

Team Name & School: The Smart Cookies, North County K-8

Teacher Name: Patricia Cook

Green Heart Action Plan

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Problem Definition/ Problem Statement

We identified a soil health issue in our community by walking around and observing the soil health around our school and in our neighborhood. The main issues we observed are compacted soil from foot traffic where there are no sidewalks or walkways, and soil erosion where the soil is not covered, These issues impact Earth, because both cause poor soil quality, and good soil quality is necessary for a healthy ecosystem.

Root Cause of the Problem

- Students trampling the area and impeding grass and plant growth.
- Lack of water sources in the area.

List at Least Three Credible Resources that Support Your Problem Statement

<https://extension.usu.edu/?month=3#gsc.tab=0>

<https://landscapeforlife.colostate.edu/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/soil-management-and-health/soil-compaction>

Proposed Solution

Building a designated pathway.
Create signs that remind students to “go around”.
Using student patrols to monitor area until students get use to the new route.



How We Will Measure Our Success

We will measure our success by monitoring the condition of the soil, taking progress pictures, and monitoring grass growth.

Who are Decision Makers We Need to Reach

- *Principal Scott*
- *Mr. Cook (Head Custodian)*
- *The safety patrol sponsor*
- *School Security*

Our 3-5 Step Plan for Change

Notify school community of the plan using classroom visits
Create signs showing the correct pathway
Plan out the new green space
Gather materials
Create the new pathway

Impact & Equity

We believe the impact will be less soil compaction, leading to grass and plant growth
More plants will lead to better air quality in our community
Students will learn to respect nature and the environment



What Help We Need to Be Successful

Money for materials (posters for signs, grass seed/starter, water hose, pavers)
Time during the school day to collect data
Students who are dedicated to the project

