



**Impervious Cover Reduction Action Plan  
for  
Hopatcong Borough, Sussex County, New Jersey**

*Prepared for Hopatcong Borough by the  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program*

February 27, 2016



## **Introduction**

Located in Sussex County in northern New Jersey, Hopatcong Borough covers approximately 12.2 square miles. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate that Hopatcong Borough is dominated by forest land uses. A total of 31.4% of the municipality's land use is classified as urban. Of the urban land in Hopatcong Borough, medium density residential is the dominant land use (Figure 3).

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) 2012 land use/land cover geographical information system (GIS) data layer categorizes Hopatcong Borough into many unique land use areas, assigning a percent impervious cover for each delineated area. These impervious cover values were used to estimate the impervious coverage for Hopatcong Borough. Based upon the 2012 NJDEP land use/land cover data, approximately 9.7% of Hopatcong Borough has impervious cover. This level of impervious cover suggests that the streams in Hopatcong Borough are likely sensitive streams.<sup>1</sup>

## **Methodology**

Hopatcong Borough contains portions of three subwatersheds (Figure 4). For this impervious cover reduction action plan, projects have been identified in each of these watersheds. Initially, aerial imagery was used to identify potential project sites that contain extensive impervious cover. Field visits were then conducted at each of these potential project sites to determine if a viable option exists to reduce impervious cover or to disconnect impervious surfaces from draining directly to the local waterway or storm sewer system. During the site visit, appropriate green infrastructure practices for the site were determined. Sites that already had stormwater management practices in place were not considered.

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<sup>1</sup> Caraco, D., R. Claytor, P. Hinkle, H. Kwon, T. Schueler, C. Swann, S. Vysotsky, and J. Zielinski. 1998. Rapid Watershed Planning Handbook. A Comprehensive Guide for Managing Urbanizing Watersheds. Prepared by Center For Watershed Protection, Ellicott City, MD. Prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds and Region V. October 1998

