



# WELCOME TO RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DEMONSTRATION GARDENS



## Rain Garden

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression that allows rain and snowmelt to be collected and seep naturally into the ground. This helps recharge our groundwater supply and prevents a water quality problem called polluted runoff (point source pollution). Rain gardens are an important way to make our cities and neighborhoods more attractive places to live while enhancing ecological health. This demonstration is intended to attract and encourage rain garden construction by private homeowners and in public municipal settings. For more information, please take a rain garden fact sheet on our website [www.water.rutgers.edu](http://www.water.rutgers.edu).



Summer



Winter

In this situation, our Agricultural Building parking lot has hundreds of cars visiting each day, leaving behind petrochemicals and other pollutants to wash down the stormdrain after a rainfall. Our solution was to divert the stormwater by making a cut in the curb. The rocks slow the water velocity, plants filter pollutants and the water percolates through the amended soil into the ground. In winter, the garden continues to function by collecting runoff from rain, sleet, ice and snow. This kiosk demonstrates how roof runoff can be collected from an extended runoff from garden. A rain barrel, attached on the shed in the rear, is a good solution for water conservation if your space is limited.

This rain garden was constructed in 2007 by many dedicated individuals. We wish to thank everyone for their time, use of equipment, generous contributions of materials & plants, and especially the Master Gardeners for the planting & maintenance of this garden.

## Junior Master Gardener® Garden

JMG® mission: inspire learning that will lead to success and service through novel, hands-on gardening instruction. Goals of the Junior Master Gardener® Grow Team program include cooperative learning, community service and an opportunity to enter homegrown garden produce in the Home and Garden competition at the Monmouth County Fair.



## Plant-A-Row Garden

The Plant a Row for the Hungry garden, which is planned, planted, and maintained by the Master Gardeners, has been a huge success since it was started in 2006. The produce is donated to the Open Door Food Pantry in Freehold. In 2008, close to 2,000 pounds of fresh produce were donated. *Rain*, newspaper articles highlighted the Master Gardener program, its goals, and the success of planting a row for the hungry and produce donations in general. As a result, the Food Pantry reported an increase in vegetable donations from the public.



## Bird & Butterfly Garden

Jeffrey Samuels of the Scout Troop 21 from Spring Lake coordinated the planning and construction of the 4-H Bird and Butterfly Rain Garden as his Eagle Scout Project. The hard work and planning began in May of 2006 and came to fruition in June of 2007. 4-H youth and our teen Garden Ambassador continue to grow the garden with the help of caring adults through educational hands-on learning.

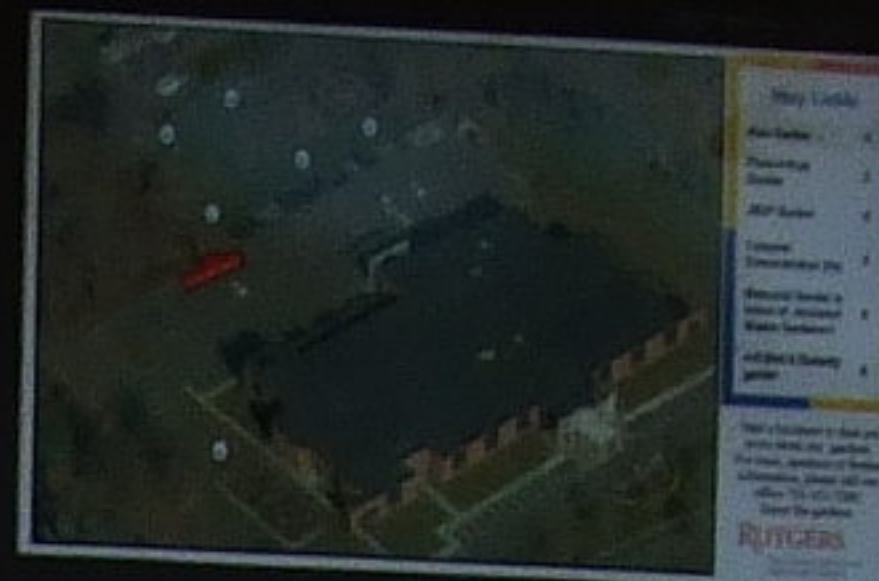
The Monmouth County Agricultural Agents and the Master Gardeners provided expertise with the design, soil preparation and plant selection. Through a cooperative effort 4-H is blessed to have the sanctuary for humans and wildlife to coexist.



The healthy soil in our gardens is due to the incorporation of compost created in our Composting Demonstration Garden. For further compost information, contact the Master Gardeners of Monmouth County.

Thank you for visiting our demonstration gardens which are part of our community outreach. Please refer to the map for specific locations of each area, and for further details, please contact our office at 732-431-7260.

Cooperating Agencies: The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



Fact sheet: Rain Gardens

PAR (Plant a Row for the Hungry)

Rutgers Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners

