



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GreenUP commences today with the installation of two of eight rain gardens in The Avenues neighbourhood, Peterborough.

Peterborough, Ont (September 27, 2017) Today, the GreenUP Ready for Rain Peterborough program begins installing two of eight rain gardens in The Avenues neighbourhood, in Peterborough. The first two installations begin today at 304 and 313 Elias Avenue. This weekend, three gardens will be installed on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 311 Pearl Avenue, 566 Sherbrooke Street, and 317 Frederick Avenue. 537 Bolivar Street and 273 John Street will be planted on Sunday, Oct. 1. The final garden will be installed at the Corner of Park and Charlotte Streets alongside BE Catering on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

At each location, the garden area is excavated, curb cuts are made to allow for water flow, soil is added, rain barrels are connected, and a total of 400 plant species will be planted! Three of the gardens are being installed within boulevard areas to help capture rain from the road, with the remainder being planted in front yards to capture rain from rooftops.

Residents of the Avenues neighbourhood, along with friends, students, and representatives from partnership organizations, GreenUP, Green Communities Canada, City of Peterborough, and Basterfield Landscape Architects have been working together for over a year to determine optimal locations for flood mitigation in the area, and will work together over the next week to install all eight.

Heather Ray, Water Programs Manager at GreenUP explains, “The Ready for Rain program and the installation of these rain gardens is an example of how people, organizations, homeowners, students, municipalities, and businesses can work together towards a shared “blue” vision for a neighbourhood; a vision that supports us learning together and directly impacting the way we interact with water in our neighbourhoods.”

Installing a rain garden is one of the most proven alternative methods of increasing the health of our watersheds by reducing runoff and soaking up rain. This is especially important in urban environments where flooding and runoff are prevalent. A small rain garden can divert as much as 50,000 m³ from a single storm event and can also help to naturally filter and clean water, and reduce flooding.

Rain gardens also have many benefits outside of storm water management including beautification, providing educational opportunities, and increasing habitat for local wildlife and pollinators.

Planting eight rain gardens within a short period of time will create a considerable, visible change within the landscape of The Avenues neighbourhood, and it is no easy task. This will be one of the largest landscape transformations GreenUP has organized within the Peterborough community.

This project is possible with generous funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation along with countless donations of supplies and support from the Peterborough community.

- 30 -

For more information contact:

Karen Halley
GreenUP Communications & Marketing Specialist
705-745-3238 x202