

Rain Garden Design and Build Contest

Guidelines

THE COOPER RIVER STORMWATER EDUCATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

In 2009, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) awarded the Camden County Soil Conservation District and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program a two (2) year 319 (h) grant to implement the stormwater education and implementation plan outlined in the Cooper River Regional Stormwater Management Plan.

The overall goal of the project is to implement educational programs within the Cooper River Watershed which will change the behavior of its residents. In addition to implementing educational programs within the watershed, stormwater management practices will be implemented to achieve the objectives outlined in the Cooper River Regional Stormwater Management Plan (i.e., reduce the impact of stormwater runoff for high frequency events, improve baseflow in the Cooper River, reduce silting of the major lakes and ponds in the watershed, improve the in-stream and stream-side (riparian) habitat for all watershed residents (humans, wildlife, and other flora and fauna), improve water quality impairments directly related to stormwater runoff, and prevent further degradation of existing features and structures).

To accomplish such a goal, the Camden County Soil Conservation District and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program have partnered together to educate community groups, municipal leaders, school children, homeowners, and landowners on how their contributions can make a difference in the Cooper River Watershed.

ELIGIBILITY

The Cooper River Rain Garden Design and Build Contest is limited to the graduates of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Rain Garden Training for Professional Landscapers course (years 2008-2010). A graduate is considered as a person that attended the classroom and hands-on training components.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Rain Garden Design and Build Contest Applications must be postmarked no later than **Wednesday, April 21, 2010** and mailed to the following address:

Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Water Resources Program
c/o Cheryl Burdick
14 College Farm Road
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
Attention: Cooper River Rain Garden Design and Build Contest

Applicants will receive a confirmation email upon submission of their Application.

Five (5) rain garden designs will be selected anonymously by the jurors to receive up to \$2,000 worth of rain garden materials to implement their rain garden design in the Cooper River Watershed. The jurors will decide what rain garden materials are included in the up to \$2,000 award.

This program is being sponsored by a NJDEP 319 (h) grant. Program partners include:



Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

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SUBMISSION COMPONENTS

Applicants must fully complete the Rain Garden Design and Build Contest Application.

Applicants may only submit **one (1)** Rain Garden Design and Build Contest Application.

The proposed rain garden must be installed within the boundaries of the Cooper River Watershed as depicted on the Cooper River Watershed map (see page 3 of the Rain Garden Design and Build Contest Application 2010).

The proposed rain garden may be installed on public or private property. The property owner(s) must prepare a written permission letter agreeing to have the proposed rain garden installed at the property. An original copy of the written permission letter must be included with the Rain Garden Design and Build Contest Application.

As a result of the Rain Garden Design and Build Contest, it is anticipated that five (5) creative rain garden designs will be incorporated into existing landscapes and new developments. Aesthetic designs on residential or publicly owned property that promote sustainable landscaping will be favored.

SCHEDULE

Monday, February 8, 2010	Contest opens
Wednesday, April 21, 2010	Contest applications postmarked
Friday, May 14, 2010	Jurors convene
Friday, May 21, 2010	Applicants of selected designs notified
Friday, May 28, 2010	Applicants not selected receive notification

JURORS

Craig McGee, Project Director, Camden County Soil Conservation District

Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E., Extension Specialist in Water Resources, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Mike Haberland, Environmental and Natural Resource Management Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Burlington and Camden Counties

Jeremiah D. Bergstrom, LLA, ASLA, Senior Project Manager, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

Amy Boyajian, Program Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

SELECTED DESIGNS

Awarded rain garden designs will receive:

- Publication of their work in local media outlets among others
- Publication of their work on the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program website (<http://water.rutgers.edu>)
- A framed custom Rain Garden Design and Build Contest Awards Certificate
- Up to \$2,000 worth of rain garden materials to implement their rain garden design in the Cooper River Watershed

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SELECTED DESIGN EXPECTATIONS

Awarded rain garden designs will be expected to participate in Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Camden County Soil Conservation District rain garden outreach programs. Rain garden outreach programs include photographs and video footage of the rain garden before, during, and after installation, supervised rain garden outreach educational programs, follow-up surveys, and small educational signage.

Awarded designs of rain gardens must be installed at the proposed rain garden location in the Cooper River Watershed by **November 30, 2010** using the materials received from the Rain Garden Design and Build Contest.

Rain garden materials awarded include vegetation, mulch, coarse sand, topsoil, compost, Rutgers Soil Test kits, river rock, landscaping fabric, landscaping pins, soaker hoses, pavers, PVC piping, bird feeders, bricks, rain barrels, flexible downspouts, cinder blocks, pressure-treated wood, and rain chains.

Awarded rain garden materials will be delivered at the rain garden location at an agreed date and time.

The materials awarded from the Rain Garden Design and Build Contest must **not** be charged to the property owner(s).

QUESTIONS

Please email questions to rce.water.resources.program@gmail.com by March 15, 2010. Answers will be posted on the Cooper River Rain Garden Design and Build Contest website at <http://water.rutgers.edu> by April 1, 2010. **No phone calls will be accepted.**

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