



Demonstration Projects on Rain Gardens and Naturalizing Retention Basins

During 2009-2010, the New Jersey Water Savers program installed demonstration sites in Livingston, East Greenwich, Egg Harbor Township and Belmar. The purpose of these sites is to promote homeowner stewardship of sustainable practices and pollution prevention through building rain gardens and planting native species. By providing a “hands on” training for the community, the sites will be used as a tool for educating homeowners, landscapers, developers and decision makers on taking responsibility for water resources. To accompany the demonstration projects, different programs have been developed and tested for effectiveness including community workshops, school/ youth involvement, self guided walking tours, etc. All demonstration gardens have been true community efforts engaging local residents and municipal representatives.

A success story

The rain garden in Livingston was designed and engineered to infiltrate the water of a 100 year storm. The Livingston Mayor, Arlene Johnson, has since reported that the rain garden handled the latest 100 year storm perfectly and that it was the first time since the Library was built that flooding did not occur with a storm of that size.