



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Carteret Park to Reduce Polluted Runoff into White Oak River**

OCEAN – Volunteers will plant over 460 native plants in a recently built rain garden and wetland at Carteret County's Western Park in Cedar Point to control polluted stormwater that now flows into a tributary of the White Oak River.

The volunteers will plant native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers in the garden and wetland on Thursday, May 5, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Together with the mulch and soil, the plants will help capture and infiltrate runoff from the park's roads, parking lots and playing fields before it enters nearby Boathouse Creek and the White Oak River. These landscape features also provide natural habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife; promote sustainable design practices; and encourage environmental stewardship and community pride. Withers & Ravenel, an engineering firm in Raleigh, designed the rain garden and wetland, which are excavated depressions. J. Barber Enterprises, also of Raleigh, built them.

The volunteers will also be installing three pet waste receptacles on park grounds to reduce the amount of bacteria in stormwater runoff entering the creek.

The rain garden, wetland and pet waste receptacles are part of 10 measures that are being installed in Cedar Point to try and reduce the amount of stormwater entering the White Oak. Grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation's Community Conservation Assistance Program and the N.C. Attorney General's Environmental Enhancement Grant Program are paying for the work.

The N.C. Coastal Federation helped Cedar Point secure the EPA grant and is working with the town to implement the projects.

Most of the projects are included in the recommendations of a watershed restoration plan that the federation, Cedar Point and other partners devised two years ago after finding that stormwater runoff was carrying high levels of bacteria into the lower White Oak and closing shellfish beds.

If you want to get a little dirty and sweaty while helping the river, contact the federation's Lexia Weaver at 252-393-8185 or [lexiaw@nccoast.org](mailto:lexiaw@nccoast.org) for more information. Water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray and planting tools will be provided. Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and clothing that may get wet and dirty. All ages are invited, though children under 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult.

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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)