



February 2020

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

### Green Infrastructure for the Raritan River in Highland Park, New Jersey



The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program recently completed several green infrastructure projects in Highland Park, New Jersey. These projects demonstrate best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater management and promote positive water quality in the Raritan River watershed.

The projects included:



- A 500 sq. ft. rain garden and 1,300 sq. ft. of pervious pavers at Highland Park Teen Center, designed with Rutgers Landscape Architecture student, Anna Erickson
- Detention basin planting at Highland Park High School and Middle School including 2,500 native trees, shrubs, and perennials
- Replanting and maintenance of existing 400 sq. ft. rain garden at Highland Park High School



Green infrastructure is designed to intercept stormwater and allow groundwater infiltration, enhancing water quality and managing runoff. In addition to creating public green space, the plants found in rain gardens provide habitat for native wildlife and support critical pollinator species.

These projects could not have been completed without the support of our local partners including the New Jersey Tree



Foundation, Borough of Highland Park, Anna Erickson and Richard Bartolone of Rutgers Department of Landscape Architecture, and the students and teachers at Highland Park High School and Middle School. These projects were funded by a 319(h) water quality grant and a community forestry grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

## Rain Garden Program!

*Rebates available to residents of the Neshanic and Back Brook Watersheds*

### Rain Gardens:

- Capture rain water and allow it to soak into the ground
- Slow down stormwater runoff, alleviating localized flooding and reducing pollution
- Provide beauty and are a valuable food source for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects.



### Educational Session:

**March 31, 2020 7 pm to 8 pm**

**at Route 12 County Complex, Bldg. 1 - 1st floor  
Assembly Space (314 Route 12, Flemington, NJ)**

### Design Sessions:

**April 8th or 9th, 2020 5 pm to 8 pm**

**at the Hunterdon County Library  
314 Route 12 Flemington, NJ**

For more information and to register:  
visit: [www.northjerseyrcd.org](http://www.northjerseyrcd.org)  
email: [neshanic@northjerseyrcd.org](mailto:neshanic@northjerseyrcd.org)  
call: 908-574-5368

REBATES UP TO

**\$450**

1. Attend the Educational Session (mandatory)
2. Set up a free 30 minute design consultation with Rutgers professionals to plan and layout your garden
3. Install your garden
4. Get up to \$450 back



**RUTGERS**

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station



Funding for the program is provided by a NJDEP BEARS 319(h) grant awarded to North Jersey RC&D

**Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure**

**Camden SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on February 12th. The group focused on reviewing the work plan for 2020 while trying to come up with clear and achievable objectives for the year with more collaboration between partners. Partners updated on projects throughout the city. Rutgers updated on the status of green infrastructure projects at Camden Tool and Higher Ground Church, which have been approved by owners and will be soon sent out to bid. Camden's rain barrel program continues with a new program focused on showing people how to build their own rain barrels. The March meeting is canceled, so the next monthly meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 8th at 2PM at Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority.

**Gloucester City Green Team** met on February 12th. The group began discussing ideas for a new logo for the Green Team that Rutgers will be developing. Drafts of the logo will be shared at the next meeting, so please come if you would like to give input on the design. The group reviewed timing for the 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. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th at 1PM at the Gloucester City Municipal Building.

**Jersey City START** (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on March 12th at 10AM at the JCMUA building. The group discussed upcoming construction details for the Columbia Park project. They also discussed the CSO Long Term Control Plan and will be requesting drafts of the final Selection of Alternatives report. Public meetings to discuss the Climate Action Plan for Jersey City will be held throughout the city in the spring, with the first one being on March 3rd at 6:30PM at Congregation B'nai Jacob. Members also discussed prioritization of the following 2020 goals: a green infrastructure challenge, incentives for homeowners, and creating a subcommittee for these goals. The next meeting will be at 10AM on Thursday, March 12th at JCMUA.

**Newark DIG** (Doing Infrastructure Green) met in Newark City Hall at 11AM on February 25, 2020. Partners discussed future grants and funding sources to ensure that green infrastructure projects in Newark are sustainable and maintained. The Newark Office of Sustainability shared preliminary plans for their

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

spring events calendar including Earth Day (April 22, 2020) and Arbor Day (April 24, 2020) celebrations, citizen tree training and planting, and riverfront activities. The City of Newark is now accepting applications for the 2020 Love Your Block Mini-Grants program, with up to \$5,000 grants available to beautify and improve your block in Newark. Learn more online or at an informational session at various locations throughout the city in March. Public meetings to gather feedback about the Long Term Control Plan and combined sewer overflow (CSO) issues will be held in April 2020. Please visit NewarkDIG.org or find Newark DIG on Facebook for more information. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11AM on the fourth Tuesday of every month in Newark City Hall.

**Paterson SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) did not meet in February. The Paterson Green Team is currently seeking funding to help support the continuation of the Adopt-A-Catch Basin program and plans to continue to work on the project through 2020. The next meeting in March will be announced via email by the City.

**Perth Amboy SWIM** (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) met on February 19th at 2:30PM in the Faith Room of the Raritan Bay Area YMCA. They identified existing and new green infrastructure opportunities to submit to CDM Smith and Middlesex Water, 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, to be included in the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for green infrastructure practices. 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 presentation on citizen science sampling results, tree canopy goals, and LTCP solutions on March 5th at 2PM, in the Faith Room of the Raritan Bay YMCA. All Perth Amboy residents and anyone interested are encouraged to attend (there will be refreshments). There will be a rain barrel workshop at the Jankowski Center on March 19th at 6PM, hosted by the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership. The next meeting will be announced via email.

**Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners** (GIP) met on Tuesday February 18th at 3PM at the Isles Youth Build Institute. Members finalized the 2020 work plan and created a task list. Upcoming green infrastructure projects at City Hall and Edgewood Avenue Playground were discussed, and signage for green infrastructure projects

was finalized. A subcommittee to review the draft of the new Community Forestry Management Plan was created, and comments will be delivered to DVRPC. Plans for upcoming events this year such as Ciclovía and parking are also currently in the beginning stages. The green team is also working on plans to achieve Silver Status with Sustainable Jersey, including establishing a green energy program and working on recycling/illegal dumping issued throughout the city. The next meeting in March will be announced via email.



DONATE TO THE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM



**Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program**

[water@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:water@envsci.rutgers.edu)

[www.water.rutgers.edu](http://www.water.rutgers.edu)

Connect with us

