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Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 1, 2012

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Take a Virtual Tour of Local Rainwater Management Innovations

The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts proudly announces a new series of video clips that provide a close-up look at modern techniques to manage stormwater. Available on-line at www.lhccd.org/green-infrastructure.html, the video segments feature working projects throughout the Hudson Valley and New York City that capture and clean rainwater and snow melt.

As spring rains fall across the region, our built landscapes alter the natural ability of soil to soak up and filter runoff. The result can be flooding and pollution in streams and reduced groundwater supplies. New green infrastructure practices – like rain gardens, rain barrels, and porous pavement – use soils and plants to collect, store and filter rainwater. Benefits include clean streams, plentiful well water, reduced flooding, enhanced wildlife habitat, shade from trees, and visual beauty. Some of these practices can be easily used at home, like rain barrels that collect roof runoff for use in gardens.

County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have been technical leaders in green infrastructure implementation. This video series showcases Districts' projects throughout the region on public and private lands, in urban, suburban and rural settings. Sites include:

- Rain garden in Albany County
- Porous concrete in Columbia County
- Porous asphalt in Greene County
- Bioretention area in Orange County
- Rain barrel in Rockland County
- Stream buffer restoration in Westchester County
- Stormwater planter in New York City

The video clips are available on the Lower Hudson Coalition's website, www.lhccd.org. The site also includes reference materials and examples of completed projects, making it a useful resource for people interested in implementing green infrastructure practices at their home or business. A full-length DVD including all seven segments is also available.

“These videos will help contractors, homeowners, municipal officials and others see how green infrastructure practices work, and we hope it will inspire confidence that these techniques and materials are effective right here in our area,” said Dutchess County SWCD Executive Director Ed Hoxsie.

“We’ve designed this video series to be like a tour but better – allowing viewers to quickly see and hear about working projects throughout the region, without leaving their desk” said New York City SWCD Manager Shino Tanikawa. (continued)

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“The use of green infrastructure saves money and benefits the local economy by creating vibrant urban and suburban landscapes, reducing storm damage, and protecting drinking water supplies,” said Rockland County SWCD Manager Mary Hegarty. Construction and maintenance of practices by local contractors and suppliers also keeps dollars circulating in the local economy.

This video tour project was made possible through support from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation who provided funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program in partnership with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

“In addition to conservation districts’ traditional role of assisting farmers in protecting soil and water resources, the districts in the Hudson Valley and New York City are leading the way in controlling water pollution in urban and suburban settings,” said Lower Hudson Coalition Coordinator Emily Svenson. “Small green infrastructure projects throughout the landscape add up to big results in protecting clean water and a healthy environment for future generations.”

To learn more, contact Lower Hudson Coalition Coordinator Emily Svenson at emily@lhccd.org or visit www.lhccd.org.

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The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts is a partnership of the eleven Conservation Districts bordering the Hudson River from Albany to New York City.

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