



## Rain Garden Rebate Program



Attention Bridgewater, Hillsborough, Raritan Borough, and Somerville residents' do not miss out on the opportunity to receive a rebate for up to \$450 for installing a rain garden at your home! Please register to join the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program at the Rain Garden Rebate Program Education Session on April 4, 2017 at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ. One-on-one rain garden design sessions will be held April 18th and 25th at Duke Farms where you will meet with members of the RCE Water Resources Program team to design a rain garden for your home. You must attend the education session and a design session to be eligible to receive a rebate. The sessions are open to anyone to attend, but rebates are only available to properties in the study area of Bridgewater, Hillsborough, Raritan Borough, and Somerville. Rebates are made

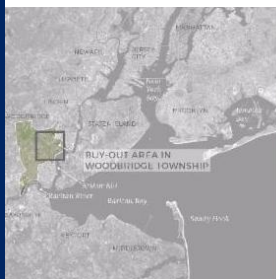
possible by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority Watershed Protection Program and a 319(h) grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. For registration and more information please [click here](#).

## Water Resources Program Sweeps Three Awards at the New Jersey ASLA 2017 Conference!

The RCE Water Resources Program was honored to receive three Merit Awards from the New Jersey American Society of Landscape Architects this spring. Award-winning projects included the *Green Infrastructure Guidance Manual for New Jersey*, the *Woodbridge Township Floodplain Restoration Plan*, and the *McKeown Elementary School Rain Garden Partnership Project*.



The *Green Infrastructure Guidance Manual for New Jersey* helps make stormwater management available to a wide range of audiences. It is a multi-chapter document developed for New Jersey communities with combined sewer systems (CSS) and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) to begin understanding green infrastructure as a strategy for stormwater management. The detailed guidance provides users with information on the fundamental function and benefits of select green infrastructure practices, along with corresponding technical design standards. It describes the design process for a green infrastructure practice from start to finish, guiding the user through each step from site identification to implementation. The goal of this manual is to inform planning and design professionals, municipal engineers and officials, community groups, and inspired residents who are interested in installing green infrastructure practices to reduce negative impacts resulting from stormwater runoff.



**Floodplain Restoration Plan for Woodbridge, New Jersey**

**McKeown Elementary School in Hampton, New Jersey**

The *Woodbridge Township Floodplain Restoration Plan* was developed in partnership with Woodbridge Township, landscape architects and ecologists at Rutgers Cooperative Extension to address flooding challenges in 200 properties in five flood-prone residential neighborhoods. Municipalities across New Jersey face a range of challenges as a result of



flooding, which has affected at least 549 of the state's 565 municipalities. Recent storms, including Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012, have devastated communities across the state, with an estimated \$29.4 billion in damages and 30,000 properties damaged or destroyed in Superstorm Sandy alone. Flooding is particularly challenging for New Jersey, which has the highest population density and the greatest percent of impervious surface in the country. To begin addressing these challenges, Woodbridge Township and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension specialists developed floodplain restoration and maintenance plans with a focus on increasing stormwater infiltration, reducing biweekly mowing requirements, and developing greater landscape connections. The restoration plan includes trail development, wildlife habitat, and invasive species management that is integrated with stormwater management and flood storage.

The *McKeown Elementary School Rain Garden Partnership Project* was developed by the RCE Water Resources Program and the Wallkill River Watershed Management Group. Together, one of the largest rain gardens (3,865 square feet) was installed at the McKeown Elementary School with all students participating in the implementation phases of this project. Prior to the installation, stormwater would drip from the school gutters and flood the teacher's back parking lot while picking up nonpoint source pollution into the nearby catch basin, discharging unfiltered in the upper portion of the Paulins Kill. The rain garden was installed with donations from the larger community including, Land Power LLC, Cerbo's Nursery, and Hampton Township. This rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate over 500,000 gallons of stormwater runoff annually.

## **Municipal Action Teams are Moving Green Infrastructure into Action Across the State**

Municipal action teams have been formed in combined sewer system communities to foster community engagement and serve to advocate for green infrastructure. Green infrastructure is one method to reduce the negative impacts associated with combined sewer systems. Municipal action teams are established to bring together local governments, utility authorities, residents, and community organizations to develop a community-based green infrastructure initiative. The goal of these teams is 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. Detailed below is an update on the various municipal action teams across the state.

