

PART B: SUMMARY OF GREEN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Elbridge Gale Elementary is a Certified National Wildlife habitat dedicated to teaching and promoting environmental conservation and sustainability. Our gardens were made possible through local community partnerships. These gardens include: an Aquaponics growing system, a floating hydroponic bed, eighteen raised garden beds, vertical hydroponic garden system, 2 newly installed vertigro recirculation vertical garden units, butterfly gardens, six bird houses, a sun dial, and six rain barrels. Students maintain the gardens and sell produce they harvest themselves. Students are given the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of gardening through classroom activities and afterschool clubs throughout the year. Native trees and shrubs grow throughout our campus. These plantings provide authentic learning opportunities in Florida environmental plant study while students observe seasonal changes. Our Outdoor Classroom allows lessons to be conducted where students can enjoy the outdoors. These Outdoor Classroom areas include a newly build chickee hut, a butterfly garden and a spacious courtyard area. All staff and students are involved in recycling office paper, and commingled materials. A team of teachers and students together coordinate this recycling collection. SACC students collect plastic bottle caps for a nonprofit organization in an effort to raise funds to buy wheelchairs for disabled children. Our school is also involved in the TerraCycle recycling initiatives and the copier/printer cartridge recycling program. Green messages are provided on our marquee and are found in our school weekly newsletters. Throughout the year students learn the importance of keeping our environment cleared of litter through campus clean-up by various classes and beach clean-up events. By conducting environmental lessons, recycling programs and supporting environmental responsibility we are modeling the interdependence of all living things. Students are encouraged to participate in outside community activities that promote environmental awareness and healthy living. Our namesake, Elbridge Gale was an amateur horticulturalist who hybridized the Hayden Mango. He was also an early superintendent of schools and it is important for us to honor him through our gardening activities. A Hayden Mango tree was donated and planted by students on the school campus. This Hayden Mango tree will serve as a reminder of our namesake for current and future staff members and students.