



## The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program and the 57 Projects funded 2009-2018

### The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant

**Program Youth Board** - The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program is a youth-directed program that awards small grants and provides technical guidance to young people for their youth-led environmental projects in Carmel, Indiana. The program utilizes middle and high school students to inspire and mentor youth, ages 19 and under, to identify environmental needs within the community and to design, fund, implement, and evaluate appropriate projects to address those needs. Created, developed, and administered by teens, the program's goal is to challenge area youth to use their skills, creativity and energy to help make our community greener. Through facilitating youth-driven projects that reduce pollution, conserve natural resources, reintroduce native species or habitats, or save energy, the program empowers young people to take positive action. **Described below are the 57 completed projects that have received funding since inception in 2009 through 2018.**



**MOSAICS Family Garden 2010** - This organic teaching garden was created to offer students, staff, and others an opportunity to enjoy the many benefits of a community garden. MOSAICS is an alternative school that provides services to special education students identified as emotionally disabled. The project has been designed as both a therapeutic and an educational lab.



**Tree Scouts 2010** - Boy Scout Troop 180 organized over twenty members of the community to come together to plant 70 trees, indigenous to Indiana, at West Park in Carmel. Trees play key roles in habitats of all animals, including you and me. Trees also reduce carbon dioxide in the air and replace it with oxygen.



**The Green Lights Club 2009** - Through the efforts of the CHS Green Lights Club, 105 Carmel homes installed CFL bulbs in their outdoor lighting, collectively reducing their carbon footprint by over 51 tons. The Green Lights Club members were named Energy Patriots by Senator Richard Lugar for their creative work on energy conservation.



**Ban the Bottle, Try the Tap! 2010** - During Earth Week the Brownies at Towne Meadow Elementary School engaged students with an educational campaign demonstrating the amount of energy consumed and waste produced by buying and using disposable water bottles. They also distributed reusable stainless steel water bottles to students who promised to use and reuse them over and over again.



**St. Christopher's Community Garden 2009** - On December 5, 2009 34 people representing the Boy Scouts, CHS, church, and other groups worked together at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Carmel to build raised planting beds for the St. Christopher's Crops garden ministry. In 2010 the garden provided over 1000 tomatoes, 50 buckets of beans, and over 650 other vegetables, all locally- and organically-grown, to local needy families. This will continue annually.



**Scouts' Reusable Shopping Bags 2009** - Prairie Trace Elementary Cub Scout Pack 197 promoted reusable shopping bags at their school. The Cub Scouts designed their own shopping bags. To receive a free shopping bag, each Prairie Trace Elementary family signed a pledge indicating that they would use it at least once each week for a year. 620 bags were distributed.



**River Trail Wildflower Reintroduction 2009** - Woodbrook Elementary Webelo Scout Pack 198 seeded the River Trail pedestrian and bike path in the spring of 2010 with native Indiana wildflowers to address a need to restore plant, insect, and animal biodiversity to the areas adjacent to the multi-use pathway.



**Earth Day Tree Seedling Give-Away 2009** - The Carmel Middle School student Green Team gave away 1000 native Indiana Earth Day tree seedlings for planting: White oak trees, Red maple trees & Chokeberry shrubs. They included instructions on how to plant the seedlings as well as tips on keeping the trees healthy.



#### **Flutter Flowers – Butterfly Reintroduction at Carey Grove Park 2010 & Clay Middle School 2010**

**Members of Carmel Girl Scout troop 1166 chose to do two separate Green Teen projects. They first revamped a butterfly habitat reintroduction area at Carmel's Carey Grove Park. Next, the group created a butterfly habitat garden at Clay Middle School not only to introduce butterflies and bees to the area but also to provide students with a hands-on environment to study plant and animal life cycles.**

**Coolers are Cooler with Cups 2010** – Students from the Cherry Tree Elementary School Green Club purchased coolers and washable plastic cups for Cherry Tree, Smoky Row, Towne Meadow and Carmel elementary schools to provide free tap water to students during lunch. “With the ‘Coolers are Cooler with Cups’ project, we wanted to save the energy used in making and transporting the water bottles and get kids active in going green,” said Austin Roberts, a fourth grade club member.



**A Greener Tomorrow is in the Bag 2011** - Towne Meadow Elementary School's Girl Scout Troop 1120 received a \$165 grant to help fund their reusable shopping bag promotion and educational campaign entitled, A Greener Tomorrow is in the Bag. They also received a 500 reusable shopping bag donation from Marsh to add to the 100 purchased through the grant. They will distribute the bags and associated educational materials during Earth Week 2011.

