

ALLSTON-TAB BRIGHTON TAB

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PHOTO BY ETHAN BAKER

Jessie Scott of the U.S. Forest Service passes out "Go Green" goodie bags and a marigold to Leifa Nsawgov, 8, on Saturday. The Everett Street Community Green Space was unveiled at the German International School at the corner of Everett and Holton streets in Allston.

A little bit of green returns

By Lena Serpa
CORRESPONDENT

Allston got a little greener on Saturday afternoon, as the Everett Street Community Green Space was unveiled at the German International School at the corner of Everett and Holton streets.

The project is a demonstration of how implementing a few green technologies can help significantly reduce pollutants to the Charles River from stormwater runoff, while creating a greener

community space for residents to enjoy.

Thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Harvard Allston Partnership Fund, and the Allston-Brighton Boston College Community Fund, the Charles River Watershed Association was able to partner with the Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation, the German International School and active community

members to create the system, a culmination of several years of planning and hard work.

A rain garden, permeable pavement installation and a stormwater tree pit are the three types of stormwater best management practices implemented in the site. All three technologies are designed specifically for the site based on low-impact development, which seeks to re-create the site's natural system before devel-

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A little bit of green space returns to Allston

GREEN from page 1

paint.

"It's about trying to go back to time before we were pavement systems," said Paul Lorio of Green Systems LLC, the company that designed the Stormwater Tree Pit, the first of its kind in the country.

The three technologies collect water and infiltrate it into the ground where it is retained by the plants in the rain garden, the tree in the tree pit and the soil rather than allowing urban runoff.

"It's all about trying to go back to the natural cycle," Lorio said.

For Mary Helen Nsangou, executive director of the Allston-Brighton CDC, this is part of the ongoing effort to make Allston-Brighton greener, more walkable and bike-friendly, and give residents better access to green space throughout the city.

"Now that we have this demonstration project, we really want to engage the city," said Nsangou. "We're really pleased and delighted that we could do it with the German International School here in Allston-Brighton, and we hope it's going to set a precedent or what can happen citywide."

In 2008, the CDC's Allston-Brighton Green Space Advocates, a group that includes Nsangou and Gustavo Quiroga, the CDC's sustainability organizer, released the "Green Streets Guide" or Allston-Brighton, which looks to green local streets. The Everett Street Community Green Space fits perfectly with the group's vision.

"This is the culmination of a lot of work and initiative throughout the community to enhance the neighborhood," said Quiroga. "It's open to the community and we hope that people will utilize it and come learn about these technologies."

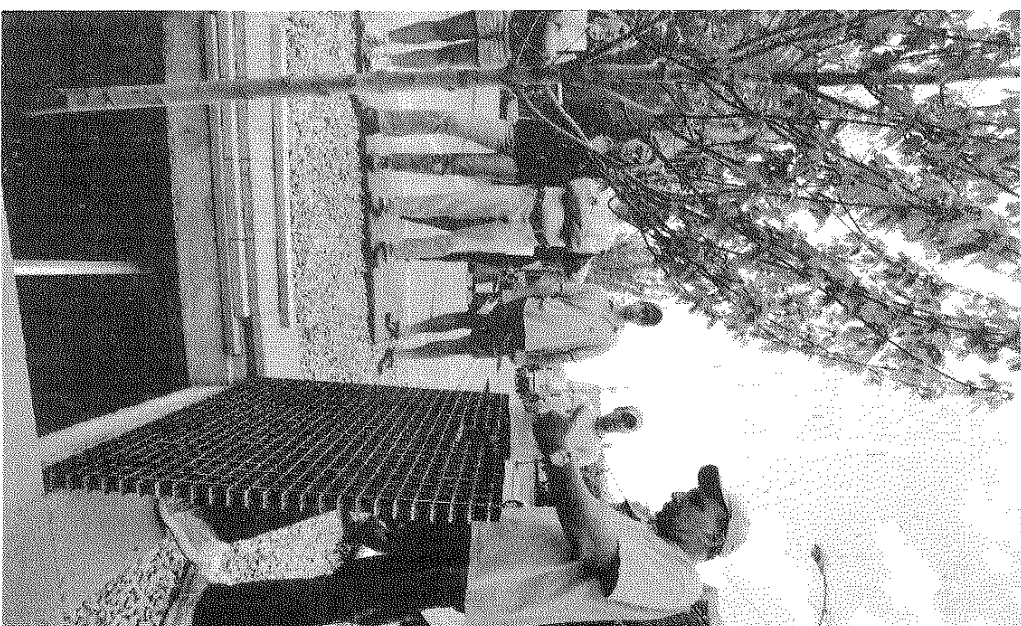
Marta Segura, 9, center and German International School first-grader Jakob Ottaway-Velder, 8, make a seed ball during the unveiling of the Everett Street Community Green Space at the German International School in Allston on Saturday.



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GUSTAVO QUIROGA

toward sustainable practices and a healthier environment for city residents. The importance of the project as a step toward this larger effort was evident in the excitement of the people involved.



Paul Lorio of Green Street Systems explains how the trench cleaning process works, returns it to the ground and keeps it out of the sewer system.

"Once again, Boston is at the forefront of green technology and sustainability and progressive thinking on the environment, it's happening right here in Allston," said Quiroga.