



# News Release

## From Seattle Public Schools

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### **B.F. Day Elementary hosts Rain Garden Workshop** **July 17 & 18**

**Seattle** – Seattle Public Schools' B.F. Day Elementary will host a rain garden workshop on Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The community is invited to this special event which will provide hands-on information on how to design and install a rain garden. Students, staff, families and community members will create a rain garden on the school grounds. B.F. Day Elementary is joining a growing movement across the District to landscape with native plants that benefit wildlife, manage storm water, reduce maintenance costs and provide an important environment for future science lessons.

Seattle Public Schools' five-year strategic plan, *Excellence for All*, focuses on the strengthening our teaching of science in order to accelerate learning for all students. Rain gardens serve as an invaluable educational tool for students to learn about the environment and specific ways to reduce the impact of urbanization on native habitats. The B.F. Day rain garden will provide students hands-on lessons about the importance of planting native species that will help collect, filter, and absorb pollutants from storm water runoff.

"This event celebrates a wonderful collaboration between our school and our community partners including Stewardship Partners and Seattle Public Utilities," said principal Susan McCloskey. "During the school year, our students will use this outdoor lab as well as curriculum from our district, local agencies and Audubon partners to learn about complex environmental concepts including greenhouse gas management, storm water management, and groundwater and soil protection. This rain garden will significantly enhance our students' understanding of urban wildlife, protection and use of urban natural resources."

The rain garden will be created on part of the front lawn of the school. Lawns filter very little rain water and provide few benefits as a habitat and resource for birds and other wildlife. The B.F. Day rain garden will be a shallow depression populated with native plants that serve as a natural filter for excess storm water that would otherwise flow into the nearby Ship Canal. Native plants also better withstand periods of drought.

The B.F. Day project is funded by grants managed by Stewardship Partners, with additional support from the Seattle Public Utilities, the Wallingford Boys & Girls Club, Seattle Tilth Master Composter/Soil Builder Program, Fremont Starbucks, Roosevelt Whole Foods, Fremont Spine & Wellness, Cash & Carry Ballard, Metropolitan Market, Stoneway Hardware, Peak's Frozen Custard, Marketime Foods, Flying Apron Bakery in Fremont and the efforts of many volunteers from the community. For more information, please contact Carrie Bauer at (206) 252-6010.

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