

Walden III

Walden III Middle/High School, 1012 Center St., Racine, WI 53403 (262) 664-6250

In The Process of Discovery

Robert A. Holzem - Principal
Chris Semrad - School Coordinator

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RACINE, WI 53403

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To the Racine Common Council,

On behalf of the Walden III Green School, I would like to propose a project that involves painting the street at the intersection of 10th and Center streets. Walden students and neighbors would participate in this "intersection repair" project. The student body will hold a contest to come up with the best design to paint. We would apply for block party permits to block off the intersection on a Saturday in late May or early June. We would use the appropriate water based traffic paint designed for use on cement.

This type of project has been successfully done in various cities around the country, but we understand that there are some potential concerns with the project. The first of these is that the mural would be a distraction to traffic or would otherwise interfere with traffic control at the intersection. In the other examples around the country, the murals have, in fact, had the opposite effect, slowing traffic. We will also be choosing a design that will not be distracting to drivers, and which will fit inside all four crosswalks so that they remain clearly outlined. Mr. Yehlen expressed some concern about how painted cement is slippery when wet. Fortunately, there are aggregates specifically designed to add to paint which would lessen or eliminate this problem.

Another potential concern is regarding the upkeep of the mural. Mr. Yehlen estimated that, because of plowing, the mural would likely be significantly degraded after a year. Because of this, we plan to make the painting of this intersection a yearly tradition to maintain a high quality image. Walden, and more specifically, the Green School, has maintained high quality in the projects executed in the past, as shown by the school rain garden and outdoor classroom and the school-made mosaic in Franklin Park, and a number of other installations. In the past we have also raised funds to install a 14Kw photovoltaic system on the roof of our school, held a successful neighborhood block party and raised funds and helped to insulate a senior citizen's home near Walden. We are confident that we can execute and maintain the intersection repair project.

We have already spoken to Alderwoman Melissa Kaprelian-Becker and Mayor Dickert about this project, and both expressed interest and support for the project. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, we hope that you will contact us at the number below.

Sincerely,


Adam Rutkowski
Walden Student
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