

Pleasantdale Elementary

2023 First Place - Elementary School Division



The Project:

As this year's ILGSP 1st Place Elementary School Winner, Pleasantdale Elementary students learned about the importance of native plants and how to compost their snack food scraps. The school year's project involved collecting and distributing native plant seeds and building an educational "Seed Library" in the Pleasantdale Butterfly Garden.

Project Focus: Waste Reduction & Outdoor Learning Space

Staff Involved: 5

Location: Milledgeville, IL

Students: 111



We have 92 new composters at our school, who will carry this skill with them at home and as they grow. - Kara Mulder



The Process:

The kindergarteners started by building off last year's project by learning how to compost their snack food scraps. They practiced this throughout the school year by composting food scraps and napkins during their snack time. This project focuses on the reduction of food waste by teaching students about food scraps and composting at an early age. In the fall of 2022, the kindergarteners collected seeds from native plants in the butterfly garden, made special envelopes for the seeds, and brought seeds home to share with their families in the spring of 2023. The Daisy Girl Scout troop in 1st grade constructed a free seed library to share more seeds and educational material with the community so everyone can learn how to compost, reduce waste, and complete the loop. The seed library was made possible through the Illinois Green Alliance mini-grant, which paid for the materials including wood, a clear window, hardware, and paint. The seed library is now a beautiful addition to the Pleasantdale Butterfly Garden.

The Outcomes:

The faculty's long-term goal is to bring recycling to the entire school. There are currently two grade levels that have learned how to compost through the Illinois Green Alliance Green Schools program, and teachers hope to expand these lessons to all classes.