

Lewisville Independent School District Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA)

Lewisville Independent School District Outdoor Learning Area (LISDOLA) is a 70 acre outdoor learning area for Lewisville school district run by Suzanne Barnard adjacent to LLELA. It has been a Master Naturalist and Master Gardener Project in the past and is in need of our help again.

Some of the areas of need are:

1) Documenting species of plants and animals on the trails for the children's outdoor education classes. Many times the kids are going on hikes with teachers or parents with minimal outdoor experience. Increasing the discrete signage and documentation both electronic, threw QR codes, and cards in the trail packs will increase the value of the hikes.

Most of this work can be done at home. I think between myself and one other MN we could have much of this done by Spring. LLELA has good lists made already we could work from.

2) Suzanne would also greatly appreciate help with trail maintenance. She and her husband have been doing the majority of the work on the weekends and evening and any other time off, leaving them little time for anything else. Suzanne has had a few Eagle Scouts clear some new trails, build bridges and benches.

I think recruiting more Girl and Boy Scouts as well as National Honor Society kids could make a huge dent on the light trail chores like trimming Green Briar, small branches and picking up trash. These groups require volunteerism and LISDOLA is familiar to many of them. It would also have the side benefit of getting more children outdoors experiencing nature.

For the bigger tasks I would find a couple of MN volunteers to devote 1-2 days a month chain saw work and heavy lifting.

3) Around the classrooms are several display gardens that have been neglected. Some were originally created by the Master Gardeners. At this point they need major work. Suzanne would like them to be Native Plants demonstration gardens. One of the demonstration areas is a wet land also in need of work including invasive plant removal. Lastly, Suzanne would love an area to demonstrate to the children the effects of trash and pollution on our lakes/water supply. The suit case versions are too small for her application. Her vision is to create a super size version in one of the garden areas.

I plan to approach the Master Gardens for help with the gardens. I would also like to bring in some of the community when we are to the planting stage. I want all the plants labeled with planting information. In hopes of inspiring the adults of the community to plant more native plants in their home gardens. I would need many volunteers on the gardens initially. Maintenance could be weekly or biweekly by just a few.

4) Assist with outdoor education class, as needed. The children are elementary age.