

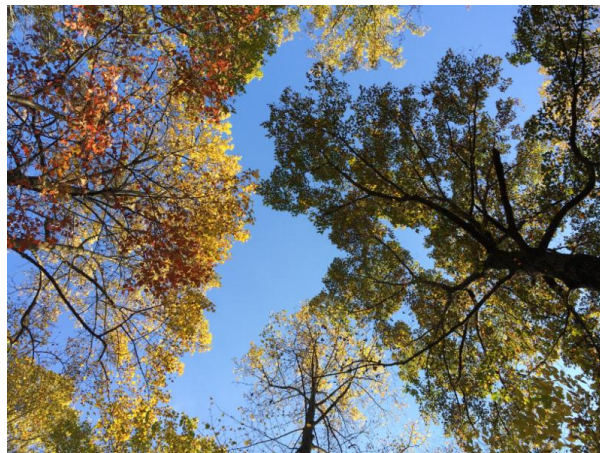


October 2018

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

### Giving Thanks for Another Great Year . . .

As the last hole for the last Inkberry Holly for the last rain garden is dug, I reflect on another great year for the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program. From Millville to Newton to Ocean Township to Frenchtown, we travelled much of the state this year to deliver science-based solutions to our stakeholders. We worked with so many fantastic project partners. We had a terrific bunch of student interns that worked very hard with our staff



to make a difference. We completed green infrastructure plans and too many engineering designs to count. We built a lot of rain gardens, moving tons of soil, installing thousands of plants, and spreading 100's of cubic yards of mulch. We shared our work with colleagues at conferences and workshops across the nation. We promoted urban Extension, climate resilience, and green infrastructure through our community engagement efforts. We educated thousands of people including homeowners, municipal officials, public workers, regulators, engineers, landscape architects, planners, college students, and K-12 youth.

It was a wonderful year. We want to thank each and every one of you for your support through this year. We will be spending the winter preparing plans and designs for a magnificent 2019!

Happy Thanksgiving to you from Christopher Obropta and the RCE Water Resources Program!



### Northeast Regional Urban Extension Caucus/Center Meeting

On October 30th, our second face-to-face Northeast Regional Urban Extension Caucus Meeting was held in Baltimore, MD. The Northeast Regional Urban Extension Caucus sprouted from the National Urban Extension Network. Extension professionals from across the Northeast came to Baltimore to collaborate on two focus areas: Feed the Future and Protect Our Environment. We shared programming in both of these focus

areas and identified programs to focus on expanding throughout the region. We discussed a structural model for our regional collaboration that includes state coordinators and an array of committees that will allow us to formalize a Regional Urban Extension Center for the Northeast. Ms. Manami Brown from the University of Maryland is the current chair of the regional caucus, which will be now be called a regional center. She has an outstanding team in Maryland that will provide a great foundation for a robust Regional Urban Extension Center for the Northeast. If you are interested in participating in regional collaboration through the Northeast Center, please contact Christopher Obropta at [obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu).

## Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

**Gloucester City Green Team** met on October 10th. Construction of a rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department has been postponed until the spring. Plans for the urban forestry grant were discussed to update the city's urban forestry plan and to implement enhanced tree pits in cooperation with the New Jersey Tree Foundation. Opportunities for a project in the high school courtyard have been discussed and continue to move forward. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for November 7th at 1 PM.

**Harrison TIDE** (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) met on October 11th. Plans for the Washington Middle School courtyard were discussed, and preliminary plans will be prepared for the next meeting and presented to the school for feedback. Plans to implement a project at the Fire Department building were also discussed. The group is planning to collaborate on a public meeting on the CSO long term control plan to allow community feedback on the plan. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for November 8th at 2 PM.

**Jersey City START** (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on October 11th and discussed the city's ongoing green infrastructure projects and initiatives. The city's architecture department is overseeing projects throughout the city. Sustainable Jersey City members joined to update on their open source sewer mapping initiative as well. The first meeting to collect public input on the CSO long term control plan will be held with the city's Environmental Commission at City Hall on November 20th.

**Newark DIG** (Doing Infrastructure Green) met on October 23rd to discuss current projects and initiatives. The Clinton/Badger Avenue Traffic Triangle Project is being put out to bid. Additional Environmental Infrastructure Trust (EIT) projects have been revised and will be explored for implementation. The team discussed updates on the CSO long term control plan and what educational materials and outreach will be done to inform the public.

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 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

**Paterson SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) members met on October 24th. MLK Park has secured a contractor to do the grading and a second community meeting at Freedom Village to discuss the final plans is upcoming. PVSC has provided a matrix to collect and submit public feedback on CSO long term control plan alternatives, and this will be distributed among Paterson SMART members and their respective organizations for feedback. The group is working with city partners to present the CSO long term control plan to the Mayor and his new administration.

Trenton Green Infrastructure  
Partners

**Perth Amboy SWIM** (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) has continued their efforts toward promoting green infrastructure throughout the city of Perth Amboy. Last month, the group hosted a groundbreaking event to celebrate the newly installed green infrastructure projects at Washington Park. The park includes three systems: porous asphalt, bioswales, and a rain garden. The partners recently met on October 17th for their monthly meeting and continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

**Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners** met on October 22nd. Partners are working on prioritizing and designing projects for additional sites within the city. Residents aided in the prioritization of sites throughout the city based on their experiences and knowledge. Members of the planning board and school facilities board will meet to align upcoming projects with the TGIP green infrastructure initiative with a plan to install projects this spring. The partners typically meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month.



**Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program**  
water@envsci.rutgers.edu  
www.water.rutgers.edu

Connect with us