**CHS Green Shower Power 2012** - The CHS Green Shower Power club received a Carmel Green Teen micro-grant for \$750 to help fund new push-on auto-off buttons and low-flow shower heads in the school and community locker rooms. The new low-flow shower heads and push buttons will be utilized by 140 Carmel High School Swim Team athletes, 440 Carmel Swim Club members, and numerous student and community recreational swimmers.





**Bats – Nature's Bug Zappers 2012** – Boy Scout Troop 202 built and installed eighteen bat boxes to encourage bats to live in several Carmel recreational locations. Bats are known to consume hundreds of insects each night, making bats an effective and natural way to reduce biting and stinging insect populations, minimizing the need for pesticides in areas where families enjoy the outdoors. Educational signs accompany the boxes.

**Girl Scouts' Bikeyard 100 2012** - Carmel Girl Scout Troop 801 created and implemented an event called the "Bikeyard 100" at Creekside Middle School to encourage kids to ride their bicycles safely and more often. This eco-friendly idea prevents pollution by reducing the number of cars on the road and also promotes a healthy lifestyle. At the event, over 100 kids and over 70 adults agreed to sign a pledge to ride their bikes more often to help the environment.



**UHS Tree Hugging Trailblazers 2012** - The University High School Green Club involved the entire school in planting 34 drought resistant trees, native to Indiana on school grounds. The private nonprofit school was founded in 2000, and cornfields surround its buildings, with few mature trees in sight. They selected four 12-foot trees that would start blooming soon and 30 smaller trees that will continue to provide environmental benefits to their school and community long into the future. They paired the plantings with an educational campaign about the importance of trees in helping clean our air.

**Mission Recycle 2011** – The Carmel Middle School Green Team will use their \$550 in grant money to educate students and provide 10 Clear Stream recycling bins to be used in CaMS lunchrooms and at performing arts and athletic events. Their project will begin during Earth Week 2011. Education will be a large component to their project, with daily announcements and contests and posters.





**Monofilament Fishing Line Recycling 2011** – In March 2011, Boy Scout Troop 202 began the first monofilament fishing-line recycling program in Indiana by installing and maintaining receptacles in the seven Carmel-Clay parks with fishing ponds. Recycling the fishing line is not so much about the volume of product recycled as the impact that even a small amount can have on wildlife tangled in recklessly discarded line.

**Taming the Beast- Recycling at CHS! 2011**- Carmel High School Environmental Club members received a check for \$936 to help fund long-awaited recycling bins for the three lunchrooms at CHS. The 5000 students and staff at Carmel High School will be encouraged to utilize the bins. The club will also produce video announcements promoting use of the bins and calculate the tons of waste recycled and environmental impact of their project that began in April 2011.



**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle 2011** - Fifth grade students from Woodbrook Elementary School created a project they named Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. In their school, they will reduce fuel and pollution with a No Idle Zone for cars and buses waiting in to pick up or drop off students, they will reuse shoes via a Soles for Souls collection drive, and they will encourage recycling of cans and bottles in their school cafeteria through an educational campaign which reuses existing trash bins as recycling bins.

They hope to educate all Woodbrook families.



**Goodbye Plastic! 2013** - Woodbrook students educated their school community about the overuse of plastic bags and creatively encouraged the recycling of plastic bags by offering one cent for every plastic bag collected for recycling.



**ArtsGarden Rainbow of Color 2013** - Daisy Troop 215 members planted mosquito-repelling plants and flowers in the CHS ArtsGarden to help ward off pesky bugs. The girls also created a poster to teach others about how to use plants to discourage biting insects and to avoid the use of harmful chemicals.



**Prairie Traces of Green 2013** - Prairie Trace Elementary students provided free tree seedlings and planting instructions to all 700 students for planting at home. They also educated the school community about the importance of trees with posters and morning announcements



**No Crayon Left Behind 2013** - Smoky Row Elementary students collected ten large boxes of unwanted and broken crayons for reuse and recycling in a project they call No Crayon Left Behind. Newer crayons will be reused, and the remaining crayons were sent to the Crazy Crayons factory and made into new crayons.

**UHS Community Garden 2013** - The University High School Green Club used their Carmel Green Teen grant to start a school community organic garden. They teach organic gardening techniques to the students and staff, and share their discoveries with the community.



