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## Ridge View's Mighty Acorns study preservation and restoration



Contributed by Matt Huguenard

HOBART | Ridge View Elementary fifth graders are in the first stage of this school year's stewardship of preservation and restoration entitled Mighty Acorns. This is Ridge View's fourth year of the Mighty Acorns program for fifth graders. Ridge View's stewardship aids Greiner Nature Preserve, located southwest of the intersection of Liverpool Road and Old Ridge Road in Hobart, behind Ridge View School. Greiner is a 73-acre property ecotone (transitional landscape) that ranges from black oak savanna, to wet prairie, to swamp.

Fifth graders, with Shirley Heinze Land Trust, work at nursing Greiner back to health. Today, students learned about their local environment and helped collect seeds of native species for future planting. Our goal is to help and restore the natural area, making it less dependant on humans to maintain it.

"I love helping the environment. It makes you feel good to help Mother Nature," said Manuel Soria-Negron, fifth grade student.

Shirley Heinze offers educational programs to inform the public about our area's rich natural history and provides numerous volunteer opportunities. For information on volunteering or to make a donation: <http://www.heinzetrust.org/>

To view the entire Mighty Acorns photo gallery, visit: <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.424252107622113.87087.153182408062419&type=1>