



January 2019

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

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### Paterson is Gearing Up For a Green 2019

The activist community in Paterson is strong, with the Paterson Alliance bringing together more than 70 community-based action-oriented organizations that work to better their city. In the past few months, the environmental side of things has been gearing up for an exciting 2019. Under the new city administration, the environmental commission has been revived, and one of their first initiatives is to promote better recycling habits among residents as well as improve collection efforts. Paterson has also launched the Green Team, whose members are taking up the issue of litter and organizing clean ups on a block by block basis.

Paterson SMART is tapping into this activist network now. The past two Paterson SMART meetings on December 5th and January 23rd were held in the evening for community members and members of the activist organizations to join in and learn about SMART's efforts to reduce negative stormwater impacts in the city. The connection between combined sewer overflows (CSO's) and excessive litter became clear to attendees, and the Green Team is now taking steps to implement an "Adopt-a-Catch Basin" program, similar to programs in Jersey City and Newark.

The public schools in Paterson are leading the charge with green infrastructure implementation! The three rain gardens at JFK High School, and PS 28 and PS 4 have had huge impacts on students understanding of stormwater management issues since the projects' maintenance have been incorporated into larger curriculums at the schools. In November of last year, Paterson SMART members from Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and the Great Swamp Watershed Alliance met with the principals of all the schools in Paterson to explore green infrastructure opportunities, and there are at least 10 new schools that want to install green infrastructure projects! The Water Resources Program will be providing technical assistance to these schools over the next year.

Activists are focused on beautifying city parks as well and Paterson SMART is getting in on the action. In 2018, the Martin Luther King Park restoration was begun by Friends of MLK Park and the Water Resources Program provided designs for a rain garden in the park. Now that rain garden has been built, it will be planted by the Friends in the spring of 2019. Barbour Park is a key feature of the 5th ward and has been restored by a community led effort beginning in 2016, dubbed Occupy Barbour Park. The park, on Fair Street between Carroll Street and Rosa Parks Boulevard is adjacent to Public School 6 and the St. Luke Baptist Church. SMART members and Rutgers engineering

students are working to design a complete street for this section of Fair Street, to bolster the Occupy Barbour Park initiative, and bring more attention to this community space.

The combined efforts of all the groups mentioned so far has already brought about great change and optimism in Paterson, and the trend is looking up for 2019. There will be a community presentation by Paterson SMART members in March (date and time TBD – stay tuned at Paterson SMART on Facebook) at the Christopher Hope Center at 6:30 pm, on CSO's, how they impact Paterson, and how they are going to be addressed – come out and join the force!



*Community leaders and SMART members meet at Barbour Park to discuss green infrastructure opportunities.*



*Phase one of Martin Luther King Park completed and awaiting planting - an improvement from the untended lot that was there before it!*



*RCE Water Resources Program interns install signage at the JFK High School rain garden*

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## **Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program**

Green Infrastructure Champions are key players in implementing green infrastructure as a stormwater management approach town by town.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, Jersey Water Works, and NJ Sea Grant Consortium are hosting the following three training sessions:

### **1. “How to identify green infrastructure projects in your town”**

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:30- 11:30; at the EcoComplex- 1200 Florence Columbus Rd, Bordentown, NJ 08505

*This workshop will provide an overview on green infrastructure practices and how to identify sites that can be retrofitted with green infrastructure. The variables that should be considered in selecting the most appropriate green infrastructure practice will be discussed. A green infrastructure site assessment checklist will be provided to all attendees.*

### **2. “Moving from planning to implementation of green infrastructure”**

Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:30- 3:30 pm; at the EcoComplex- 1200 Florence Columbus Rd, Bordentown, NJ 08505

*The various components of green infrastructure planning will be discussed including tools that can be used to help prepare these plans. The implementation of green infrastructure projects that have been identified through the planning process will be the main focus of this workshop. Leveraging existing projects, building partnerships, writing grants and project costs will be discussed. Lessons learned during implementation will also be covered.*

### **3. “Maintaining green infrastructure practices/projects” - This workshop is FULL.**

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:30 pm; at the EcoComplex- 1200 Florence Columbus Rd, Bordentown, NJ 08505

*The key to long-term success of green infrastructure is maintenance. This workshop will discuss the maintenance requirements for each green infrastructure practice. Model maintenance agreements will be shared and discussed. Cost of maintenance will be covered in the workshop as well.*

**NOTE:** We must have 12 people registered to hold the training session. If we do not have 12 registered, we will look to reschedule.

To register, please visit:

<http://water.rutgers.edu/> or <https://goo.gl/forms/rQIXUQnS80kKA47T2>



## Struggling with localized flooding or unhealthy waterways?

### Come to the Green Infrastructure Planning and Implementation Workshop

This course will help municipalities with green infrastructure planning and implementation to mitigate localized flooding and reduce the amount of pollutants entering local waterways.

**Tuesday, March 19**

6 - 8pm

Montclair Fire Department Headquarters

Montclair Community Room

1 Pine Street, Montclair, NJ 07042

Register: <https://goo.gl/forms/4qAgCgHvBt5hQPu12>







## Green Infrastructure Planning and Implementation Workshop

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program has completed green infrastructure plans for over 150 municipalities in New Jersey. This course will help you understand how to use your plan to address stormwater problems in your community. If a plan is not already available for your municipality, we will share with you how to develop one. If you are part of the Sustainable Jersey program, there are 35 points available for green infrastructure planning and another 45 points available for green infrastructure implementation that will be discussed at this workshop.

