Today, youth spend half as much time outdoors as previous generations. The intended focus & goal of this project is to engage the local community and get more people into nature by: (1) using technology to excite & make the public aware of a school trail & (2) planting a native garden in a school park to attract both local community members & pollinators!

### Digitizing a Hebron Nature Trail

**Procedures**

- **Approval:** Spoke with town officials to create an interactive map
- **Site:** Hebron Elementary School Nature Trail
- **Mapping:**
  - Mapped trail system and marked natural landmarks/attractions using a smartphone GPS app (track kit: [http://track-kit.net/](http://track-kit.net/))
  - Took pictures that were linked to each waypoint/landmark
- **Editing:** Uploaded the map to google maps & refined icons & pop-up window to make it interactive
- **Publishing:** Worked with Town Planner to make map available on town website
- **Interactive map:** [goo.gl/JACh1v](http://goo.gl/JACh1v)

### Native Planting at Local Memorial Garden

**Additional Background**

- **Pollinators:** Crucial to the reproduction of flowering plants
- **Types of local pollinators:** Bees, butterflies, beetles & birds
- **Purpose:** Pollination is necessary for about 75% of the world’s crop production
- **Stressors:** Loss of natural habitat, increased agricultural demand, exposure to certain pesticides
- **Implications:** Loss of pollinators will affect the natural resources that humans depend on for survival

**Procedures**

- **Goal:** Plant a garden area that would attract bees & butterflies
- **Approval:** Got approval from school administrators
- **Site:** Memorial Garden at RHAM High School
- **Picking trees and ground cover:**
  - Multiple visits to Pride’s Corner (a local nursery) to discuss pros & cons of pollinator trees
  - Worked with master gardener Laura Gauthier
  - Decided on trees rather than native plants because they are maintenance free
- **Community involvement:** RHAM Leos’ Club (youth organization of the Lions’ Club), Hebron Parks & Rec
- **Layout planning:** RHAM HS principal, school grounds crew, Hebron Parks & Rec, Leos’ Club & Pride’s Corner Farms
- **Planting process:**
  - Measured & painted 3 six ft. circles for trees
  - Parks & Rec dug holes for trees
  - Set cobblestones & mulch to prevent weeds
  - Planted 3 Spring Snow (Malus ‘X’) trees & Periwinkle (Vinca minor) groundcover

**Results & Next Steps**

- Trees will have white flowers & the groundcover will have purple flowers in the spring, attracting bees & butterflies
- Adds to the beauty of the Memorial Garden
- Leos’ Club will add & maintain pollinator friendly perennial flowers in the spring

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Lisa Eldridge & Kyra Byrne
Hebron Green Committee; Roger Williams University