

Green Profile: Alderdice High School

A lush, vibrant rain garden containing a diverse range of flowering shrubs and perennials graces the school grounds at **Alderdice High School**.

Plants planted in the rain garden include:

'Blue Flag' iris

'Baby Sun' coreopsis

'White Swan' coneflower

'Purple Dome' aster

Number of plants planted:

4 Trees

17 Shrubs

396 Perennials



About the Green Profile

Funded by The Grable Foundation, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's School Grounds Greening Project brings children closer to nature by enhancing the grounds of Pittsburgh Public Schools with greenery and outdoor green spaces.

The *Green Profile* is a fact sheet that highlights the projects WPC has completed at each of the Pittsburgh Public Schools.



The Benefits of Greening



Educational Benefits

Students can learn first-hand how plants work to cleanse and protect the environment by observing Alderdice's rain garden (see 'Environmental' benefits). Student's also have the opportunity to learn in a beautiful, open-air setting thanks to a new outdoor classroom.

Beautification

Numerous species of trees, shrubs, and perennials make up Alderdice's rain garden. This wide variety of species creates a palette of vibrant colors, shapes, textures, and fragrances. Black-eyed Susans, for instance, produce sunny yellow flowers with dark brown rosettes or circular groups of leaves.



Environmental Benefits

Rain gardens have the ability soak up inches of water that runs off of paved surfaces and roofs during showers and storms. By absorbing this runoff into their roots, rain garden plants collectively prevent water runoff from flowing into storm drains and overflowing our sewers. The plants also help to reduce water pollution, since much of the water that flows over impermeable or nonabsorbent surfaces collects chemicals and other pollutants as it travels. By absorbing rain water instead of letting it flow, rain gardens help to keep our environment healthy and clean.

