MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
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What's growing on at the Garden!

Date: February 22, 2011

MOUNT CALVARY RAIN GARDEN WILL BENEFIT LARGER WATERSHED COMMUNITY
Garden Will Utilize Designs to Slow Movement of Stormwater into Deer Creek Watershed

(ST. LOUIS): The Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, located in the Deer Creek Watershed, has been designated as a rain garden demonstration site by the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD). The project will feature a 3,000-square-foot bio-retention system consisting of over 10,000 square feet of Missouri native plants and is spearheaded by the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance. Key project partners include the Missouri Botanical Garden, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Washington University. The installation of the rain garden is set to begin in the spring of 2011. Follow-up monitoring will occur to measure the project's effectiveness in improving water quality over a five-year period.

"We are pleased to partner on a project that demonstrates the impact of plants on keeping our waters clean and safe," said Missouri Botanical Garden President Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson. "We hope the scientific data collected from this project will inform sound community decision making well into the future."

Designed to catch and slow the movement of stormwater from the church's parking lot into Black Creek, a tributary to Deer Creek, the rain garden features a depression that allows stormwater to infiltrate the soil rather than overwhelm stormwater sewers. Studies show that stormwater runoff to sewers is responsible for a large amount of the pollution found in our rivers, lakes and streams. A rain garden acts as both a sponge and a filter to capture stormwater and the pollutants it carries with it.

"MSD is honored to partner with the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance and the Missouri Botanical Garden on the Mount Calvary rain garden project," said Executive Director, Jeff Theerman. "MSD alone cannot keep the St. Louis community's waterways clean. We need the support, resources and actions of the community partners to improve local water quality. Green

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infrastructure is cost effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly because it captures and reuses stormwater to maintain or restore natural hydrologies."

The project will showcase plant-based demonstration projects that reduce water pollution in the Deer Creek Watershed. Some 20 plant species, mainly deep-rooted native plants and grasses, will be utilized. In addition to stormwater management, the rain garden will beautify property and create habitat for wildlife, such as birds and butterflies. In addition, large-scale use of rain gardens in a community can save tax dollars by reducing the need to build bigger stormwater holding and treatment facilities.

"The construction of this community garden to better manage stormwater was a natural fit for Mount Calvary, which strives to be a good steward of its resources," according to Richard Adler, chair of the church's Garden Action Committee.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Mount Calvary Rain Garden will take place at the church on Friday, Mar. 11 at 11 a.m. at 9321 Litzsinger Rd. in Brentwood. Open and free to the public, the event will be attended by several supporting dignitaries and project partners.

For more information visit www.deercreekalliance.org. To RSVP for the event call (314) 962-0212 or karla.wilson@deercreekalliance.org.

For general Missouri Botanical Garden information, visit www.mobot.org or call (314) 577-5100.

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NOTE: The media is invited to attend the ground breaking for the Mount Calvary rain garden on Friday, Mar. 11 a.m.. Mount Calvary Lutheran Church is located at 9321 Litzsinger Road in Brentwood, Mo. This event will be held rain or shine. RSVP to Karla Wilson at (314) 962-0212 or karla.wilson@deercreekalliance.org.

The Missouri Botanical Garden's mission is "to discover and share knowledge about plants and their environment, in order to preserve and enrich life." Today, 151 years after opening, the Missouri Botanical Garden is a National Historic Landmark and a center for science, conservation, education and horticultural display.