

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station



June 2024

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

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### **Project Update ~ Green Infrastructure Implementation in New Jersey's Overburdened Communities ~**

### **A New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Project ~ Phase 2**

Phase 2 of the implementation of green infrastructure projects in New Jersey's overburdened communities (OBCs) is well on its way! The first project of Phase 2 was facilitated by Green Infrastructure Champion, Karen Rutberg. Rutberg collaborated with community members Patience Smith and Drew Giddings, who manage the summer school programming at Cedarbrook Elementary School to find us the perfect spot for a rain garden.

Following a site visit and survey, a 195-square-foot rain garden was designed for the turfgrass area adjacent to the school. This rain garden is engineered to capture, filter, and infiltrate stormwater runoff from a 340-square-foot paved area. The construction of the rain garden was made possible through the efforts of Karen Rutberg and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program student interns and staff. This project marks a significant step forward in our commitment to enhancing coastal adaptation and resilience through the installation of green infrastructure in vulnerable communities.









*Cedarbrook Elementary School rain garden installation, Plainfield, Union County, NJ, June 2024*  
*[Photo credit: Karen Rutberg, Green Infrastructure Champion]*

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The second project of Phase 2 was led by Green Infrastructure Champion and NJ Watershed Ambassador for Watershed Management Area 4, Maria Rivera, at the Passaic Preparatory Academy in Passaic, NJ. This project exemplifies our ongoing efforts to enhance stormwater management in overburdened communities.

The project involves directing stormwater runoff from a 120-square-foot patio into an 80-square-foot rain garden. This initiative was a collaborative effort with RCE Water Resources Program interns working alongside 8th and 12th grade students to excavate the rain garden area and install bioretention soil, plants, and mulch. This project not only addresses stormwater management but also serves as an educational opportunity for the students, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of sustainable practices.

Funding for *Green Infrastructure Implementation in New Jersey's Overburdened Communities ~ Phase 2* has been provided by the **New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium** (NJS GC) under NJS GC project number 6238-0018 (8/1/2023 - 7/31/2024).





*Passaic Preparatory Academy rain garden, before and after installation, Passaic, Passaic County, NJ, June 2024  
[Photo credit: Hollie DiMuro]*



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