



## Fixing Flooding: One Community at a Time Conference on February 26th!

Join us on February 26th at our day-long conference from 8:30 am to 4 pm at the Middlesex County Fire Department to bring together municipal leaders, leading professionals in planning and engineering, watershed associations, advocacy groups, environmental commissions, and state and federal agencies to learn from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program and its partners.

Over the last several years, green infrastructure practices have been implemented across New Jersey. These projects have demonstrated the effectiveness and resiliency of green infrastructure technologies. Water resources planning over the last 12 years has resulted in the creation of regional stormwater management plans, watershed restoration and protection plans, green infrastructure feasibility studies, and impervious cover reduction action plans. All of these plans are good tools to identify opportunities for retrofitting existing development with green infrastructure practices. Green infrastructure technology has proven to be a cost effective means to reduce the impacts of impervious surfaces. The final step is to further empower our local communities to advocate for green infrastructure and to implement practices.

**To register and learn more about the conference, please visit our website by [clicking here](#).**

Fixing Flooding: One Community at a Time conference is cosponsored by Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Sustainable Raritan Collaborative, Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, Middlesex County Office of Planning, New Jersey Future, Jersey Water Works, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, and the Raritan Headwaters Association.

## Increasing Resiliency in Woodbridge Township



Countless residential properties in New Jersey have been damaged due to hurricanes over the years, most recently during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Today, both property owners and municipalities find themselves grappling with difficult choices regarding the flood prone areas that many call home.

Woodbridge Township, located along both the tidal Raritan River and the Arthur Kill, is one such municipality. As a proactive approach for increasing resiliency in flood prone areas, Woodbridge Township is now in the process of purchasing flood-damaged residential properties within five neighborhoods. These properties will be demolished and converted into publically accessible open space with funds from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Agency Blue Acres Program. Partnering with Woodbridge Township and wildlife ecologist Brooke Maslo, the Water Resources Program has prepared concept designs for community open space and floodplain restoration in five Woodbridge neighborhoods. After meeting with township officials to discuss the preliminary designs, students and staff are preparing for a community presentation and discussion with Woodbridge stakeholders in March. We greatly look forward to presenting our proposals!

### **New Faces at the RCE Water Resources Program**

We are excited to announce and introduce our new staff to the RCE Water Resources Program: Robert Brown, Hollie DiMuro, and Eliot Nagele!

Robert Brown graduated in January 2016 from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey with a B.S. in Environmental

Planning and Design and a Certificate in Environmental Geomatics. Robert will provide technical support to the Water Resources Program through his vast knowledge in GIS and developing databases and Apps. Robert continues to work on monitoring gravel wetlands in the Barnaget Bay, developing impervious cover assessments and impervious cover reduction action plans for a number of projects, and providing oversight for green infrastructure implementation.



Hollie DiMuro graduated in May 2015 from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey with a B.S. in Environmental Planning and Design and a minor in Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behaviors. She will be providing technical support to the Water Resources Program by organizing and coordinating municipal action teams to promote green stormwater infrastructure in New Jersey's urban and suburban communities. Hollie will also assist the Water Resources Program with grant management and project resource allocation.

Eliot Nagele graduated in January 2016 from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey with a B.S. in Environmental Planning and Design and a minor in Spanish with a Certificate in Urban Forestry. Eliot will provide technical support to the Water Resources Program by designing various green infrastructure projects, developing green infrastructure feasibility studies for multiple municipalities, and assisting in preparing watershed restoration and management plans. He will



also provide the Water Resources Program with the technical assistance in developing tree canopy assessments.

RCE Water Resources Program | New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | M-F 8:30 - 4:30pm

