



Green Infrastructure has been Installed at Washington Park, Perth Amboy



Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) is a group consisting of representatives from the city's planning department, local community groups, city engineers, utilities authorities, and other regional and statewide organizations. Together, the teams meet once a month to work toward a common goal: to increase the development of green infrastructure demonstration projects in the City of Perth Amboy to help reduce the impacts associated with the 16 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) throughout the community.



Over the past month, the group has made large strides toward this goal. With funding from a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 319(h) grant, awarded to the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program in 2014, Perth Amboy SWIM has implemented three (3) green infrastructure demonstration projects at Washington Park on New Brunswick Avenue in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The project includes a three cell bioswale system, a large rain garden, and two porous asphalt areas in the parking lot. Overall, it is anticipated that the project will manage up to 560,000



gallons annually and provide floodwater mitigation for local community members.

SWIM is currently seeking volunteers to come out on Saturday, October 7th to a community planting of the newly constructed rain garden. The planting will begin at 10AM on the site at Washington Park. Refreshments and other information will be available!



Interested in joining the team? Any and all personal interested in participating in the green infrastructure initiative in Perth Amboy are welcome. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19th at the Brighton Ave Community Center. For more information contact us at PerthAmboySWIM@gmail.com.

Love Your Rain Garden!



In the spring of 2011, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program worked with the Hillsborough Building and Grounds Department to install a rain garden behind the Woods Road Elementary School in Hillsborough, New Jersey. The students at the time learned about how the rain garden works and the plants they helped plant. The

students really enjoyed the planting along with the idea that they were creating habitat to attract pollinators to their own school. Fast forward six years to the summer of 2017, and the students who originally helped with the rain garden are now in high school!

The RCE Water Resources Program enjoys going back to check on past projects to see how they are doing. During a recent inspection of the Woods Road School rain garden, the rain garden was found to need a bit of maintenance. Rain gardens are low maintenance landscape features that help promote stormwater infiltration, not no maintenance landscape features! On August 25, 2017, staff and interns from the RCE Water Resources Program gave the rain garden some much needed TLC by removing the weeds, fixing the underdrain, and reinstalling the sign. New plants, along with a three-inch layer of triple shredded hardwood mulch, were added as well. Butterflies and bees were already flocking to the rain garden while we were working. What a difference a day makes!



The Bees are Loving the Rain Garden at the Lopatcong Pool!



With the installation of a rain garden at the pool in Lopatcong, New Jersey came the hum of bees. A rain garden was designed to capture stormwater runoff from the roof and move it away from the building's foundation. The rain garden will help manage and infiltrate stormwater runoff as well as provide wildlife habitat. The rain garden is 300 square feet and has three separate tiers which are separated by rock walls to slow down the stormwater coming into the garden and allow it to infiltrate.

This new wildlife habitat was made possible through a partnership between Lopatcong Township, planning board members, Joseph Pryor, Lopatcong Township Department of Public Works, Lopatcong Creek Initiative, and

the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. The Lopatcong Pool rain garden was selected as one of six green infrastructure demonstration projects funded by the William Penn Foundation this summer.

Municipal Action Teams are Moving Green Infrastructure into Action Across the State of New Jersey Update

Municipal action teams have been formed to foster collaboration and collective action that helps the municipality speak with a common voice and achieve a common goal while advocating for green infrastructure. Detailed below is an update on the various municipal action teams across the state.

The **Camden SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) partners held their monthly meeting on September 12th at CCMUA. CCMUA is soliciting bids for the next round of New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust funded green and grey infrastructure projects and is hoping to be able to award contracts in the next several months. The rain barrel program funded in part by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and coordinated by Philadelphia Horticultural Society and Camden SMART is off to a strong start. Over 50 rain barrels have been installed this year and another 25 are currently being scheduled. Several more community meetings in September and October are planned and then the program will pause under Spring 2018. Aramark brought over 40 volunteers to Camden on August 20th to help maintain and plant several green infrastructure projects. Camden SMART partners led educational programs and directed efforts of the Aramark Building Communities effort. Partners are now planning a program with the Brimm Medical Arts School for Imagine A Day Without Water on October 12th and also making sure all green infrastructure projects are winterized over the next several months.