## Land Use Types for Hopatcong Borough

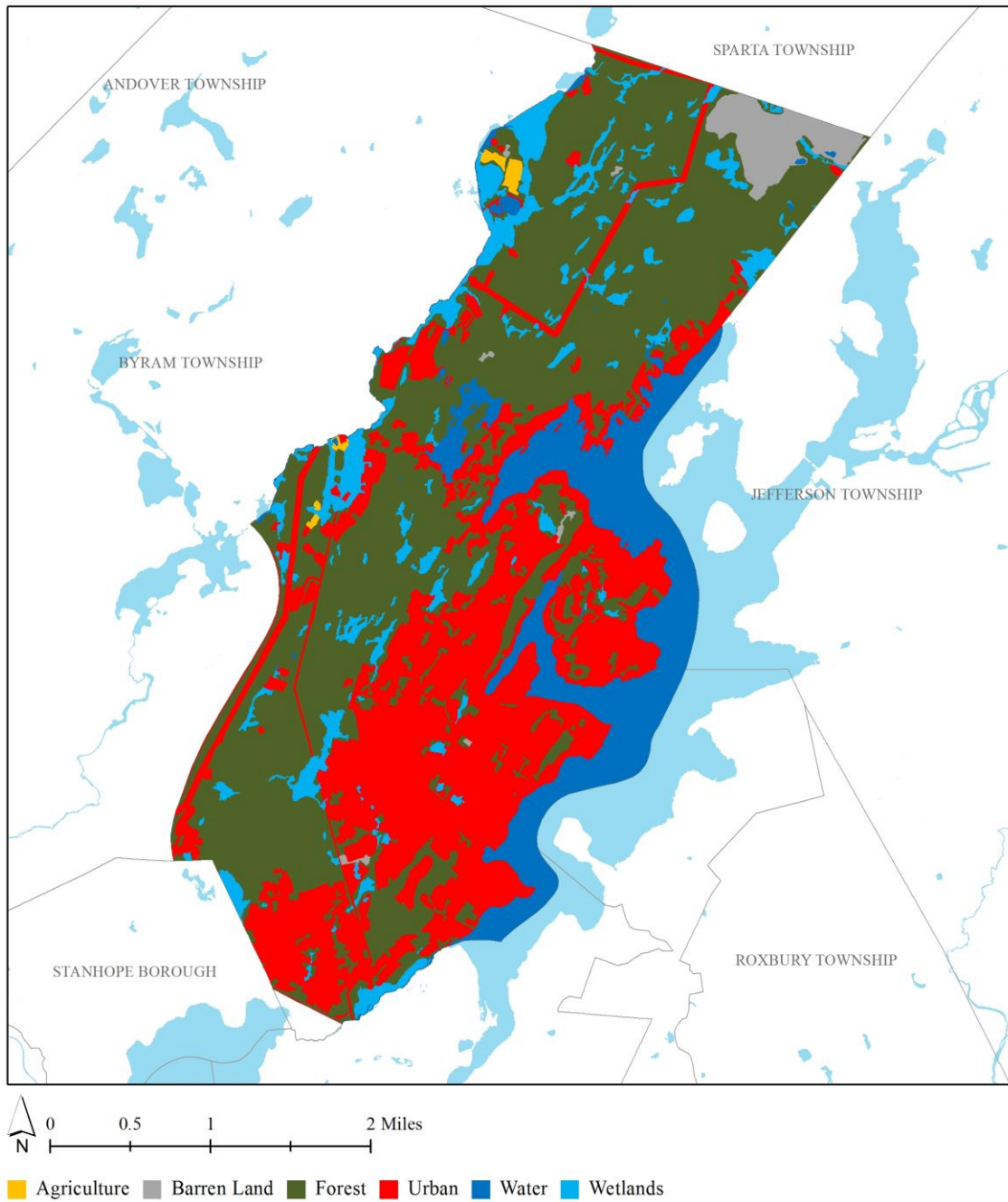


Figure 4: Map illustrating the land use in Hopatcong Borough

