

ACGC School project solves a problem, wins an award

August Snapshots 2017

The Atwater, Cosmos, Grove City (ACGC) School in Atwater had a problem. During heavy rains the bituminous courtyard outside the school would fill with water and eventually spill through the threshold of a back door into the school building and the hallways.

Luckily, the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District had a solution. Using money from a 2015 Clean Water Fund Community Partners grant and the City of Atwater, the Watershed District teamed up with the ACGC Youth Energy Summit (YES!) team, the city of Atwater, and the school administration and staff to incorporate porous pavers and a stormwater planter/tree trench in the court yard of the ACGC Elementary School.



Lucius Jonett, engineer and city staff and school maintenance staff during the initial project assessment.



Construction of the trench.

The ACGC YES! team helped during the design and will and will promote the project this spring when they take the lead on planting and installing a stormwater educational plaque near the tree trench.

The collaboration and hard work of the partners did not go unnoticed. At the January 3, 2017 MFCRWD Board meeting the ACGC project was unanimously voted on as best project of 2016. The partnership between the watershed district, the School, the City, and the Youth Energy Summit is a great example of how groups within a community can work together to resolve problems and improve water quality at the same time

Both of these practices will reduce the amount of water accumulating in the courtyard by allowing excess water to soak into the ground, rather than pooling and running off. These practices also promote groundwater recharge.



Members of the YES! team at project completion. L-R left to right: Sean Gilbert, Samantha Gilbert, Coach Gabra Lokken, Maintenance Supervisor Tom Fordyce, and Coordinator Mai Ali