

June 15, 2005

PRESS RELEASE

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EPA ADMINISTRATORS VISITS RAINWATER HARVESTING PROJECT AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Cambridge, MA -- As part of the recent announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the Charles River water quality has significantly improved, state and federal officials visited a newly constructed rainwater harvesting system at Harvard University recently. EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, Benjamin Grumbles and Robert Varney, EPA Northeast Regional Administrator, attended the event. The EPA "Clean Charles" water quality announcement gave the Charles River a B+ in improved ecological health.

The new system, designed and installed by Rainwater Recovery Systems of Waltham, MA, is a joint effort of the EPA, Harvard University, NSTAR, Rainwater Recovery Systems, and the Charles River Watershed Association. The rainwater harvesting system captures roof runoff that would normally find its way into the Charles River, and uses it for washing vehicles. Excess water is recharged into the ground via an on-site infiltrator. The system saves approximately 25,000 gallons of water each year, effectively demonstrating both water conservation and pollution control.

According to Philip Reidy, principal of Rainwater Recovery Systems, a full-service rainwater harvesting and stormwater management company headquartered in Waltham, MA, the rainwater that typically runs off roads and sidewalks carries surface pollutants that should not be going into our rivers and streams. "Our system helps to mitigate this runoff and restore the natural flow of rainwater into the ground," he said. "We were happy to work with Harvard on installing this system, which allows the rainwater to be reused onsite or recharged into the groundwater table."

Rainwater Recovery Systems is a full-service design/build company which provides innovative, cost-effective solutions to site and water supply management challenges. The company works with commercial, industrial and residential owners, developers and design professionals to meet low-impact and sustainable development goals and requirements through application of progressive design, engineering, construction and on-going inspection and maintenance services.

Photograph caption: Philip Reidy explains details of the rainwater harvesting system to

*David Harris, General Manager, Harvard University Transportation Services.
Photograph courtesy of John Chase/Harvard News Office*



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