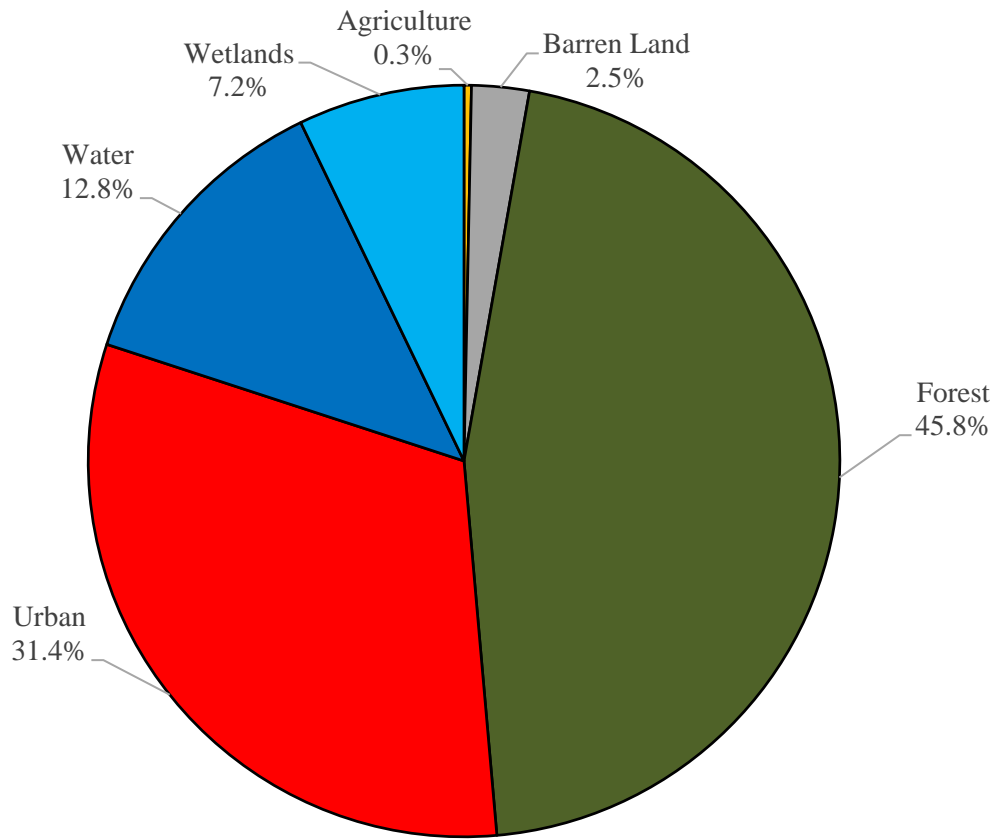


Figure 3: Pie chart illustrating the land use in Hopatcong Borough

