

**ORIGINAL**



**Draft**

**Impervious Cover Reduction Action Plan  
for  
Hillsborough Township, Somerset County, New Jersey**

*Prepared for Hillsborough Township by the  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program*

September 5, 2015



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### Attachment: Climate Resilient Green Infrastructure

- a. Overview Map of the Project
- b. Green Infrastructure Sites
- c. Proposed Green Infrastructure Concepts
- d. Summary of Existing Conditions
- e. Summary of Proposed Green Infrastructure Practices

# REVISED FOR SUSTAINABLE JERSEY POINTS



## **Green Infrastructure Action Plan and Strategic Plan for Hillsborough Township, Somerset County, New Jersey**

*Prepared for Hillsborough Township by the  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program*

September 5, 2019



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## **TEXT ADDED FOR SUSTAINABLE JERSEY POINTS**

### **Policy Recommendations**

Once NJDEP's newly proposed stormwater management rules are adopted by the State, the Township will update its stormwater management plan and stormwater control ordinance to incorporate green infrastructure requirements for new development. The municipal master plan will also be updated to incorporate green infrastructure recommendations. The initial review of Hillsborough's zoning ordinance indicated that it does not contain barriers for green infrastructure. If barriers are uncovered in the future, they will immediately be addressed to encourage the use of green infrastructure when appropriate.

### **Funding Strategy, Implementation Agenda, and Community Engagement**

The Township will create a green infrastructure subcommittee of the green team that meets monthly to discuss opportunities for projects and coordinate implementation of projects. While much of the implementation thus far has been a function of the availability of the Department of Public Works. The goal is to install five to ten projects per year and possibly increase this number as funding becomes available. While projects can be designed throughout the year, many are installed in the spring, summer, and fall. These are exciting times for the Township who is hoping to be on the forefront of the green infrastructure movement.

#### *Funding Sources*

The first source of funding will be provided by the Township from the capital improvement fund and tree fund. The Township is committed to implementing green infrastructure throughout the municipality. The Township is currently partnering with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program on a township-wide green infrastructure initiative. The RCE Water Resources Program is designing green infrastructure projects and overseeing their implementation. Additionally, the RCE Water Resources Program has trained the Department of Public Works to install and maintain rain gardens. They have already installed rain gardens at the municipal building.

The second source of funding will be provided by volunteers as part of their effort to participate in the Township's green infrastructure initiative. For example, in the past a Boy Scout helped with a rain garden at the High School as part of his Eagle Scout project, and a Girl Scout installed one at the intermediate school as part of her Gold Award project. These scouts organized groups of

volunteers (mostly other scouts and their parents) to help construct the rain gardens. The scouts also conducted fund raising to purchase plants for each rain garden. There are other community groups that are interested in participating in the green infrastructure initiative that can provide labor and funding for supplies.

The third source of funding would be through local, state and federal grant programs. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection provides some grant funding for stormwater management projects. Other groups like the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, US Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Jersey, and ANJEC (Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) have also provided grant funding for stormwater management projects in the past. Private foundations could be another source of funding for designing and building green infrastructure projects.

The final possible source of funding is the New Jersey Water Bank (formerly known as the Environmental Infrastructure Trust) Financing Program. This program provides low interest loans for water projects. The Township could seek funding from the New Jersey Water Bank for green infrastructure projects.

#### *Incentive Programs*

Although the Township has been focusing on implementing green infrastructure projects on municipally owned property, a rain garden rebate program was conducted in the municipality, and several rain gardens were installed. This program was funded by a NJDEP 319(h) grant. As the green infrastructure initiative moves forward, there will be opportunities to provide additional incentive programs for homeowners and businesses to participate in the effort.

As stormwater utilities become a reality in New Jersey, there may also be opportunities to offer incentives to homeowners and businesses to install green infrastructure. A stormwater utility can provide a reduced utility fee to property owners that have installed green infrastructure. A stormwater utility programs can also provide direct funding to property owners to install green infrastructure.

### *Maintenance and Monitoring*

So far, all the projects have been installed on public property, and the Department of Public Works has been trained to maintain these systems. As time goes on and more private property owners install green infrastructure systems, these property owners will be held responsible for maintaining their systems. The Township will provide training sessions for these individuals, and each project will have a maintenance plan.

An annual inspection will be conducted of each green infrastructure project to ensure it is functioning as designed and is maintained on a regular basis. NJDEP provides guidance on maintenance and monitoring of green infrastructure practices. Go to:

[https://www.njstormwater.org/maintenance\\_guidance.htm](https://www.njstormwater.org/maintenance_guidance.htm)

### *Responsible Parties*

Thus far, the municipality has been solely responsible for installing and maintaining green infrastructure practices. For each project that is built on non-public property, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be established to ensure that each participant understands their role in the implementation. This will include disposal of soil and maintenance of the system.

As the municipal green infrastructure initiative continues to move forward, community engagement will play an important role. Several members of the municipality have attended Rutgers workshops and become Green Infrastructure Champions. These Champions will work with the municipality to engage the community to implement green infrastructure practices. Additionally, the green team is reaching out to the schools within the municipality to discuss rain garden programs for the students. Finally, the rain garden rebate program was very successful, and efforts will be made to continue this program, which will hopefully engage a large portion of the community.

### *Timeframe*

The timeframe for installation of green infrastructure depends on available resources (labor and funding). The town has committed to installing four to six projects per year, but this could increase dramatically if an influx of funding becomes available. The policy recommendations will be implemented after NJDEP's passage of the new stormwater management regulations.

### **Short-term and Long-term Goals**

The short-term goal of Hillsborough's Green Infrastructure Initiative is to manage 10 acres of impervious surfaces within the next five years. The long-term goal is to manage 25 acres of impervious surfaces within 20-years. These goals are highly dependent on secure adequate funding for implementation of green infrastructure projects.

### **Conclusion**

This green infrastructure action plan and strategic plan is meant to provide the municipality with a blueprint for implementing green infrastructure practices that will reduce the impact of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. These projects can be implemented by a wide variety of people such as boy scouts, girl scouts, school groups, faith-based groups, social groups, watershed groups, and other community groups.

Additionally, development projects that are in need of providing off-site compensation for stormwater impacts can use the projects in this plan as a starting point. The municipality can quickly convert this impervious cover reduction action plan into a stormwater mitigation plan and incorporate it into the municipal stormwater control ordinance.