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Local Girl Scouts participate in Adopt-A-Park program

HARRISONBURG, Va. – A group of young ladies eager to help protect our planet will get their hands dirty this weekend and make a difference.

The local Girls Scouts, Rockburg Service Unit, will visit Westover Park this Saturday for an engaging workshop that will educate the girls on how to care for and protect nature. The group will also be assisting Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation staff with a tree planting project. The Scouts participate in the department's Adopt-A-Park-program and have adopted the Green Angel Garden in Westover Park – a garden that was once created by the organization years ago and has been picked up and enhanced by this group.



(Above) The Rockburg Service Unit of the Girl Scouts work at the park while learning about the environment and nature.

The participants in Saturday's event range in age from kindergarteners to high school students and student volunteers from James Madison University. Troop leaders hope projects like this will create life-long impacts the Scouts will take with them back into their own communities.

"It is our intention that we engage girls in the outdoors, as well as the natural and biological sciences – an area where females are under-represented," Troop Leader Amy Roy said. "This is an excellent opportunity for our girls to learn to be go-getters, innovators, risk-takers, and leaders."

The Scouts efforts at Westover Park cover a wide array of important lessons. Work at the Green Angel Park area of Westover will help educate the girls about animal habitats, ecology, forestry, watershed issues and how to protect nature. Additionally, the girls will assist in planting trees that will replace those removed due to infestation of the emerald ash borer beetle.

"It has been a great honor working with (Park Superintendent) Jeremy Harold and his knowledgeable staff at the Parks and Recreation department, and we look forward to many more projects with him," Roy added.

The admiration goes both ways. The Rockburg team has done everything from installing and maintaining a pollinator garden to picking up trash when needed to help clean and beautify Westover. The City values their efforts.

“Our department really appreciates the local Girl Scouts being a part of our Adopt-a-Park program,” Harold said. “I look forward to the community service work day. The Scouts will provide a service to Westover Park while learning more about environmental issues in our community.”

For more information about the Adopt A Park program visit our website at <https://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/Adopt-A-Park>.

For more information about Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation, visit our website at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/Parks-Recreation.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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