



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Tiller School Students Help Their Environment**

OCEAN – Whenever it rains, which it often does in Beaufort, the Tiller School parking lot becomes a lake. However, staff and students hope that planting over 200 native plants in two rain gardens will help with their flooding issue.

The school and its 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are partnering with the N.C. Coastal Federation to plant the rain gardens on Friday, May 20. The students have been learning about rain gardens, stormwater runoff and native plants throughout the school year.

The rain gardens are funded by Wal-Mart.

A rain garden is a shallow depression that is planted with native plants. It is designed to slow and capture rain, minimizing the amount of polluted stormwater runoff entering our coastal waterways. During a storm, a rain garden fills with water and then slowly filters it into the ground.

The federation encourages use of rain gardens because they provide habitat, reduce polluted stormwater runoff, reduce area flooding and recharge local groundwater supplies.

Students and the staff from the federation staff and the school will begin planting the rain gardens at 9:30 a.m. Media are invited to attend.

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### **About the North Carolina Coastal Federation -- “Citizens Working Together for a Healthy Coast”**

*The N.C. Coastal Federation is the state’s only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy and habitat restoration and preservation. The federation’s headquarters are at 3609 N.C 24 in Ocean between Morehead City and Swansboro and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The federation also operates offices in Wilmington and Manteo. For more information call 252-393-8185 or check out its website at [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org)*