



## THE PROJECT: POLLINATOR GARDEN

Launched by Seamus and Owen Murphy, this project is the beginning of a multi-year sustainable beautification effort that will focus on creating additional green spaces across the school campus to foster an environment for native flowering plants and shrubs that will attract pollinators such as hummingbirds and butterflies. They planned to include a watering system for the new flowering plants as well as the butterflies and birds. The students were able to find two areas on campus that would work for creating an ideal space for native pollinator plants and received approval from the school administration to move forward.

**Project Type:** Garden

**Students Involved:** 20

**Staff Involved:** 2

**Location:** Chicago

**Grade Levels Involved:** 9 - 12th

**Number of Students Impacted:** 20



We are in our final stages of planting the week of 5/20 and have a plan in place to take care of the pollinators over the summer. Our hopeful outcome is that in 3 years it will be a beautiful native pollinator area.

- Austin Bilotto



## PROCESS

The Environmental Club first invited botanical experts from the Lake Catherine Nature Center in Palos Heights to help identify the ideal locations to grow native flowering plants and shrubs. The participating students then had to remove the sod from their chosen garden spaces, till the soil and add fertilizer, and then plant the different native pollinator plants. They did research on the best types of plants to attract pollinators and leveraged a \$500 mini grant from the Illinois Green Schools project to purchase the various plants used on the project.



## OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Overall, the project created additional green space on campus that students and faculty can enjoy from their classroom windows or while walking outdoors around the school grounds. The participating students were in the final stages of planting during the week of May 20th and they have a plan in place to take care of the pollinator plants over the summer. Their target outcome is that within three years, their garden will have bloomed into a beautiful native pollinator area.

