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Nahant Joins the Greenscapes Program

The Greenscapes North Shore Coalition is pleased to welcome Nahant to the Greenscapes North Shore program. Greenscapes are environmentally-friendly lawn and yard care practices that create healthy and attractive lawns and gardens, which can be maintained with less water and chemicals. Nahant residents can make a difference in the quantity and quality of the water that runs off their property into the ocean when they adopt Greenscaping practices.

"We are pleased to have Nahant become a Greenscapes Community Partner through the efforts of SWIM (Nahant SWIM Inc.) and Northeastern University," said Barbara Warren, Executive Director of Salem Sound Coastwatch.

"Contaminated runoff is the largest source of pollution of our local waters," she continued. "By following Greenscaping practices, homeowners can prevent chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides from fouling our waters."

As members, Nahant residents can pick up a free "Guide to Greenscaping" and a stormwater educational brochure at Town Hall. A "Greenscapes 101" presentation is being planned by SWIM for April 2015, and all 5th grade students at the Johnson School will learn about "Keeping Water Clean" at a special program in November.

The *Guide to Greenscaping* is a 20 page full color publication filled with information and useful tips on how to have healthy and beautiful yards that are safe for children and pets and save money on water bills. Topics in the *Guide* and to be covered at the "Greenscapes 101" presentation include proper mowing and watering techniques for lawns, what type of grass seed to use, recommendations on drought tolerant plants, alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers, how to compost, and more.

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Nahant joins the following participating Greenscapes North Shore community partners: Andover, Beverly, Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Marblehead, Merrimac, North Reading, Peabody, Rowley, Salem, Salisbury, Topsfield, and West Newbury.

By participating in the Greenscapes Program, Nahant will meet public education and outreach requirements under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater program required by the EPA as well as water conservation measures required under the Massachusetts Water Management Act. Every year, Nahant is required to complete a permit for its NPDES Phase II Small MS4 (**M**unicipal **S**eparate **S**torm **S**ewer **S**ystems) System. The materials and services provided by the Greenscapes program help satisfy requirements in this permit thereby helping the Town and its residents protect its island environment.

The Greenscapes North Shore program is coordinated by a coalition of non-profit organizations: Salem Sound Coastwatch, the Ipswich River Watershed Association, and Eight Towns and the Great Marsh and is member of Greenscapes Massachusetts. For more information on Greenscaping practices and to sign up for the Greenscapes email newsletter, visit www.greescapes.org.

For more information:

contact SWIM, 781-598-1060 or email nahantswiminc@gmail.com ;

contact Salem Sound Coastwatch, 978-741-7900 or email info@salemsound.org

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