

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station



OCTOBER 2023

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

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## **Porous Asphalt & Stormwater Tree Trench Project for Halsted Middle School – A Great Success!**

A porous asphalt and stormwater tree trench project was installed at Halsted Middle School in Newton, NJ in August. The project was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and organized in collaboration with the **Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority** and the **Wallkill River Watershed Management Group**.

The porous asphalt allows water from the parking lot to be captured and filtered, improving water quality as well as reducing downstream flooding in the Paulins Kill River. The stormwater tree trench is specially designed with structural soils to provide a quality rooting zone for the trees. Many trees are planted in compacted urban soils which severely limit the lifespan of the trees and their overall health, so it is important for the trees to grow in loose soils.

Structural soil can have pervious pavement installed over it without getting compacted while also providing storage for stormwater runoff from the playground area. This allows the trees to capture stormwater runoff from the playground while still allowing a safe walkable surface.

The project is expected to provide numerous benefits such as improved stormwater management, enhanced air quality, and some much needed shade in the playground. These projects will help expand on the school's existing rain garden and porous pavement to help create a more sustainable campus filled with educational opportunities for students!





*[Photo Credit: Wallkill River Watershed Management Group]*

## Fall Maintenance Tips



*Liatrix spicata,*  
**Dense Blazing Star**



*Eutrochium fistulosum,*  
**Joe-Pye Weed**

As autumn sets in, it's time to put your rain garden to bed for the winter. Here are some tips on how to make sure it's cozy!

- Identify desirable plants using your maintenance guide, plant list, and plant ID apps for your phone (such as PlantNet or Picture This). Prune or cut back previous perennial growth. Remove non-desirable and invasive plant species.

- Inspect inlet and outlet structures, stone, pipes, drains, and grates. Remove accumulated debris from the rain garden.
- Rake out excess leaves and add them to your personal compost bin or set them out in leaf bags for collection. A small layer of no more than two (2) inches is acceptable and will add organic matter to the rain garden soil.
- Check the height of the berm; rain gardens should generally be about six (6) inches deep from the top of the berm to the mulched base. If erosion has caused the berm height to decrease, consider adding soil material to the berm before mulching it.
- For plants that have gone to seed, collect the seeds for sharing, or spread them around your rain garden to encourage more beneficial plants. Some plant seeds are also valuable food for winter birds and can provide winter interest to your garden; you decide what to do with the seed heads of the plants!
- Add a two (2) to three (3)-inch layer of undyed triple shredded hardwood mulch. This will help curtail weeds in the spring.

Take notes of what plants did well this year and which did not, and you will have this to compare to next year. Use this information to help you decide which plants to promote and which ones might need to be pulled from the stage. Now you will really start to know your garden in all its seasons!



*Rudbeckia hirta*,  
Blackeyed Susan



*Asclepias tuberosa*,  
Butterfly Weed

[Photo credit: Lisa Galloway Evrard]

# Technical Friday Webinar: The New Stormwater Rule and Proposed Enhancements

Date: November 3, 2023

Time: noon to 1:30 pm.

Place: Virtual/Zoom

Cost: Free. CEU credits may be available for a fee.

Expert Speakers:

Clay Emerson, PhD PE CFM - **Princeton Hydro**

Michael Pisauro, Esq., Policy Director - **The Watershed Institute**

**The Watershed Institute** with **ALS**, **ANJEC**, **PPA** invite officials, planning board members, municipal professionals (engineers and planners), attorneys and Environmental Commission members, from all across the state, to learn more and ask questions.

In July 2023, NJDEP published the Inland Flood Protection Rules. This new rule requires updates to municipal stormwater control ordinances. The need to update ordinances along with NJ's MS4 permit obligation to improve water quality presents a great opportunity to adopt enhancements to the ordinance. Municipalities are required to have new ordinances in effect by July 16, 2023.

Co-sponsored by the **American Littoral Society (ALS)**, **Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)**, and **Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA)** this webinar will provide:

- Guidance on the new stormwater ordinances
- A summary of requirements
- The Watershed Institute's recommendations and model to prepare stronger ordinances

[\*\*Register and Learn More\*\*](#)

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## **HOLD THE DATES: Become a leader, become a Green Infrastructure Champion!**



The next Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program will be offered every other Friday from 10AM to 12NOON starting January 12, 2024!

All sessions for the 2024 training program will be offered via an online format.

Generous support from our funders is allowing us to offer the 2024 training for

**FREE.**

**Here is what we can offer as part of the program:**

- Training on green infrastructure planning and implementation
- Technical support to develop a design for a green infrastructure demonstration project
- Networking opportunities with other certified Green Infrastructure Champions for mutual support
- Assistance with grant writing

**2024 Training Program Class Schedule:**

1. How to identify green infrastructure projects in your town (January 12)
2. Moving from planning to implementation of green infrastructure (January 26)
3. Maintaining green infrastructure practices/projects (February 9)
4. Stormwater management regulations, policies, and ordinances (February 23)
5. Green infrastructure planning and implementation for Sustainable Jersey points (March 8)
6. Green infrastructure projects for schools (March 22)
7. How to design and build a rain garden (April 5)
8. Retrofitting traditional detention basins with green infrastructure (April 19)
9. Developing green infrastructure master plans for an entire site or neighborhood (May 3)
10. Using green infrastructure to promote climate resiliency (May 17)

**Registration is required.**

*Coming soon to [water.rutgers.edu](http://water.rutgers.edu)! Registration will open December 1.*

**Attendance at a minimum of five (5) classes is needed for certification.**

This program is partially funded by the **New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, William Penn Foundation,** and **New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium** and is a collaboration of the **Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program** and the Green Infrastructure Subcommittee of **Jersey Water Works**.

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## **Rain Garden Native Plant Spotlight ~ Aromatic Aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*)**

Aromatic aster is a pollinator-friendly flowering perennial that adds a long lasting autumn bloom to the seasonal garden. *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* has a compact, mounding growth habit that works well as a border to shrubs and taller perennials. The vibrant purple color of the flower also pairs well with the fall color and seed heads of warm season native grasses. It is tolerant of both dry soils and clay, making it a good choice for the upland slopes and berms of sunny rain gardens.

For more information:

<https://www.jerseyyards.org/plant/symphyotrichum-oblongifolium/>



*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*, Aromatic Aster  
[Photo credit: Chris Perez]



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