



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Rain Garden Planting Set for River Run Plantation**

BOLIVIA — Volunteers will join the N.C. Coastal Federation in planting a rain garden at River Run Plantation subdivision on Nov. 3, 2010, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. They will be planting native plants, trees and shrubs in four newly built rain gardens at the community boat ramp adjacent to the Lockwood Folly River.

The federation is working with residents to design and install two stormwater-reduction projects in the subdivision. The projects are designed to capture stormwater runoff from the surrounding roads, parking areas and paved marina area. This work is part of a multi-year effort to identify and mitigate the causes of stormwater pollution within the Lockwood Folly River watershed. Stormwater is the number one source of water quality pollution in North Carolina.

The N.C. Coastal Federation is leading the effort in partnership with the Brunswick County Soil and Water Conservation District, Brunswick County Engineering Department and the N.C. Cooperative Extension Service. The district's Community Conservation Assistance Program is providing close to \$9,000 for the project through a grant from the N.C. Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program. The neighborhood homeowners association provided the necessary matching funds.

The rain gardens will help to slow down and soak up rain water flowing off the streets and parking areas that drain into the Lockwood Folly River from the community marina and boat ramp. Stormwater contains numerous types of pollutants, including bacteria. When the project is complete, the stormwater, sediment and other pollutants, will be re-directed and treated before it can reach the Lockwood Folly River.

Rain gardens are excavated and prepared depressions that are planted with native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers. They are designed to be aesthetically pleasing, provide natural habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife; promote sustainable design practices; and encourage environmental stewardship and community pride. They also serve as "living classrooms" by providing demonstrations of suitable stormwater reduction techniques that can be incorporated into backyards within the neighborhood.

Similar rain gardens were recently built and planted at the Winding River subdivision in Brunswick County as part of a comprehensive effort to reduce stormwater flowing into the Lockwood Folly River. To tour the completed project at Winding River and/or participate in the Nov. 3 planting contact Tracy Skrabal at [tracys@nccoast.org](mailto:tracys@nccoast.org).

Please note that the rain date is Nov. 4.

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