



NCEMGVA 2022 Inspire Connect Empower Project Grant Recipient

Haywood County: Submitted by B. Refinski-Knight and D. McKee

Project Title: Garden Classroom Pavers

Category: Continuing Project **Funding:** \$300

Description: For 12 years, the Haywood County Master GardenerSM Volunteers have worked with other parent and community volunteers to teach gardening to first and second grade students at a Title 1 school in rural Haywood County. The classes include a hands on component and are taught in an outdoor classroom at picnic tables that sit on the ground.

When it rains, the ground under the tables becomes a huge mud puddle. When grass or weeds grow under the tables, the grounds keeper sprays herbicides, which expands the size of the muddy area and causes the paint on the tables to deteriorate.

Garden Classroom Pavers project will level the ground, keeping the areas under the tables dry and preserving the paint on the tables. This improvement will allow greater use of the outdoor classroom which will lead to increasing the learning capacity and improving the knowledge of the students.