



September 2018

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

The Interns Have Been Busy!

We had a fantastic summer, and we covered the whole state of New Jersey! The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program had nine full-time interns that put in 4,034 hours of work! Staff and students worked closely this summer to accomplish a tremendous amount of work in just three short months. We were able to maintain 17 rain garden projects and construct 11 residential/municipal rain gardens. Student teams identified green infrastructure in 23 municipalities for incorporation into green infrastructure feasibility studies. Students completed eight full sets of engineering designs and provided technical support to the Water Resources Program staff for an additional seven full sets of engineering designs.

We want to thank our interns for all their hard work this summer!

Here's what they had to say about their experience:



Jill

"This is the best internship I have had because we get to do 'hands-on' work and be a part of the whole process of designing and implementing green infrastructure. We got to see our work in action. Thank you to all the staff for teaching me skills and teaching me about the environmental engineering field."

Ryan

"The Water Resources Program internship has done more than providing me with the knowledge and skill set to become an engineer on and off the field. Exploring New Jersey, working with countless communities, and organizing and creating new experiences everyday has completely exceeded my expectations."



Zack

"This summer internship was a wonderful experience learning about stormwater management and exploring New Jersey."



Miranda

"I have worked on skills from the classroom as well as learned new ones I haven't been exposed to in my major; it has been a great summer. One of the best parts was putting together a rock wall border at a residential rain garden and getting to watch the rain rush in from the downspout and see the garden at work!"



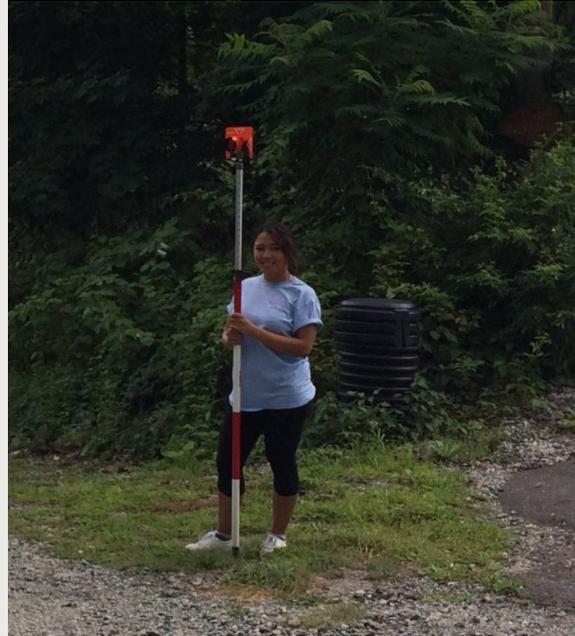
Kahourie

"This summer has been very new and exciting. Although at first I was out of my element, I have gained a lot of experience and learned new skills everyday that can help me with my future."



Andrea

"Working at the RCE Water Resources Program has given me a deeper understanding of green infrastructure with experiences outside the classroom. My time here has opened my eyes to details in the landscapes we often glaze over and that even the smallest rain garden can improve the quality of our everyday lives!"



Maithreyi

"This past summer interning at the Water Resource Program at Rutgers University helped me learn more about the environment as well as the engineering side of it than any of my classes combined."

Gerardo

"Working at the Water Resources Program offers a rewarding experience through challenges and independent work. What makes it better, however, is the friendships

made with other interns and staff."



Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

Gloucester City Green Team continues to meet monthly. Construction on a rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department is planned to begin in the fall. The City will assist with the installation, and local volunteers will be planting. Plans for the installation of enhanced tree pits in cooperation with the New Jersey Tree Foundation were also discussed. Opportunities for a project in the high school courtyard have been discussed as well. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for October 10th.

Harrison TIDE (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) met on September 13th. Plans for the Washington Middle School courtyard were discussed, and the site has been surveyed. Concepts will be prepared and presented to the school for feedback. Plans to implement a project at the Fire Department building were also discussed. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for October 11th.

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) met on September 13th. The Columbia Park project has had soil testing completed. ARCADIS presented a summary of their Alternatives Analysis for the CSO long term control plan (LTCP) during the second half of the meeting. They agreed to present to community groups in each neighborhood to fulfill the public participation portion of the LTCP. Two meetings are upcoming this fall, with the Jersey City Parks Coalition and the Downtown Coalition of

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.

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

Neighborhood Associations.

Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on September 26th and discussed the ongoing status of projects in the city. The Overlook Park bioretention basin has been completed, and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Overlook Park on October 5th. Chris Obropta, of the RCE Water Resources Program, and Sue Levine and Hazel English, of the Great Swamp Watershed Association, presented to the Paterson Board of Education with a follow up meeting at the October Preseident's roundtable to identify new projects at schools around the city. The group is working with city partners to present the CSO long term control plan to the Mayor and his new administration.

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) has continued their efforts toward promoting green infrastructure throughout the city of Perth Amboy. Last month the group continued their discussion around the role of SWIM in the larger long term control plan (LTCP) process. In the upcoming months the group will work with the City to understand how SWIM can help throughout this process. The partners recently met on September 20th for their monthly meeting and continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners met on September 25th. Partners are working on prioritizing and designing projects for additional sites within the City. In addition, the group is working diligently on partnering with the local schools to develop educational workshops and public outreach. The Edgewood Avenue Playground project and Grace A. Dunn Middle School projects are moving forward with installation dates for this fall still to be determined. City residents aided in the prioritization of sites throughout the city based on their experiences and knowledge. Members of the planning board and school facilities board will meet to align upcoming projects with the TGIP green infrastructure initiative.

Gloucester City Green Team

Harrison TIDE

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson SMART

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners



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