



Harborside Academy students help with native planting project

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENOSHA – Some 120 Harborside Academy students will get a hands-on science lesson this week at the lakefront, assisting the City with a native planting project in a Pennoyer Park infiltration basin. The basin was installed about 10 years ago to divert stormwater runoff and improve water quality before it enters Lake Michigan.

The ninth grader science class students will plant native plants that are a food source for birds and pollinators, after an invasive plant species (Phragmites) was removed by City staff in July. The infiltration basin is designed to use geographically low areas to filter and infiltrate water from storms. Native plants catch garbage, remove heavy metal pollutants and provide important native habitats for wildlife. Less pollutant in the lake means better water to drink, swim in, fish in, and live next to. The Kenosha Stormwater Utility aims to treat as much of the water as possible before it enters waterways.

Some of the plants the Harborside students will plant include Blue Flag Iris, Butterfly Weed, Western Sunflower, Wild Bergamont, Swamp Soulmate Milk Weed and more.

Students will take turns working in small groups with City staff to learn about and place the plants in the basin. Groups also will search for fossils on the beach with staff from the Kenosha Public Museum; and learn about watershed health, the fish rearing pond and water safety from representatives of the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network.