



Day 26: Mobilize

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Mobilize

My Project: Vertical Rain Garden Installations

And possibly making this an organization to help other organizations do the same thing...?



Climate Issues I Want To Focus On

- Biodiversity
- Wellness
- Waste
 - Reuse bottles
- Organic

Why This Project Resonates With Me

I find repurposing-projects to be really inspiring, especially ones that involve art. I believe they spread the most awareness while also helping the environment at the same time. I remember this project being initiated my sophomore year at school, but never at the level I am proposing.

Using My PGC Knowledge

One aspect of my project includes educating others through advertisements, discussions, and infographics/posters. All of these educating pieces would incorporate PGC topics such as regenerative farming, soil, waste, wellness, organic, and biodiversity summed up in a visual aid. My idea is to advertise this project to gain support and use visual aids as part of my project design (like an informative plaque) so people can look at my design and learn what I learned from PGC.

Short Term Goals

- Getting a committed team (at least 10)
- Create a detailed plan and timeline with them
- First step → Contact affiliations (email)
 - Environmental Clubs at schools across the county
 - Students and their parents interested from my club
 - Lauren's Garden Service (local native plant service)
 - Kendall Hardware Store (local)
 - Art club and art teachers
 - Ask NHS at school to provide service hours as an incentive for students to support the project

Who I need to contact in
the early stages

HERE ARE A FEW FEATURED NATIVES:

Lauren's Garden
Service →



Christmas Fern

\$7.00



Soft Rush

\$7.00



Prairie Dropseed

\$7.00



Sensitive Fern

\$7.00



Little Bluestem 'Standing Ovation'

\$11.00



Sassafras

\$40.00

Inspiration Videos

https://youtu.be/eNW-amR_9xg



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozu2WupRbH4>



Long Term Goals

- Getting necessary materials to create the vertical garden
 - Reusable bottles/gutters
 - Soil
 - Plants
 - Wooden frame
- Get a team to build it and place it at designated locations (team has to find locations to install it and get people's permission -- preferably urban locations)
- Website dedicated to helping other grassroots groups to install their own and create their own project

Why This Project Is Necessary

- This project raises awareness for environmental problems while solving them simultaneously
- People living in urban areas or areas lacking biodiversity have more exposure to air pollutants/toxins -- this project will solve this
- Some people lack the space to have a garden -- vertical gardens are meant to save space
- This project can be installed indoors or outdoors and people will experience the same benefits listed on the next slide

Benefits of Vertical Gardens

- Plants will pull out excess carbon/toxins and clean the air
- Improves the well-being of people
 - Views of nature and plants are associated with comfort and positive attitudes
- Provide natural beauty
- Increase space
- Repurposes plastic bottles that would have most likely gone to the landfill



One Central Park building in Sydney, Australia

The Costs \$\$\$

- Plastic bottles → donations from friends, family, neighbors
- Wooden frames, soil + plants
 - Plants would require the most money, so some virtual fundraising should cover the costs
 - The wood can come from donations and also can be covered by some fundraising
- Overall, to produce one vertical garden (no more than 6x6), the total cost is manageable. It just depends on how many we will build and install.

COVID Restrictions

- The good thing about this project is that there are steps that go along with the building process that don't require much interactions
 - Collection of bottles would be no more than a 1 on 1 person interaction
 - Idea: Place boxes with directions to donate plastic soda bottles OR go door to door in my neighborhood while following proper precautions
- One or two people can work on the frame and placement of bottles who sends it over to the person in charge of putting the soil and plants in and then someone else installs it

COVID Restrictions

- COVID has definitely influenced my choice of project because this is a project that can easily be done by one person (given enough time) and still have an impact
- My other choices either a) wouldn't have had that much impact being virtual or b) requires too many people at once to collaborate

Desired Expertise and Skills

- Talented artists to create
 - Advertisements
 - Signs, posters
 - Infographics
- Handy people
 - Good with screwdrivers because I'm not :)
- Organized people who can handle creating a website and help with fundraisers
- Plant expert to choose which plants to incorporate (preferably native, all-year-round)

Desired Outcomes/Successes

- Install 3 vertical rain gardens at 3 different locations that would consist of
 - Native, all-year-round plants
 - Sign/poster/plaque explaining why there is a vertical garden installed at that location
 - Decorated, reused plastic bottles
- People learning something about regenerative agriculture, biodiversity, waste, organics, and wellness
- Happy “customers” (AKA whoever wanted it installed)

Real Success

The real success with this project comes from collaborating with other leaders/students to create something that would benefit the Earth (even if it's at a smaller level). Additionally, my journey to completing this project will facilitate discussions with other people and affiliations, and whether or not they are willing to help us, they will have learned something related to our efforts.