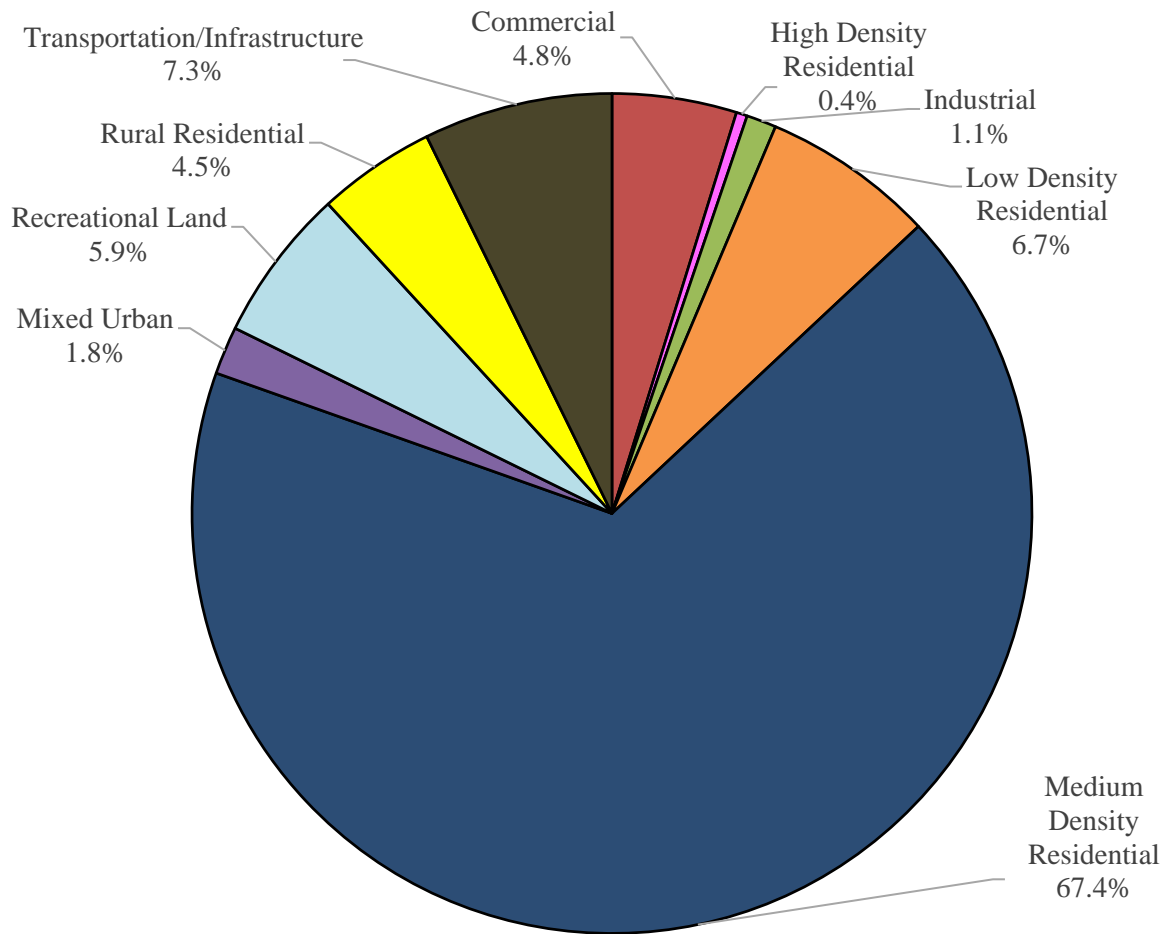


Figure 5: Pie chart illustrating the various types of urban land use in Hopatcong Borough

