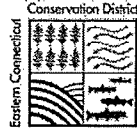


# EASTERN CONNECTICUT CONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.

238 West Town Street  
Norwich, CT 06360-2111  
(860) 319-8806



139 Wolf Den Road  
Brooklyn, CT 06234  
860-774-9600

[www.ConserveCT.org/eastern](http://www.ConserveCT.org/eastern)

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## Eastern Connecticut Conservation District is Partnering with the Boy Scouts

The Eastern CT Conservation District (ECCD) is excited to be developing a long-term relationship with the Boy Scouts of America to create and implement programs and projects that will improve water quality in eastern Connecticut's ponds, lakes, streams, rivers and Long Island Sound. Together with the Boy Scouts, ECCD is currently developing a pilot program to conduct workshops and install 100 rain gardens & 100 rain barrels throughout eastern CT. The pilot program is being funded by the Long Island Sound Futures Fund.

To implement the project, ECCD is partnering with the Boy Scouts of America, various service organizations at UConn, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, the Thames River Basin Partnership, the Niantic River Watershed Committee and The Last Green Valley. ECCD anticipates starting the project in early 2018, planning throughout the winter months, then conducting workshops and installing the rain gardens and rain barrels throughout the spring, summer and fall. This grant program combines funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

Rain gardens and rain barrels are a low-cost solution to reducing non-point source pollution from entering our rivers, streams, lakes, ponds and Long Island Sound. Rain gardens are slight depressions in the ground in which a variety of plants are installed. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways and sidewalks is redirected into the rain garden where it infiltrates into the soil and is filtered of contaminants. Rain barrels collect rainwater from rooftops which can then be used to water gardens and flowers around the yard, conserving water while reducing the amount of runoff entering waterways.

This is an exciting new program for the district. We look forward to supporting the Boy Scouts from your local communities to participate in the project and improve the water quality and wildlife habitats in eastern Connecticut. Collectively, in both the short- and long-term, the Boy Scouts can make meaningful contributions to conserving our natural resources. For an organization dedicated to service and the environment, one that appreciates and utilizes our natural resources, I cannot imagine a more profound legacy for the Boy Scouts than to lead the charge in protecting our environment.

If you are interested in involving your troop, attending a rain garden or rain barrel workshop, or installing a rain garden or rain barrel at your home, school, church or business, please contact [maura.robie@comcast.net](mailto:maura.robie@comcast.net), or call 860-319-8807, for more information.

Maura Robie

Conservation Technician  
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, Inc.