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WATER POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**

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For Immediate Release

*****P R E S S R E L E A S E*****

**Great Neck Sewer District Plants Butterfly and Bee Garden
Sanctuary**

Native Plants Will Help Pollinators Thrive in Great Neck

Great Neck, N.Y. (May 31, 2022)— The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District (GNWPCD) recently teamed up with the Green Defenders Club, which is led by William A. Shine Great Neck South High School students, and Town of North Hempstead Environmental Specialist Meagan Fastuca to plant a butterfly and bee garden sanctuary at the District headquarters. The garden is made up entirely of native plants and will serve as an excellent source of food for the many pollinators who call the Great Neck peninsula home throughout the spring and summer.

“Pollinators such as bees and butterflies play an integral role in the health of our environment, as they ensure that plantlife throughout our community can grow and thrive,” said GNWPCD Chairwoman Patty Katz. “We made sure to only use native plants in our garden, as they not only serve as an excellent source of food for pollinators, but they are also drought-resistant and require far less water to survive than non-native species. We are excited to see these insects buzzing about outside our windows as our garden blooms, and we thank our dedicated students for all their help in making this possible.”

The native plants thriving in the garden include Muhly grass, New York ironweed, Joe-Pye weed, blue false indigo, butterfly milkweed, prairie drop, sneezeweed, liatris, anise hyssop, purple coneflower, smooth asta, oxeye and wild geranium. These plants are perfectly suited to thrive in Great Neck, as their long roots are able to absorb more water than non-native plants. This grants them access to more water at any given time of year, even in drought-like conditions.

About the GNWPCD

The Great Neck Water Pollution Control District (GNWPCD) is a special commissioner-run 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 Railroad and a part of Manhasset. The GNWPCD's mission is to protect human health, our bays and the environment.

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Photo caption: GNWPCD Chairwoman Patty Katz, far left, and Superintendent Christopher Murphy, far right, teamed up with Town of North Hempstead Environmental Specialist Meagan Fastuca, second from left, and the Green Defenders Club, which is led by William A. Shine Great Neck South High School students, to create a garden sanctuary for pollinators outside of the District headquarters.