Building a Foundation for a Greener Tomorrow

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Environmental Studies Program
Project Coordinator-Lowell Elementary Jr. Green Team

Mentor- Dr. Sian Davies-Vollum

Assistant-Ruth Maitlen
- Built in 1869
- First Location- N 28th & Starr
- Renamed in 1890
- Relocated in 1950
- Current Location-N 13th & Yakima
Responsibilities & Objectives

- Lead Jr. Green Team Activities
- Participate in School Environmental Events
- Raise Jr. Green Team Profile
- Develop Environmental Activities
- Create Activities Curriculum
Activities

- Poster Design for Recruitment
- Tree Identification
- Christmas Ornaments out of Recycled Material
- Landfill Exercise
- Climate Change Lesson
- Native Species Garden
  - Informative Flier on Native Species Garden
  - Native Species Identification
  - Native Species Garden Work
Native Species Garden
Celebrate Earth Day (April 22\textsuperscript{nd})
with a visit to Lowell’s Native Plant Garden!

The Lowell Green Team would like to share what they have been learning about native plants and would like to invite all classes at Lowell to visit the native plant garden in honor of Earth Day. Native plants, or plants that come from this area, have evolved to grow well in our environment. Because of this, they do not require fertilizer, pesticides or other chemicals to grow well. This is good for the environment. Native plants also benefit the environment by creating habitat for birds, insects and other animals. They filter runoff water. When they are planted on a slope, as they are in our garden at Lowell, they also help prevent soil erosion. Come take a look at the natives in our garden and see if they “grow” on you!

Native plants in our garden:

- **Nootka Rose** (*Rosa nutkana*): Deciduous (leaf-shedding) shrub, grows up to 10 feet. Wild rose with small pink flowers in summer. Hardy plant that likes wet to moist soil and tolerates full sun to partial shade conditions. Native American tribes such as the Makah used the bark and leaves to treat eye problems or to enhance eyesight.
- **Oceanspray** (*Holodiscus discolor*): (pictured bottom left) Large shrub (to 12 feet) with frothy, lilac-like sprays of small white flowers in bloom. Widespread across Puget Sound lowlands in habitats ranging from bluffs to forest understory. Good erosion control planting. Commonly called “ironwood,” it was known for the hardness of its wood and used by coastal Native American tribes to make spear, harpoon, and bow and arrow shafts.
- **Thimbleberry** (*Rubus parviflorus*): Deciduous shrub which spreads by suckers. Leaves are maple shaped and fuzzy on both sides with white flowers. Yields raspberry-like clusters of red berries in summer, which were eaten by all Northwest Coast people, sometimes after being dried.
- **Red-flowering Currant** (*Ribes sanguineum*): (pictured bottom right) An erect bush with several stems covered in alternating deciduous leaves and pale-pink to deep red drooping flower clusters. Yields blue-black round berries which were eaten by various Coast Salish groups. Grows in dry open woods, rocky slopes, and disturbed sites. “Sanguineum” means blood-red, and the red flowers attract hummingbirds.
Landfill Exercise

Jr. Green Team Landfill Fact Sheet

All of us throw away something everyday. A cereal box, old newspaper, soda cans, plastic wrappers and food scraps are all items that we discard everyday. It is estimated that each one of us produces four pounds of trash everyday! From the wastebasket to the garbage can and then out to the curb to be picked up. Where does all of this trash go? Some gets sorted out and recycled but most ends up in a landfill.

What is a landfill?
A landfill is a dump designed to hold trash and keep it separated from the environment. It is a dump that is built underground and lined with a plastic liner so that dirty liquids won’t leak into nearby streams, lakes or ponds. Each day a layer of soil is placed on top to cover the days trash.

The Rotten Truth
Trash in a landfill takes a long time to decay because of the lack of sunlight, moisture or air to help break materials down. Different materials get broken down at different rates.

- A newspaper takes 6 weeks
- An apple core 2 months
- Plastic bag 10-20 years
- A soda can 80-200 years
- Glass bottle 1 million years
- Most plastic bottles never!
Climate Change Lesson

The Greenhouse Effect

Some sunlight that hits the earth is reflected. Some becomes heat.

CO₂ and other gases in the atmosphere trap heat, keeping the earth warm.

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Student Outcomes

- Increase in Student Involvement
- Environmental Interest
- Increased Environmental Awareness
Jr. Green Team

Keegan  Saida  Ine  Elise

Maia  Talia  Kai

Not Pictured

Lilly  Colin  Emma  Lucy  Sam  Gabe  Keshreeyaji  Abbi