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Experiment Station



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WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER



Big win for Newark DIG

Newark DIG (Do Infrastructure Green) is a collaboration that currently includes group participation from: the City of Newark, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund, Greater Newark Conservancy, Ironbound Community Corporation, I.T.V. It Takes A Village, Inc., MnM Consulting, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, New Jersey Tree Foundation, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, Trust for Public Land, Unified Vailsburg Services Organization, Urban League of Essex County, and Victoria Foundation.

Newark DIG grew out of a recognition of the urgent need to cool, green, and beautify Newark as the region's urban core; to reduce incidents of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that discharge pathogens into the Passaic River; to protect the health, viability, and quality of life of Newark residents; to expand great, community-driven urban design city-wide; and to improve resilience to flooding and heat in an area of North Jersey disproportionately impacted by pollution and climate change. Newark's stormwater ordinance and sustainability action plan establish a policy priority on green infrastructure as a first line of defense against CSOs. Newark DIG has been working to help the City meet this goal while also providing leadership and advocacy for advancing green infrastructure policy and practice in Newark as a model for northern New Jersey to generate economic development and improve the lives and health of Newark residents.

This past week Newark DIG presented to the Newark City Council on its efforts to provide input to the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) for the City of Newark to eliminate incidents of CSOs. During the ½-hour presentation to the City Council, members of DIG discussed the importance of addressing CSOs in the City and the various alternatives that could be incorporated into the LTCP to achieve this goal. The presentation was a great success. The City Council was completely engaged and had a lot of good questions. The Newark City Council immediately recognized the importance of this issue and created a special committee to focus its efforts on the LTCP and the opportunities it represents for the City. This is one of the collective collaborative that is Newark DIG's greatest accomplishment as the residents of Newark truly benefit from the newly created special City Council Committee on CSO issues.

Green Infrastructure Training is Going Strong in 2020!



On Friday, January 17, 2020, the highly successful Green Infrastructure Champions Program returned for a second year! The program has been made possible with support from New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Jersey Water Works, and Duke Farms.

Green Infrastructure Champions will be key players in implementing green infrastructure as a stormwater management approach town by town. Green Infrastructure Champions will be able to:

- Enhance their knowledge through green infrastructure workshops, seminars, and personal research
- Engage community leaders to adopt green infrastructure as a stormwater management solution by updating ordinances and municipal master plans
- Encourage local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and schools to incorporate green infrastructure in their existing landscaping
- Secure funding for green infrastructure
- Publicize implementation of green infrastructure through social media channels

The RCE Water Resources Program will dedicate resources to support the Green Infrastructure Champions in their efforts to advocate for green infrastructure and implement demonstration projects.

For additional details about the Green Infrastructure Champions Program as well as the topics discussed at each session, please visit us at:

The RCE Water Resources Program

(<http://water.rutgers.edu/Projects/GreenInfrastructureChampions/GIC.html>).

The 2020 Green Infrastructure Champions Program is being held at Duke Farms, Hillsborough, New Jersey, on Fridays from 10AM to 12NOON (January 17- May 22). **Register here!** (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/green-infrastructure-champions-tickets-78185331431>) ***There are still a few spaces available! Don't miss out on all the fun!***

Contact **Marian Glenn** (marian.glenn@shu.edu) or **Sara Mellor** (saramellor@envsci.rutgers.edu) for more information.

A minimum of five (5) workshops are required for a certification.

Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

Camden SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on January 8th. The group focused primarily on a work plan for 2020. This focused on trying to create goals for the year with achievable objectives with more collaboration between partners. An emphasis was also placed on Camden's plan to implement 10% green infrastructure as part of their CSO long term control plan and how this target will be achieved. This will require collaboration between both partners and the city as new development and repaving projects are done. The next monthly meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 12th at 2PM at Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority.

Gloucester City Green Team met on January 15th. The highlight of the meeting was that the Sustainable Jersey application was accepted, and Gloucester City is now Bronze-certified! The group is already thinking about projects to apply for Silver for the next round. The group discussed the upcoming Gloucester City High School project that is planned for installation in the summer, and other projects are being looked into with the remaining grant funding. Preliminary plans for a Green Day in April were started by brainstorming ideas for vendors and activities. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th at 1PM at the Gloucester City Municipal Building.

