Harry - Creating a butterfly garden from a bare patch

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

At our school there was a garden that was meant to turn into a Japanese garden but then that didn't really work out, so then we decided on a butterfly garden. It was all just overgrown and not very nice, it was pretty bare before and there were lots of weeds. Now it's a butterfly garden.

We made the path wider so you can fit more people on, we got some rocks out because there were quite a few rocks, and bought new plants that attract butterflies. The plants not only attract them but they can feed off of them, and one of the types is a *Goodenia*.

We ended up putting mulch and manure down to help the plants grow, and we are going to be continuing this through the years because it is our last year and now we have to start including the Year 6s so that they can have an understanding about how to keep it going. There's just weeds everywhere, so every day we water the plants, go weeding, then you come back the next day and there's loads of weeds so it's just an ongoing process.

Who has been working with you?

There are three leaders in our school, I'm one of them, we're in the SRC group and we're the environmental group, then we got together a bigger group to help out with the garden and it's worked out very well. It's been student-led, there's one teacher which is the Environmental teacher. For promotion, we've walked around to other classes and talked about what's happening and reminded them not to stand on the plants, and also in assemblies, so some of the parents knew from that.

Biggest success?

The biggest success is that it's not a wasted part of land anymore, not just overgrown. It's been really fun getting out there and gardening and planting.

Your advice to other students?

My advice would be mainly to definitely put mulch down because then you don't have to water as much because the moisture will stay underneath.

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Harry's words and opinions.

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