



August 2018

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

Rebates are still available for rain gardens!

The RCE Water Resources Program has been working with our many partner organizations and communities to offer rain garden rebate programs in Manville, Hamilton (Mercer County), Evesham, and Hammonton. The program offers a one-hour educational presentation on rain gardens, and those that attend this presentation are invited to participate in a technical session. In the technical session, the homeowner works



with an engineer and a landscape architect to design a rain garden for their property. At the end of the session, the homeowner leaves with a design plan. After the homeowner builds the rain garden, they contact the RCE Water Resources Program and schedule a time for an inspection. The RCE Water Resources Program inspects the rain garden and then provides a \$3 per square foot rebate for the rain garden built, up to a maximum rebate of \$450 (150 square feet). If you live in one of these areas and are interested in participating in the program, please contact Sara Mellor at sarafell@envsci.rutgers.edu. Rebates are still available in these communities.



Heavy rain during the summer of 2018

It is hard to remember a wetter summer with as many intense storms. New Jersey has the highest impervious cover percentage in the nation, which has increased the risk of severe flash flooding throughout the state. Many municipalities are looking to the RCE Water Resources Program to develop plans for retrofitting existing development with stormwater

management practices that can help reduce the impact of runoff from impervious surfaces. This

summer we developed impervious cover assessments, impervious cover reduction actions plans, and green infrastructure feasibility studies for over 25 municipalities. This brings our total number of municipalities with plans to 175. We continue to offer our services to these 175 communities to help them implement recommended projects from all our plans. If your municipality is interested in having a plan developed or to implement one of the green infrastructure practices in your plan, please do not hesitate to contact Hollie DiMuro at hdimuro@envsci.rutgers.edu.

Fall is the perfect time to install a rain garden!

It's not too late! Fall is a perfect time to install a rain garden. As the weather starts getting cooler and the local garden centers start their 30% off sales, the time is right to build that rain garden you always wanted! Check out the **Rain Garden Manual of New Jersey** or the **Rain Garden App** for design help, or attend one of our workshops this fall. It is never too late to do your part to help save the planet for future generations.



Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance - Need we say more?

When the RCE Water Resources Program enters into a partnership to build green infrastructure practices, we typically agree to maintain the practice for the first two years after construction. This mostly involves weeding, mulching, and plant replacement. This summer our staff and student interns have helped maintained over 45 rain gardens. Some gardens require very little work while other result in dump truck loads of weeds! Proper maintenance is the key to ensuring the success of green infrastructure practices.



Governor Livingston High School, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey BEFORE maintenance, August 2018



Governor Livingston High School, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey AFTER maintenance, August 2018



The dump truck load of weeds from the Governor Livingston High School rain garden, August 2018

Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

Camden SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on August 14th, and Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) reported on the Command Contract maintenance and tree plantings at four sites, including vacants lots, the Dudley School, and the Early Childhood Center. The New Jersey Tree Foundation continues to provide maintenance to gardens, including 11 sites in August. As a part of the North Camden Stormwater Initiative, Camden Lutheran Housing, Inc. (CLHI), in cooperation with Rutgers and Camden County Soil Conservation District, has been fabricating stormwater planter boxes and placing them in front of homes in the neighborhood. CLHI installed 12 in early August and is working on another round of 15. This includes 10 on the 400 block of State Street – all in one location, maximizing impact (both visually and functionally). The North Camden Stormwater Initiative is also developing designs for the implementation of rain gardens, stormwater tree pits, and porous paving concentrated in the neighborhood.

Gloucester City Green Team continues to meet monthly. Construction on a rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department is planned to begin in the fall. The City will

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. Updates on the various municipal action teams across the state are listed in this newsletter.

Technical assistance provided to these municipal action teams by the RCE Water Resources Program is funded in part by the Surdna Foundation, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission with support from the New Jersey Department of

assist with the installation, and local volunteers will be planting. Plans for the installation of enhanced tree pits in cooperation with the New Jersey Tree Foundation were also discussed. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for September 12th.

