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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Earth Day Festival to Focus on Healthy Yards

Bedford 2020 and Bedford Hills Live invite you to an Earth Day festival at the Bedford Hills Train Station on Earth Day with live music, local food, kids games, and tips and resources to have a healthy yard this year.

The fun starts at noon on Sunday, April 22nd, with *The Recliners*, a local, family band, followed by the bluegrass, country, and fiddle sounds of *The Shovel Ready String Band* at 1:30. Throughout the day there will be a treasure hunt and crafts for kids, vendors selling food from area restaurants and a Plant and Seed Swap. Organizations and businesses related to landscaping and gardening will have activities, displays, and advice about chemical-free yard care, planting for pollinators, composting, and more.

“Healthy yard practices are important for the health of you and your family, local land and animals, and clean drinking water,” says Filippine Hoogland, event chair. “This celebration will be a great way to get the community to learn more about healthy yard practices and have some fun!”

According to Ellen Calves, Program Director at Bedford 2020, “Many people in our area do not want to use toxic chemicals to have a nice looking yard, but they have a lot of

questions about how to do it. We are thrilled that this remarkable group of volunteers has put together this event to help answer these questions.” The volunteers from the Water and Land Use Task Force include gardeners, landscapers, conservationists, local organization leaders and members of the Town conservation board.

The Bedford 2020 Water and Land Use Task Force, Leave Leaves Alone, the Great Healthy Yard Project, the Bionutrient Food Association, Rusticus Garden Club, Mill River Supply, and various local nurseries and professional landscapers will be available to give advice to people of all experience levels. The Bedford Garden Club’s Branch Out project and the Bedford Conservation Board will give away free tree saplings.

Everyone may also participate in the Plant and Seed Swap. Seasoned gardeners can help by bringing seeds collected last year from their native plants, or seeds purchased to plant this spring. Divided native and non-invasive plants can be swapped, as well as your extra perennial edibles such as strawberries. Please bring seeds or plants to swap in a container marked with the name of the plant.

“This is going to be a really fun afternoon for all ages and all gardening experience levels! Everyone can participate in activities, enjoy the music and lively displays, and take away some great ideas about how to make a difference for the environment by making some small but significant changes to their backyard gardening practices,” says event volunteer and Bedford Hills resident, Fiona Mitchell.

This free festival will be located inside and outside the Bedford Hills Train station from 12-4pm on Earth Day, Sunday, April 22nd, rain or shine. Stop by and support the organizations, businesses, and people who keep Bedford and beyond a beautiful and lively place! For more information, visit bedford2020.org/earthday2018.

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