



For immediate release – June 16, 2013

### **Eco-Shed Ribbon Cutting at South Street Farm**

**Ribbon cutting of the South Street Farm EcoShed which was completed thanks to a partnership between the City of Somerville, Groundwork Somerville, and Prospect Hill Academy students.**



**Somerville, MA** – on July 30<sup>th</sup> Somerville will come down for the ribbon cutting of the South Street Farm. The South Street Farm is located at 100 South Street in Somerville, MA. There the ribbon cutting will be held as we celebrate the long awaited completion of the EcoShed. It will feature a rainwater harvesting roof and pump system, a bicycle powered water pump, green walls, as well as storage and display space. The EcoShed was worked hard on by a diligent group of Prospect Hill Academy students and volunteers like Josh Briggs, who is the Project Manager, Construction Supervisor, and designed the rain water harvesting system and bike pump. The ribbon cutting will begin at 9:15am on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Joseph Curtatone will come out to show his support and the Green Team will lead tours.

The Eco-Shed is funded by the City of Somerville as part of the Mayor's Urban Agriculture

Initiative, in partnership with Groundwork Somerville, to create more green space, growing space, and locally grown produce. Groundwork manages the site, a former vacant lot, to grow food for the Somerville Mobile Market. "Reconnecting residents with their food source and using inspired solutions to help our environment are two key elements of the City's commitment to healthy living. South Street Farm's new rainwater catchment system not only achieves those goals, it acts as a preventive measure that eases the burden on our stormwater infrastructure," Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone said. "This is the smart, innovative thinking needed to tackle a complex issue. Groundwork is taking stormwater that could disrupt our environment and instead turning it into something that nourishes our environment. If we want people to make the choice of fresh, healthy foods, we need to embrace the movement to reconnect residents with their food source, through projects like this and the City's Urban Agriculture Initiatives. It changes the environment in more ways than one."

In addition to the shed, the students also designed and painted a data mural that illustrates the story of food access in Somerville and Groundwork's role in providing fresh produce to residents of this city at affordable prices. "This landscape has gone from being an abandoned parking lot to one that produces food, creates jobs and fosters youth development while assuring that hundreds of gallons of water are not going into the storm system," said City of Somerville Sr. Landscape Designer, Luisa Oliveira. Groundwork Somerville is part of a national network led by Groundwork USA, to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment through the development of community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.

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