

Greening of Muskegon: Trees of Hope



Community Partners

- City of Muskegon
- Muskegon Public Schools
- Engels Nursery
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Student Learning Outcomes

Students learn the importance of replacing diseased or damaged trees throughout the city.

Students research which Michigan native trees are:

- tolerant of city pollutants, including parking lot and street runoff, and snow-melting chemicals
- city wildlife friendly providing food and shelter
- height restrictions for power lines

Students learn what conditions are necessary for healthy tree growth:

- soil components
- shade or sunny
- water requirements
- space requirements

Students learn how to plan and plot a tree nursery.

Students learn how to properly plant a variety of trees:

- prepare saplings for planting
- hole depth
- add peat for water absorption and nutrients
- mulching to minimize water evaporation
- sow a ground-cover to prevent evasive plants from stealing nutrients and water.

Students identify and label trees.

Students are encouraged to plant their own trees with their families and share the importance and value of trees in their neighborhoods.

Students learn to identify a variety of trees based on bark and leaf rubbings

Muskegon Middle School

2012-13 School Year:

- 75 Students
- 3 Teachers
- 3 Classrooms
- 7th & 8th Grade
- Project-Based Learning: A Cooperative Learning Experience between Special Education and General Education

from a wooded dune habitat near Lake Michigan.

Students create a tree-themed watercolor painting.





“Be the change you want to see in the world...” - Ghandi

2012-2013 School Year Project Timeline



Classes were presented with our city's problem: diseased and damaged trees being cut and not replaced.

October



Designed and plotted nursery to accommodate the number of trees to be planted.

March

Students spent the day digging 285 holes, adding peat moss to 285 holes, planting 285 sapling trees & watering.



June



Classes researched native Michigan trees using specifications necessary for city use.

Students took a field trip to Beechwood City Park, a wooded dune along Lake Michigan.

Students presented at the GLSI Symposium.

Values & Achievements:

- Civic & Community Responsibility
- Cooperative Teamwork
- Michigan native tree species
- Importance and impact trees have on the community
- Learned how to use gardening tools
- Awareness of the significance of their role in their community

