

GROUP FOR THE EAST END Press Release

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WATERWASH™ is a Prototype for Stormwater Remediation on Long Island

Mattituck, New York – While many identify water as a primary ingredient for washing, have you ever pondered the fact that water itself may need to be washed? Lillian Ball, environmental activist and artist, recognized this challenge. She developed a solution to stormwater issues in the form of a curvaceous permeable recycled glass pavement and sweeping vegetated swale that filters runoff at the Mattituck Inlet boat ramp.

**WATERWASH™ will officially open to the public on November 9th at 10:30 a.m.
Please join us.**

This successful pilot project remediates negative effects on local surface waters like Mattituck Creek, which connects directly to Long Island Sound. The primary concept is an ecological approach using science and public outreach to improve water quality. As an educational component, Ball's "film strip" signage empowers community members and local officials to protect our waterways. This innovative approach to water quality improvement and education is the result of two years of public engagement and organizing by Ms. Ball.

Group for the East End was asked to step in as cosponsor and administrator for a matching grant awarded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund. After receiving the grant, the Group's staff and volunteers worked alongside Ms. Ball to remove invasive common reed, or phragmites, plant native species in the swale, and maintain the site.

Volunteers from Mattituck High School assisted with efforts to complete the plantings and maintain the site. Mattituck Sanitation donated dumpsters to remove the invasive species and trash. Woodwrights in Wading River donated cedar for the wooden benches. Many public officials, community members, and businesses worked to make this project a reality and we would like to thank them all.

"We see this project as proof that multiple challenges can be solved with integrated functional aesthetics, improving the area both physically and environmentally," says Ball. "WATERWASH™ is a solution that accomplishes both of these objectives," said Kate Schertel, the Group's primary liaison to this project. "Group for the East End applauds her initiative!"

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