



February 2018

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER



Sharing Knowledge at the Urban Green Infrastructure Summit in Portland, Oregon

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program's Christopher C. Obropta and Rosana Da Silva were invited to deliver the keynote address at the Urban Green Infrastructure Summit in Portland, OR. The goal of the summit was to create new collaborative networks, identify research and education priorities, and share existing resources.

Chris and Rosana tag teamed the keynote address and presented the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program's Community-Based Green Infrastructure Initiative. The presentation was well

received by the audience of over 70 participants engaged in working on green infrastructure planning and implementation throughout the state of Oregon and Washington.

The Pacific Northwest is highly committed to using green infrastructure to address combined sewer overflow, localized flooding, and water quality problems. Portland, OR has over 2,000 green streets which include rain gardens and bioswales that are plentiful throughout the region. Yet the people at the summit are still struggling to better understand how to make green infrastructure more effective, reduce maintenance costs, and encourage a broader range of adoption. We can learn much from the experiences of the green infrastructure professionals in Oregon and Washington, and we can provide them with strong examples of how to engage communities particularly through developing municipal action teams and using rapid planning tools like the impervious cover assessment, reduction action plan, and green infrastructure feasibility study.

For more information about the Summit, [click here.](#)



Our Partnership with the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Continues into 2018!

The RCE Water Resources Program has recently renewed their four-year partnership with the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, beginning in 2018. This new partnership will expand on the existing coastal communities program developed as part of the 2013-2017 work plan. In 2016, the RCE Water Resources Program partnered with the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium and Whale Pond Brook Watershed Association (WPBWA) to bring impervious cover assessments and impervious cover reduction action plans to seven communities in Monmouth County: Keyport, Long Branch City, West Long Branch Borough, Tinton Falls, Eatontown, Ocean Township, and Lakewood. Since their development, the RCE Water Resources Program, in partnership with the WPBWA, has met with these municipalities to discuss the reports and the opportunity for green infrastructure in their neighborhood.

Moving into 2018, the RCE Water Resources Program plans to expand these efforts by supporting the implementation of eight (8) stormwater management demonstration practices across these seven (7) communities. The goal is to manage up to 500,000 gallons of stormwater as a result of these projects by providing outreach and education during the process. Without the support of the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, the RCE Water Resources Program would not have been able to develop these strong partnerships with these communities and leverage the resources necessary to expand them.

For more information, [click here.](#)

Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

Harrison TIDE (Transforming Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) partners have scheduled a presentation to deliver to town council next month to inform the council on TIDE's goals, highlight the demonstration projects and programs, and encourage partnerships. TIDE will be looking to build a partnership with the board of education and engage science teachers to incorporate stormwater management into after-school activities or within the science curriculum by providing training to teachers.

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) discussed several demonstration green infrastructure projects that are being pursued for 2018 including implementation of tree trenches

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. Updates on the various municipal action teams across the state are listed in this newsletter.

along Martin Luther King Drive between Bramhall Avenue and Forrest Street and other best management practices in Bayside Park, Lafayette Park, Thomas McGovern Park, and Columbia Park. START also worked with the city to encourage the next regional combined sewer overflow (CSO) supplemental team meeting to be hosted in the city. The team also discussed opportunities to engage the AmeriCorp VISTAs and to work with residents to promote the installation of rain barrels in the community as a potential project this year.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners met in partnership with the Trenton Green Team to provide an update to green team members on recent activities. The partners reviewed proposed demonstration green infrastructure projects and discussed the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) 319(h) grant that is funding the green infrastructure initiative in Trenton. The group also discussed collaborating in the coming year on programs and projects and is planning to hold another joint meeting in April. Preliminary green infrastructure project design plans are currently being forwarded to NJDEP for review and comment. The partners are continuing to work with local property owners to secure approvals for implementation and construction. Partners will be working closely with schools and neighborhood organizations to complete a first round of green infrastructure projects in the spring and summer of 2018.

Technical assistance provided to these municipal action teams by the RCE Water Resources Program is funded in part by the Surdna Foundation, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission with support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and our local partners.

Camden SMART

Gloucester City Green Team

Harrison TIDE

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson SMART

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners



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