

J.C. Booth Middle School

A Greening Forward Case Study

Background

- J.C. Booth is a public middle school grades 6-8 located in Peachtree City, Georgia that educates a diverse student body consisting of both boys and girls.
- The project was funded by a Greening Forward Earth Savers Grant of \$1,400 dollars that went almost entirely to purchasing supplies that could not be recycled or procured for free.
- Volunteer labor provided by students, teachers, other school staff members and the Peachtree City, Georgia community went into building the garden and composting bins.

Achievements

5 dogwood trees were planted. These trees were chosen due to their being endemic to Georgia and thusly more survivable, as well as for their relatively low price (30 dollars per tree, 5 trees for a total cost of 150 dollars, which is a little bit more than a tenth of the total value of the grant from Greening Forward.

The trees provide shade for students and staff to enjoy, make the whole school more beautiful, and prevent erosion of the soil in areas around the school.

4 Composters were built and designed. Composters were built in a way that maximized student involvement and minimized the risks of injury that comes

from construction. Materials requiring the use of power tools were pre-fabricated by Matthew Jackson at his residence and later brought to school for assembly by students.

Ten rain barrels were constructed and are used for the irrigation of both gardens.

The barrels capture and distribute water to the gardens through an intricate system of valves and pipes that allow for the isolation of one barrel should an issue arise without impacting the ability of the other barrels to continue irrigating the crops.

Rain barrels were built by Matthew Jackson at his house and later brought to school as they were rather complex to build. One challenge was that some of the school's downspouts were emergency downspouts so when it rains, hardly does those barrels get full. Try to check this before installing.

Over 350 children participated in the project, meaning that over one fourth of the school was involved in the project. Other teachers committed considerable time and effort to the project.

The project's leadership was extremely resourceful, which encouraged maximum community involvement and kept costs as low as possible, making the grant money go further.

A website was created to raise awareness and support this project and to educate

others and how to replicate its success. The site has images showing construction as well as sample texts of students' writings to display how their learning was improved by this project and the grant that funded it. Site was also hosted on a Google provided webpage that created no additional costs.

Obstacles/Weaknesses

One garden was destroyed by some unknown creature. This wasted money and time as well as required new resources to ensure that it did not occur again and that both gardens were secured.

Chicken wire, metal mesh, and fences were put in place along with a game camera have appeared to have been a successful deterrent to whatever destroyed the original garden.

Maintenance costs are ongoing and not covered by the grant. Mr. Jackson would like to expand the projects' scope in later years, but has a need to receive another grant so that the current projects may be maintained before others may be begun. Currently, his plan is to work with the school to apply for funding through many diverse streams. The excitement his students have and his passion for the project make the extra work worth it.

Outlook

J.C. Booth serves as a good example of how long hard work and resourcefulness can make a grant go.