Harrison TIDE (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) postponed its January meeting in lieu of the Supplemental CSO Team Meeting held on January 9th. The supplemental CSO Team Meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to communicate on the CSO Long Term Control plan to guide decision making. One of the focuses of the discussion was about what degree green infrastructure is being considered in the plan with many feeling it is not being given serious enough consideration. While green infrastructure cannot be a complete solution, it can provide additional aesthetic and health benefits compared to underground storage systems, but these benefits must be weighed with concerns on siting projects and continuing maintenance to ensure function of these systems. The public was encouraged to reach out to their municipal leaders since they will be making the decisions on what degree green infrastructure will be considered in each municipal plan. The Selection and Implementation of Alternatives Report is due June 1st, so comments are

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

Gloucester City Green Team

Harrison TIDE

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson SMART

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners

encouraged well before this deadline. The next monthly meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 13th at 2PM at Harrison Town Hall.

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on January 15th at 6 PM in City Hall. A presentation reviewing accomplishments of 2019 was given to the attendees. Areas in need of improvement for the group were reviewed as well and included meeting accessibility and improved information dissemination to both the public and city officials. In 2020 there will be quarterly evening meetings in May, September, and December to open up the discussion to more community members. Some of the goals for 2020 are to continue engaging the community, install green infrastructure projects, and to collaborate with the Housing Authority on green infrastructure projects. The next meeting will be at 10AM on February 13th at JCMUA.

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) met in Newark City Hall at 11:00 AM on December 17, 2019 and January 28, 2020. Prior to the meeting on January 28, members of Newark DIG made a presentation to the Newark City Council regarding Newark's combined sewer overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plan (LCTP). Those interested in events planned for Earth Day (April 22, 2020) should look to the Newark Office of Sustainability for upcoming programming announcements. Several street greening and stormwater infrastructure projects designed with Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and the City of Newark are currently in development and contracting phases. Urban League of Essex County indicated that construction of porous pavement and rain gardens for the Fairmount Street Model Block Project has been rescheduled for spring 2020. Upcoming partner events in Newark include: The Great Water Bottle Drop-Off, plastic water bottle upcycling art project hosted by Newark Arts and Clean Water Action on January 31, 2020, and Newark 2020 Call to Collaboration event on March 19 & 20, 2020 at NJIT (free registration required). For additional information and upcoming events about the LTCP and combined sewer overflow (CSO) issues visit NewarkDIG.org or find Newark DIG on Facebook. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11:00 AM on the fourth Tuesday of every month in Newark City Hall.

Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) did not meet in January. The next meeting in February will be announced via email by the City.

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) met on January 29th at 2:30 PM in the Faith Room of the Raritan Bay Area YMCA. They reviewed notes from the December 18th CSO Long Term Control Plan Supplemental Team Meeting, specifically the request to submit green infrastructure project sites which manage a total of 40-50 acres of impervious cover. The group will use existing plans that identify green infrastructure such as the impervious cover reduction action plan by the RCE Water Resources Program and the Support Document from NJ/NY HEP and eDesign Dynamics. The group will be reaching out to other community groups to help identify viable green infrastructure locations in the city. Members also discussed plans for the city to host a green infrastructure maintenance workshop, making and submitting the necessary edits to the Community Forestry Management Plan, and upcoming green infrastructure projects for this year. There will be a rain barrel workshop at the Jankowski Center on March 19th at 6 PM, hosted by the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners (GIP) met on Tuesday January 21st at 3 PM at the Isles Youth Build Institute. Members discussed the 2020 work plan and reviewed accomplishments from last year and goals for the new year. Upcoming green infrastructure projects at City Hall and MLK Elementary School were discussed as well as reviewing drafts of signage for these projects. The draft of the new Community Forestry Management Plan was also reviewed, and members will be calling a subcommittee meeting to deliver comments to DVRPC and solicit feedback from city officials on the draft.



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