



## City of Bristol

### NEWS RELEASE

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### ***CITY READIES FOR SPRING AND EARTH DAY BY OFFERING FREE WORKSHOPS***

(BRISTOL, CT)- The City of Bristol has scheduled workshops to engage adults and younger citizens in environmental issues which affect us all.

The Rain Garden Workshop will explore ways to utilize storm water in our community. A rain garden collects storm water runoff from a roof, driveway or yard and allows it to infiltrate into the ground thereby capturing the pollutants. Rain gardens are typically planted with shrubs and perennials and can be colorful, landscaped areas. A free downspout disconnect kit will be provided to participants as well a chance to win a City of Bristol rain barrel. The event is scheduled for 6pm on April 18 at the Bristol Public Library.

On Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, the Bristol Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments are teaming up for a fun workshop at Rockwell Park –building, painting and staining birdhouses using designs created by The Studio, a local arts organization based in the West End. The completed birdhouses will be hung in the trees throughout the city parks. The workshop is free and requires pre-registration as there are only 100 spaces available for the event.

“What is great about this initiative is the materials being used were found at our transfer station which helps with keeping items out of the waste stream and reusing to house local birds”, said Lindsey Rivers, a supervisor with the Public Works Department who is overseeing Earth Day activities.

On Monday, April 22, when Earth Day is celebrated, the Public Works Department Streets division will create a vegetable garden that at South Side School and will be cultivated and cared for by the students.

“The City receives an annual grant from Covanta that is being used for all these public outreach activities to increase awareness and interest people in the environmental aspects of how the City handles some of these issues,” stated Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. “With the opportunity to reduce, re-use and repurpose, citizens and kids are helping us save money on our trash and recycling disposal fees.”

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