#### **Switch on the Savings & Composting/Rain Barrel Workshops 2013**

- The Carmel High School Green Team will purchase automatic light switches for eight of the student bathrooms at CHS and will evaluate the energy savings and feasibility. The students will also hold workshops in the Plots to Plates CCS Community Garden to teach how to compost and how to make rain barrels.



**Carmel Green Trees 2013** - The Carmel Middle School Green Team planted three large trees near the new Plots to Plates CCS Community Garden in back of their school. They also gave away 1000 tree seedlings and hold a community workshop on how to plant them.



**Do Something Environmentally Friendly 2013** - The Carmel High School Do Something Club planted four large native Indiana trees at River Road Park. They will place an educational sign near the trees and share the environmental impact of the project with their school and the community.

**A Greener College Wood 2013** - The College Wood Elementary School Recycling Club promoted and facilitated mixed recycling at their school through an educational campaign and the purchase of seven large, wheeled recycle bins, increasing the school's recycling rates by over 78%!



**Going Green at the CLC 2013** - The Carmel Learning Center is doing a collection of mini-projects which, when combined, make a big difference. These include recycling, reducing paper waste, replacing disposable Styrofoam cups with reusable cups, and adding potted plants to their classrooms.



**Kids Against Crayon Waste 2013** - Towne Meadow Elementary students collected over 150 pounds of unwanted and broken crayons for reuse and recycling. Unbroken crayons will be offered to teachers to provide for their students next year. The students also purchased boxes of recycled Crazy Crayons to teach about the importance of both recycling and buying recycled items.



**CHS ArtsGarden Project 2013** - The CHS Art Club added a pergola and butterfly bushes to their new ArtsGarden. The pergola will house a rotating display of recycled art and focus on encouraging over the 5000 students, faculty, and staff at CHS to consider reducing, reusing, and recycling.

**Girl Scout Teaches Conservation 2014** - Girl Scouts of Central Indiana's Ciara Pickering chose to educate elementary aged students at Forest Dale Elementary School about preserving the environment. Students learned about recycling, pollution prevention and other ways to care for the earth through hands-on activities and crafts in conjunction with the Extended School Enrichment (ESE) program. Her teaching guide and curriculum is now available to ESE programs for use districtwide.





**Carmel Pollinator Garden 2014** - Students in the Carmel High School Sustainable Living Club created a pollinator garden for butterflies, bees, and birds in the CCS Plots to Plates Community Garden's meditation area. This garden, planted with perennial plants native Indiana, will increase biodiversity in our area through providing a habitat for butterflies and other pollinators. Informational signs enhance the area and serve to educate our community.

**Trees for Future Generations 2014** - Members of the Carmel High School Do Something Club thought that kids these days could be doing more to help the environment, so they created a lesson plan about the benefits of trees for the 104 first graders at Smoky Row Elementary School. Their lesson involved an interactive PowerPoint, singing, prizes, and a tree seedling for each student to take home and plant with his or her family.



**CHS TEDx Conference 2014** - The Carmel High School TEDx Club organized and hosted a TEDx Conference that took place on April 19, 2014. This conference was based upon the official TED layout with multiple speakers talking for 18 minutes or less. A portion of these talks and videos discussed and promoted environmental sustainable living and how to implement simple practices in daily life to minimize one's environmental impact. The group used reusable cups at their lunch to illustrate how easy it is to go green.

**UHS Campus Green Up 2014** - The University High School EcoBlazers complimented their Carmel Green Teen funded community garden created in 2013 by establishing and implementing a composting system and building a multi-purpose rain harvesting structure. The students and staff now compost school lunchroom waste for use in the community garden, and the rain barrels adjacent to the new structure provide needed water for their teaching garden.





**Recycling Cubs 2015** - \$383.56 – Orchard Park Elementary fifth graders chose to promote and facilitate event recycling at their school by purchasing five Clear Stream portable recycling collection containers as well as promotional items. They will use the containers at after school events such as Movie Night, Literacy Night, Ice Cream Social, and more. Students from the OPE Recycling Cubs attend the events and display posters and wear stickers that remind others to recycle.

**Earth Fair 2015** - \$550.00 – The Carmel High School Environmental Sustainability Club hosted an educational gathering at the CCS Plots to Plates Organic Community Garden on May 23, 2015. Various local groups such as the CCS Green Team, Earth Charter Indiana, Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, and others were invited to share information and teach visitors about what can be done on a local level to live healthier, more sustainable lifestyles. Over 125 people attended the 3 hour event, and the students are considering holding an Earth Fair each year.



