



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save the Sound®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Laura McMillan
540-292-8429, lmcmillan@ctenvironment.org

THURSDAY: Save the Sound and Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven to install new rain gardens in West River Watershed

Green infrastructure collaboration teaches residents to manage stormwater at home

New Haven, Conn. – Save the Sound, a bi-state program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, is teaming with Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven (NHS) for the installation of **three new residential rain gardens in Newhallville and Beaver Hills starting this Wednesday, October 25**. The partnership is part of an ongoing collaboration designed to teach residents to efficiently manage stormwater at home and empower homeowners within the West River Watershed to increase their environmental sustainability.

On Saturday, November 4, local volunteers are invited to join Save the Sound and NHS to complete the program's seventh residential rain garden installation, with three to four additional rain garden installations slated to take place by next spring. Members of the public may **register for the November 4 planting by emailing restoration@savethesound.org**.

Under the direction of Save the Sound experts, two designated volunteer groups will complete the installations of residential rain gardens on October 25 and 28. During an open volunteer event, local volunteers will complete an additional rain garden installation from start to finish on Saturday, November 4, in the Beaver Hills neighborhood of New Haven. After excavating the ground site of the rain garden by hand, volunteers will refill the resulting hole with a mixture of sandy natural soil that supports stormwater absorption, and compost that provides nutrients for young plants as they establish new roots. The installation will complete with the planting of native and rain-loving perennials, which aid the garden's ability to divert stormwater from New Haven's sewer systems.

"When it rains, water runs off impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, and driveways, collecting pollutants along the way before entering storm drains. In the neighborhoods where we are installing rain gardens, these drains lead to the West River, which flows to Long Island Sound," **said Anna Marshall, green projects associate for Save the Sound**. "These rain gardens reduce the amount of stormwater runoff entering the West River by capturing water flowing off residential roofs and diverting it into a garden for plants to use. The result is a less polluted West River and Sound, and a beautified property."

This and all rain gardens installed as part of the program will capture and filter polluted stormwater runoff to prevent it from flowing into the West River and Long Island Sound while recharging local groundwater.

This project is funded in part through a United States Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 grant administered by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

What: Installation of three rain gardens to filter stormwater

When/Where:

Thursday, October 26, 2017

8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the Carriage Hill Condo Complex, 463-473 Whalley Ave.

Saturday, October 28, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Butler Street.

Saturday, November 4, 2017

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Winthrop Ave.

Contact Laura McMillan for specific event addresses.

Who: Anna Marshall, Save the Sound Green Projects Associate
Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven
Local volunteers (open to public on November 4 only)

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