



## Vista Unified School District Service Learning Project Spring 2015

### Backyard Habitat Restoration – Casita Elementary School

Casita students tackled a problem in their own backyard. A disused area of their playground was in need of attention. Mr Karpinen's students decided to research and develop plans for a play area that would be fun for them and sensitive to the natural habitat and its residents. They worked with local engineer Tory Walker to learn about water flow, watersheds, and natural habitat. The students took what they had learned and developed plans for the space that they presented to the Casita Natural Habitat Committee.



During the project students:

- Worked in teams to generate ideas for the Backyard Habitat.
- Researched key issues with resident expert.
- Created visual representations of their ideas with detailed written descriptions.
- Produced Google Slide presentations depicting their ideas.

Through this project students were able to accomplish several Common Core and CTE standards, such as:

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- Communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
- Interpret information and draw conclusions, based on the best analysis, to make informed decisions.



Turn to the next page to view students in action!



**TORY R. WALKER ENGINEERING**  
RELIABLE SOLUTIONS IN WATER RESOURCES