Harrison TIDE (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) regular meetings will resume in September. Members of Harrison TIDE met with Harrison Middle School on August 2nd to discuss a rain garden at the school. The school was extremely excited about the project, and several ideas for a project in the courtyard were discussed.

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on August 9th to discuss current projects and plans for the next year. Soil testing for the Columbia Park green infrastructure project is moving forward with soil testing and digging quotes being obtained by CDM Smith. A maintenance agreement between PVSC, Jersey City MUA, and Jersey City is also being formulated for the project. A citizen's advisory committee has been formed to coordinate public outreach informing and engaging community members on the CSO Long Term Control Plan over the next year. Partnerships are being developed with the Association of Neighborhood Associations and the Parks Coalition to facilitate outreach within the community.

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) partners met on August 28th to discuss current projects and initiatives. Collaboration between GI Reformers and the RCE Water Resources Program is being explored to facilitate communication of green infrastructure opportunities between DIG members and property owners. The Clinton/Badger Avenue Traffic Triangle Project is being put out to bid next month. Other New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (EIT) projects have been revised and are being sent to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for review. A CSO supplemental team meeting was held after the DIG meeting to outline plans for the Long Term Control Plan's educational material development and outreach over the next year.

Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) members met on August 22nd. Plans for construction of MLK Park, which will include a rain garden, have been moving forward, and construction is anticipated to begin in mid to late September. Partners discussed planning for meetings in the fall to facilitate public comments on the Long Term Control Plan. Members of Passaic County Parks & Recreation, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, and Great Swamp Watershed Association met with community members at Barbour Park to discuss possible green infrastructure development at the site as part of the current resident-led initiative to revitalize the park known as "Occupy Barbour Park."

Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and our local partners.

Camden SMART

Gloucester City Green Team

Harrison TIDE

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson SMART

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) has continued their efforts toward promoting green infrastructure throughout the city of Perth Amboy. Over the last few months, the group has participated in a number of city-wide events to promote and educate the public on green infrastructure. The partners recently met on August 16th for their monthly meeting and continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners has continued their efforts of identifying and installing green infrastructure projects throughout the City of Trenton. At the last meeting, the partners explored additional opportunities for the group including providing comments on the city's upcoming stormwater plan, updating the community forestry plan, and formalizing the initiative with a mission and website. The partners recently met on July 31st and continue to meet monthly at Trenton City Hall. New members are welcome to join.



Green Infrastructure Planning and Implementation *Come and Find Out How to Get Your Points*

This course will review the Sustainable Jersey green infrastructure actions. If your municipality is struggling with localized flooding or unhealthy waterways, this workshop is for you! (more details on the back)

Two Workshop Locations Offered

Wednesday, September 19

8:30am – Noon

Duke Farms – Farm Barn/Orientation Center

1112 Dukes Parkway West

Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Register: <http://bit.ly/GINFRA19Register>

OR

Wednesday, October 17

8:30am – Noon

Wheaton Art Center – Event Center

1000 Village Drive

Millville, NJ 08332

Register: <http://bit.ly/MillvilleRegister>





Green Infrastructure Planning and Implementation *Come and Find Out How to Get Your Points*

This course will review the Sustainable Jersey green infrastructure actions. If your municipality is struggling with localized flooding or unhealthy waterways, this workshop is for you! There are 35 points available for green infrastructure planning and another 45 points available for green infrastructure implementation. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program has already completed green infrastructure plans for over 140 Sustainable Jersey municipalities. Come find out if you are one of them and how you can adopt these plans for Sustainable Jersey points. If a plan is not already developed for your municipality, we will share with you how to get one done.

Dates and Locations

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Agenda

- 8:30 am Registration and continental breakfast
- 9:00 am Welcome by Sustainable Jersey
- 9:15 am What is a green infrastructure plan?
- 9:45 am How to develop a plan?
- 10:15 am How to set realistic green infrastructure targets for your community?
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 am How to use a green infrastructure plan?
- 11:00 am How to implement green infrastructure projects to achieve your goal?
- 11:45 am Wrap up
- 12:00 pm Adjourn

