

Be A Backyard Steward & Caretaker

Take a walk in your neighborhood or an open space nearby and have a positive impact!
No materials needed, just yourself. A bag to collect garbage or recycling may be helpful



Humans have the ability to have positive and negative impacts on the land and environment! What kind of impact do you want to have? What can you do to improve the land around you?

Example: You see some trash on the ground, what do you do?

You can pick it up, if safe to pick up, even if it's not yours- *Positive impact!*

Leave it there for someone else- *Negative Impact!*

Activities helping with trash: Cleaning-up trash reduces pollution and makes your neighborhood more beautiful

- How many bags of trash can you clean up from your yard?
- How many old tires can you collect? How many cans and bottles can you collect?

Here are some positive activities dealing with soil erosion, growing food, or weeds growing where they should not be:

Soil erosion causes plants to suffer and/or die, clogs up fish habitat with dirt, and can cause flooding. Some ways to slow erosion are to place rocks on top of where the soil is eroding to armor and stabilize the soil. Another practice is to place brush close to the eroding soil to slow water runoff. *How many different areas did you find soil erosion at? How many areas did you try and slow the soil erosion?*

Farming or gardening is a great way to help provide food for your family. Find ways to help your parents or neighbors to plant trees, plant seeds, or clean ditches. *What kinds of plants did you plant in your farm or garden? Are there native plants that are edible that you can spread by seed such as Cota (also known as Indian Tea or Thelesperma)?*

Removing weeds or non-native plants can improve the health of land and make space for native plants to grow again. Some ways to remove them include pulling by hand, mowing or digging them out by the roots. Make sure to identify the plants first and watch for plants that can sting, have thorns or give you rashes. *What kinds of non-native plants did you find? How many non-native plants did you remove?*

Parent involvement in this activity is great and encouraged!