The **Gloucester City Environmental Partners** met on September 13th. The Camden County Soil Conservation District in partnership with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and NJ Tree Foundation presented preliminary demonstration project designs to the group. Partners approved of moving forward with concepts for green infrastructure projects on several city properties. These plans will be developed and presented to city council for endorsement and then forwarded to NJDEP for review and consideration. When approved the projects will be funded through a NJDEP 3 19(h) grant and scheduled for installation in the spring or summer of 2018.

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) partners have recently completed a multi-practice green infrastructure demonstration project at the Michael Conti Public School #5. The project incorporates downspout planter boxes, a series of tree trenches, and porous asphalt in the parking area of Merseles Avenue. The treatment series will provide detention for a large volume of stormwater that drains from the school's rooftop, which in the past has added to street flooding disrupting classrooms as teachers seek to move their vehicles before floodwater damage. This project is one of the first of its kind led by the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority through funding provided by the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust and supported by the RCE Water Resources Program through the Surdna Foundation. Students of school 5 will be joining START partners to plant the downspout planters this Friday and we invite you to join us at the ribbon cutting on Friday, October 6th at 9:30 am. For more information, please email jerseycitySTART@gmail.com or visit water.innovatejerseycity.org.



Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) will be co-hosting the 5th Growing Leaders Conference: Becoming Quality of Life Change Agents on October 14th from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Rutgers School

of Criminal Justice located at 123 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102. This free conference is open to all, but pre-registration is required. To register, please contact the Greater Newark LISC at (973) 624-6676 x10 or email Candace at cjohnson@lisc.org. DIG partners will also be out this Saturday, September 30th at the various locations of Newark's Sustainable Summer Series in the Central Ward. For more information on this Saturday's event, please [click here](#) to view the day's activities and join us in the important conversation of a sustainable future for the City of Newark!

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) partners have recently completed a multi-practice green infrastructure demonstration project at Washington Park. Monday, September 25th marked the completion of the first porous asphalt project in the city, hoping to pave the way for future innovative stormwater management project. In the coming months, Perth Amboy SWIM will continue there efforts through the implementation of two additional projects within the city. The partners recently met on September 21st for their monthly meeting and continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners met on September 6th at the Isles Youth Build Institute. Isles is coordinating a tree planting effort in East Trenton for this fall. It is hoped that this will be the first phase of a larger tree planting effort to reestablish canopy trees in Trenton. In addition, partners will be meeting with representatives of the Board of Education to begin pursuing demonstration green infrastructure projects in partnership with Trenton Schools. Moving forward, this municipal action team will be facilitated by New Jersey Future in partnership with Isles and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. Other related efforts in the City include planned construction of the Assunpink Creek Stream Daylighting Project in the downtown area led by the Army Corp of Engineers and the development of a stormwater management plan for Trenton led by the Department of Planning with assistance from Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Technical assistance provided to these municipal action teams by the RCE Water Resources Program is funded in part by the Surdna Foundation with support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and our local partners. For more information about the New Jersey Technical Assistance Program for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) communities, please [click here](#).

Upcoming Workshops and Programs



2017 Environmental Congress: Leading with Local Action to Engage, Protect, and Restore

The Environmental Congress is an annual statewide gathering of environmental commissions, local officials, agencies, citizen groups, and environmental organizations hosted by the Associated of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). Mayor Dawn Zimmer of the City of Hoboken will be this year's keynote address followed by a plenary panel which will include James Florio, former New Jersey Governor, Lisa Plevin, former USEPA Region 2 Chief of Staff, and Cindy Ehrenclou, Executive Director of the Raritan Headwaters Association.

The conference will be held on Friday, October 13th from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Mercer County Community College located at 1200 Old Trenton Road in West Windsor, New Jersey. To learn more and to register for the event, please [click here](#). Early

registration will close on September 29th!

RCE Water Resources Program | New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | M-F 8:30 - 4:30pm

