

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Steve Stern**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**Planting Seeds For The Future With Bay Shore First Graders**

Legislator Steve Stern joins students at Mary G. Clarkson Elementary School to build a rain garden



*Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern helps a first grade class at Mary G. Clarkson Elementary School in Bay Shore build a sustainable rain garden.*

HUNTINGTON, NY – Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16th L.D.) got “down and dirty” to help a first grade class at Mary G. Clarkson School in Bay Shore build a sustainable rain garden at their school.

With shovels in hand, the first graders dug through soil and planted flowers at the entrance of the school building that students, teachers and parents will enjoy for years to come. However, the rain garden doesn’t just help beautify the school. It also serves an important environmental purpose.

Planted with proper plants, near a down spout, rain gardens absorb excess water. This helps to mitigate runoff and helps lessen contaminants that enter the ground water.

Legislator Stern coordinated the project through the Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, which supplied the materials and instruction for Mrs. Rebore's first grade class.

"Our young people are the future of Suffolk County, which is why it's so important to ensure that we do our part to preserve our environment for them and teach our children the skills needed to do the same for future generations," Legislator Stern said. "I thank the Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County for making this project possible, as well as Principal Leticia García and first grade teacher Diana Rebore for giving us the opportunity to work with our bright, young students."

"The Rain Garden School Project is a great opportunity for students to learn about protecting water quality and planting a working rain garden on the school grounds," Mark Cappellino, Association Community Educator for Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, said.