

Team Name: The Wonderful Wind Wonders

Teacher Name: Ms. Masood

Green Heart Action Plan

Problem Definition/ Problem Statement

Problem: How can we stop waste from being thrown or eroded into Shamrock Dr?

Story: When I go on walks with my family, I always view 3 creeks. The view is nice, except for one thing; plastic. There is plastic everywhere! I used to see creatures, such as frogs, small fish and even footprints, but now I don't see anything like that. My team has decided to try to fix this problem. We are going to work together and regain clean, fresh water in our community.

Impact: There will be a boost in animals and clean, drinkable water

Root Cause of the Problem

A possible reason people use our local creeks as trash cans is because of the lack of usable trash bins. They ride by and throw the plastic out of their windows, from their hands, or from their bikes instead of putting it into a recycling bin, or maybe there are small amounts of recycling bins in our neighborhood, so there is no place to dispose of it. So the people throw the trash into the river, and the wind blows it in.

List at Least Three Credible Resources that Support Your Problem Statement

Green Heart STEM Challenge site URL: <https://herofortheplanet.org/greenheartwind/>

U.S Environmental Protection Agency site URL: <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/learn-about-aquatic-trash#:~:text=Garbage%20can%20easily%20become%20aquatic,streams%2C%20canals%2C%20and%20rivers.>

NRDC URL: <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/water-pollution-everything-you-need-know>

Proposed Solution

We will ask Home Depot to donate recycling bins, which we will place next to the creeks. WE will also make cleanup crews every 2 months that will clean the creeks, and we will speak to the people that work at Fernbank Science Center to have them speak about the problems of plastic pollution in creeks to inform the citizens and encourage them to recycle to reduce pollution or talk to schools and encourage them to teach their students about recycling to spread awareness.



How We Will Measure Our Success

We will check the recycling bins weekly to see if there is a lot of plastic in it, we will look in the creeks to see if there is a lot of plastic, and we will also check for animal footprints.

Who are Decision Makers We Need to Read

Parents, Fernbank workers, teachers, neighbors, classmates, and schools.

Our 3-5 Step Plan for Change

1. Put recycling bins by the creeks
2. Contact the neighbors to see if they will help
3. Put signs up that encourage people to recycle
4. Contact Fernbank to see if they will speak to the people
5. Measure and record the change

Impact & Equity

We will be able to have a clean drinking reserve for animals, the microplastics won't harm nearby plants, and it would complement the area's beauty.

What Help We Need to Be Successful

To be successful we will need Fernbank to have an event in the area to inform the people of littering and to encourage them to recycle in the area. We also need the help of the people that live near the creek to clean up and if the recycling bins can't be dumped, we also need people to take turns taking out the trash when the bins are full.

