

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

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SMRWA Rain Garden workshop and installation

On the morning of April 21, SMRWA volunteers and St. Mary's College of Maryland students participated in the installation of one of the auctioned off rain gardens from last year's A River Affair. The process of creating this 375 square foot rain garden began with the laborious task of removing grass and roots and breaking up the soil. This was followed by the incorporation of compost and the formation of a berm, a barrier of soil and mulch on the downhill side of the garden. The rain garden was then planting with 180 native plants, including black eyed Susans, cardinal flowers, and mist flowers. A final layer of mulch provides moisture retention for the hot summer months.



The rain garden is expected to capture all of the rain water run off from the roof and adjacent driveway. The chosen native plants will be self-sufficient once the plants are established, even capable of tolerating Maryland's typical summer droughts.

The rain garden retains water, which then infiltrates into the ground where it is cleansed of pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus. By using a rain gardens, the amount of storm water flowing into our

local waterways is substantially reduced, subsequently reducing the runoff of fertilizers, pesticides and pet waste that negatively affect the health of the river.

Want a rain garden of your very own? Another rain garden will be auctioned off at A River Affair this year on May 20th. The compost and mulch used for this rain garden was donated by Bowles Mulch, located on Flat Iron Road. For more information, contact us at info@stmarysriver.org or visit our web site at <http://www.smrwa.org>.



