



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DCH Partners with DNREC to Create Roadside Meadow in Wilmington

Wilmington, DE – To further greening efforts in the city of Wilmington, the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) partnered with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to create a roadside meadow at corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Justison Street. The planting is located on the front property of the DNREC Air Quality Monitoring site.

“One of the things we do best to serve Wilmington is transform vacant or underutilized spaces into beautiful and dynamic ecological landscapes that help clean the air, water, and soil through the use of native vegetation,” said Vikram Krishnamurthy, DCH’s Executive Director. “It has been our pleasure to work with DNREC turning this once empty space into a public meadow that will serve as an eye-catching green space for visitors and residents to enjoy as they are driving or walking by.”

DCH provided design consultation for the layout and plant selection of the meadow, including native plants sourced from local growers. Over the course of a few weeks, staff from our Public Landscapes and Community Forestry teams cleared the existing layer of brush and weeds to provide the proper base for the new plant installation and implemented the design using hearty, native vegetation that can withstand the elements of an urban environment. DCH maintains the meadow while the plants establish themselves in the newly cleared soil. Once the plants mature and fill out the space, the meadow will serve as a unique horticultural welcome to motorists and pedestrians and a sought-after habitat for native pollinators.

As one of our most recognizable programs, DCH’s Public Landscapes team maintains more than 35 sites throughout the city of Wilmington. Managing each site as its own mini-ecosystem with its own set of environmental challenges, Public Landscapes thoughtfully develops designs and selects plants that will create a thriving green oasis in an urban setting, which is subject to microclimates created by the urban heat island effect. In addition to maintaining and administering plant healthcare at each site, our team uses public landscapes as a training ground for our Branches to Chances – A Return to Work program and as an educational tool for motorists and pedestrians alike. For more information about our Public Landscapes program, contact Martha Stephens at 302-658-6262.

PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE. FOR IMAGES OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT CATHERINE KEMPISTA AT CKEMPISTA@THEDCH.ORG.