

MCSI Awards Student Community Project Grant for 2011



A group of Pitt students led by Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) is teaming up with the Mascaro Center, Pitt's Facilities Management, a non-profit organization called SEEDS, and Dr. Dan Bain of Pitt's Geology Department in order to bring a community rain garden to Pitt's Oakland campus. A site on the northwest corner of the Pete Lawn has recently been chosen and approved for the project. The rain garden will serve to capture rain water, and hold it in a

shallow pond-like garden structure, until it can naturally infiltrate the soil thus reducing the amount of run-off that floods both Pittsburgh's sewer system and the grass on the Pete Lawn.

Members of the project team, which consists of active ESW and Free the Planet (FtP) members, will be responsible for all phases of the assessment, design, and construction of the rain garden. The assessment phase is set to begin in early May. Upon receiving the necessary information from these tests, the design phase will commence in mid-May, with construction expected to be finalized by the end of June. The project team is excited to not only deliver something beautiful and functional to the Pitt campus, but also to raise the awareness of sustainability in the Pitt community by posting explanatory signs at the rain garden site.

For more information, or if you'd like to get involved, please contact project leader David Palm at dwp12@pitt.edu.