

Dear Father Winters,

On behalf of my students, BOCES and myself, thank you for this wonderful email.

We are very proud to carry on with this project and are looking forward to returning to the site at any such times as our program curriculum and the weather deem possible.

Working on the Hillcrest Environmental Park for the last two years has been a memorable and pleasurable experience myself and most of all for my students, several of whom have taken home pictures and memories that I know mean a great deal to them and that they have shared with friends and family with pride. The BOCES Conservation students involved have learned a great deal of technical skills, time management and teamwork skills on this project. They have brought their learned abilities from our program on campus to an "off campus" project and met the challenge of applying them on a remote site while learning new skills and a few things about themselves as well. Many students expressed their intention to visit the trail and the pavilion in progress with their families over the summer to share their accomplishments. To my mind this family involvement is the crowning mark of true success and a measure of their ownership and investment in the project and their education.

I look forward to an opportunity to meet with you and to discuss this project going forward.

Our program website is a new development and one I have undertaken to enable the Conservation program to share the work and high standard of education and the many great things that students accomplish and learn at DCMO BOCES with school districts, parents, and the public. Showcasing a bounty of opportunity and effective and meaningful student learning is my goal.

We would be proud to have our program website linked with yours as well as with any of the school districts we serve and I would enjoy assisting with the development and information provided on your website as well. It is a good website and I think the future of The Hillcrest Environmental Park is a bright one both as a recreational and educational facility for schools and the public and I am happy to do all I can to assist in bringing this project and vision to fruition.

We have worked steadily each year to remove multiflora rose, rebuild roads and trails and seek to make naturalized improvements and conduct maintenance each year.

Many thanks again on behalf of everyone involved in this project. We are proud to be part of a tradition.

Sincerely yours,

Jaan Aarismaa
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