle School	Woodbury
Field North Woods School Forest	North Woods School	Cook
Finlayson School Forest	Finlayson Elementary	Finlayson
Frazee-Vergas School Forest	Frazee Public School	Frazee
Freshwater School Forest	Freshwater Education District	Wadena
Garlough School Forest	Garlough Environmental Magnet	West St. Paul
Glacier Hills School Forest	Glacier Hills School of Arts & Science	Eagan
Glencoe-Silver Lake School Forest	Glencoe-Silver Lake High School	Glencoe
Goodhue School Forest	Goodhue Public Schools	Goodhue
Goodridge School Forest	Goodridge Public School	Goodridge
Greenway School Forest	Vandyke Elementary	Coleraine
Habitat for Homecroft School Forest	Homecroft Elementary	Duluth
Hanover School Forest	Hanover Elementary	Hanover
Hans Larson Memorial School Forest	Little Fork-Big Falls HS	Littlefork
Harambee School Forest	Harambee Environmental Science & Community Cultures School	Maplewood
Hinckley School Forest	Hinckley-Finlayson High School	Hinckley
Hobson Memorial School Forest	Bemidji State Univ., Dept of Science	Bemidji
Horace May School Forest	Horace May Elementary	Bemidji
Humboldt School Forest	Humboldt High School	St. Paul
Hutchinson School Forest (Rollie Johnson & Miller Woods)	Hutchinson High School	Hutchinson
Jefferson School Forest	Jefferson Elementary	Blaine
John Marshall School Forest	John Marshall Community High School	Rochester
Jon Rowe Memorial Forest	Grand Rapids Public School	Grand Rapids
La Crescent Montessori School Forest	La Crescent Montessori & STEM School	La Crescent
Lake Middle School Forest	Lake Middle School	Woodbury
Lake of the Woods School Forest (ALEA, Pitt, Williams, Tree Shed, South 40)	Lake of the Woods School	Baudette
Lakewood School Forest	Lakewood Elementary	Duluth
Langford Park School Forest	St. Anthony Park Elementary	St. Paul
Laporte School Forest	Laporte Secondary School	Laporte
Lester Park School Forest	Lester Park Elementary	Duluth
Linda Mickelson School Forest	J A Hughes Elementary	Red Lake Falls
Linwood School Forest	Linwood Elementary	Wyoming

School Forest Name	School	City
Lowell School Forest	Lowell Elementary	Duluth
Mankato East School Forest	Mankato East High School	Mankato
Marine Community School Forest	Marine Village School	Marine on St. Croix
Marlene Myers School Forest	Turnquist Child Enrichment Center	Minneapolis
Marydale School Forest	Crossroads Elementary	St. Paul
McGregor School Forest	McGregor Public Schools	McGregor
Menahga School Forest	Menahga High School	Menahga
Milaca School Forest	Milaca Public Schools	Milaca
Miltona School Forest (Miltona & Smoky Timbers)	Miltona Magnet School	Miltona
Moose Lake School Forest	Moose Lake High School	Moose Lake
Mountain Iron School Forest	Merritt Elementary	Mountain Iron
Myers-Wilkins School Forest	Myers-Wilkins Elementary	Duluth
Nevis School Forest	Nevis School	Nevis
New Ulm School	New Ulm Middle School Forest	New Ulm
North Shore School Forest	North Shore Community School	Duluth
Northland School Forest	Northland Community Schools	Remer
Northome School Forest	Northome School	Northome
Northrop Urban School Forest	Northrop Urban	Minneapolis
O. H. Anderson School Forest	O. H. Anderson Elementary	Mahtomedi
Oak Grove School Forest	Oak Grove Elem	Bloomington
Oak Ridge School Forest	Oak Ridge Elementary School	Eagan
Orono School Forest	Orono Middle School	Long Lake
Park Rapids School Forest (Brush Lake/Two Inlets/Lake George)	Century Elementary School	Park Rapids
Park Rapids School Forest (Brush Lake/Two Inlets/Lake George)	Park Rapids High School	Park Rapids
Parkview School Forest	Parkview Center Elementary	Roseville
Pike Lake School Forest	Pike Lake Elementary	Proctor
Pillager School Forest	Pillager Public Schools	Pillager
Pine Bend School Forest	Pine Bend Elem.	Inver Grove Heights
Pine River School Forest	Pine River Backus Schools	Pine River
Princeton High School Forest	Princeton High School	Princeton
Princeton Intermediate School Forest	Princeton Intermediate School	Princeton
Princeton Primary School Forest	Princeton Primary School	Princeton
Proctor High School Forest	Proctor High School	Proctor
Proctor Middle School Forest	A.I. Jedlicka Middle School	Proctor
Ramsey School Forest	Ramsey Elementary	Ramsey
REAMS School Forest	Rockford Elementary Arts Magnet	Rockford

