7th Graders Plant Native for Pollinators and Pollution Prevention

One hundred twenty 7th grade students at Wildwood Middle School participated in the PHLOW Grow a Garden program this fall. This was the second time Cacapon Institute worked with lead teacher Carolyn Thomas to improve Wildwood's campus, this year with a hands-on planting project to plant a native pollinator garden to beautify the courtyard.

Cacapon Institute led students in two one-hour classroom education lessons to introduce students to watersheds, stormwater pollution, and the role that native plants play in healthier streams and productive pollinators. Students investigated the role of native plants as habitat for bees and butterflies along with the ability of rain gardens to protect our streams.



Students assisted in the planting of over one hundred native flowers and shrubs in their courtyard which were obtained from American Native Nursery. Groups of students were responsible for a portion of the courtyard and assisted with

planning, weeding, and mulching the area and will continue to care for their individual plants.



The Grow a Garden program is designed to inform students of the critical importance of having native gardens in our communities to reduce the amount of pollution entering our streams and create habitat for native pollinators.