

# 2021 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## Field Crews

### MONARCH HABITAT PROJECT

Corpsmembers had a successful summer kicking off the new Monarch Habitat Project in Iowa. The Monarch Crew surveyed and collected data on monarch butterflies and their habitat, contributing to a national database managed by Monarch Joint Venture. This data is vital to understanding how butterfly populations are doing at a large scale and can help inform land management decisions to preserve and protect the species. Our crew doubled the data collected in Iowa this year, filling gaps in the data and helping to improve our understanding of monarch migration. In 2022, the Monarch Habitat Project will continue working to protect this critically endangered species.



## Field Crews

### FIGHTING WILDFIRES

AmeriCorps members serving with Conservation Corps are usually called in for fire duty every year. In 2021, Corpsmembers tripled time spent fighting wildfires compared to previous years, over 22,000 hours total. Members support the Minnesota DNR's firefighting efforts by being strategically placed on standby for quick response, supporting camp logistical duties, and actively participating in fire suppression on the fire line. Much of the time in 2021 was spent on active fire suppression. These Corpsmembers worked directly with firefighters from over 25 different state and federal agencies from across the country. Crews worked on small wildfires of only a few acres; to large wildfires, like the Greenwood fire at over 20 thousand acres.



## Field Crews

### COVID-19 VACCINATIONS IN MISSOURI

Twenty AmeriCorps members serving with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa were deployed to Missouri in March of 2021 for emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The crews assisted with non-medical tasks at vaccination sites working alongside National Guard members and members of other AmeriCorps programs through A-DRT (AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams). AmeriCorps members safely and successfully assisted tens of thousands of people in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.





### Field Crews

## SUPERIOR HIKING TRAIL BRIDGE REBUILD

Corpsmembers, with the help of volunteers from the Superior Hiking Trail Association, rerouted an entire section of trail and constructed a new bridge on the Superior Hiking Trail this summer. The crew worked together to haul several 24 feet long, 500-pound support beams down a mile and a half of trail to the build location. They also scouted the site for several 400–900-pound boulders to use as stairs leading to the bridge. After that came the hard work of constructing the new bridge and building the trail to make it effective for hikers and resilient to erosion!



### Individual Placement

## INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Two AmeriCorps members with our Individual Placement program spent the year embedded within the Great Lakes Invasive Plant Management Team at the National Park Service. They were stationed in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, but they spent much of the year travelling throughout the Great Lakes region with their team, conducting invasive species management at 10-12 National Park Service sites, like Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, or Voyageurs National Park. This team tackles projects like herbicide treatment of buckthorn and honeysuckle.



### Summer Youth Corps & Field Crews

## RAINGARDENS WITH METRO BLOOMS

Corpsmembers helped install 130 new raingardens throughout the Twin Cities in partnership with Metro Blooms in 2021. Field Crews installed these projects throughout the year, but for a few months, Summer Youth Corps joined in as part of their service. All together, they helped establish roughly 18,407 square feet of clean water project installations with thousands of new native plants. These new raingardens will capture over two million gallons of runoff annually.

### Youth Outdoors

## CAMPER CABIN REBUILD

Youth Outdoors AmeriCorps members tackle big projects when they aren't leading youth crews. Last spring our crews deconstructed a camper cabin in Lake Maria State Park, MN. The cabin was a traditional log-style cabin constructed about 30 years ago. The project provided Corpsmembers with a unique experience in restoration and construction techniques and involved deconstructing, relocating, and rebuilding the camper cabin to a more accessible area within the park. The crews were careful to preserve as much of the original cabin as possible when taking it apart so they could reuse it when rebuilding in the new location.

