

# School Grounds and Gardens

## Franklin Pierce High School

The Global Challenges classes used the school grounds as their classroom and initiated lasting environmental changes at Franklin Pierce High School. By applying concepts learned in class, the students conducted outdoor field investigations that assessed and mapped the current state of the school grounds. They were looking for notable features that have benefits to both humans and wildlife.

The students quickly learned that the school grounds had almost no native plants and provided very little habitat to support wildlife. So, in small teams, the classes designed plans for achievable stewardship actions they could take to improve the school grounds.

Some of the initial activities included: planting native and edible plants, building bird nesting boxes and feeders, building insect hotels and mason bee boxes, and adding mulch to existing planted areas. Future project plans include harvesting rain water using rain barrels.



### Lessons:

- School Yard Ecosystem Simulation
- School Yard Ecosystem Mapping
- Valuing Nature
- Washington Green Schools—School Grounds Assessment
- School Grounds Improvement Plans—Small Group Modeling & Design
- Small Group Improvement Plan Presentations
- Improvement Plan Action Project Implementation

### Project:

- The students designed school grounds improvement plans to enhance both human and wildlife needs on campus.

### Partnerships:

- Harvest Pierce County
- Pierce County Public Works

