

FINAL METRO REPORT
Roosevelt High School Wildlife Habitat Project (#921708)
Oregon State University Extension 4-H
Submitted by Maureen Hosty

Project Goals

- Wildlife habitat will be developed and maintained on school grounds to benefit the community.

Students, families, teachers, and community volunteers have planted native plants, trees and shrubs in the Roosevelt Wildlife habitat. Walking paths have been created and a compost bin was built. Flowerbeds were also planted to help beautify the area. A wood shed was built to store tools and supplies and students created art work for the habitat site. The Roosevelt High School greenhouse was refurbished for students to grow plants for the habitat site.

- The Latino community and school community will be making a long-term commitment to their environment through a multi-cultural garden and wildlife habitat.

Six Latino families were actively involved in creating, using, and sustaining the wildlife habitat on the grounds of Roosevelt High School. Along with 30 other students, this habitat has been maintained and sustained for 18 months. Plans are already being made for further expanding and sustaining the habitat for the next 5 years.

NOTE: During the second year of this project, the Hispanic Resource Center at Roosevelt High School was closed and became a multi-cultural center. The Roosevelt High School Hispanic Resource Leaders we worked with very closely were transferred to other schools in the district. Since we no longer had close links to the Hispanic students and their families we expanded the program to include ESL Russian and Hmong students



Roosevelt High School Students proudly showing off their habitat

Program Results

Thirty Roosevelt High School Latino students participating in the 4-H Hermandad Latina Program were recruited and trained to become 4-H Youth Garden Leaders to develop and use a wildlife habitat on school grounds that reflects a multi-cultural community. 4-H Youth Leaders meet once a week for one hour to work on the project. Students completing a minimum number of designated hours received school credit in science, community service and art. Saturday classes/events were taught in both English and Spanish. Education stations and signs for the garden were developed by the students and were written in Spanish and English. More permanent signage will be developed later this year.

A 4-H Garden Coordinator provided leadership for this project. The garden coordinator is housed in the 4-H Office at Roosevelt High School. A bilingual/bicultural 4-H Hermandad Latina Coordinator worked closely with the garden coordinator to recruit parents and youth for the project during the first year of the project. In the second year, the 4-H Garden and Habitat Coordinator worked closely with the Multi-cultural staff, a special education teacher, and the shop teachers.



Roosevelt High School Hispanic Students and Habitat after working to refurbish the greenhouse



Preparing the Soil for Planting (parent volunteer)



Habitat Coordinator, Meg Walters, and two Hispanic parents begin planting shrubs along the fenceline

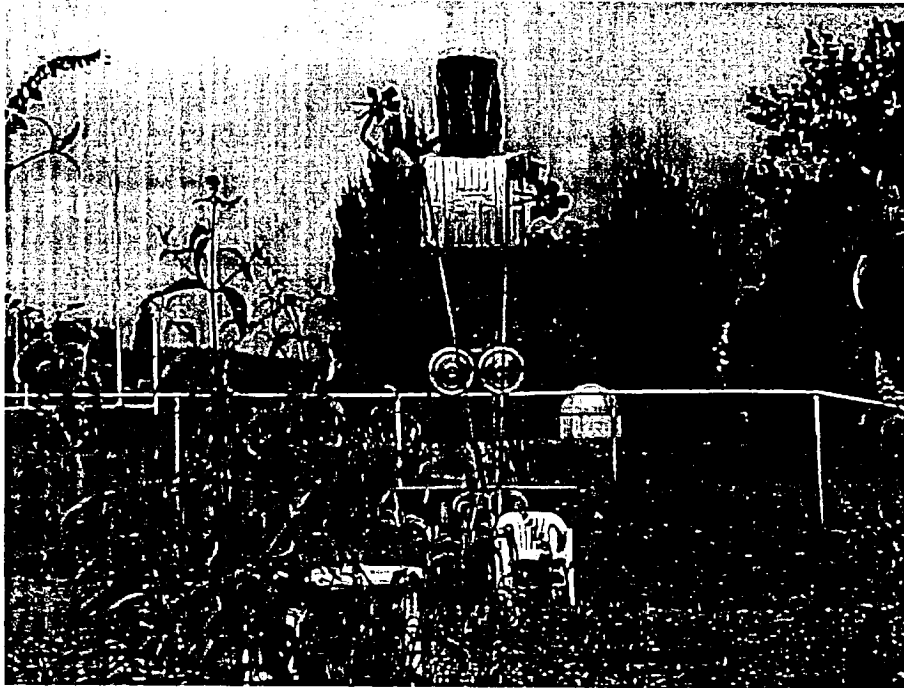


Roosevelt High School Hispanic Student helps prepare the new raised beds

Some of the accomplishments of the project include:

