



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Friends of the Bay Installs Two Raingardens at the Western Waterfront

Friends of the Bay this past weekend installed two raingardens on the Western Waterfront on the south shore of Oyster Bay Harbor.

The Western Waterfront Raingardens Project was made possible by a \$6000 grant from the Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund at the Long Island Community Foundation. Partners on the project are the Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary & Audubon Center. More than a dozen volunteers from Friends of the Bay and the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary with the help of the town installed the raingardens, which are located in front of the 9/11 Memorial, across from Building J, home of the Ida May Project.

Raingardens are landscapes that capture and treat stormwater runoff. Rainwater travels over roads, roofs, driveways and lawns, before draining into our waterways. Along the way it erodes and transports soils and degraded plant material, picks up trash, nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, trace metals, oils, bacteria and pesticides. These pollutants and sediments that are carried can degrade groundwater and surface water quality and result in the loss of aquatic habitat.

Raingardens help by reducing the flow rate of runoff, and the soil, bacteria and plants absorb much of the pollutants before they enter the groundwater and waterways.

The best plants for raingardens are those that thrive in a “drought and drench” environment. Native plants, like the ones used in these raingardens, require little or no fertilizer, are excellent food sources for pollinators, and provide habitat for birds, insects and butterflies. Once established, their deep roots increase the water-holding capacity of the soil, bind it together and prevent erosion.

For more information about Friends of the Bay, visit friendsofthebay.org.

Photos taken by Heather Johnson.

Rg1: Volunteers dig in to make space for the native plants.

Rg3: Some of the volunteers before planting.