

Healthy Lawn Initiative

A recent report came out showing that there are elevated blood lead levels for many children in South Bend. One of the main area's of concern was the Southeast Neighborhood. While elevated levels are a concern, there are many practical things that can reduce lead exposure, making a household safer and healthier. The Bowman Creek Educational Ecosystem aims to reach out to neighborhood homes that might be at-risk for lead hazards. By addressing soil hazards outside through low-cost landscaping and teaching proper cleaning techniques inside, the community will have more beautified, safer and healthier homes.

What To Do

To help make a yard healthier a household should decrease lead hazards in and around the home. There are several ways to do this, but some low-cost solutions include:

- Mulching
 - Decreases the amount of bare soil that can become airborne
- Raised Garden Beds
 - Useful for covering a larger area of exposed bare soil
- Stone Walkway
 - Can be utilized in high traffic areas to prevent soil from being tracked into the home
- Repainting
 - By repainting, it helps prevent chipping paint

Our Budget

Budget		
Individual Component Cost	Low End	High End
Mulch:	\$0	\$371.25
Raised Vegetable Bed:	\$125.80	\$545.80
Stepping Stone Walkway:	\$90	\$90
Repainting Friction Surfaces:	\$30.00	\$30.00
Total:	\$245.80	\$1,037.05

There are approximately 900 homes in the Southeast Neighborhood. The current proposed solution includes solutions that beautify the lawn and are practical for families. In order to implement a widespread solution, we are utilizing resources like free mulch and compost from the Organic Resources Depot in South Bend and volunteer labor. To make this an even more practical solution, donations of paint, wood, stepping stones, or plants will allow there to be more homes impacted.



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Want to Participate?

We are looking for homes that would like to participate in the healthy lawn initiative. Bowman Creek Educational Ecosystem would provide the materials and labor, and work with the resident to improve the home in terms of curb appeal and safety. After this opportunity, you would become a resource for other neighbors to connect with about easy ways to improve a home in terms of lead safety