- Thirty Hispanic students and family members have been involved with the project
- Students created the habitat and garden design and selected plants for planting
- An additional 10 ESL (Russian and Hmong) and special education students participated in the project the second year
- Three community volunteers have assisted with the project.
- An Americorps volunteer, a Sun School volunteer and two college students volunteered in the program for the Summer 2001 program.
- Nine families have been active in the project
- Six teachers have used the wildlife habitat as an outdoor learning lab for their students during school hours
- Saturday work parties are held twice a month with students and their families during the Spring and Summer months
- The Roosevelt School greenhouse was refurbished and restored by the students, volunteers and project coordinator
- Students meet after school once a week to work in the greenhouse propagating plants for sale and for use in the wildlife habitat
- Students conducted a plant sale at Roosevelt High school in May 2001
- A tool shed, purchased with funds from the METRO grant, is being built by students and volunteers
- A compost bin was built by students and volunteers

- Two Roosevelt High School students created art for the wildlife habitat for their senior project
- The shop teacher and 3 art teachers have committed to this project for the upcoming year and last year added a garden sculpture for the habitat.
- A \$500 Earth Day/Every Day grant will help students purchase additional plants and soil amendments for the project.
- A project journal is maintained by the project coordinator. Student sign in each day and are required to record what they learned, project suggestions, etc.
- Three Hmong families helped maintain the garden during the Summer of 2001 on a weekly basis. They watered, weeded and tended the garden. They also added additional garden beds.
- Through funds from the grant, a wood shed was built to store tools and supplies for the project.
- An 8-day summer day camp for George middle school students was conducted in the Summer of 2001. The students spent 4 hours a day for 8 days at the habitat site. They learned about raised bed gardening, painted flower pots and planted annuals, and cleaned and organized the greenhouse.
- A \$1200 grant from Portland Parks and Recreation was secured to support the day camp program for the Summer of 2001.



The Habitat Garden Scarecrow designed and created by the Roosevelt High School Auto Shop class

WILDLIFE STEWARDS PROGRAM

“Caring for Our Wildlife Heritage One School At a Time”

METRO GREENSPACES SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

OSU Extension/Multnomah County 4-H Program

BACKGROUND



The 4-H Roosevelt High School Habitat Project was initiated for two reasons. First, due to language barriers, the Latino community is an under served population in environmental education programs. As a result, many Latino students and their families have very little understanding of basic environmental education principles and the critical need to protect our environment. This project will go a long way in educating the Latino community on the importance of becoming good stewards of our land.

Second, Hispanics are the fastest growing population in Oregon. Seventy-five percent are under 35 years of age and children make up 40% of the total. Yet, many Latino youth are not realizing their full academic potential. Latino youth have the highest dropout rate in the state. The Hispanic students make up 11% of the total student population at Roosevelt High School. Over 80% of these youth come from families who are living at or below poverty. Slightly less than half were born in another country and about 33% speak only Spanish. Hispanic students at Roosevelt, like other high schools in the state, have twice the rate of drop-out than any other group. Furthermore, many of these students are not realizing their full academic potential. Few participate in school activities and gang influence is strong. The 4-H Hermandad Latina Program was named by the students in the program. The program links high school students with middle school students. The intent is to provide support to Hispanic youth through mentorship, educational and recreational programming and positive role modeling. A garden project will provide these students the opportunity to give back to their school and take some ownership for their school. It also provides the students a leadership project that they can plan, organize and lead to benefit the whole community.

Project Goals

- Wildlife habitat will be developed and maintained on school grounds in conjunction with vegetable gardens and a place to relax and meditate to benefit the whole community.
- The Latino community and school community will be making a long-term commitment to their environment through a multi-cultural garden and wildlife habitat.
- There will be a greater awareness in the Latino community about the ecological principles and the value of protecting and caring for all of our natural resources.

Target Audience

- **LATINO YOUTH:** The teachers, parents, OSU Extension Master Gardeners and community members will work in partnership with Latino youth to plan, develop, and use their wildlife habitat.
- **4-H YOUTH LEADERS:** Roosevelt High School Latino students will be recruited, trained and supported to in the development and use of a wildlife habitat on school grounds.
- **TEACHERS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** Trained 4-H Youth Leaders will work with middle school and elementary school Latino youth, and local school teachers. Latino parents, community members and students from other student ethnic groups will be recruited to participate in the project as well.

