For Immediate Release

## **P H O T O   R E L E A S E**

## GNWPCD Enhances Environmental Initiatives through Beautification Projects
*Boosts Local Efforts to Restore Monarch Butterfly Population and Plants Rain Garden*

**Great Neck, N.Y. (June 8, 2018)** – The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District has recently continued its expansive environmental initiatives through a series of beautification projects at the District's 236 E Shore Road treatment center. District officials planted milkweed and nectar flower seeds to help revive the local monarch butterfly population—scattering the seeds throughout a 2,000 square foot area along Manhasset Bay to increase the population of these flowers known to be viable hosts for monarch butterflies to lay eggs. In recent weeks a rain garden was also installed in the District's parking lot with an assortment of plants and flowers.

"In addition to the natural beauty that monarch butterflies bring to communities, they serve a vital role in protecting local ecosystems as natural pollinators to wild flowers and plants," stated Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Commissioner Steve Reiter. "Restoring the monarch butterfly population to the Great Neck peninsula is an all-hands-on-deck effort. Local residents, businesses, municipalities and environmentalists are all working together to plant these seeds throughout their gardened areas. We are happy to play an ongoing role in this important environmental movement and the continued beautification of our great community."

According to The National Wildlife Federation, the monarch butterfly population has declined by more than 90 percent worldwide since the 1990s—citing climate change and habitat loss as leading factors for the drop. The National Wildlife Federation has called for neighborhoods and cities to come together to plant milkweed and nectar flower seeds in hopes of reversing this trend and restoring the monarch butterflies role in the ecosystem.

"It's a joy to partner with the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District in the effort to restore the monarch butterfly population to the north shore of Long Island," said Mel Epstein, a local resident and advocate of restoring the monarch butterflies. "I look forward to more organizations and municipalities joining us in reestablishing this species of butterflies in our communities."

"As a Board of Commissioners, we are constantly investing in infrastructure that serves to protect the local environment as it relates to our wastewater treatment process," said GNWPCD Commissioner Patty Katz. "But as a Great Neck community partner, we also continue to participate in initiatives that work toward protecting the local environment and preserving it for future generations. We look forward to seeing monarch butterflies around our facility and the growth of our rain garden in the coming months."

For additional information and updates about the Great Neck Water Pollution Control District, please call the office at 516-482-0238 or visit the website at [www.gnwpcd.net](www.gnwpcd.net).

**About the GNWPCD**

The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District (GNWPCD) is a commissioner-run Special Improvement District within the Town of North Hempstead. The GNWPCD has provided sewage services for the Great Neck area since 1914, and currently serves more than 25,000 residents and businesses in the villages of Great Neck, Saddle Rock, Kensington, and those parts of Thomaston and Great Neck Plaza east of Middle Neck Road; as well as all unincorporated areas north of the Long Island Rail Road and a part of Manhasset. The GNWPCD's mission is to protect our bay, the environment and the health of our society.

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Photo 1: *(l-r) Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Commissioner Jerry Landsberg, local resident Mel Epstein, Commissioner Patty Katz and Commissioner Steve Reiter scatter milkweed and nectar flower seeds.*

Photo 2: (l-r) *Great Neck Water Pollution Control District Superintendent Christopher Murphy, Commissioner Jerry Landsberg, Commissioner Patty Katz and Commissioner Steve Reiter stand alongside the District's new rain garden.*

Photo 1:



Photo 2: