



## 2017 National Urban Extension Conference: Engaging in Collective Purpose



The [National Urban Extension Conference](#) was held in Bloomington, Minnesota on May 8-11, 2017. The conference offered a strong administrative track, which provided talks and panel discussions on Extension's new urban mission, innovative urban Extension models, and Emerging Urban Health Initiatives, plus many more important topics. The technical sessions and poster session provided a snapshot of the outstanding urban Extension programming that is occurring across the country. Over 350 people attended the conference. The conference was a great networking opportunities to share ideas and develop new long-lasting relationships.

The National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL) played a key role in helping the University of Minnesota organize the conference. The conference opened with a reception sponsored by NUEL where Jackie Davis-Manigaulte from Cornell University Cooperative Extension was given the 2017 National Urban Extension Leadership Award for her work in Cornell's New York City Extension program. NUEL also sponsored

anetworking breakfast where regional caucuses met to develop partnerships to address specific urban issues facing the region. The goal was to begin working across state lines by sharing resources to achieve a common goal in specific focus areas. If you are interested in becoming a part of these regional collaborations, please feel free to contact [Rosana Da Silva](#).

The University of Minnesota was a fabulous host for the conference. The Mall of America was a very special place, and the New Jersey contingency certainly did their part to help stimulate the economy of Minnesota. The next Urban Extension Conference will be held in Seattle, Washington in 2019.

## **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Across State Borders**

The municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits in Connecticut require municipalities to prepare plans that will identify opportunities for implementing stormwater management practices to treat runoff from impervious surfaces. University of Connecticut (UConn) has been working closely with Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program on developing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) planning techniques and community driven programming that will result in the implementation of GSI. The RCE Water Resources Program has created and successfully piloted a strategy to develop GSI plans for municipalities in New Jersey. These GSI feasibility studies are completed quickly and inexpensively on the municipal scale. They incorporate an impervious cover assessment and identify GSI opportunities throughout the municipality. For each GSI opportunity, drainage area is defined, gallons of water treated is determined, and sediment and nutrient reductions are calculated. These plans also include concept plans to help implement several of the GSI projects. UConn proposes to partner with Rutgers to adapt this planning process to fit the needs of Connecticut's MS4s communities and pilot this adopted planning process in five municipalities in Connecticut to develop GSI feasibility studies.

With support from Rutgers, UConn will work with five communities to develop these GSI plans and accompanying designs. At least one GSI project will be constructed in each community. This will help educate the community on how to go from planning to implementation. Based upon the efforts in New Jersey, these plans will be a catalyst for action in each of these communities. As this work proceeds, UConn will also educate the Connecticut DEEP on this GSI planning process so they will accept this process as a means to satisfy the MS4 permit requirements.

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

Municipal action teams have been formed 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

actionteams across the state.

The **Camden SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) partners are working on plans for the Camden Environmental Summit on June 14th. The event will be held at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and will include presentations from a range of local and statewide organizations. The event is open to the public and you can register by [clicking here](#). For more information about Camden SMART, please visit [www.camdensmart.com](http://www.camdensmart.com).

**Harrison's Municipal Action Team** partners are working on a mission statement and logo that will highlight all future green infrastructure projects in the town. The team is further discussing how to move forward with a green infrastructure project at the library as the town's first demonstration project. The team is also looking to engage with other organizations in the town. If you are interested in participating in the action team, please contact Mo Kinberg at 510-452-7178.

**Gloucester City Environmental Partners** are working closely with the Green Team and the Supplemental CSO Team to engage residents throughout the city. Members are planning a display to highlight environmental efforts in the city with a focus on rain barrels and other residential green infrastructure practices on Saturday, June 3rd at the Gloucester City Day.

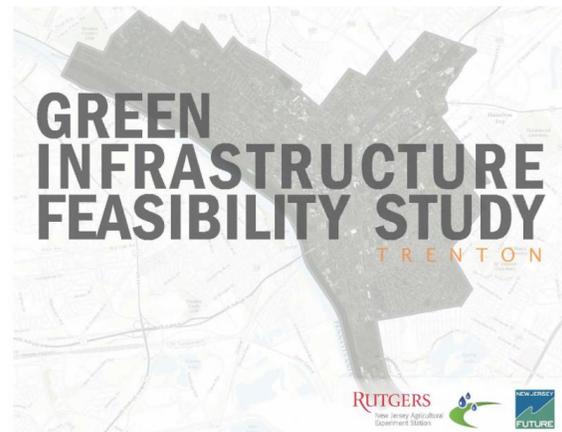


The **Jersey City Make It Green Team** partners continued to discuss green infrastructure projects and policies that will be implemented during the Year of Water. Residents are encouraged to sign up for alerts on combined sewer overflow notifications. During rain events, we encourage residents to practice water conservation to help reduce the volume of water entering the sewer system. Also, the team is collecting localized flooding reports from residents to help prioritize green infrastructure projects. Partners are looking forward to the next green infrastructure project to be installed at the Michael Conti Public School #5. To learn more about the Year of Water, please [click here](#).

**Newark DIG** (Doing Infrastructure Green) discussed several upcoming green infrastructure projects throughout the city. Lafayette Street School has received funding from the Trust for Public Land to redesign and implement a playground into their

blacktop playground this summer. The redesign includes green infrastructure elements such as rain gardens and pervious surfaces to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff on site. Construction is also ongoing at the Riverfront Park expansion which includes berms and contours to provide flood mitigation protection to the local neighborhood. The expansion will be completed by the end of this fall with a ribbon cutting to be scheduled next spring. The Quality of Life Summit will be rescheduled for later this fall; a save the date will be coming soon. Newark DIG also participated in the Leadership Summit hosted on May 20th to discuss water infrastructure and how residents can get informed and involved. For more information about Newark DIG, please visit [www.NewarkDIG.org](http://www.NewarkDIG.org).

**Paterson SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) partners are continuously engaging the school facilities and principals of the Napier Academy, Academy for the Gifted and Talented, and the John. F. Kennedy STEM High School to review the proposed green infrastructure projects at each school. We are working together to receive approvals from the Board of Education to begin implementing demonstration projects over the course of the summer. The team will also be hosting a community forum on September 13th; a save the date will be available soon! For more information about Paterson SMART, please visit [www.PatersonSMART.org](http://www.PatersonSMART.org).



The **Trenton Green Infrastructure** partners met on May 16th to review preliminary green infrastructure demonstration project plans and discuss next steps to share project ideas with local partners and residents. The RCE Water Resources Program has been invited to present at the May Trenton Green Team meeting to highlight proposed projects and how to engage other community groups through this collaborative effort. The next meeting will be held in July, and partners will be coordinating efforts to engage city representatives, schools, and other civic organizations.

**Perth Amboy SWIM** (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) partners are working together to design and implement green infrastructure projects at Washington Park, Perth Amboy City Hall, and two municipal parking lots over the next few months. In preparation for the new projects, on Thursday, May 18th, SWIM hosted a community meeting presenting their current work on the Washington Park project to the local neighborhood. The goal of the workshop was to engage local residential neighborhoods in the process to gain feedback for further development plans for the park. The workshop was well intended and provided SWIM with great local knowledge for the project moving forward. The partners recently met on May 18th for their monthly meeting and continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

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 New Jersey Technical Assistance Program for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) communities, please [click here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### Green Infrastructure in New Jersey Training Program - June 15th, Newark, NJ

Join the professional staff from the RCE Water Resources Program at this training program hosted by the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission. This training program will highlight lessons learned by the RCE Water Resources Program in green infrastructure strategies that work in New Jersey, how to retrofit green infrastructure in urban centers, and the associated costs of implementation and maintenance of these systems. The training will be beneficial to planning and design professionals, municipal engineers and officials, community groups, and inspired residents working to better manage stormwater runoff through the use of green infrastructure practices.

Participants will qualify for five continuing education credits (CEUs) for attending this program. The registration fee is \$20 per person and space is limited. Priority will be given to CSO permit holders and/or permit representatives in the PVSC service area.

[Click here](#) to register!



*"Protecting Public Health and the Environment"*

#### Green Infrastructure Training in New Jersey

June 15, 2017

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Training Facility  
600 Wilson Ave, Newark, NJ 07105



#### AGENDA

9:00am	Registration
9:30 am-9:45 am	Welcome and Introductions <i>(Gregory A. Tramontozzi, Esq., Executive Director, PVSC)</i>
9:45 am-10:45 am	Defining Site Parameters and Key Stakeholders for Stormwater Management in New Jersey <i>(Jeremiah Bergstrom, LLA, ASLA, Rutgers)</i>
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Identifying Green Infrastructure Opportunities and Constraints <i>(Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E., Rutgers)</i>
12:00 pm-12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 pm-1:45 pm	Designing and Implementing Green Infrastructure <i>(Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E., Rutgers)</i>
2:00 pm-3:00 pm	Costs and Maintenance Requirements of Green Infrastructure Practices <i>(Jeremiah Bergstrom, LLA, ASLA, Rutgers)</i>
3:00 pm-3:30 pm	Q/A Session
3:30 pm	Adjourn



# SAVE THE DATE

## JULY 7TH

Join the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors to learn about opportunities for collaborative partnerships to address water resources issues in your community.



This conference will showcase effective community initiatives that foster collaboration to achieve environmental success!

DATE: **Friday, July 7th**

TIME: **8:30AM - 3:00PM**

WHERE: **Rutgers EcoComplex**  
1200 Florence-Columbus Road,  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

VISIT <http://bit.ly/2qjM6uB> TO REGISTER

**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

**REGISTER TODAY!**



## **Union County Bus Tour Showcases Rain Gardens and Green Infrastructure on July 17th!**

On Saturday, July 17 you can hit the road with Rutgers Cooperative Extension on a guided bus tour to visit rain gardens, porous pavement parking lots, and cisterns in Union County. The half-day tour will highlight sustainable, environmentally friendly projects that cut landscaping costs, reduce runoff, and beautify properties. Rutgers experts will explain how the different strategies work, how they were designed, and their maintenance needs.



The rain or shine tour is perfect for municipal representatives, public works employees, landscapers, or residents interested in learning how to make properties more sustainable. This program has been approved for 3 technical Certified Public Works Manager (CPWM) credits.

The bus will depart from the Trailside Nature Center in Mountainside, NJ at 9:30 am and return at 1 pm. The cost is \$20 per person. Online registration is available by [clicking here](#) or call (732) 398-5274 for more information.

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

