



For Immediate Release

October 7, 2015

Contacts:

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215.369.1188, ext. 102 (Cell & Office)

John Nystedt, RLA, LEED AP BD+C, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 215.369.1188, extension 112

Rain Garden Installation at Ithan Elementary Underway Providing Education, Stormwater & Habitat Benefits to Radnor

Bryn Mawr, Radnor Township, PA -- On October 17, 2015, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Eagle Scout candidate Joey Pomeroy will lead volunteers in the installation of three rain gardens and a native plant habitat at Ithan Elementary School in Radnor Township. The project is being advanced by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the Ithan PTO Green Team and the Radnor Township Education Association (RTEA) in partnership with the Radnor Educational Foundation which provided a grant to support the project, the Radnor School Administration that has helped with invasives removal, the PA Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds, and other in-kind services.

Once complete, the project will transform an area at the school that had been overwhelmed by invasives into an area dominated by native plants, and will include installation of three rain gardens that will slow, infiltrate, and clean stormwater runoff. The project will also result in healthy plant and animal habitat that can support environmental education at Radnor's Ithan Elementary School.

"The rain gardens will provide important value to Radnor in a variety of ways; they will of course enhance the environment, infiltrating stormwater and providing beautiful plant and animal habitat; they will provide students a beautiful place to see, enjoy and learn about a healthy habitat up close; and the rain gardens are a great way for the students to learn the values of healthy nature for addressing community problems like pollution and flooding," said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**. "This project has

been an important collaboration between parents, teachers and Ithan Elementary School administrators, and it is great to be at the stage when now the kids can really get involved.”

Joey Pomeroy, an Eagle Scout candidate from Boy Scout Troop 284 in Radnor Township, is helping to lead the October 17th planting with Delaware Riverkeeper Network staff. "I chose this project for my eagle scout project because it aligns with my environmental interests," says Pomeroy. "The rain gardens and native plants will be a great improvement compared to the unsightly patch of invasive plants that used to be here." Joey and his father have been working with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network to prepare the rain gardens in advance of the October planting.

“This project is a wonderful example of how to transform an area full of invasives into a native landscape that provides improved habitat while cleaning and infiltrating stormwater runoff,” says **John Nystedt, Restoration Director for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**

This ecological restoration project is adjacent to the school and its bird garden, will provide additional habitat enhancements beneficial to birds and pollinators, will improve stormwater runoff, will be useful for integration with the science curriculum, and will be an enjoyable opportunity for the students to walk through nature.

#####