### Subwatersheds of Hopatcong Borough

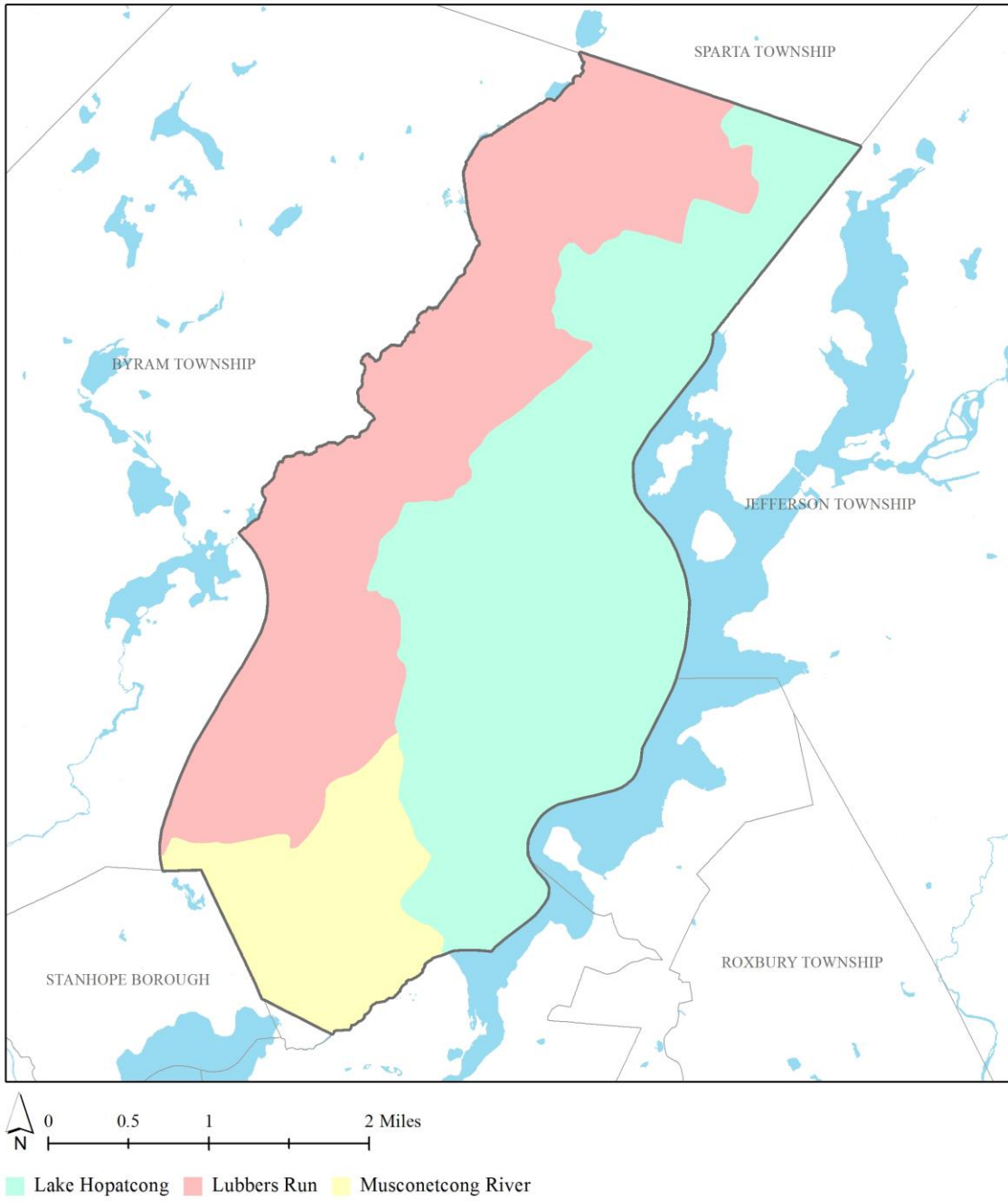


Figure 6: Map of the subwatersheds in Hopatcong Borough

For each potential project site, specific aerial loading coefficients for commercial land use were used to determine the annual runoff loads for total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TN), and total suspended solids (TSS) from impervious surfaces (Table 1). These are the same aerial loading coefficients that NJDEP uses in developing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for impaired waterways of the state. The percentage of impervious cover for each site was extracted from the 2012 NJDEP land use/land cover database. For impervious areas, runoff volumes were determined for the water quality design storm (1.25 inches of rain over two-hours) and for the annual rainfall total of 44 inches.

Preliminary soil assessments were conducted for each potential project site identified in Hopatcong Borough using the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey, which utilizes regional and statewide soil data to predict soil types in an area. Several key soil parameters were examined (e.g., natural drainage class, saturated hydraulic conductivity of the most limiting soil layer ( $K_{sat}$ ), depth to water table, and hydrologic soil group) to evaluate the suitability of each site's soil for green infrastructure practices. In cases where multiple soil types were encountered, the key soil parameters were examined for each soil type expected at a site.

For each potential project site, drainage areas were determined for each of the green infrastructure practices proposed at the site. These green infrastructure practices were designed to manage the 2-year design storm, enabling these practices to capture 95% of the annual rainfall. Runoff volumes were calculated for each proposed green infrastructure practice. The reduction in TSS loading was calculated for each drainage area for each proposed green infrastructure practice using the aerial loading coefficients in Table 1. The maximum volume reduction in stormwater runoff for each green infrastructure practice for a storm was determined by calculating the volume of runoff captured from the 2-year design storm. For each green infrastructure practice, peak discharge reduction potential was determined through hydrologic modeling in HydroCAD. For each green infrastructure practice, a cost estimate is provided. These costs are based upon the square footage of the green infrastructure practice and the real cost of green infrastructure practice implementation in New Jersey.

Table 1: Aerial Loading Coefficients<sup>2</sup>

<b>Land Cover</b>	<b>TP load (lbs/acre/yr)</b>	<b>TN load (lbs/acre/yr)</b>	<b>TSS load (lbs/acre/yr)</b>
High, Medium Density Residential	1.4	15	140
Low Density, Rural Residential	0.6	5	100
Commercial	2.1	22	200
Industrial	1.5	16	200
Urban, Mixed Urban, Other Urban	1.0	10	120
Agriculture	1.3	10	300
Forest, Water, Wetlands	0.1	3	40
Barrenland/Transitional Area	0.5	5	60

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<sup>2</sup> New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Stormwater Best Management Practice Manual, 2004.



