



Press Release

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Dedication Ceremony Set for Palmer Rain Garden

(PALMER, AK) – The public is invited to a dedication ceremony June 20, at 3:00 p.m. for a large rain garden at Mat-Su Senior Services in Palmer. The rain garden will help control storm water runoff and improve water quality. The project is a cooperative effort between the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Environmental Protection Agency, Mat-Su Senior Services Center and community volunteers.

“It took more than a year of planning and grant funding from DEC and EPA and matching funds by the Borough to build this rain garden,” said Frankie Barker, Mat-Su Environmental Planner. “This is the newest and largest of 12 demonstration projects funded over the last three years in the Mat-Su Borough,” said Barker. This project and the others highlight the benefits of rain gardens, the importance of low impact development, and is a part of the borough-wide, three-year planning effort to better control and manage storm water runoff.

Building the garden was a community effort.

“We had 80 girls from a local church camp and other community volunteers planting trees and other plants,” said Catherin Inman, Mat-Su Conservation Services, who managed the project. “Aside from the important preparation work, the volunteers got everything in the ground in two days,” said Inman.

The Mat-Su Borough’s work is part of a statewide effort to better control storm water runoff and improve the overall quality of the state’s waters.

“Our goal is for Alaskans to incorporate these low impact development principles in the design and construction of their business and homes across the state,” said Laura Eldred, Environmental Program Specialist with DEC. “This rain garden really demonstrates how these simple and cost effective techniques can keep pollutants out of our waterways, protect fisheries and save money by reducing the need for more storm water pipes and maintenance. It’s really a win-win for everyone.”

The dedication ceremony will be held rain or shine from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., June 20, at Mat-Su Senior Services Center, 1132 Chugach Street in Palmer.

For more information visit DEC’s Division of Water at: www.dec.state.ak.us/water/.



Volunteers construct the rain garden outside the Mat-Su Senior Services Center June 11, 2014

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