



September 2019

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

### Richard Rice Elementary School Helps Recharge our Aquifers!

Another brand new rain garden was planted on September 9th with students who were also educated on the benefits of rain gardens at Richard Rice Elementary School in Evesham, NJ. Downspouts from the roof above the library were redirected into the garden to capture stormwater coming off the roof that was previously piped directly into the stormwater sewer system. Stormwater will now have a chance to be treated in the rain garden and to naturally infiltrate into the ground to recharge the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer instead of being discharged directly into local waterways.

The rain garden was designed by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, installed by A.Z. Lawncare & Tree Service, organized by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant is focused on installing green infrastructure projects on public properties in an effort to recharge aquifers and reduce contaminants reaching local waterways. Let us keep working together to keep our aquifers replenished and our waterways healthy!





## Washington Middle School Beautifies their Courtyard with a Rain Garden!

On September 12th, students planted a newly installed rain garden alongside the principal at the Washington Middle School in Harrison, NJ. Students had a wonderful time planting and learning about the benefits of rain gardens to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater from the courtyard instead of going directly into the existing catch basin. A cistern was also installed to harvest stormwater from a portion of the rooftop to be reused in the school's garden. These practices are especially important in Harrison where there is a combined sewer system where stormwater and the sewer are mixed together. In intense storm events, these systems can reach capacity and cause a combined sewer overflow (CSO) into the Passaic River. Green infrastructure such as rain gardens can be used to reduce the stormwater going into these systems and to help prevent CSOs from occurring.

The rain garden was designed by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and installed and funded by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Authority (PVSC) who is working with municipalities throughout their service district to promote green infrastructure and reduce CSO events. This is combined with the efforts put into the NJDEP's CSO Long Term Control Plan, which is looking at a variety of approaches to solve the CSO issues that will likely include a combination of green infrastructure and large scale infrastructure improvements. Work continues with PVSC to find solutions to stormwater issues!







## 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 to implement stormwater practices to mitigate localized flooding and reduce the amount of pollutants entering local waterways.

**Thursday, October 10, 2019**

7 - 9pm

North Haledon Free Public Library  
Meeting Room

129 Overlook Avenue, North Haledon, NJ 07508

Register: <https://forms.gle/mayan17YBAXbfba49>





## 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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### Agenda

- 7:00 pm Welcome by Sustainable Jersey and ANJEC
- 7:15 pm What is a green infrastructure plan
- 7:45 pm How to develop a plan
- 8:15 pm How to set realistic green infrastructure targets for your community
- 8:30 pm How to use a green infrastructure plan
- 8:45 pm How to implement green infrastructure projects to achieve your goal
- 9:00 pm Wrap up and adjourn



## Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

### SEPTEMBER 2019

**Camden SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) Water Group met on Wednesday September 11, 2019. The meeting began with an exciting introduction of a

Municipal action teams have been formed to foster collaboration and collective action that helps the



new arm of the NJDEP involving site remediation with experts focusing on the major urban areas of New Jersey. The group also discussed issues of maintenance of green infrastructure installations, the issue of stormwater fees, Camden County long-term control plan, flooding problems in various neighborhoods, and the potential for new tree plantings in Camden neighborhoods. The group received an update on the Camden County Historical Society's proposed Enslaved Africans Memorial Rain Garden, with Rutgers sharing that the project is still moving forward but is currently in archaeological review.

**Gloucester City Green Team** met on September 11, 2019. The group discussed various projects in the works including proposed planting with high school students at the recently installed rain garden at the Water Department. A stormwater management tree pit design for the First Baptist Church was brought to the table by the New Jersey Tree Foundation for Rutgers to research and design. The planned construction at the Gloucester City High School is moving forward with the group discussing potential installation strategies; local contractors are being sought for the work. The next meeting is planned for Wednesday October 9, 2019.

**Jersey City START** (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on September 12th at the JCMUA and discussed plans for upcoming community meetings this fall pertaining to the final stages of the Long Term Control Plan for CSOs in the city. The Canco Park Conservancy held their first annual Jersey City Garden Tours and will be help organize another tour later this year. The next START meeting will be October 10th at the JCMUA at 10 AM.

**Newark DIG** (Doing Infrastructure Green) met in Newark City Hall at 11:00 AM on September 24, 2019. Partners planned outreach to City officials and additional public meetings to receive feedback on the Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report for the CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The Newark Office of Sustainability will soon be accepting new applications and proposals for neighborhoods interested in participating in the "Love Your Block" campaign for 2020. Ironbound Community Corporation is now leading workforce development training for green jobs, the first of its kind in New Jersey, licensed by the NGICP (National Green Infrastructure Certification Program). Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program is helping to design green stormwater infrastructure as a part of the Fairmount Model Block Project, led by the Urban League of Essex County. For additional information and upcoming public meetings about the LTCP and CSO issues, visit the webpages of **Newark Stormwater Solutions** and **Newark DIG**. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11:00 AM on 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

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners

fourth Tuesday of every month in Newark City Hall

**Perth Amboy SWIM** (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) members met on Thursday September 19th in the Perth Amboy Fire Department building and confirmed two new locations for green infrastructure projects in the city, which will be implemented this fall. Members are working towards integrating with other groups with aligned initiatives in the city, and will be working with the Civic Trust over the next month to increase awareness of the CSO issues in the city. Comments on the recently submitted Development and Evaluation of Alternatives for the CSO Long Term Control Plan will be finalized over the next month and submitted to CDM Smith. The next Perth Amboy SWIM meeting will be on October 17th, location and time TBD.



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