



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Volunteers Needed for Rain Garden in Manteo**

MANTEO – Here's your chance to learn about the main source of water pollution along the coast and to actually do something about it.

The N.C. Coastal Federation and Manteo need volunteers on Friday, May 21, to help plant a rain garden at the intersection of Grenville Street and Uppowoc Avenue. The planting will start at 1 p.m. and last about three hours.

Stormwater runoff is now the major pollutant degrading our coastal waters. Runoff from rain picks up a host of pollutants, including bacteria, before entering coastal rivers and sounds.

Rain gardens are attractive landscape features that capture and treat this polluted runoff before it reaches our waters. They are planted with native vegetation that can withstand droughts and periods of inundation.

The rain garden on Grenville Street is part of a joint project between the federation and Manteo. The non-profit group and the town have been identifying areas in Manteo where rain gardens and cisterns, which capture and hold runoff for reuse later, can be used. Last year, they installed a rain garden and cistern at Manteo Town Hall. The federation has also worked with the town to install rain gardens at Manteo Middle School, Manteo High School, the Front Porch Café and at the federation's Manteo office.

Designed in partnership with Kathy Mitchell, a local garden designer, this rain garden will capture runoff from Grenville Street and Uppowoc Avenue before it enters a storm drain leading to Shallowbag Bay.

For more information and to sign up for this event, contact Erin Fleckenstein, a coastal scientist at the federation, at [erinf@nccoast.org](mailto:erinf@nccoast.org) or at 252-473-1607. You can also contact Erin Trebisacci with the town at [trebisacci@townofmanteo.com](mailto:trebisacci@townofmanteo.com) or at 252- 473-2133.

Participants should meet at the federation's office, 128 Grenville St., at 1 p.m. Limited street parking is available. You can also park at the College of the Albemarle or Food A Rama. In the event of rain, we will postpone the planting until May 28 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.