



Division of Forestry
500 Lafayette Rd
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4044

April 11, 2018

Doug Hasler
Duluth Public Schools
215 N. 1st Ave E
Duluth, MN 55802

Doug,

I wanted to send some information regarding your question about land that is designated in the Minnesota School Forest Program. While schools should designate land with a long-term commitment in mind, we understand that there are times when that vision might have to change (school growth, parking or road changes, etc.). Your school district owns and manages the land and may use it to meet your school's needs. When entering the program, the school district agrees to manage their school forest to be a safe, healthy, and accessible outdoor learning space. As a designated School Forest, the DNR may offer guidance, management advice, or provide input or support for a management decision. However, the DNR does not have any legal say in the school district's decision.

If your district needs to remove land from the program, it can simply notify the School Forest Program, and provide information on what is being removed so we can update our records. We are also happy to work with the district to provide some guidance to reduce any negative impacts to the School Forest (for example, impacts to important educational or natural resource structures/spaces, tree removal, invasive species reduction language in contractor agreements, etc.). Recently, a number of different districts have worked with our program on construction projects including Moose Lake (new school construction), Mountain Iron-Buhl (building addition), and Westwood Elementary, Blaine (new bus turnaround).

We have enjoyed working with Duluth Public Schools on their current School Forests and we are excited to work with Lowell as well. We offer great benefits to help teachers use the outdoors for learning and provide trainings and materials to help schools sustainably managing their woodlands for future generations. I'd be happy to discuss any concerns or answer further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Harrison'.

Karen Harrison
School Forest Specialist

CC: David Spooner

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