

Hello, my name is Emily Overmyer. I am currently a Landscape Horticulture and Greenhouse Operations student at Gateway Technical College. Outside of school I am an avid volunteer in the conservation space. Working with different organizations all over the state has taught me so much about a diverse range of ecosystems and methods of managing them. I have had the pleasure of working with the Waukesha County Land Conservancy on long term restoration projects over the past couple years. This includes invasive species removal, prescribed burning, seed collection, reseeding, and monitoring. This fall I hope to finish my apprenticeship for prescribed burning with the Prairie Enthusiast, as fire is an imperative part of restoration. I will also be training with The Chicago Botanical Garden - Plants of Concern to work on my GIS monitoring skills in order to conserve rare and endangered plants.

I recently started a job at Hawthorn Glen, an educational park for Milwaukee Public School students and the community to learn about wildlife, conservation, and gardening. Here I will further my knowledge on invasive species and land management practices. With my degrees I hope to continue making native, sustainable landscapes more popular and in turn share my passion for conservation. A great way to educate is to meet people where they are at. The benefits of native plants in a home landscape also translate to natural areas. In explaining these concepts, I hope to inspire people to get involved with citizen science or volunteering in their own communities. Working together to better our world for a better future.

I am honored to be a recipient of this scholarship from the Garden Club of Greater Milwaukee. Having support in my journey means more than I can put into words. It is inspiring to know that there is a shared value in gardening, restoration, and conservation. For that, I owe a huge thank you for continuing to support others in this field and in turn making our world a better place.