

The GreenWorks! action projects

Included in this section are samples from a list of hundreds of the many outstanding GreenWorks! Action projects completed. The results of each action project exemplify strong and lasting contributions to improving the environment. The first example gives a detailed look at a model Green-Works! Action project that used schoolyard beautification as its goal. The other model project examples illustrate different types of project ideas that you might want to consider, but remember there are endless possibilities.

Ball's Bluff Elementary School Outdoor Classroom

PLT-trained teacher and facilitator, and special education teacher Karen Blodgett wanted to develop the courtyards at Balls Bluff Elementary School in Loudoun County, Virginia into outdoor classrooms and nature gardens. Included in the gardens would be a butterfly garden area, bird feeders, a birdbath, and a variety of plants, shrubs, and flowers. Ms. Blodgett's kindergarten through 5th grade students took action and got to work. They dug holes, planted a variety of plants, and developed various habitats for study and enjoyment. Ms. Blodgett submitted a grant proposal and was awarded a GreenWorks! Grant from national PLT to carry out their GreenWorks! Action project. This GreenWorks! action project partnered local businesses, a local vocational technical school, the Parent Teacher Organization, and volunteers from the community. Overbrook Nursery in Round Hill, Virginia provided technical assistance and materials.

The county Vocational Technical Center made the picnic tables and benches. Teachers, students and volunteers worked hard to enhance and beautify their school community, and all who participated in the project found it a rewarding and fun experience. CNN covered Ball's Bluff GreenWorks! action project on the news and on the CNN Web Site during Earth Day. This media coverage placed Loudoun County Schools on the international scene. It also contributed to expanding the pool of volunteers that participated in the project.

Outdoor Classroom

Students at Union Elementary School in Zionsville, Indiana built an outdoor nature laboratory. The outdoor shelter was also enhanced by a butterfly garden, vegetable garden, and nesting and feeding stations for birds. **Project Partners:** Union Dad's Club, Union Elementary PTO, Beaver Materials, ABC Roofing, Woods Edge Greenhouse, and Altum Gardens.

Dennis Mitchell's eighth grade science class at Evergreen Middle School in Cottonwood, California converted a retired school bus into a greenhouse. The students are using the greenhouse as a learning laboratory and also to raise plants for landscaping the school campus. **Project Partners:** Moss Lumber, Local Paint Stores, Art Academy, Sierra Pacific Industries and Ameri-Corp.

Gardens

Fifth graders from The Gordon Georgia Youth Science & Technology Center, along with a local high school horticulture class in Barnesville, Georgia, planted a garden at a local history museum. The students researched many types of shrubbery in order to find plants that had historical ties to the area and the entire state of Georgia. **Project Partners:** The Museum and The Science Center.

Third graders at Soldotna Elementary School in Soldotna, Alaska developed an ongoing project to improve their school grounds. Students grew wildflower and perennial

gardens for beautification purposes. They also created a vegetable garden, which was the culmination project for studying the history of Soldotna and the early pioneers.

Project Partners: Trustworthy Hardware.

Art students at Columbus Junior High School in Columbus, Texas created the Cardinal Art Garden on their school grounds. The art garden included birdfeeders and a birdbath, a painting of flowers, a bench, and plants and additional shrubbery. **Project Partners:** Jones Seed Co., CJHS Council, Audubon Park Co., EON Industries Inc., HEB, Vivian Ellis, Charlie Jana, and Colorado Valley Bank.

Students at Blackshear Elementary School decided to create a neighborhood garden on the vacant lot located directly across from their school grounds. They identified the owner of the lot, convinced him to donate the lot to the school, and began working with undergraduate agriculture students at Texas A&M to develop a beautiful vegetable and small scrub garden. The students, their parents, and the community maintain the garden as well as harvest the produce from the garden. **Project Partners:** Blackshear PTO, Texas A&M, Nature Heritage Society, Bank of Houston, and City of Houston Planning.

Construction

The Liberty Union-Thurston Middle School eighth grade science classes in Baltimore, Ohio constructed a 90-foot observation deck across the wetlands at the school's 60-acre land lab facility. The observation deck allows students to take water samples, observe animal life, and conduct other experiments with more ease. **Project Partners:** The Basil Garden Club, The Lions Club, and Take Pride in Ohio.

Recycling

Students at the John F. Kennedy Learning Center in Dallas, Texas began a paper and plastic bag-recycling program. In one year alone, the school recycled 14.5 tons of paper, saving 54,000 pounds of lumber, 345,000 gallons of water, and 44.37 cubic yards of landfill space. **Project Partners:** Students and Faculty.

Earth Day Project

Morrow County second graders in Mt. Gilead, Ohio participated in an Earth Day activity entitled Earth Day at the Park. The students planted a dogwood tree, attended four learning sessions, explored fifteen different learning stations, and took part in a hike/litter pick-up. The activities were planned in accordance with the second grade science curriculum. **Project Partners:** The Ohio Bird Sanctuary, Morrow Environmental Educators Committee (SWCD),