



May 2019

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

The National Urban Extension Conference in Seattle, WA on May 20-23, 2019

The National Urban Extension Conference (NUEC) is held once every two years. It provides an opportunity to learn from our urban extension colleagues from across the nation and share our outstanding urban programming and projects. This year's conference, hosted by Washington State University in Seattle, exceeded all our expectations. Typically, the NUEC is dominated by urban gardening/agriculture presentations and youth development. But NUEC 2019 was something much more. There were presentations on building and governing urban data systems, essential competencies and innovative practices for urban and Latino engagement, exploring Extension's opportunities to address the opioid epidemic, teaching financial literacy using Escape Rooms, and strengthening communities through social justice programs. Throughout the three-day conference, there were six leading-edge dialogues that focused on placing urban Extension at the forefront of important national issues and transforming Extension with a new urban emphasis. Each leading-edge dialogue was a 90-minute panel discussion on topics like smart cities, engaging 10 million urban youth, and data and policy – responding to human services needs. These leading-edge dialogues provided a foundation for the attendees to break into regional groups and explore opportunities for partnerships to address key urban problems. The conference planning committee really delivered this year. They even were able to offer 11 mobile learning workshops which scattered conference attendees across the city of Seattle on a beautiful spring afternoon. The next NUEC will be hosted by Rutgers University in Atlantic City, NJ on May 20-23, 2021.



NUEC^{'21}



Atlantic City, New Jersey

National Urban Extension Conference

#NUEC21

NUEC21 Website:

www.cpe.rutgers.edu/NUEC21

Save the Date!
May 17-20, 2021

 @urbanextension

 @RutgersNJAES

Presented By:



Hosted By:



Trenton Isles, Inc. Gets a Rain Garden!



On May 22nd the Trenton Green Team and Green Infrastructure Partners decided to put a little spice into their usual monthly meeting routine by digging and planting a rain garden! The partners, which consist of representatives from state, county and city governmental departments, Trenton-based non-profits, regional-based non-profits, universities, and local community members, came

together to help construct a rain garden at the Isles Inc. Youthbuild Institute in Trenton. In all, the participating members were from the Americorps Watershed Ambassadors, NJ Tree Foundation, Tri-State Transportation Campaign, NJ Future, Trenton Isles, Trenton Health Team, and Rutgers University. The weather was great for the job, and the work was mostly done in the shade as the garden is also one of the few fully shaded rain gardens in the state! Made up of ferns, shrubs, and shade-loving flowering perennials, the garden will be capturing and infiltrating water that overflows from the cistern on the property, which captures roof runoff from the building and is used to water the garden on site. A huge thanks to all who came out to make this rain garden a possibility – check it out the next time you are in Trenton!

Upcoming Projects in the Raritan River Watershed

This spring the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program has been planning several green infrastructure projects with local partners across the Raritan River watershed. Rain gardens are designed to capture stormwater runoff and allow groundwater infiltration, promoting healthy streams and rivers. In addition to having aesthetic landscape value, the native plants found in rain gardens also provide habitat for local wildlife and can support critical pollinator species. These projects demonstrate best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater management and promote positive water quality in the Raritan River watershed.



Projects are planned in the following communities for this summer:

- Highland Park Borough
- Edison Township
- North Brunswick Township
- Monroe Township
- Borough of Jamesburg
- East Brunswick Township
- Milltown Borough
- Metuchen Borough
- Mountainside Borough

To date, projects have been completed at the following locations:

- Greater Brunswick Charter School, New Brunswick
- Spotswood Memorial Middle School, Spotswood
- Millpond Park, Milltown
- Henry Inman Branch Library, Woodbridge
- Bridgewater Raritan Middle School

This project, “Implementation of the Raritan River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)” is funded by a 319(h) grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Spring Maintenance Tips

Rain gardens are blooming once again, and here are a few spring maintenance tips to keep your planted green infrastructure functional and beautiful.

- 1) Identify desirable plants using your

maintenance guide and plant list. Prune or cut back previous perennial growth. Remove non-desirable and invasive plant species.

2) Inspect inlet and outlet structures, stone, pipes, drains, and grates. Remove accumulated debris from the rain garden.

3) Add a 2"-3" layer of undyed triple shredded hardwood mulch. This will help curtail weeds and retain moisture during the heat of summer.



Start early and weed often to keep the work manageable and fun!

Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

MAY 2019

Camden SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on May 14th. The focus of the discussion continued on the expansion of the scope of Camden SMART to include stormwater management, larger scale green infrastructure projects, green job promotion, and lead awareness. A large focus was on new state legislation enabling local governments to enact stormwater utility fees to serve as a stable revenue to fund green and grey infrastructure in Camden. Discussions were started about how such a fee system could be put in place and looked at how Philadelphia implemented the fee, as an example. Green infrastructure projects at Camden Tool and Higher Ground Church of God in Christ in North Camden continue to proceed along for implementation in summer/fall. Projects for the Camden Historical Society and Gate Way Park also continue to move forward. The next monthly meeting is planned for June 12th at 10:30AM.

Gloucester City Green Team met on May 8th. The group is going to create a logo for the Green Team by having a school contest and working with a local graphic designer for the winning design. Plans for construction of a rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department in the spring were also discussed. NJ Tree Foundation will excavate the garden, and students and local volunteers will be involved to help with planting the garden. The group was updated on the progress of the Gloucester City High School courtyard, and a separate meeting with the high school was held to discuss the revised design to get ready 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

Gloucester City Green Team

Harrison TIDE

installation. Locations for tree planting for the urban forestry LSR grant were discussed to narrow down where a total of twenty redesigned enhanced trees pits will be installed in the City. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for June 12th at 1PM.

Harrison TIDE (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) met on May 9th. The rain garden project at Washington Middle School was discussed and construction is still planned for the summer by PVSC and planted with students in the fall. The Flood Defense Act, which allows local governments to employ a stormwater utility fee, was brought up as a potential funding source for managing stormwater issues in Harrison and will be discussed at further meetings. The town is continuing to work with the consultant engineers on the evaluation of alternatives for the combined sewer system to eliminate CSO events. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for June 13th at 2PM.

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on Thursday May 9th at the JCMUA office and received a presentation from Hoboken Brownstone Company to hear a developer's perspective on green infrastructure. Updates on green infrastructure projects and a tree canopy inventory initiative were given after the presentation, and members are coordinating to move these projects forward. The next meeting will be at 10am on June 13th at the JCMUA.

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) partners held a conference call on May 28, 2019 in lieu of the regularly scheduled May meeting. Designs for painting city catch basins have been approved, and the Newark Love Your Block program, initiated by Urban Waters and the Office of Sustainability, is set to begin the summer of 2019. The Newark Office of Sustainability is working with the engineering firm HDR on implementing a rain barrel build and installation training program for city residents; programming dates are to be determined. Ironbound Community Corps is in the process of developing a program to train Newark residents for green infrastructure maintenance jobs through the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program; additional information is to be determined. Newark Green Infrastructure Reformers is focusing on outreach in business communities to educate and encourage businesses to take a green infrastructure pledge. Green Infrastructure Reformers will be holding a community cleanup in Newark's West Ward on July 13th, 2019. River Day will be held in Riverfront Park on June 15th, 2019. The City of Newark's Recycling Summit will be held at the Paul Robeson Center on June 19th, 2019. Future Newark DIG meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month in Newark City Hall.

Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson SMART

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure
Partners

Training) will be postponing meetings until the city's budget has been finalized. Meetings will resume on July 10th at 10:30am in City Hall. Two cisterns at Green Acre Community Garden and at the Father English Food Pantry were turned on for the summer season! They will be capturing rainwater, which can be reused for watering the growing fruits and vegetables at the gardens. A planting of the rain garden at MLK Park will happen this summer as well, when the SMART members decide on a date.

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) members met on Thursday May 16th in City Hall and continued to discuss methods for engaging the community to promote green infrastructure projects throughout the city. Maintenance of the existing projects is also a priority, and plans for maintenance over the summer are being developed by the group. A green infrastructure project at City Hall is being coordinated by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and the Perth Amboy DPW and will be installed over this summer. A CSO supplemental team meeting was held on May 23rd with community members, city officials, and the city's consultant, CDM Smith, to discuss the details of the Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report being submitted this June. The next meeting will be on June 20th at 2pm in City Hall.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners (GIP) met along with members of the Trenton Green Team on Wednesday May 22nd at the Isles, Inc. Tucker Street office. The meeting took place during construction of a rain garden on Isles property, and members helped to dig and plant the rain garden. The meeting focused on upcoming green infrastructure installations throughout the city as well as plans for events in the fall. The next meeting will be held towards the end of June - location and date to be determined.



DONATE TO THE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM



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

Connect with us



