



New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Urban and Community Forestry Program Announces 2017 Green Communities Achievement Awards



The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program is a recipient of a 2017 Green Communities Achievement Award! This award recognizes the RCE Water Resources Program for our contributions to urban and community forestry and was presented at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation's 92nd Annual Conference Dinner in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Along with the RCE Water Resource Program, James Cunningham from New Jersey Tree Foundation, Joseph McCartney from West Orange Open Space Commission, and the City of Clifton were also recognized. We are thrilled to be among those recognized for improving the environment in New Jersey's communities through wise management of trees and forest resources, raising awareness of the value of urban and community trees and forests in the state through education and outreach, and contributing to the field of urban and community forestry in New Jersey.

Harrison TIDE and Volunteers Plant the Town's First Rain Garden at the Public Library

Harrison TIDE (Transforming Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) is a collaboration of the Town of Harrison, New Jersey Future, The Lions and Elks Club, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC),

RCE Water Resources Program, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection whose goal is to improve the water quality and the quality of life of residents by addressing combined sewer and stormwater pollution, flooding, and economic development through identifying opportunities to implement green infrastructure, engage community members in educational programming, and public outreach.



Harrison TIDE has spent the past couple of months reviewing the [Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study for the Town of Harrison](#), which was developed in partnership with PVSC and the RCE Water Resources Program, to identify the town's first demonstration green infrastructure project. TIDE identified the Public Library as an opportunity to not only disconnect rooftop runoff from the building, but also to provide an ongoing educational opportunity to the frequent visitors to the library. In September, the RCE Water Resources Program designed two mirroring rain gardens surrounding the entrance to the library with input provided by TIDE partners and community feedback from National Night Out. Earlier this month, Fields Construction Company began the construction of the two rain gardens by excavating and removing the existing soil, disconnecting and redirecting the downspout from the building into the rain garden area, and adding bioretention mix soil to fill in the rain gardens at the required depth and completing the rain gardens by adding mulch. On October 28th, volunteers joined Harrison TIDE partners to plant the rain gardens and fill them with native species that will attract wildlife and promote infiltration of stormwater from the library's roof. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out and supported this very important project. A special thank you to the Harrison Lions Club, Harrison Elks, the Environmental Clubs from the Harrison High School and Washington Middle School, National Honor Society, Boy Scout Troop 305, and Fields Construction Company. Thank you also to Harrison TIDE partners who made this project possible: the Town of Harrison, PVSC, Jersey Water Works, New Jersey Future, and the Surdna Foundation. To learn more about Harrison TIDE, please [click here](#).



Municipal Action Teams are Moving Green Infrastructure into Action Across the State of New Jersey Update

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 action teams across the state.

Harrison TIDE (Transforming Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) partners have recently installed two 200 square foot rain gardens at the Harrison Public Library. Volunteers were gathered for a morning planting on October 28th where native species such as the blue flag iris, soft rush, and goldenrod were planted. With one successful project completed, TIDE partners will be moving forward with other outreach opportunities including rain barrel workshops for residents to engage in managing stormwater runoff.

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) partners continue to be a part of the city's combined sewer system permit process through participation in the regional team hosted by Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission and the City of Newark's public meetings. DIG partners discussed the importance of communicating to residents on how green infrastructure can be applied across the city and engage residents to participate in the adopt-a-catch basin program or rain barrel programs for city residents. DIG partners also continue to implement green infrastructure projects across the city. Lafayette Street School's playground and the Riverfront Park expansion include several green infrastructure projects to manage stormwater on site which is being led by the Trust for Public Land. The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission has also completed a cistern installation at Hawkins Street School and is currently implementing several green infrastructure projects in their facilities to demonstrate the benefits of managing stormwater through green infrastructure practices.

Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) partners completed a tour of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC), one of the largest wastewater treatment plants in the east coast and where the city's combined sewer system is connected to in Newark, New Jersey. This tour was one of the first tours provided by Paterson SMART members to further understand how the city's stormwater and wastewater get to PVSC and the health hazards that combined sewer overflow events have on residents in the city. The partners also completed planting three rain gardens at three public schools and engaged youth on selecting and planting native species in the garden. The green infrastructure projects were captured by [Paterson TIMES](#) in a few articles since the announcement to the city council was made.

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) partners gathered volunteers to plant over 800 native plants in the rain garden at Washington Park. SWIM partners were joined by the Royal Garden Club, Girl Scout Troop 81610, and local residents to complete the planting earlier this month. In addition to Washington Park, two porous asphalt projects are being installed in the city to further improve the city's stormwater management strategies and continued efforts to include green infrastructure practices. Perth Amboy's Office of Recycling was also the recipient of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Outstanding Achievement in Recycling award for their ongoing efforts to engage residents on best management practices to not only keep the streets clean, but the water cleaner.



Imagine A Day Without Water was held on October 12th as an annual campaign to celebrate the importance of water in day to day activities and raise awareness of the value of water. Camden SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) and the Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) partners, along with the City of Hoboken and Jersey Water Works, participated in the annual campaign. The day began with Imagine a Day Without Coffee at local cafes followed by a green

infrastructure tour in Jersey City and Hoboken. The Michael Conti Public School 5 in Jersey City also had the opportunity to learn about how municipal utility authorities function and how they inspect their catch basins. Students were also given a tour of their newly installed green infrastructure practices along the front entrance and learned about how water moves through various medias differently. In Camden, students from the Brimm Medical Arts High School engaged with Camden SMART partners to understand green infrastructure practices and the importance of stormwater management and then participated in maintaining bioretention systems in the city. Camden students also painted several rain barrels to highlight water conservation and continue celebrating the value of water.

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 Workshops and Programs



Complying with New Jersey Stormwater Regulations Using Green Infrastructure as a Stormwater Management Strategy

The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) is partnering with the RCE Water Resources Program to deliver this two-hour workshop in Succasunna, New Jersey on Wednesday, November 1st from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Learn about how to lessen the impacts of flooding through better stormwater management. The workshop will highlight steps to guide you and your municipality to ensure that new development is in compliance with the New Jersey stormwater management regulations. There will also be an opportunity to ask specific questions on new development plans in your community.

Decision makers across the state are encouraged to participate in this workshop. The workshop will be held at the Roxbury Senior Center located at 72 Eyland Avenue in Succasunna. Registration fee is \$15 per person (if your commission/committee is on the ANJEC Workshop Plan, there is no charge to attend). To register, please [email ANJEC](#) or call (973)539-7547.

JERSEY WATERWORKS CONFERENCE

Third Annual 2017 Jersey Water Works Conference

The Jersey Water Works (JWW) conference will be held on December 1, 2017 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, New Jersey. This day-long event will bring together 300 state and local decision-makers, practitioners, and stakeholders to amplify the importance of addressing New Jersey's water infrastructure, explore

innovative solutions, and celebrate the JWW collaborative as an effective, comprehensive approach to achieving statewide impact.

The event will take place from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM with a registration fee ranging from \$30 to \$100 per person. Kishia L. Powell, Commissioner for the Department of Watershed Management for the City of Atlanta, Georgia will be the keynote speaker highlighting Atlanta's Water Future. To learn more about the conference and to register please [click here](#).

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

