



The Metropolitan District

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MDC CELEBRATES EARTH DAY BY HIGHLIGHTING GREEN INITIATIVES

April 22, 2014

For Immediate Release

(HARTFORD, CT) – Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22nd to build awareness of the world's environmental issues. The Metropolitan District (The MDC) focuses all year on being green with initiatives related to infrastructure, water and sewer services, conservation and hazardous waste collection.

The MDC's Clean Water Project is a 15-year plan designed to control and reduce the overflow of untreated sewage into natural waterways and includes \$2.1 billion in infrastructure improvements to the MDC's wastewater system. Since the sewer system is over 100 years old, cracking pipes are leaking and causing health hazards for families and businesses while storm water mixing with raw sewage is polluting our rivers and streams, including the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound.

Phase II of the Clean Water Project began in 2012 and includes expanded outreach and information on how MDC customers can help as we work to upgrade our sewer system and protect our neighborhoods and local waterways. Limiting the amount of storm water entering the sewer system is a top priority, as storm water is the single most critical cause of overflow pollution. Customers and member towns are encouraged to be part of the solution through high impact measures such as the use of rain barrels and redirecting sump pumps, downspouts, yard drains and foundation drains away from the sewer system.

The Rain Barrel Program, launched in 2012, has distributed over 1,100 barrels to MDC customers. A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from a roof by diverting runoff from the downspout of the gutter system. Using a rain barrel can help the average homeowner save about 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months, offering benefits such as saving money, offering a clean source of water for a number of outdoor uses, reducing the amount of storm water that enters the sewer system during rainstorms, and reducing pollution of local waterways due to urban runoff. A MDC rain barrel will be on display this Saturday May 3rd at the Earth Day celebration at Lasalette Park in Bloomfield from 1PM to 4PM.

In its own backyard, the MDC is scheduled to begin construction on a piece of property that runs alongside its main office building on Wells Street in Hartford. This Green Infrastructure Improvement Project incorporates sustainable design elements to demonstrate different approaches to infiltrating and/or cleansing storm water. "Stepped" rain gardens will be constructed to allow overflow to pass from one to another allowing a higher storage capacity. This process also helps to reduce sewer overflows and cleanses the storm water as it passes through the vegetation and is absorbed into the soil. Permeable sidewalk pavers, which allow water to pass through them, will process additional runoff from the rain gardens into planters and underground drains. Once completed, educational signage will be posted highlighting the project's "green" solutions with explanations of the various project components.



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Another environmentally-friendly program the MDC offers is the household hazardous waste collection program. Each year, the MDC conducts regional household hazardous waste collections at a series of local sites in member and non-member towns. The MDC collects the waste and disposes of it through safe, environmentally responsible practices which in turn protects the health of our communities and the environment.

For more information about these programs and the many others the MDC promotes, visit www.themdc.com.

About the MDC: *The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, and East Granby.*

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