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Connecting the Drops 2016 Rain Barrel Exhibit to be held at the Milton Farmer's Market

For its fourth anniversary, the Connecting the Drops traveling Rain Barrel Exhibit will be held at the Milton Farmers Market, adjacent to the Hannaford Plaza in Milton, VT, from June **9th – July 7th**. As in years prior, this display will feature original art by local artists using rain barrels as the canvas! During the exhibit Chittenden County residents will have a chance to sign up and win one of the five, uniquely-decorated rain barrels for use at their own home or work.

The purpose of the exhibit is to raise awareness about stormwater runoff and the actions property owners can take reduce stormwater and its negative impact on our waterways. Vermont's vibrant arts community will lend their talent to promote the continued trend of "green" stormwater practice implementation in and around Chittenden County. Becky Tharp, Program Manager of LCSG and VT DEC's Green Infrastructure Collaborative, has this to say about green stormwater infrastructure: "Green stormwater infrastructure, such as rain gardens, rain barrels, green roofs and pervious pavement, help to capture, store, treat and infiltrate stormwater, eliminating a considerable source of pollutants to our streams, rivers, and lakes."

In addition to exploring the beautiful artistic display, visitors will have the chance to read the "Stormwater Story"; a tale created by parenting magazine Kids VT that relays how stormwater impairs natural waterways and what each of us can do to "slow, spread, and sink" stormwater. For those with an interest in hands-on learning, the Chittenden County Stream Team (CCST) will also host a Build-Your-Own Rain Barrel workshop at Milton's Freedom Fest on Saturday, **June 25th** at Bombardier Park West at 3 pm. To register for this event call CCST's manager at 802-288-8155 Ext. 104 or email holly@winooskinrcd.org. To learn more visit <http://ccstreamteam.org/>.

The art-adorned rain barrels will be given away to lucky winners at the July 7th Farmers Market. You can enter for a chance to win in either of two ways: by scanning the QR code at the exhibit between June 9th – July 7th or by visiting <http://letitrainvt.org/connecting-the-drops/>.

Connecting the Drops 4.0 will be brought to you through a partnership between CCST, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, and the Town of Milton. Thanks to Pomerlauer Realty for the use of their property and a hearty thank you to our local, rain barrel artists for 2016: Jackie Bishop, Brian Clark, Scottie Raymond, Seb Sweatman, and Harrison Holmes.