School Forest Name	School	City
Redhawk Ridge	Adams Elementary	Coon Rapids
Riverside Central Community School Forest	Riverside Central Elementary	Rochester
Riverview Intermediate School Forest	Riverview Intermediate School	Sartell
Riverway School Forest	Riverway Learning Community	Winona
Rockford Middle School Forest	Rockford Middle School-Center for Environmental Studies	Rockford
Roseau School Forest	Roseau Public Schools	Roseau
Royalton High School Forest	Royalton Public Schools	Royalton
Scenic Heights School Forest	Scenic Heights Elementary	Minnetonka
SEA-cret School Forest	Robbinsdale School of Engineering and Arts	Golden Valley
Solway School Forest	Solway Elementary	Bemidji
South Ridge School Forest	South Ridge School	Culver
Sprague Woods	Caledonia Middle/High	Caledonia
St. Croix Montessori School Forest	St. Croix Montessori	Stillwater
St. David's School Forest	St. David's Center	Minnetonka
St. Therese School Forest	St Therese School	Deephaven
Staples School Forest	Staples High School	Staples
Stillwater School Forest	Stillwater Area High School	Stillwater
Stonebridge School Forest	Stonebridge Elementary	Stillwater
Stowe School Forest	Stowe Elementary	Duluth
Swanville School Forest	Swanville Public Schools	Swanville
Tamminen Family School Forest	Cherry School	Iron
Terra Nova School Forest	Terra Nova Charter	Buffalo
The Hidden School Forest	Hidden Oaks Middle School	Prior Lake
Tom Frericks Bird Hill School Forest	William Kelley Elementary	Silver Bay
Tower-Soudan School Forest	Tower-Soudan Elementary	Tower
Trailview/ Jim McCollough School Forest	Mora Elementary	Mora
Trinity Lone Oak School Forest	Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran School	Eagan
Triton School Forest	Triton High School	Dodge Center
Twin Cities Academy School Forest	Twin Cities Academy School	St. Paul
Warrior Woods School Forest	Baxter School Forest	Baxter
Warroad School Forest	Warroad School	Warroad
Waseca Public School Forest	Waseca Public Schools	Waseca
Washington Woods School Forest	Washington Elementary	Hibbing
Waubun School Forest	Waubun School District	Waubun
William Thayer School Forest and Kelliher School Forest	Kelliher Public School	Kelliher
Willow River School Forest	Willow River School	Willow River

Additional schools that did not submit an annual report for the 2025-2026 school year.

School Forest Name	School	City
Big Urban Woods	American Indian Magnet School	St. Paul
Clearview School Forest	Clearview Elementary	Clear Lake
Cook County School Forest	Cook County Schools	Grand Marais
Cotton District School Forest	South Ridge School	Culver
County Line School Forest	Mora High School	Mora
Five Hawks School Forest	Five Hawks Elementary	Prior Lake
Floodwood School Forest	Floodwood Public School	Floodwood
Harrington Woods/Sebeka School Forest	Sebeka Public Schools	Sebeka
Hawley School Forest	Hawley Elementary	Hawley
Hill City School Forest	Hill City Public Schools	Hill City
International Falls School Forest	International Falls Public School	International Falls
Jefferson School Forest	Jefferson Elementary School	Mankato
Jensens Woods School Forest	Alexandria Area High School	Alexandria
Karner Blue School Forest	Karner Blue Education Center	Circle Pines
Motley School Forest	Staples-Motley Elementary	Staples
Ogilvie School Forest	Ogilvie Public School	Ogilvie
Oneka School Forest	Oneka Elementary	Hugo
Savanna Springs School Forest	Chatfield Public Schools	Chatfield
St. Charles School Forest	St. Charles Public Schools	St Charles
Walker-Hackensack-Akeley School Forest	WHA High School	Walker

Appendix 2: Annual report questions sent via Qualtrics to school forests in 2026

Qualtrics is the brand software of a data analytics program used to collect school forest annual report data.

Q1: Today's date

Q2: Your full name

Q3: What is your email?

