

Fairway Foundation Kids Find Fun In Work Through Tree Trust

More than 75 inner-city kids participated in this year's Fairway Foundation/Tree Trust Summer youth work and recreation program. Based on last year's successful pilot project at Theodore Wirth Golf Course, the program was expanded this year to include work projects at Columbia, Hiawatha and Meadowbrook Golf Courses.

Supervised crews of kids were taught skills and given instruction to complete several projects at Minneapolis golf courses.

At Columbia, kids worked on modular block retaining walls and planter boxes. At Hiawatha, they erected a split-rail fence, a timber planter box and bench, and added several modular block retainer systems. The maintenance crew at Hiawatha was very pleased at the much-needed timber storage bin.

Along with the work opportunities, kids were given the chance to learn the fundamentals of golf and given opportunities to practice their skills at the driving ranges. Those with adequate skills were issued discount passes to play at the courses.

According to Ray Book, Fairway Foundation program director, many parents expressed their appreciation at hav-

ing their kids involved in a meaningful work and recreation program. A letter received from the mother of one participant wrote: "This job has been a blessing. It has allowed my son to work a job that is outside, physical and fun. He has beamed with pride when talking about the projects he worked on and finished. Thank you for this work opportunity."

According to Norm Chammp, director of employment programs, Tree Trust, the excitement and sense of accomplishment felt by the many participants has added another dimension to the Tree Trust program.

In fact, two of this year's participants received an award from the Governor of Minnesota honoring their dedication, commitment to excellence and outstanding achievement.

The Tree Trust program is a partnership of The Fairway Foundation, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Tree Trust. Funding for the program is provided by the Summer Youth Work Program for Hennepin County and by the General Mills Foundation.

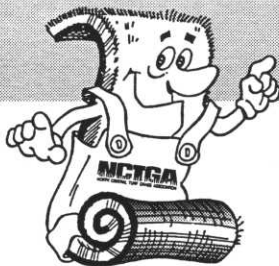
Plans are now underway to set up a similar program for the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County.

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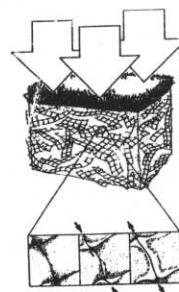
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