



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save the Sound®

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Save the Sound breaks ground on Platt Street bioswales

New rain-loving gardens will filter stormwater before it pollutes the West River, Long Island Sound

New Haven, Conn. – Save the Sound, a bi-state program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, broke ground today for the construction of four new bioretention gardens on Platt Street, adjacent to the Troup School campus. An excavator broke through grass and five feet of dirt to carve out the site of the first new garden, and construction workers in hard hats and neon vests followed with shovels and sledgehammers. The rain-loving gardens will help capture and filter polluted stormwater runoff from more than half an acre of roadway and sidewalk to prevent it from flowing into the West River and Long Island Sound.

“These new bioswales will help clean up the West River and bolster New Haven’s sustainability efforts,” said Kendall Barbery, green infrastructure program manager for Save the Sound. “In addition to filtering polluted water before it reaches the river and Sound, these gardens will make green infrastructure a more visible part of New Haven’s urban landscape, bringing new opportunities for sustainability education within reach of the Dwight neighborhood.”

“Installation of more bioswales in New Haven is welcome news because they’re both aesthetically pleasing in this urban setting, and they create additional habitat for plants and animals,” Mayor Toni N. Harp said. “Their function is a welcome supplement to the city’s environmental stewardship efforts as well: bioswales provide a natural filtering system for storm water runoff, returning clean water to the ground and adding cleaner water to streams, rivers, and Long Island Sound.”

The new bioswales are the latest in a series of Save the Sound green infrastructure initiatives designed to help restore the West River while educating local youth about the significance of stormwater management. Once construction of the new bioswales is completed in late April, a group of Troup School fourth graders will participate in an educational workshop and help fill the new garden with native and water-loving perennials.

Identified as part of the larger West River Watershed Management Plan, put forth by the West River Watershed Coalition of which Save the Sound is a leading partner, this project is funded through a United States Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 grant administered by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

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