

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

PROJECT Citizen



Reforeoresting Land

On the island of Jamestown, Rhode Island, officials have begun replanting trees in a large area between two local schools. The land had once been covered with trees, but the trees became diseased and had to be cut down. Thanks to the efforts of a Project Citizen class, trees will grow there once again.

Community Connection Students at Jamestown's Lawn Avenue School noticed that when the diseased trees near their school were removed, no new trees were planted. The students researched city statutes and discovered that local laws require that any trees that are cut down must be replaced. The town council even appoints a tree warden whose job includes helping to ensure compliance with this law.

Taking Action The students decided that, according to the law, the trees that had been near their school should be replanted. "Students did a wonderful job utilizing community resources to address the problem," said teacher Maureen McGuirl. The students contacted the tree warden, town workers, and staff members at their school. One problem facing the group was how to pay for the new trees. The problem was solved when the tree warden applied for and received a grant to pay most of the costs. The local school board also agreed to contribute. Volunteers from the community helped city workers prepare the land for replanting. Soon these new trees will cover the area.



Students worked with the local tree warden and the town council to get new trees planted at their school.

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Project Citizen

KEYWORD: SZ7 CH22

SERVICE LEARNING

1. What environmental and legal problems did students identify in their community?
2. How did the students work with town employees to help the project succeed?