



June/July 2019

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

AmeriCorps Ambassadors – We train them; we support them; we build gardens with them!

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program holds a paraprofessional training program for the twenty AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors. The Watershed Ambassadors learned about stormwater basics, how to manage stormwater, and how impervious cover assessments (ICAs), impervious cover reduction action plans (RAPs), and green infrastructure feasibility studies are prepared. When a Watershed Ambassador wants to move forward with a green infrastructure project, the Water Resources Program will assist them with the project. Together site visits are conducted at locations that the Watershed Ambassador has selected, and partnerships are formed. This year the Water Resources Program worked with four Watershed Ambassadors to produce four different designs, and two projects were installed. One project was a rain garden installation at Blairstown Elementary School in partnership with the school's Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, Susie Elias. Another project was a rain garden at Cape May Point Municipal Building in partnership with the municipality's green team, environmental commission, and department of public works. The Water Resources Program is excited to see where these partnerships go in the future thanks to the Watershed Ambassadors!



*Blairstown Elementary School -
RCE Water Resources Program staff and
interns, Watershed Management
Ambassador Area 1*



*Cape May Point Municipal Building -
RCE Water Resources Program staff and
interns, Cape May Point Environmental
Commission/Green Team*

Newsflash - We now have 37 new Green Infrastructure Champions!



From February through June 2019, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program piloted a Green Infrastructure Champions Program which included nine unique sessions. The sessions were held at the Rutgers EcoComplex, which was chosen due to its location in central New Jersey in hopes to attract individuals statewide. Folks came from across the bridge in Philadelphia, as far north as Essex County, and as far south as Cape

May County to hear the information being taught about green infrastructure. More than seventy individuals participated in one or more workshops. Thirty-seven completed five or more sessions to become certified as Green Infrastructure Champions and leaders who can advocate for green infrastructure in their communities!

We are now working on forming an advisory committee comprised of those who are certified as Green Infrastructure Champions to map the future of the program. This pilot program was made possible by support from New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Jersey Water Works. Donations are welcome to help continue this successful training program.

For additional details about the Green Infrastructure Champions Program as well as the topics discussed at each session please visit:

<http://water.rutgers.edu/Projects/GreenInfrastructureChampions/GIC.html>

Woodbridge is blazing forward with green infrastructure projects!

The Township of Woodbridge has embraced the sustainability movement. For many years they have been a leader in completing Sustainable Jersey Actions and reaching the top level of certification. As one of the older communities in New Jersey, the Township does have flooding problems and needs to reduce the impact of urbanization on their waterways. While many municipalities have also recognized similar issues in their towns, Woodbridge is doing something about it. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program



The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program

developed an impervious cover reduction action plan for the Township that identifies opportunities to install green infrastructure to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff from existing development that currently has no stormwater management practices. Over the last two years, the Township has installed a series of complex rain gardens at three of their five libraries. This effort was so successful that the Township is about to begin a project to manage stormwater runoff from Fulton Street with roadside rain gardens. Like the library projects, the Fulton Street green infrastructure project will be constructed by the Woodbridge Township Department of Public Works with the help of the RCE Water Resources Program staff and student interns. Woodbridge continues to be a shining example in the quest to improve our state's water resources and stop localized flooding.

Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

JULY 2019

Camden SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on July 10th. The discussion focused on the challenges of maintenance for green infrastructure. Issues such as enforcement as well as passing responsibility on to the property owners to reduce the burden of responsibility on CCMUA to keep up with maintenance. The biggest issue is the limited funding dedicated to maintenance and the possibility of a stormwater utility fee was discussed as a potential solution. The next monthly meeting is postponed until Wednesday, September 11th at 10:30AM.

Gloucester City Green Team met on July 10th. The group discussed submitting for Sustainable Jersey certification. Plans for construction of a rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department were discussed. NJ Tree Foundation will excavate the garden, and students and local volunteers will be involved to help with planting the garden. The Gloucester City High School courtyard project continues to move forward as plans are being finalized and will soon be sent to contractors for estimates. Locations for tree plantings for the urban forestry LSR grant have been visited and narrowed down to a total of twenty redesigned enhanced trees pits that will be installed in the City. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for August 14th at 1PM at the Gloucester City Municipal Building.

Harrison TIDE (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) did not meet in July. The next monthly meeting is postponed until September 12th at 2PM at Harrison Town Hall.

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on Thursday July 11th at the JCMUA office and reviewed the PVSC regional CSO Long Term Control Plan and discussed how Jersey City fits into the

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

regional plan. A hybrid plan is being considered by START. There is a CSO supplemental team meeting for PVSC communities on July 31st at the Ironbound Early Learning Center from 5-8PM. Jersey City Planning is hosting informational meetings throughout the city about the new flood overlay zoning that will be implemented. The next meetings are Tuesday August 6th at Our Lady of Mercy at 6:30 pm and Monday August 12th in the Caucus Room of City Hall at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be at 10am on August 8th at the JCMUA.

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) met in Newark City Hall at 11:00AM on July 23, 2019. A representative from the engineering consulting group, HDR Engineering, presented on Development and Evaluation of CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) Alternatives Report for the City of Newark, of the Long Term Control Plan submitted to NJDEP (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) on July 1, 2019. Cost analysis and comparison of alternatives in meeting Newark's CSO permit were discussed with DIG partners. The Long Term Control Plan Submittals are available from NJDEP Division of Water Quality [here](#), and the Newark Alternatives Evaluation is in **Appendix G**. For additional information and upcoming public meetings about the LTCP and CSO issues visit the webpage of Newark DIG. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11:00 AM on the fourth Tuesday of every month in Newark City Hall.

Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) members met on July 10th at 10:30am in City Hall. The Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report for CSOs in Paterson was reviewed, and it was decided that green infrastructure needs to be a higher priority. There will be a community barbeque to kick off the Adopt-a-Catch Basin program on August 3rd at Barbour Park – come out to help keep Paterson clean & green. Green infrastructure projects are being planned for schools in the city as well as maintenance on the existing green infrastructure throughout the city. The next meeting will be held on August 20st at 5:45PM, location TBD.

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) members met on Thursday June 18th in the Perth Amboy Fire Department building 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 the Washington Park rain garden has been maintained for the season so far, with more existing green infrastructure maintenance on the way. 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. The Perth Amboy CSO supplemental team is reviewing and preparing comments for the Development

Paterson SMART

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure
Partners

and Evaluation of Alternatives Report. The next SWIM meeting will be on August 15th at 6PM, location TBD.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners (GIP) met along with members of the Trenton Green Team on Tuesday July 23rd at the Isles, Inc. Tucker Street offices. Members went over upcoming projects such as the tactical urbanism project, which will repaint safe crosswalks at two city intersections along safe walking routes for schools and the upcoming Ciclovía event which will be September 20th. The meeting also focused on upcoming green infrastructure installations throughout the city, prioritizing public locations, and plans for events in the fall. The next meeting will be held at 3PM on August 20th at the Isles Tucker Street offices.

JUNE 2019

Camden SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on June 12th. In an effort to add to the group's new focus on lead in drinking water, the meeting focused on a presentation and discussion of information provided by NJDEP on funding for lead water line replacement. Additionally, the group provided suggestions for potential sites for two green streets projects to be designed for the City of Camden. Also discussed was the potential to assist the Camden Lutheran Housing Corporation to incorporate green infrastructure on a proposed 18 unit public housing project. The group was updated on the progress with the design of the Camden County Historical Society rain garden project, including the addition of three sculptures to the park intended to address the history of racism in Camden. The next monthly meeting is planned for Wednesday July 10th at 10:30AM.

Gloucester City Green Team met on June 12th. Plans for the construction of a rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department were discussed. NJ Tree Foundation will excavate the garden, and students and local volunteers will be involved to help with planting the garden. The Gloucester City High School courtyard project continues to move forward as plans are being finalized and will soon be sent to contractors for estimates. Locations for tree plantings for the urban forestry LSR grant have been visited and narrowed down for where a total of twenty redesigned enhanced trees pits will be installed in Gloucester City. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for July 10th at 1PM at the Gloucester City Municipal Building.

Harrison TIDE (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) met on June 13th. The rain garden project at Washington Middle School was discussed, and PVSC will begin construction in the next few weeks. The garden will then be planted with students in the fall. The CSO long term control plan was a center of discussion as the evaluation of alternatives has been completed and is soon to be submitted

to NJDEP. Various options, including green and gray infrastructure, were looked at to determine what options the town has to eliminate their CSO occurrences. Since partners will be focusing on the Washington Middle School project, the next monthly meeting is postponed until September 12th at 2PM at Harrison Town Hall.

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on Thursday June 13th at the JCMUA office and reviewed the PVSC regional CSO Long Term Control Plan and discussed how Jersey City fits into the regional plan. The JCMUA and the city have begun coordinating the installation of green infrastructure and trees during the routine infrastructure updates that will be happening over the next upcoming years. The JCMUA is also launching their summer outreach program where interns will be helping to paint 50+ city catch basins over the summer as well as reaching out to the public about stormwater management in the city. The next meeting will be at 10AM on July 11th at the JCMUA.

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) met in Newark City Hall at 11:00 am on June 26, 2019. Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program updated partners on recent site assessments for the feasibility of green infrastructure projects at several locations in Newark. The Newark Office of Sustainability updated partners on findings from a recent trip to Buffalo, New York to learn about rain barrel monitoring data and an upcoming rain barrel program for the City of Newark. The Office of Sustainability also shared information about the ongoing citywide “Adopt-a-Catch Basin” program and plans for additional outreach and public engagement in schools and youth groups and for the future development of an online virtual tour. Discussed also was the submission of group comments on the Long Term Control Plan Alternatives Analysis draft report. Newark DIG meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month in Newark City Hall at 11:00 AM.

Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource 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. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Great Swamp Watershed Association, and the Paterson Green Team have been coordinating to implement an adopt-a-catch basin program throughout the city and continue to do so. Green Infrastructure projects are being planned for schools in the city as well as maintenance on the existing green infrastructure throughout the city.

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) members met on Thursday, June 20th 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 June 17th with SWIM members, 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 on July 1st. The next SWIM meeting will be on July 25th at 2PM in City Hall.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners (GIP) met along with members of the Trenton Green Team on Tuesday June 18th at the Isles, Inc. Tucker Street offices. Members reviewed the city's Urban Tree Canopy management plan to identify sections to improve as the management plan will be updated in 2020. The meeting focused on upcoming green infrastructure installations throughout the city, prioritizing public locations and plans for events in the fall. The next meeting will be held at 3PM on July 23rd at the Isles Tucker Street offices.



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