

Orchard View Intermediate



4th Graders Grow Trees for the Community and Cleaner Environment



Students at Orchard View Intermediate School, WV, have fully engaged in the Growing Native program. Between the education sessions, potting tree whips, and having a semi-permanent caged grow-out station, they are making a difference for their community and environment.

The 278 students spent four one-hour classroom education sessions learning about their local watershed, the Chesapeake Bay, stormwater runoff pollution, erosion, and the role trees play in keeping our river systems clean.



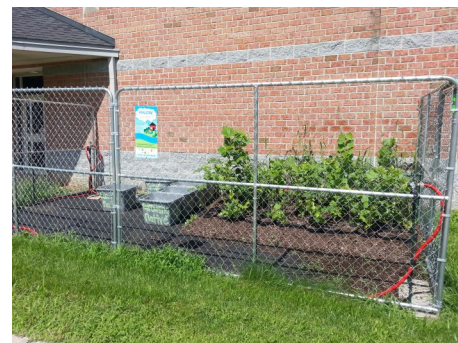
Education sessions were led by Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

Students planted two- and three - year-old tree seedlings or whips in five-gallon containers. Students reviewed the parts of a tree, and identified the most important area when planting a tree-the root collar.

This critical location is the transition zone between the trunk of the tree and the root system. This area is vital for proper planting depth. If planted too low it will lead to root rot and eventual death of the tree. Students checked, and doubled checked, to ensure proper depth throughout the process.

Students worked in partners to plant, name, and send well wishes to their new tree that will continue to grow in the school grow-out station. Following a year of growth the tree will be mature enough for the environmental pressures of being planted out in the community.

The grow-out station acts as a mid-point between the nursery and a community planting where it will have the proper protection, water supply, and time needed to develop further.



Currently there are two stations in Berkeley County and one station in Morgan County, WV, acting as community tree growing stations for surrounding schools to assist in refilling during future seasons of the Growing Native program.



Growing Native is a program of the Potomac Watershed Partnership funded by the USDA Forest Service.

