Creek Care Crew

How neighbors protect shared water and wildlife

6.C.4.6 "Describe the role of citizens as responsible stewards of natural resources and the environment (e.g., recycling campaigns, water conservation, national parks, protection of wildlife preserves)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three different actions people take to care for the park. Circle the natural resource or living thing each action helps protect.

A Plan for Pine Creek

1 After a heavy rain, Maya noticed wrappers floating near the footbridge at Pine Creek Park. The creek carried water past homes and into a larger river. Fish lived in its shallow pools, and families walked beside it. Maya learned that rain can wash litter from streets into storm drains and then into the creek. She and her neighbors could not fix every problem alone, but they could act as stewards, people who care for shared natural resources. Their first step was to find out where the trash came from.

2 On Saturday, volunteers found most loose wrappers near the picnic tables. Maya asked the park office for permission to hold a cleanup and place a covered trash bin nearby. Neighbors picked up litter with gloves and sorted clean cans and bottles for recycling. Recycling uses old materials to make new goods, reducing the need for raw materials. They also posted signs asking visitors to use the bin. The cleanup removed trash already on the ground, while the bin and signs helped keep new trash from reaching the creek.

3 The group also noticed that water from a drinking fountain ran down the path when its button stuck. Maya reported the broken fountain to park staff, who repaired it to stop wasting water. Volunteers stayed on marked trails so they would not crush plants beside the creek, where insects and birds found shelter. The park staff could maintain facilities, but visitors had a part to play too. By sharing what they found and changing daily habits, the neighbors helped protect both water and wildlife.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the cleanup and the new bin protect the creek in different ways?

2. How did Maya and park staff work together to conserve water?

3. Why was staying on marked trails a way to protect wildlife?

4. How did sorting cans and bottles for recycling help conserve natural resources?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In a community garden, wind is blowing bare soil away, and few bees visit the plants. Write three sentences describing two actions neighbors could take, how each action protects soil or wildlife, and how you would invite others to help.

ANSWER KEY

Creek Care Crew

GRADE 6 · 6.C.4.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three different actions people take to care for the park. Circle the natural resource or living thing each action helps protect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the cleanup and the new bin protect the creek in different ways?	**The cleanup removed litter already on the ground. The bin helped keep new litter from reaching the creek.**
2	How did Maya and park staff work together to conserve water?	**Maya reported the stuck fountain button, and park staff repaired it to stop wasting water.**
3	Why was staying on marked trails a way to protect wildlife?	**It kept visitors from crushing plants that provided shelter for insects and birds.**
4	How did sorting cans and bottles for recycling help conserve natural resources?	**Recycling uses old materials to make new goods, reducing the need for raw materials.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors could cover bare soil with mulch to keep wind from carrying it away. We could plant native flowers to give bees food. I would invite neighbors to a garden workday by posting a notice at the community center.

For the marking job, accept any three actions in the passage paired with a resource or living thing they help protect. For Your Turn, accept feasible actions that address soil and bees, explain both benefits, and include a way to involve others.