

# LTESMS Environmental Improvement Projects

The projects on this list are environmental improvement projects that could be completed or initiated during the 2005-2006 school year at Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School (LTESMS). The list will be modified and prioritized by teacher, classroom and parent interests, and input from community partners.

These projects are not expected to require TRPA permits, nor to require major funding. They will, however, require the support of the school district as well as some funding, donated labor, and donated materials. The list with photos is followed by a map showing the location of each project.

The intent is to plan these projects and provide supporting instruction during the winter, and then implement the projects in the spring. More information is available on each of these projects, and additional projects are available for consideration in the 2006-2007 school year and beyond.

1. Forest thinning in playground area: the forest northwest of the playground would be thinned, increasing forest health and reducing fire risk, and has the additional benefit of allowing students to play in the forest and be visible to yard duty



2. Planting in the flagpole area: a portion of the boundary would be fenced to prevent vehicle damage but still allow snow storage, and the area would be planted with native and colorful wildflowers, replacing much of the current grass (irrigation is available)



3. Planting behind the stage: the bare area behind the stage would have its soil amended, and then native shrubs would be planted which can take the summer heat on this southeast facing wall and winter snow load; a portion of the water currently going into the gutter and downspouts could be infiltrated (irrigation is available in the memory garden and could be temporarily extended to this area)



4. Schoolyard habitat: planning would start on a schoolyard habitat northwest of the playground; this area has a dirt mound, level ground, and basin which would provide different soil moisture for plants; ideas under consideration include a butterfly garden, native trees for instruction and shade, and a recirculating creek with aquatic life; actual construction might start in the 2006-2007 school year (irrigation would have to be extended from the field)



5. Courtyard greenhouse: planning and grant application would start for a greenhouse area in the interior courtyard, which would be roofed and have raised planter boxes for propagating native plants for use here and on other restoration projects (with possible entrepreneurial project), as well as food plants for instruction; the school food waste composting program would provide compost to the greenhouse; rood construction and use could start in this school year if funding is obtained, but most would be next school year (irrigation is not currently available and would need to be brought in)

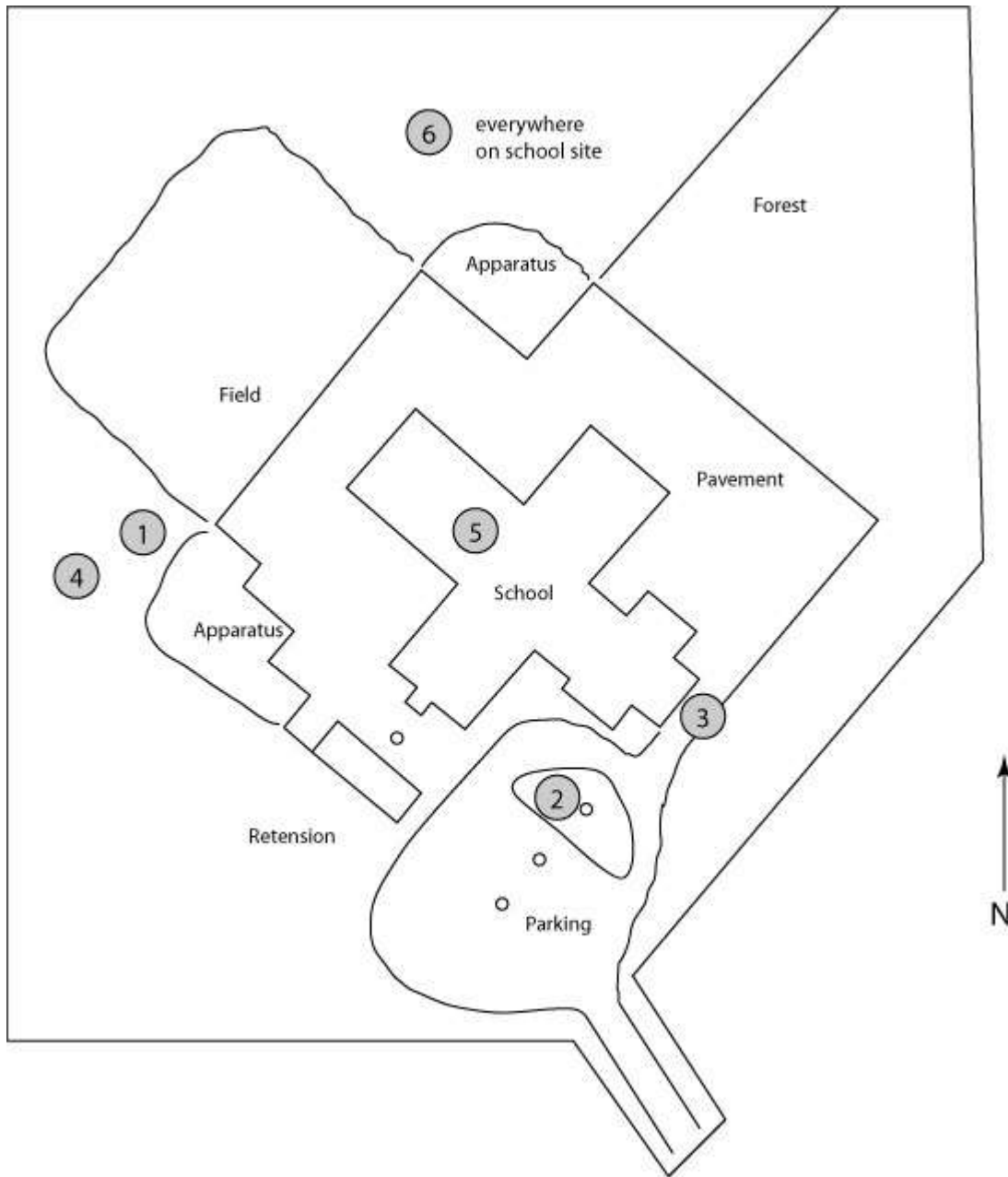


6. Photomonitoring: Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD) will implement a photomonitoring program which will document existing water infiltration patterns and snow storage, and the changes which occur as projects are implemented; students may have a role in this program

Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships (SWEP) and other community partners will provide classroom presentations and schoolyard activities to supplement regular classroom curriculum and which supports these environmental improvement projects. Topics may include schoolyard mapping, soils and water infiltration, plant roles in creating healthy soils and using water; native and non-native plants, watershed, erosion and storm runoff, as well as other topics identified by the teachers.

During this school year the TRCD, working with the school district and community partners, will create an existing conditions site plan and a proposed projects site plan for the entire school campus, which will allow major projects requiring TRPA permitting to move forward in the 2006-2007 school year and beyond.

For more information, please contact Dan Allison, SWEP, [dan@4swep.org](mailto:dan@4swep.org), 775-882-2375; Scott Cecchi, TRCD, [scott-cecchi@ca.nacdn.net](mailto:scott-cecchi@ca.nacdn.net), 530-543-1501 x114; or Diana Reiner, [reinertahoe@aol.com](mailto:reinertahoe@aol.com), 530-543-2240, or at the school.



Lake Tahoe Environmental Science Magnet School (Meyers)