GRANT PROGRESS

- A 4-H garden coordinator was recruited and hired to work with the students on a weekly basis.
- 10 Hispanic High school students from Roosevelt High school were identified and recruited to participate in this program
- Students meet weekly on Wednesdays after-school to work in the Greenhouse
- Two 4-H Wildlife Stewards volunteers were recruited to assist with the project
- Students, 4-H staff, and volunteers cleaned and got back in working order the greenhouse at Roosevelt High school
- Monthly parent meetings for Hispanic parents were conducted and 4-H staff and students reported progress on the garden
- Three monthly parent/family work parties were held on Saturdays with 40-50 parents, students, and siblings
- Participating students hosted a garden tour for 30 4-H Extension faculty from Oregon, Idaho and Washington
- Vine maples, redwood dogwoods and other native plants have been planted, the site has been cleared of all debris and an initial landscape plan has been developed.
- 8 raised garden beds were built and vegetables have been planted in six of the beds
- A compost bin was built and put together by students and volunteers
- Tools and a small tool shed were purchased for the project
- One student is receiving science credit for participating in this project
- The Roosevelt Habitat project was highlighted in the Oregonian newspaper
- Students propagated plants for a plant sale on May 21st

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

- Students will develop and display signs for the habitat in both Spanish and English. The Roosevelt High Schools communications pathway students will be recruited to assist with this project
- A summer program will be developed for students and their families to continue the program in the summer
- Discussions have begun with Roosevelt staff to incorporate other ethnic groups and science classes into this project

GREAT QUOTES

(Translated from Spanish)

" We have done a lot in the garden. We built garden beds to grow plants, vegetables, etc. We feel good working and sharing time with our friends, classmates and others. We feel very proud of being in 4-H to help the program and to get helped as well"

- Domino Castro and Maria Vazquez

"I think that his project is very good for students because they really have fun while they are doing this work. Also, this project keeps the students out of problems, it keeps them saved. It is really fun and you learn how to take care of plants and make them grow well. I also have a good time because I am getting credit for my science class which is good to me."

-Isidro Aguilar

"My name is Maria Lopez. Lately I've been have fun in some Saturdays about five hours and at the same time learning. I have been planting seeds and watching them grow also transplanting them to a better place for them to grow. I also can't wait for the day we put the plants on the beds we fix on the garden we built on Roosevelt high school"

-Maria Lopez

ANNUAL SUMMARY
Roosevelt High School Wildlife Habitat Project
 Oregon State University Extension

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- The Latino community and school community will be making a long-term commitment to their environment through a multi-cultural garden and wildlife habitat. *Six Latino families have been actively involved in creating, using, and sustaining the wildlife habitat on the grounds of Roosevelt High School. Along with 30 other students, this habitat has been maintained and sustained for 18 months. Plans are already being made for further expanding and sustaining the habitat for the next 5 years.*

Program Results

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A 4-H Garden Coordinator provided leadership for this project. The garden coordinator is housed in the 4-H Office at Roosevelt High School. A bilingual/bicultural 4-H Hermandad Latina Coordinator works closely with the garden coordinator to recruit parents and youth for the project.

Some of the recent accomplishments of the project include:

- Thirty students and family members have been involved with the project
- Three community volunteers have assisted with the project
- Six families have been active in the project
- Six teachers have used the wildlife habitat as an outdoor learning lab for their students during school hours
- Saturday work parties are held twice a month with students and their families during the Spring and Summer months
- The Roosevelt School greenhouse was refurbished and restored by the students, volunteers and project coordinator
- Students meet after school once a week to work in the greenhouse propagating plants for sale and for use in the wildlife habitat
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also provide the 4-H Wildlife Stewards a practicum for preparing them for their role in supporting students and teachers at local schools to develop and use wildlife habitats on school grounds. 4-H Wildlife Stewards and Master Gardeners currently serve twenty-four local schools. These school projects involve students, teachers and parents in projects that create and enhance wildlife habitat.

Current Status

- ◆ A group of OSU Extension/Multnomah County faculty have agreed to serve on a committee that will provide oversight for this project
- ◆ The training site for the Fall 2000 Wildlife Stewards class has been secured and dates have been established
- ◆ The Wildlife Stewards Advisory committee has met and have made plans for incorporating creating and developing this site in the Wildlife Stewards curriculum training for the upcoming year
- ◆ Equipment and materials have been identified and costs have been determined

Plans for Summer 2000

- ◆ Local businesses and neighbors will be informed about the project and invited to participate
- ◆ A landscape architect will be secured to meet with the committee to review preliminary plans for the project
- ◆ The site will be prepared and cleared for planting for this fall
- ◆ Equipment such as shovels, hoses, wheel barrows, etc. will be purchased and available on site prior to the beginning of class
- ◆ Materials for making educational signs will be purchased and ready for the Wildlife Stewards class to make.