Q4: School name

Q5: School mailing address

Q7: School phone number

Q8: Are you the school forest site coordinator? Y/N

Q9: Will you or your co-coordinator leave or retire at the end of this school year? Y/N

Q9.5 (If Yes was selected): What is the name of the new site coordinator? What is their email?

Q9: Will your school get a new administrator next year? N / Yes, new principal / Yes, new superintendent

Q10: How many times did your school forest site committee meet? 0 meetings / 1-2 meetings / 3 or more meetings

Q11: Does your school maintain a webpage or social media account about your school forest? Y/N

Q11.5 (If Yes was selected): What is the URL for your school forest?

Q12: What help has your school forest received this year? List names, organizations, and what they contributed.

Q13: Is *school name* interested in hosting a free school forest professional development training for staff? Y/N

Q13.5: (If Yes was selected): Who should we contact to set up a training? What is their contact information?

Q14: What is the name of your school forest? If you have more than one site, list all here. (Up to five selections.)

Q15: What management took place in *school forest name*? (this question was repeated for each school forest)

- No management happened this year
- Tree planting
- Tree harvest
- Invasive species treatment
- Trail development or maintenance
- Tree care, health assessment, mulching, pruning
- Installation or maintenance of seating area

- Installation or maintenance of parking area
- Installation or maintenance of teaching shelter, storage shed, greenhouse
- Installation or maintenance of gardens
- Installation or maintenance of signs
- Installation or maintenance of dock
- Other *specify*

Q16: How many students participated in *school forest name* this year? (question was repeated for each school forest)

Q17: How many teachers participated in *school forest name* this year? (question was repeated for each school forest)

Q18: How many community members participated in *school forest name* this year? (question was repeated for each school forest)

Q19: Schools are required to list at least 5 activities every year to stay active in the program.

Highlight #1: List teacher name, lesson/topic, description. ****If no activity happened this year, write "no activity."****

Highlight #2: List teacher name, lesson/topic, description. ****If no activity happened this year, write "no activity."****

Highlight #3: List teacher name, lesson/topic, description. ****If no activity happened this year, write "no activity."****

Highlight #4: List teacher name, lesson/topic, description. ****If no activity happened this year, write "no activity."****

Highlight #5: List teacher name, lesson/topic, description. ****If no activity happened this year, write "no activity."****

Q20: Upload a list of all your school forest activities from the past year (optional)

Q21: Optional: Upload your favorite school forest photos from the past year. *By uploading, posting, transmitting or otherwise making any Content available in the annual report, you are granting DNR a non-exclusive, royalty free, perpetual, irrevocable, transferable, sub-licensable, worldwide license to copy, modify, publish, display and distribute publicly, and prepare derivative works of that Content, on or in connection with any web site of DNR, and in any and all media or form of communication whether now existing or hereafter developed, without acknowledgement or further permission and for any purpose, including noncommercial, commercial and business purposes. If any part of the Content is not your original work, it is your responsibility to obtain permission from the copyright owner before making that Content available on the DNR Site. By posting Content to the DNR Site, you warrant and represent that you own the copyright or have received all permissions for such Content from the person or entity who owns the copyright, and that the Content complies with all of the requirements set forth in these Community Guidelines." For more information read the full DNR for sharing photos.*

- Photo 1

- Photo 2
- Photo 3
- Photo 4
- Photo 5

Q22: Do you have anything else to tell the School Forest Program? *****This is the last question in the report. If you want to make changes, use the BACK button now. By clicking on the NEXT PAGE button below, you will submit this report.*****

Appendix 3: How this data was reported for DNR by the Numbers

Number of school forests: 160

- The 160 is rounded from actual number of 164 school forests.

Number of students engaging with their school forest: 55,000

- The 55,000 is rounded from 55,317. The total # of reported students was 53,217. I added 2,050 from the 8 schools that were active but did not report; the 2,050 is extrapolated from their 2025 reports.

145 out of 164 sent annual reports. Of the 19 schools that did not send annual reports, 11 are inactive sites that are in the process of being removed or reinvigorated and eight are active but failed to report. Based on prior years' reports we extrapolated the number of students visiting these eight active-but-not-reporting school forests:

Name	Students
Jefferson	200
Hill city	70
Cook county	200
I-Falls	300
St. Charles	200
Five Hawks	460
Karner Blue	120
Oneka	500
Subtotal number (on page 5) of students using their school forests from 145 reporting schools	53,267
TOTAL # of students using their school forests as reported to DNR by the Numbers	55,317



Walking through their outdoor classroom in the Warroad School Forest.

End of 2025-2026 School Forest Use Report