

Downtown Cheboygan getting new rain garden at Water Street parking lot

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CHEBOYGAN — In order to keep excess stormwater from creating flooding issues or going into the city's sewer system and potentially washing pollutants into the bodies of water in Cheboygan, a green space is being planted.

"Downtown Cheboygan is getting a new rain garden," said City of Cheboygan Interim Director of the Main Street and Downtown Development Authority groups Katie Duczkowski.

From 9 a.m. until noon on Wednesday, June 2, city residents and volunteers are encouraged to join some representatives from the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in helping to clear the

site, to make room for the garden. Then, from 9 a.m. until noon on Friday, June 4, people are being encouraged to come help plant the native plants for the rain garden.

"Our clean rivers and lakes are such an important natural resource here in Cheboygan," said Duczkowski. "We

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Garden

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need to do everything we can to protect them. This new rain garden will help to soak up stormwater and filter out pollutants before they enter the river."

This planting event is being hosted by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, in hopes of planting native plants to the area. These plants will help to prevent the health and environmental concerns that go along with flooding and pollutants getting into the waterways.

The native plants that will be planted have deep roots. This vegetation allows for stormwater to soak into the ground, spread out and slow down, effectively stopping the possible pollutants from getting into the river and the lakes.

Those who want to volunteer to help clear the land or plant the plants — or both — are asked to meet at the Water Street Parking Lot bathrooms. Volunteers can attend one, or both sessions.

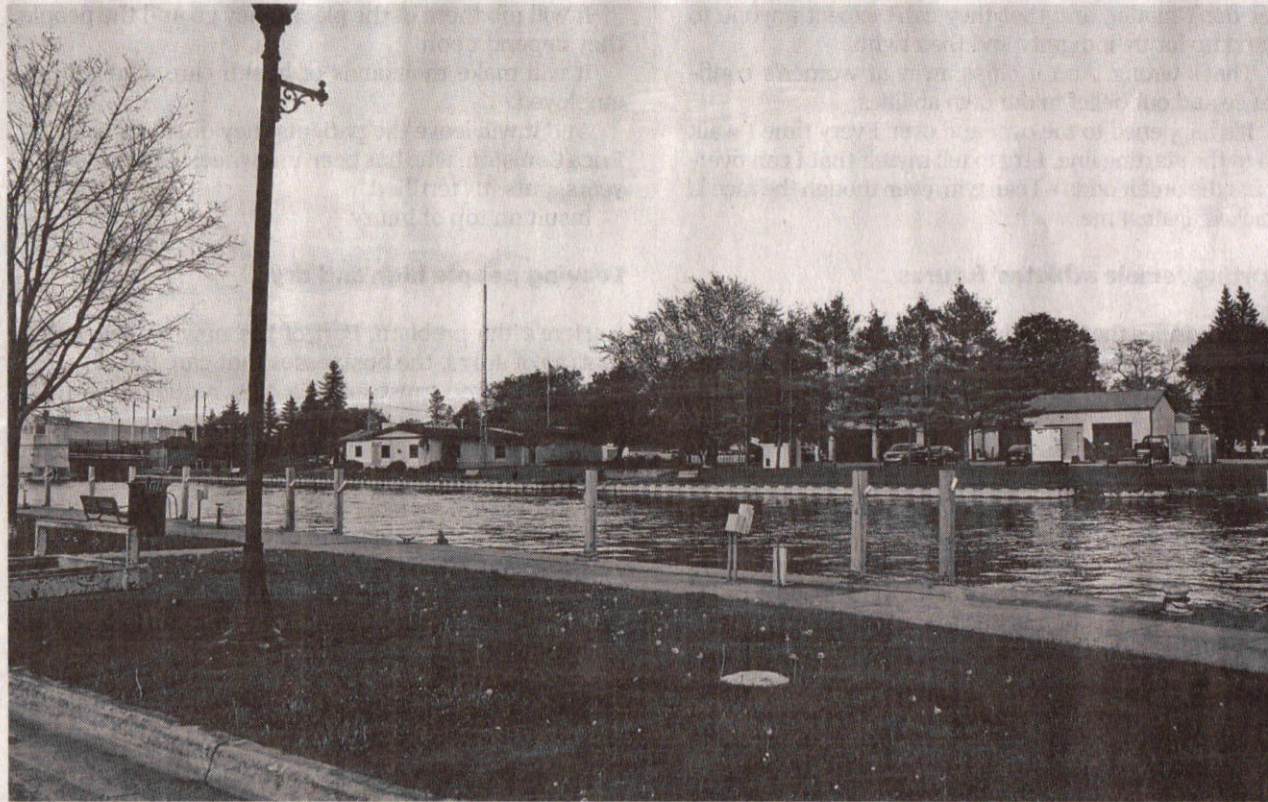
Those who show up to help are asked to bring their own work gloves and hand tools to each of the two days. Refreshments for the volunteers will be provided.

"Thank you The Native Edge, LLC and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council for sharing their knowledge and resources with our community. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for community members who enjoy gardening to make a direct impact on our downtown," said Duczkowski.

This event is the final workshop in the Watershed Council's Promoting Green Infrastructure in Cheboygan project. Over the last year there have been three different workshops in the Cheboygan area, including one where those who attended learned how to create rain barrels to capture rain to water their plants. These workshops were to acquaint city residents, staff, and officials with green stormwater infrastructure and create a vision for future stormwater projects in Cheboygan.

The project is funded by a Great Lakes Commission's Emerging Green Champions Mini-Grant and the Erb Family Foundation.

"The community identified this area as a priority and water quality monitoring shows the Cheboygan River accepts quite a bit of polluted stormwater. We're working with Native Edge, LLC, which specializes in landscapes that work with nature. This garden will be



The green space between the Water Street Parking Lot and the Cheboygan River will be being turned into a rain garden, planted with native species plants to help stop the excessive stormwater from running into the lakes without some sort of filtration. KORTNY HAHN/CHEBOYGAN DAILY TRIBUNE

pretty and keep stormwater from reaching the river," said Caroline Keson, monitoring programs coordinator with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Register for these events at

www.watershedcouncil.org/attend-an-event.

For questions about the project, contact Keson by calling (231) 347-1181 or by emailing her at info@watershedcouncil.org.