



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Swansboro School Builds Rain Gardens

OCEAN – Students at Swansboro Elementary School joined community volunteers June 8 to plant two rain gardens with native plants at the school. While building the gardens, students learned about our coastal environment, did some hands-on science activities and learned the basics of environmental stewardship.

The N.C. Coastal Federation partnered with the school and the Onslow Soil and Water Conservation District to build and plant the rain gardens, which will collect and filter rain water from the school's roof and parking lot.

“Having the N.C. Coastal Federation take the time to come out and help my 22 kids have a great time and learn at the same time about planting different kinds of plants was definitely a memorable moment for all of us,” said teacher Kat Lester. “Some of them have never gotten their hands dirty ‘squishing’ the roots (as they liked to refer to it) of a plant and really understanding what it took to get all those plants in the ground.”

Rain gardens are simple but effective ways to reduce polluted stormwater runoff and coastal flooding. Also known as bioretention areas, rain gardens are small depressions planted with native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers that capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff before it enters a local waterway. These methods are effective because they mimic natural hydrology. Rain gardens also are pretty, provide natural habitat for birds and insects and promote sustainable landscaping practices.

Several grants paid for the school's rain gardens: the N.C. Community Conservation Assistance Program, a N.C. Beautiful Windows of Opportunity grant awarded to Lester and the N.C. Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program.

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