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6 - 8pm

Montclair Fire Department Headquarters

Montclair Community Room

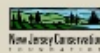
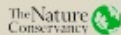
1 Pine Street, Montclair, NJ 07042

**Register: <https://goo.gl/forms/4qAgCgHvBt5hQPu12>**

### Agenda

- 6:00 pm Welcome by Sustainable Jersey and ANJEC
- 6:15 pm What is a green infrastructure plan
- 6:45 pm How to develop a plan
- 7:15 pm How to set realistic green infrastructure targets for your community
- 7:30 pm How to use a green infrastructure plan
- 7:45 pm How to implement green infrastructure projects to achieve your goal
- 8:00 pm Wrap up and adjourn





NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY

# Rivers Conference

Connecting Community, Ecotourism, & Environment



SAVE THE DATE  
March 30th, 2019

Centenary University  
Hackettstown, New Jersey



Hunterdon Land Trust



## Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

**Camden SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on December 11th and January 8th. Issues concerning the rain barrel program, EIT projects, and the CSO long term control plan were discussed. Rutgers is working to compile a list of green infrastructure projects in the city and develop a comprehensive maintenance plan for the installed projects. The North Camden Stormwater Initiative has completed plans for projects at Camden Tool and Higher Ground Church which are awaiting feedback from the owners. Preliminary designs for a sculpture rain garden at the the Camden County Historical Society have been developed, and partners are excited to be involved in this unique project. An easement has been approved to connect Liney Ditch Park to Phoenix Park, and members of Camden SMART have applied for a NFWF 5 Star Grant to beautify this trail. The next monthly meeting is planned for February 12th at 1PM.

**Gloucester City Green Team** met on January 23rd. Plans for construction of a rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department are being made for the spring. A contractor will excavate the garden, and students will be involved to help with planting the garden. Camden County Soil Conservation District, Rutgers, and NJ Tree Foundation met with the Gloucester City High School on January 19th to discuss plans for rain gardens in their courtyard, and the school is excited to work with the group for an anticipated summer

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



installation. Plans for the urban forestry landscape scale restoration (LSR) grant were discussed as well where the Community Forestry Management Plan will be revised, and a total of twenty redesigned enhanced trees pits will be installed in the City. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for February 13th at 1PM.

**Harrison TIDE** (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) met on December 13th and January 10th. Plans for the Washington Middle School courtyard were reviewed, and the project is anticipated to be installed during the summer and to be planted by students during the fall. Plans for a project at the firehouse that has been held up by funding and potential future projects were also talked about. The group is organizing a West Hudson Community Forum between Harrison, Kearny, and East Newark to discuss CSO issues and the long term control plan. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 7th from 7:00- 8:30PM at the Harrison High School. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for February 14th at 2PM.

**Jersey City START** (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) partners met on December 13th to discuss ongoing green infrastructure projects and initiatives throughout the city. A geotec analysis of the Colombia Park location has been completed by PVSC's consultant as the project moves forward. The Jersey City MUA will join four community meetings in the first half of 2019 to discuss with the public the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for the city, at the Bethun Center, Hank Allen Center, PS 28, and City Hall. There was no January START meeting, but members representing Jersey City, NJ Future, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, and Sustainable Jersey City presented to the Jersey City Parks Coalition on January 10th about combined sewer overflows, the LTCP, and green infrastructure. The next START meeting is scheduled for February 14th at the Jersey City MUA at 10am.

**Newark DIG** (Doing Infrastructure Green) partners met on January 22nd and discussed current and future plans for green infrastructure throughout the city. The Newark CSO supplemental team meeting was held subsequently to the DIG meeting, where partners also discussed upcoming Ward meetings to gather feedback on the Long Term Control Plan from residents. Meetings are regularly held on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 11am in Newark City Hall.

**Paterson SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) partners met on December 5th, and January 23rd. Evening meetings were held at 5:30 in Paterson City Hall so that residents could attend. Members of the Paterson Green Team and Paterson Environmental Commission are now SMART members, aligning the efforts of these groups. The partners continue to move forward with designs for several

Gloucester City Green Team

Harrison TIDE

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson SMART

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure  
Partners

new projects scheduled for 2019, with a focus on Paterson Schools. Partners attended the annual Principles meeting on November 27th, and many schools are interested in incorporating green infrastructure on their property. On January 29th and February 5th there will be presentations at the Christopher Hope Center on the issue of CSO's in Paterson.

**Perth Amboy SWIM** (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) has continued their efforts toward promoting green infrastructure throughout the city of Perth Amboy. The group is continuing their efforts on educating the public on the importance of green infrastructure. In partnership with the Lower Raritan River Watershed, SWIM is hosting a rain barrel workshop on March 21st at 6pm. The workshop will include rain barrel construction, educational demonstrations, and other public art activities. The partners recently met on January 17th for their monthly meeting and continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

**Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners** (TGIP) met on January 22nd. At this meeting, partners discussed a collaboration between green infrastructure opportunities and complete street projects. With a number of projects scheduled for installation this spring, the group is currently working to identify 2019 goals priority sites to design. The partners typically meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month.



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