



Since its inception, FEPP has grown to have over 70 newsletter subscribers and 25 active members. FEPP's growing membership is made up of a variety Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, forestry and ecology professionals, and citizen scientists. Since April 2023, we have made many accomplishments to fulfill our mission and objectives:

- *Hosted 5 educational events open to the public (May, June, Aug, Sept, Nov)*
FEPP members and citizens of Eden Prairie have been able to learn from local experts, including researchers from the University of Minnesota and Hennepin County's Land Conservationist & Chief Agricultural Inspector. We (FEPP) have taken knowledge gained from these events and applied them to our restoration work to ensure that we are using the most recent, research-based best practices.
- *Led 9 volunteer events to remove invasive species*
FEPP targeted garlic mustard in spring and buckthorn in fall, both of which are listed on the state of Minnesota Invasive Species list, using the current environmental standards with oversight from Eden Prairie Parks Department. Volunteers contributed over 100 hours of work across these events.
- *Conducted vegetation monitoring*
FEPP volunteers conducted statistically valid vegetation surveys at 25 defined points within Birch Island Conservation Area. Volunteers were trained by City of Eden Prairie's Forestry and Natural Resources Supervisor. Data collected will be shared with the City Parks Department to assist with natural resources planning efforts in the park. Volunteers contributed 32 hours of work to complete this project.
- *Created digital presence through Facebook page and website*
The FEPP Facebook page (www.facebook.com/friendsofeppparks) was launched in April 2023. The website (www.friendsofeppparks.org) was launched in July 2023. These events were broadcasted on our Facebook page and Eden Prairie Local News calendar. As of Dec 30, 2023, our Facebook page has received 669 views and gained 50 followers.
- *Launched Park Steward volunteer initiative*
In September 2023, FEPP and Eden Prairie Parks Department partnered together to launch the Park Steward volunteer role. Park Stewards are local, trained volunteers who can provide insights on the changes in vegetation, monitor trail conditions, and report hazardous situations in a timely manner, as well as assist with planning special projects for changes and improvements in their park. Thirteen volunteers have signed up to be Park Stewards at 11 Eden Prairie parks in the coming year.