**U Drink Water Bottle Station 2015** - \$979.00 – To promote reusable water bottle use, the students on the University High School Stewardship committee discovered that there needed to be easier ways for students to fill water bottles in their school. With their Carmel Green Teen grant, they purchased and installed a water bottle filling station and worked with the Athletic Department to purchase a second station. Initial estimates suggest that these stations have led to the reduction of at least 80 plastic disposable water bottles daily each.

**NHS Recycling 2015** - \$900.00 – Members of the Carmel High School National Honor Society will be providing school event recycling. They have ClearStream recycling stations at select athletic, performing arts, and other after-school events. NHS members earn group hours while promoting recycling of plastics, aluminum, and paper. They are working with the school administration to streamline emptying the bins as well as ensuring that the recycling dumpsters can accommodate the extra recycling.





**Blazers' Butterfly Garden 2015** - \$491.29 – The University High School EcoBlazers built a perennial flower garden specifically designed to attract and support Monarch butterflies. While the garden's focus is providing for the Monarch butterfly, the plant selection attracts a wide variety of butterflies, moths and pollinators. The Blazer Butterfly Garden meets official criteria set by monarchwatch.org that allows it to be registered as an official Monarch Waystation.

**Goodbye Plastics – Get Your Own Water Bottle 2015** - \$870.00 – Clay

Middle School students noticed that many of their fellow students were throwing their plastic bottles in the trash instead of the recycling bin, so they decided to take action. They first educated students about how to save money and the environment by using reusable water bottles through posters and a website. The youth leader of the project created an educational website where she asked students to pledge to use reusable water bottles instead of disposable ones. She offered 120 new, reusable water bottles as incentives to students who agreed to the pledge. Students also worked with administration to install a water bottle refilling station near the school cafeteria to discourage disposable water bottle use.



**Tree Planting Cubs 2016** - \$425.00 – Orchard Park Elementary School Green Cubs students planted a Tulip Poplar tree on campus this year to help everyone remember the many benefits of trees and their role in a healthy environment. The Green Cubs have learned and taught other students about how trees benefit our environment by providing habitats for insects and animals, protecting the soil from erosion, cleaning our dirty air, and providing shade and beauty.

**Woodbrook Butterfly Garden 2016** - \$428.00 – Scouts in Boy Scout Troop 109 replanted a long neglected Teaching Butterfly Garden in a Woodbrook Elementary School courtyard area. The area now contains a mix of hardy annual and perennial flowers that will create habitats for Indiana's native butterfly populations and pollinator insect and bird species. Second grade students use this garden as part of their curriculum, learning about the life cycle of a butterfly.



**It's in the Reuseable Bag 2016** - \$800.00 – Smoky Row Elementary Green Team students promoted and distributed reusable shopping bags during 2016 Earth Week. Students learned how reusable bags save resources and produce less waste. Students created an educational brochure distributed to each student in his or her free reusable shopping bag, and video announcements described the benefits of using reusable rather than disposable bags.



**Turn Up for Compost 2016** - \$243.00 – Members of Boy Scout troop 202 built a large, wooden, 3-compartment compost bin system at the CCS Plots to Plates Organic Community Garden. Educational signs were added to the bins to teach gardeners how to use them and to enhance student field trips to the garden. The community garden generates lots of organic waste, and composting will allow the garden scraps to be utilized to feed plants, reducing the need for purchasing compost.



**Millbrook Nature Trail 2016** - \$700.00 – Members of Boy Scout troops 120 were joined by community members to enhance and expand a nature trail near the Millbrook neighborhood in Carmel. Improvements included clearing the existing trails and expanding the trail along a creek to enable residents to enjoy easy access to nature and wildlife. Scouts also created and installed simple post-markers to guide trail goers.



**Project Poultry 2016** - \$988.78 – Students in University High School Biology classes have found a unique way to use chickens to connect with nature, to learn food responsibility, and to understand various complex ecosystems. Students acquired a small chicken coop to keep chickens on campus to help them teach and understand various aspects of animal husbandry, including trying to reestablish the disconnect most suburban residents have regarding eating meat. Waste from the chicken coops is used to fertilize the UHS vegetable and pollinator gardens.



