

Three More Rain Gardens in the New Jersey Highlands (Belvidere, Hackettstown, and Hope)

Rain gardens were built this summer at Hope Township School, Hackettstown High School, and Belvidere Elementary School, joining a long list of New Jersey schools with rain gardens, including projects recently installed at Hackettstown Middle School and Pope John High School in Sparta. These gardens were installed as part of a green stormwater infrastructure initiative and are designed to manage stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces and create wildlife habitat in the Upper Delaware River watershed and Highlands Planning Area.

Belvidere Elementary School was the latest to receive an 885 sq. ft. rain garden to manage stormwater runoff and create wildlife habitat in the Upper Delaware River watershed. This rain garden takes runoff from the building's rooftop, totaling 6,590 sq. ft. of impervious surface and managing approximately 136,600 gallons annually. The Water Resources Program provided the design, and local excavator, Drake's Excavating, constructed the rain garden. Volunteers from the community and Belvidere Environmental Commission planted native perennials and shrubs, beautifying the school and creating new habitat for pollinator species. Funding for this project was provided by the Water Resources Program through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

A 265 sq. ft. rain garden was installed at Hackettstown High School to manage stormwater runoff and create wildlife habitat in the Upper Delaware River watershed. The Water Resources Program provided the design and local excavator, H. Burd and Sons Excavating, constructed the rain garden with assistance from the Hackettstown Municipal Utility Authority and the Hackettstown School District. The Water Resources Program staff and student interns planted native perennials and shrubs, beautifying the school, and creating a new habitat for pollinator species. Funding for this project was provided by the Water Resources Program through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Students and local volunteers rallied together to build a 450 sq. ft. rain garden at the Hope Township School to manage stormwater runoff and create wildlife habitat in the Upper Delaware River watershed. The Water Resources Program provided the design, and a local excavator, Drake's Excavating, donated their time to construct the rain garden with assistance from the Hope Township Department of Public Works. The Water Resources Program staff, Hope Township Green Team, school staff, and community volunteers planted native perennials and shrubs, beautifying the school, and creating new habitat for pollinator species. Funding for this project was provided by the Water Resources Program through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Photos:

1. Volunteers planting at Hope Township School
2. Drake's Excavating constructing a rain garden at Belvidere Elementary School
3. Completed rain garden at Hackettstown High School (photo credit: Carl Johnson)



1. Volunteers planting at Hope Township School (RCE Water Resources Program)



2. Drake's Excavating constructing a rain garden at Belvidere Elementary School (RCE Water Resources Program)



3. Completed rain garden at Hackettstown High School (photo credit: Carl Johnson, Hackettstown Board of Education)