



MISSOURI
GREEN SCHOOLS
PROMOTING WELLNESS FOR ALL



2018 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Honoree Green Trails Elementary



Students created pollination seed packets using seeds harvested from the garden.

Green Trails is a public school in the Parkway District in St. Louis. Over 17% of students have limited English proficiency, 30% have limited mobility and 11.9% receive FRPL. Many years ago, the school started with the simple step of turning off lights after students left the building. It now uses a Whole School Sustainability approach to inform all its actions. **Sustainability** - The school actively works to recycle not only single stream items (like straws) but also all of their electronics scrap, light bulbs and ballasts, construction and demolition scrap metal, old carpet, and old furniture.



- **Health** - This year the school doubled daily recess time from 20 minutes once a day to 20 minutes twice a day. Although initially teachers were concerned about the loss of instruction, benefits include increased focus in the classroom, and a 19% decrease in office referrals, which climbed to 31% when the breaks could take place outside.
- **Learning** - The surrounding neighborhood has been greatly impacted by the focus on nature and eating more healthfully. Parents report children requesting home gardens and specific vegetables because they have had experience growing and caring for them.

[Green Trails Elementary's Nomination Form](#)