

Each year, the Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Projects bring hundreds of AmeriCorps members to various Michigan communities for a day of intensive service. This year, several projects were completed on May 17 and 18, visibly demonstrating the power of Michigan's AmeriCorps members in action.

Dr. Russell –“Russ”– Mawby was a tremendous advocate for youth and volunteer service. Dr. Mawby was instrumental in convening a series of meetings leading to the formation of the Michigan Community Service Commission. Dr. Mawby passed away on October 20, 2017, leaving behind his legacy as a philanthropic leader and a devoted community service advocate. To honor Dr. Mawby's commitment to volunteerism, service, and AmeriCorps, it is only fitting that the service project has been named Michigan's AmeriCorps Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Project for more than a decade.



# Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Projects

MAY  
17 & 18  
2019

DETROIT, FLINT,  
MUSKEGON HEIGHTS,  
WILLIAMSTON, GAYLORD

IMPACT REPORT

# Flint/Tri-Cities RMSSP



On Friday, May 17, AmeriCorps members serving in the Flint/Tri-Cities region came together to beautify Flint's Garfield-Bunche neighborhood. AmeriCorps members split into 10 groups then went to one of five main project sites – Dewey Park, Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village, two vacant houses, or a series of overgrown vacant lots.

Through their service, 145 AmeriCorps members (including State, National, VISTA, and NCCC members) were able to eliminate 80 yards of debris and brush from publicly-owned lots. Members filled and removed 35 bags of trash and 100 bags of leaves. Additionally, members compiled 869 book packets to be distributed to newborns at local hospitals, made 202 dog toys to pass out to neighborhood residents, and created 150 blight reduction window cutouts that can decorate boarded houses to improve safety in neighborhoods throughout Flint.



# Northern MI/U.P. RMSSP



The Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan regions teamed up for this year's Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Project held in Gaylord on Friday, May 17th. Over 100 AmeriCorps members served with community leaders and volunteers along a 3 mile stretch of the Iron Belle Trail. The Iron Belle Trail stretches 2,000-miles, winding from Ironwood in the western Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit.

Members removed old fencing from the Otsego County Dog Park, raked and mulched the Otsego County Sportsplex Energy Outlet (a quaint Gaylord park filled with slides, swings and climbing equipment), completed several community painting projects, and removed trash and debris. A 20-yard dumpster donated by American Waste was completely filled with bags of trash, debris and materials from each of the project sites in the area; that's equivalent of removing over 180 13-gallon bags of trash and debris!



# Mid-Michigan RMSSP



The 2019 Mid-Michigan Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Project took place on Friday, May 17th at YMCA's Camp Pa-Wa-Pi in Williamston. Camp Pa-Wa-Pi is an outdoor adventure camp for children of all backgrounds located on 52 beautiful wooded acres along the Red Cedar River. Just over 50 AmeriCorps and VISTA members came together to complete a variety of projects to help Camp Pa-Wa-Pi get prepared for its summer camp season.

Members cleared leaves and brush along 3 miles of trails and 20,000 square feet of team-building areas. They repainted a basketball court, mini-golf course, numerous picnic tables, doors and door frames, fence posts and more! Mid-Michigan members cleaned and organized camp buildings, spread mulch and woodchips, laid gravel along roadways, and spread 7 yards of sand on the volleyball court.



# West Michigan RMSSP



For the 2019 West Michigan Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Project, 114 AmeriCorps members (including State, National, VISTA, and NCCC members) convened in Muskegon Heights on Friday, May 17th to serve alongside the Muskegon Urban Safety Corps to transform vacant and abandoned properties to improve the entire community. A small group of AmeriCorps members also served at Pathfinders of Muskegon, an organization that provides children a safe place to go after school or during summer break.

West Michigan AmeriCorps members removed 525 bags of yard waste, 38 bags of trash, 15 tires, and 5 large piles of brush from vacant lots. They also trimmed 275 feet of hedges to improve visibility and public safety in these neighborhoods. AmeriCorps members serving at Pathfinders painted a room, cleaned the facility, and organized activity supplies and equipment.



# Southeast Michigan RMSSP



The 2019 Southeast Michigan Regional Russ Mawby Signature Service Project was held on Saturday, May 18th at Rouge Park in Detroit, Michigan. The service project was facilitated in collaboration with Friends of Rouge Park for their Annual Rouge Park Appreciation Day. This event engaged over 200 AmeriCorps members and 150 community volunteers.

During the day, AmeriCorps members and community volunteers helped to clean the park, remove invasive species, improve trails, and rehabilitate a rain garden. Together, they filled 388 garbage bags with trash, removed 15 tires and 9 household appliances from the park, collected 10 bags of garlic mustard and 13.5 cubic yards of honeysuckle, cleared and wood chipped 3 trails, and made 750 seed balls to plant.

