

Green Profile: West Liberty (K-5)

West Liberty (K-5) features a beautiful natural play space abundant with flowering perennials, young trees, and a spacious grassy area where students can play.

Next to the play space sits a raised-bed garden. Each grade at West Liberty has its own garden plot where students have planted carrots, lettuce, beets, and other vegetables and flowers.

Number of plants planted:

- 9 Trees
- 70 Shrubs
- 216 Perennials
- 76 Ornamental grasses



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

Natural play spaces provide safe and engaging landscapes that inspire imaginative play. Manufactured play sets are often made of hard metals and plastics that can become uncomfortable on very hot or cold days. Their fixed, rigid structures also limit children's creativity. West Liberty's low-to-the-ground boulders, soft grasses, and colorful shrubs form a space where students can explore the wonders of nature and move about freely.

Beautification

20 different species of trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses grace the grounds of West Liberty. This diverse range of plants creates a palette of vivid colors, shapes, textures, and fragrances. Fragrant sumac, for instance, has coarsely toothed, bluish-green leaves and a pleasant aroma. 'Prairie Dropseed' grass has light, feathery foliage that turns a spectacular orange-yellow in the fall.



Environmental Benefits

The 9 trees planted at West Liberty are currently 2" in diameter. If they are well cared for and grow to 8", they have the potential (per year) to:

Absorb 7,444 gallons of storm water runoff

Conserve 356 kilowatt hours of electricity by cooling the building

Reduce atmospheric carbon by 1,963 pounds

\$428 in annual benefits!



Calculations provided by www.treebenefits.org