## **Green Infrastructure Practices**

Green infrastructure is an approach to stormwater management that is cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Green infrastructure projects capture, filter, absorb, and reuse stormwater to maintain or mimic natural systems and to treat runoff as a resource. As a general principal, green infrastructure practices use soil and vegetation to recycle stormwater runoff through infiltration and evapotranspiration. When used as components of a stormwater management system, green infrastructure practices such as bioretention, green roofs, porous pavement, rain gardens, and vegetated swales can produce a variety of environmental benefits. In addition to effectively retaining and infiltrating rainfall, these practices can simultaneously help filter air pollutants, reduce energy demands, mitigate urban heat islands, and sequester carbon while also providing communities with aesthetic and natural resource benefits<sup>3</sup>. A wide range of green infrastructure practices have been evaluated for the potential project sites in Hopatcong Borough. Each practice is discussed below.

### ***Disconnected downspouts***

This is often referred to as simple disconnection. A downspout is simply disconnected, prevented from draining directly to the roadway or storm sewer system, and directed to discharge water to a pervious area (i.e., lawn).



### ***Pervious pavements***

There are several types of permeable pavement systems including porous asphalt, pervious concrete, permeable pavers, and grass pavers. These surfaces are hard and support vehicle traffic but also allow water to infiltrate through the surface. They have an underlying stone layer to store stormwater runoff and allow it to slowly seep into the ground.



<sup>3</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), 2013. Watershed Assessment, Tracking, and Environmental Results, New Jersey Water Quality Assessment Report.  
[http://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains\\_state.control?p\\_state=NJ](http://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_state.control?p_state=NJ)

### ***Bioretention systems/rain gardens***

These are landscaped features that are designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff. These systems can easily be incorporated into existing landscapes, improving aesthetics and creating wildlife habitat while managing stormwater runoff. Bioretention systems also can be used in soils that do not quickly infiltrate by incorporating an underdrain into the system.



### ***Downspout planter boxes***

These are wooden boxes with plants installed at the base of a downspout that provide an opportunity to beneficially reuse rooftop runoff.



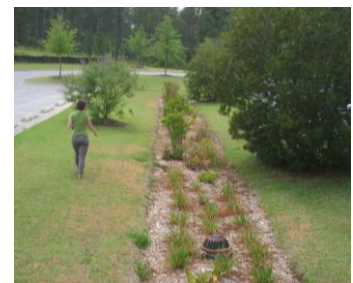
### ***Rainwater harvesting systems (cistern or rain barrel)***

These systems capture rainwater, mainly from rooftops, in cisterns or rain barrels. The water can then be used for watering gardens, washing vehicles, or for other non-potable uses.



### ***Bioswale***

Bioswales are landscape features that convey stormwater from one location to another while removing pollutants and providing water an opportunity to infiltrate.



### ***Stormwater planters***

Stormwater planters are vegetated structures that are built into the sidewalk to intercept stormwater runoff from the roadway or sidewalk. Many of these planters are designed to allow the water to infiltrate into the ground while others are designed simply to filter the water and convey it back into the stormwater sewer system.



### ***Tree filter boxes***

These are pre-manufactured concrete boxes that contain a special soil mix and are planted with a tree or shrub. They filter stormwater runoff but provide little storage capacity. They are typically designed to quickly filter stormwater and then discharge it to the local sewer system.



### **Potential Project Sites**

Attachment 1 contains information on potential project sites where green infrastructure practices could be installed. The recommended green infrastructure practices and the drainage area that the green infrastructure practice can treat are identified for each potential project site. For each practice, the recharge potential, TSS removal potential, maximum volume reduction potential per storm, and the peak reduction potential are provided. This information is also provided so that proposed development projects that cannot satisfy the New Jersey stormwater management requirements for major development can use one of the identified projects to offset a stormwater management deficit.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> New Jersey Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 7:8, Stormwater Management, Statutory Authority: N.J.S.A. 12:5-3, 13:1D-1 et seq., 13:9A-1 et seq., 13:19-1 et seq., 40:55D-93 to 99, 58:4-1 et seq., 58:10A-1 et seq., 58:11A-1 et seq. and 58:16A-50 et seq., *Date last amended: April 19, 2010.*

## **Conclusion**

This impervious cover reduction action 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.