**CCS Garden Self-Guided Tour 2016** - \$631.39 – Scouts in Boy Scout troop 576 created a self-guided tour of the CCS Plates to Plots Organic Community Garden. The garden tour consists of seven educational stations describing the areas of the garden with environmental benefits. Highlighted areas include: Pollinator Garden, Teaching Stage, Compost Bins, Rain Garden, Healthy Eating Mural, Rain Barrel area, and Food Pantry / Field Trip Garden Plots. The Scouts designed and installed an educational sign at each station and a created a hand held educational map leading a visitor from one station to the next.



**OLMC Tree Replacement 2016** - \$1000.00 – Scouts in Boy Scout Troop 125 noticed that many Indiana Ash trees in the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church public areas had been destroyed by the invasive insect pest, the Emerald Ash Borer. These large trees had provided habitat for many animals while helping purify the air. This group replaced ten of the removed Ash trees with a variety of healthy, drought tolerant and disease resistant shade trees which are native to Indiana, including Elm, Maple, Honeylocust, Oak and London Plane, and will help reduce pollutants and be enjoyed for a long time.



**Don't Flip It! Save It! Water Bottles 2017** - \$870.00 – Smoky Row Elementary School Green Team students provided and promoted reusable water bottles as an eco-friendly alternative to disposable ones at their school. Students were happy to distribute and promote the use of 840 reusable water bottles for the end of the year track and field day, where many disposable cups and water bottles are normally used. Club members educated students about the benefits of using these bottles every day.

**UHS Bat Boxes 2017** - \$447.81- University High School students built, installed and taught their school community about bat boxes and the benefits of mosquito eating bats in their outdoor spaces. Students researched bat population conservation methods and found that bat boxes provide a safe haven and resting place for the animals. These bat boxes are an interactive educational tool and natural pest control for their Outdoor Classroom.



**River Road Habitat Restoration 2017** - \$336.63 - Forty-nine volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 120 pulled invasive Japanese honeysuckle vines and replaced them with plants indigenous to Indiana to restore native habitats at River Road Park in Carmel. Japanese honeysuckle damages forest communities by out competing native vegetation for light, below-ground resources, and by changing forest structure. The vines over-top adjacent vegetation by twining about and completely covering small trees and shrubs, which endangers native plant and animal habitats.



**Helping Ninjas Help Pollinators 2018** - \$1000 - Helping Ninjas students from College Wood Elementary School came together to remove non-native invasive plants in three large areas of Founders Park in Carmel. They replaced them with plants native to Indiana which encourage butterflies, bee, and other pollinators to live and thrive. Native pollinators are vital for pollinating Indiana agricultural crops such as alfalfa, melons, soybeans, and sunflowers.



**This is NOT a Plastic Bag! 2018** - \$700 - The Orchard Park Elementary School Green Cubs designed, distributed, and promoted reusable grocery bags to the entire school community. The project included educational daily announcements and a contest to see which classrooms could use the reusable bags most often.

**Helping Ninjas Help Garden and Compost 2018** - \$780 - The College Wood Elementary School Helping Ninjas wanted to learn and teach about local organic gardening and composting. They planted organic vegetables in a community plot at the CCS Plots to Plates Community Gardens and donated over 75 pounds of local, organic vegetables to Second Helpings and their school cafeteria. The students also worked with the school cafeteria manager to start composting cafeteria scraps. Students also educated their classmates on ways to go green using the school's bulletin boards.





## Carmel Green Teen Program Recognition and Awards

The Carmel Green Teen Micro-Grant Program and its members have been recognized for contributions to community education, environmental stewardship, and youth empowerment by receiving the following awards and recognition:

- Carmel Rotary Club William D. McFadden Student Service Award 2016
- 2015 President's Environmental Youth Award - EPA Region 5
- Donna Manlove Award for Excellence in Urban Forestry 2015
- Youth Service America - 2014 Summer of Service Award
- Carmel High School - 2014 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School
- Carmel Rotary Club William D. McFadden Student Service Award 2013
- White House Youth Sustainability Challenge Winner 2012
- Disney Kids and Nature Celebration Guest Speaker 2012
- Carmel Chamber of Commerce Images of Excellence Green Award 2011
- Indiana Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in Education/Outreach 2011
- Jane Goodall's Global Leadership Award – Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership 2011
- Plastics are Forever Plastic Pollution International Youth Summit 2011
- Indiana Heroes Community Service Medals 2010
- 2009 President's Environmental Youth Award – EPA Region 5 runner-up



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