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For Immediate Release:

Green Artists League installs Living, Green Furniture at Newburyport's Clipper City Rail Trail.

The Green Artists League (GAL), an environmental artists collective, is installing "Green Furniture" at the Alchemical Garden, a public "art park" at the Clipper City Rail Trail. "Green Furniture" consists of two grass couches designed and built by GAL artist Tim Gaudreau of Portsmouth NH that will function as living, park furniture and as a gathering place along the Rail Trail.

The installation of Green Furniture is the crowning element of the first season of the Alchemical Garden. Alchemical Garden brings together art and science through the use of plants to remove toxins in the soil and to create an edible garden and art installation that honors the legacy of agricultural and industrial history at the site while raising environmental awareness. GAL will work with the greater Newburyport community to create interactive art performances and education opportunities.

"We are looking at the Alchemical Garden as a gift by the community for the community," said GAL artist and Newburyport resident, Erin Stack. "GAL is dedicated to co-creating public art which inspires, stirs the imagination and is inclusive, educational, and sustainable." Using the principles of permaculture, an innovative and "green" gardening method, plantings will require minimal maintenance once established. The art and architectural features will be created mostly from living plant material and recycled materials.

"The Green Artists League is uniquely positioned to design and install this innovative, interactive, and grant-funded garden on the Rail Trail," said Geordie Vining, Senior Project Manager for the Newburyport Planning Office. "I am not aware of anyone else who can integrate landscaping, sculpture, education, and outreach in this way. The G.A.L. has an interesting track record with the New Eden Garden collaborative in Newbury and the community garden at the Griffin House for Aged Men, and they are committed to fund-raising and maintenance. I think their energy will add a lot to the Clipper City Rail Trail and the community."

The Alchemical Garden is a multi-year project, with completion anticipated in 2012. The New England Foundation for the Arts generously awarded \$20,000 to begin the first phase of the Alchemical Garden. The Green Artists League has a 2010 fund-raising "target" of securing an additional \$36,000 in private

donations. GAL believes that no donation is too small and encourages anyone and everyone who believes this will be a valuable addition to both the rail trail and the city's green mission to be a co-creator. GAL is grateful to the Urban Arts Institute at the Massachusetts College of Art for acting as our fiscal sponsor so that donations can be tax-deductible.

To learn more about the Alchemical Garden or to make a donation, please visit www.greenartistsleague.org. For more information and to learn how you can become involved, contact Erin Stack at erin@greenartistsleague.org or call 978-807-6315.



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