The **Camden SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) monthly meeting was cancelled in March due to weather. SMART partners are continuing to plan for the upcoming Camden Environmental Summit scheduled for June 14th. In addition, several spring projects will be completed in April during

Earth Day and Arbor Day activities. Maintenance and clean up activities are being scheduled for many of the green infrastructure projects found across the city. For more information about Camden SMART, please visit [www.camdensmart.com](http://www.camdensmart.com).



**Harrison's Municipal Action Team** had its initial meeting with local officials on March 16th to discuss green infrastructure opportunities. Facilitated by New Jersey Future, representatives from Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, the RCE Water Resources Program, town representatives, and Mayor James Fife attended the initial meeting. The community is interested in pursuing the implementation of demonstration green infrastructure projects. Partners will be assisting in evaluating opportunities identified in the Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study for the Town of Harrison and identify funding resources. Participants also discussed the opportunities to integrate green infrastructure into the many redevelopment projects. Future meetings will include the Hudson County and other community groups. The next meeting will be scheduled in April.

**Gloucester City Environmental Partners** is comprised of the green team, municipal action team, and supplemental CSO team. This group has been meeting monthly to address environmental efforts and concerns in Gloucester City. Partners are working to communicate environmental concerns with residents and businesses throughout the city as a priority. An informational brochure, outlining the environmental efforts being taken in Gloucester City, was mailed to all residents of the city in March along with their monthly sewer bill. Partners have also begun to deliver public presentations about the flooding and water quality issues that exist in the city and will continue through this summer. Partners will be showcasing a display on the environmental efforts at the upcoming Gloucester City Day scheduled in June.

**Jersey City Make It Green Team** has coordinated programs and policy initiatives to celebrate the 2017 Year of Water! During the March meeting, partners agreed on benchmark goals and how they will quantify success. Partners also discussed the development of an outline process for community groups to engage municipal departments in pursuing a demonstration green infrastructure project within a city park. Division of Planning and the Environmental Commission have released three of seven comprehensive resiliency master plans for the city. These draft plans were released during a public meeting on March 23rd and included a Resiliency, Adaptation, and Green Infrastructure Master Plan. Public comments will be accepted through April 15th to Environmental Planner, Kate Lawrence. The meeting ended with a presentation from Hudson County Planning to learn more about the county's update to the land development regulation and their green infrastructure requirements.



**Newark DIG** (Doing Infrastructure Green) is working towards engaging the Newark Housing Authority and the Newark Downtown District to provide recommendations of green infrastructure practices into future projects. DIG is continuously working with partners to implement green infrastructure projects of various scales at schools, parks, and city right of ways. Newark DIG will be working closer with the Department of Water and Sewer to identify ways in which DIG can help elevate the communication of the city's process in the Long Term Control Plan and the Combined Sewer System (CSS) permit to the residents in Newark for transparency and to provide residents and local organizations a voice. Partners are hosting a Quality of Life Summit in June (save the date coming soon) where Newark DIG is looking forward to continuing the dialogue between city departments and residents on sustainability issues and actions that can be taken. For more information about Newark DIG, please visit [www.NewarkDIG.org](http://www.NewarkDIG.org).

**Paterson SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) partners presented to the City Council on March 7th to highlight SMART and future green infrastructure projects with schools, parks, and community groups. In the next month, SMART will be facilitating meetings with project partners for approvals. The city, in partnership with SMART, will be applying for a Community Forestry Management Plan grant to increase the tree canopy in the city. A tree planting is scheduled for April 8th with the New Jersey Tree Foundation and West Side Park, and volunteers are welcome to join! Partners will also be engaging residents through education programs with the Boys and Girls Club as well as participating at Great Falls Day on April 13th! For more information about Paterson SMART, please visit [www.PatersonSMART.org](http://www.PatersonSMART.org).



**Perth Amboy SWIM** (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) partners are continuing to work together to implement green infrastructure projects at Washington Park and City Hall. The team has been developing outreach programming focused on the upcoming installations anticipated this summer. Programs will include displays about green infrastructure practices and the proposed projects. In addition, SWIM will be actively participating in this year's Earth Week activities beginning on April 17th. Be sure to drop by

and check out all the amazing things happening in Perth Amboy!

Technical assistance provided to these municipal action teams by the RCE Water Resources Program is funded in part by the Surdna Foundation with support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and our local partners. For more information about the RCE Water Resources Program's New Jersey Technical Assistance Program for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) communities please [click here](#).

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



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