



Groundwork Lawrence has new executive director

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LAWRENCE — Groundwork Lawrence, a local non-profit devoted to the environment and education, has a new leader.

Heather McMann, 37, of Haverhill, has taken over as executive director from Kate O'Brien, who has stepped down to take care of her new baby, Owen.

The announcement was made Thursday in an e-mail from O'Brien, who had served as executive director for the past seven years.

McMann, who has been with the group for four years, most recently as deputy director, said she plans "no drastic changes." She said efforts will continue at beautifying the city through the group's Green Teams, expanding the growing network of parks, and teaching residents about fresh food by expanding its community gardens program.

Groundwork Lawrence, which has four paid staffers, is part of a national organization of 20 chapters throughout the country, and is based on Groundwork UK, which has 50 chapters throughout the United Kingdom. U.S. chapters are funded through grants from private and public agencies.