



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## THE “POLLINATORS IN PARKS” INITIATIVE CREATES A BUZZ AT STEM EVENT

Woodson Park Academy students learn science in the Park!

**Atlanta, GA, October 25, 2017** –In early October, [Park Pride](#) and the [Atlanta Botanical Garden](#), in collaboration with [West Atlanta Watershed Alliance](#), Grove Park community gardeners and the Atlanta Public School System, engaged 107 third-grade students from Woodson Park Academy in a fun-filled STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education event at the Grove Park Pollinator Garden. STEM lessons offer students learning experiences that closely reflect the real-world scenarios and professions that require skills crossing disciplines.

Grove Park Pollinator Garden, along with four other gardens in City of Atlanta parks, are part of the “[Pollinators in Parks](#)” initiative, funded by The Home Depot Foundation through the Building Community Network (BCN). The 100-square-foot gardens are intended to improve Atlanta’s long-term biodiversity and ecological health. They introduce native plants that provide foraging sites for nectar-loving pollinators in the spring, summer and fall, host plants for pollinator eggs and larvae, sheltering sites for overwintering pollinators, and seed sources for winter resident birds.

Education beyond the gardens is an important goal of the “Pollinators in Parks” initiative, and this event is one of two planned to inform the broader community about the benefits of pollinators and how they can be incorporated into parks and gardens. Throughout their morning in the park, Woodson Park Academy students partook in several hands-on activities that brought them up close and personal with pollinators, the mechanics of pollination, and different components of the local environment.

Students learned how cross-pollination occurs in nature when they became worker-bees in an exciting pollinator relay race. They used nets to examine bees and butterflies before releasing them back to the environment. They learned about the water cycle, the Proctor Creek Watershed, and the amphibians that live in the area. Students also enjoyed a guided tour of the Grove Park community garden from local gardeners and planted winter vegetables including kale, chard, lettuce, broccoli and collard greens (left).

Information about pollinators in the Atlanta region as well as the pilot pollinator gardens in Atlanta’s parks can be found online at [Greater Atlanta Pollinator Project](#). A second STEM educational activity is being planned for middle/high school level students.

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### **About The Home Depot Foundation:**

Since the first The Home Depot store opened in 1979, giving back has been a core value for the Company and a passion for its associates. Today, The Home Depot, in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation, focuses its philanthropic efforts on improving the homes and lives of U.S. military veterans and their families and aiding communities affected by natural disasters. Through Team Depot, the Company’s associate-led volunteer force, thousands of associates dedicate their time and talents to these efforts in the communities where they live and work.

Since 2011, The Home Depot Foundation has invested more than \$184 million in veteran causes, and along with the help of Team Depot volunteers, has transformed more than 30,000 homes and facilities for veterans. To learn more and see Team Depot in action, visit [www.homedepot.com/teamdepot](http://www.homedepot.com/teamdepot).

**About Park Pride:**

Park Pride is the Atlanta-based nonprofit that engages communities to activate the power of parks. Working with 90 local Friends of the Park groups, Park Pride provides leadership and services to help communities realize their dreams for neighborhood parks that support healthy people, strong neighborhoods, vibrant business districts, a robust economy and a healthy environment. Park Pride is active in greenspace advocacy and educating both civic leaders and the general public about the benefits of parks, and annually hosts the Parks and Greenspace Conference. Learn more about Park Pride at [parkpride.org](http://parkpride.org).

**About Atlanta Botanical Garden:**

The mission of the Atlanta Botanical Garden is to develop and maintain plant collections for display, education, research, conservation, and enjoyment. The Garden is located at 1345 Piedmont Ave. NE and open November through March from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and from April through October from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is \$21.95 adults, \$15.95 children 3-12, free to children under 3 and Garden members. For more information, visit [atlantabg.org](http://atlantabg.org) or phone 404-876-5859.