



Pelkie Elementary School

Community Partners

- Copper Country Audubon
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Baraga High School Shop Class
- Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College

120 Students

4 Teachers

Community members and parents that I have shared our vision with are excited, and think it is a wonderful activity for the students. Once the plantings are completed and have time to grow, community members will be able to enjoy the trees, birds, flowers, and benches and they can sit among the flowers.

-- Teacher quote

Native Species of Pelkie

First Grade: Bird Observation

First graders will observe and record the number and types of birds visiting their schoolyard, and how those numbers change with the addition of trees, shrubs, and other plantings by the kindergarteners. First graders will also construct birdfeeders and place them around the school grounds. The data collected will be given to the Copper Country Audubon Club and the National Project Feeder Watch program. Students plan to continue their observations for many years to come.

Second Grade: Groundwater Study & Invasive Plants

Second graders will investigate groundwater and how they can protect their local groundwater, the Sturgeon River, and birds and native vegetation by looking for alternatives to pesticides used to control spotted knapweed.

More Park Improvements:

More park enhancements next to Pelkie School include providing wood benches and interpretive signs to tell the public about their project and what they are learning about native plants, birds, and the protection of groundwater.

Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students along with teachers at Pelkie Elementary School have some big plans. All 120 students have embarked on a Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative project with the goal of improving the public park behind their school and planting native species to attract birds, bees, and butterflies. The project will provide students with an opportunity to learn about their community while meeting a community need.

Kindergarten: Planting Trees

Kindergarteners will plant a line of trees along the north end of the park to provide a wind break and habitat for birds. As the trees mature, their shade will provide welcome relief to fairgoers and visitors during the hot summer months.





Project Kick-off: April 16, 2009

- ☀ Kindergarteners played "Every Tree for Itself" to learn what happens to trees when they don't get enough nutrients, water, and sunlight.
- ☀ First graders made pinecone birdfeeders with peanut butter and seeds.
- ☀ Second graders learned about groundwater pollution by making a groundwater model in a cup with cereal and milk.



Kindergarten

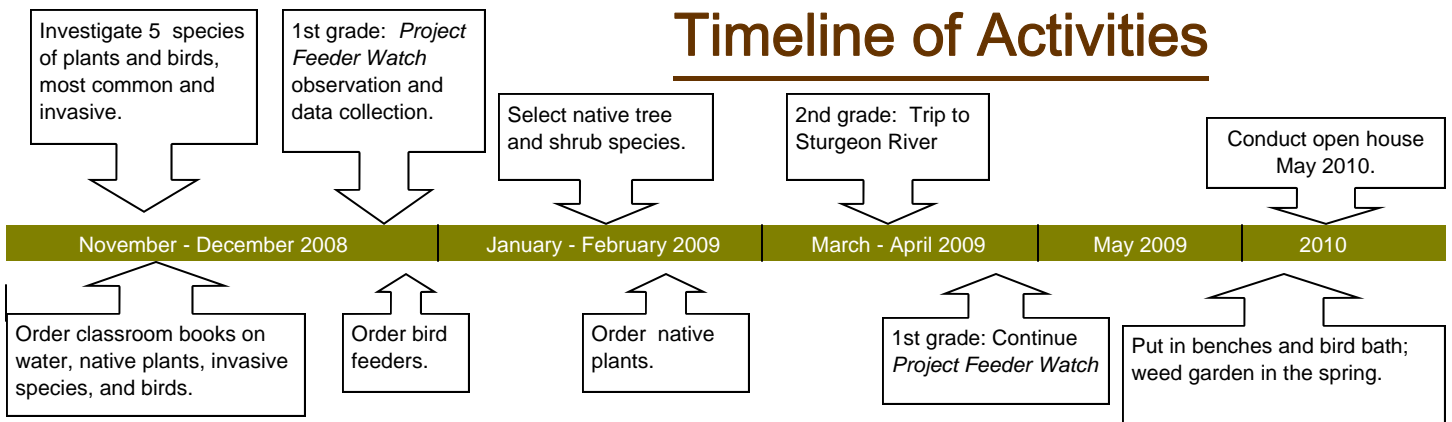
1st Grade

2nd Grade

Student Quotes

- "It will be really cool to see the birds and small animals in our trees. We can learn about roots, bark, leaves, and branches."
-Kindergarten student
- "It will be fun to put food out for the birds. We may see a sparrow. My favorite part of the project will be to watch them eat and see how many different ones come."
-First grade student
- "It will be fun to learn what ground water is and where it goes. I want to learn about the dirt in water."
-Second grade student

Timeline of Activities



Trees, Trees, Trees!!

Kindergarten students planted three rows of trees (White spruce, Mountain Ash, and Serviceberry) on the west side of the school. Sixth grade student volunteers and one board member planted Blue Spruce around the birdfeeders.