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Water Pages eNewsletter

[Newark DIG Installs Rainwater Harvesting Systems in the City of Newark]

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) is a collaboration of groups working together and committed to continuously improving the quality of life, health, and viability of the City of Newark and its residents through the use of strategic collaborative methods, including: community-driven urban design, public policy planning, environmental and social justice



advocacy, education, and local capacity building. Their primary goal is the establishment of sustainable green infrastructure as the first line of defense to better manage stormwater runoff, improve water quality and resilience to flooding, and reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs), with a focus on the Passaic River and its tributaries.

Through funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program has been able to support Newark DIG with installing three rainwater harvesting systems in community gardens within the City of Newark. With the help of Newark DIG's partners, these rainwater harvesting systems will not only provide a water source for the garden but also help the amount of nonpoint source pollutants draining into local waterways.

To learn more about Newark DIG, please [click here](#).

[A Message From the RCE Water Resources Program's Summer Interns]

Our summer internship experience has exceeded our expectations beyond words. Being able to collaborate with fellow engineering and environmental science students to tackle stormwater management issues across the state of New Jersey under the guidance of professionals was an experience like no other. We are leaving this internship having a better knowledge of geomatics (GIS), hydrology, green infrastructure development, and project planning. Not only have we learned a lot, we also made good relationships and connections with the people we worked with and have a more focused career goal.

We are excited to continue working with the RCE Water Resources Program in the fall and to see what new challenges arise that we can apply our new skill set towards!



The RCE Water Resources Program Staff was proud to have a wonderful team of student interns this summer. Keep up the great work this fall!

[NJ Sea Grant Consortium Resilience Research RFP]

The New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) is one of 34 state Sea Grant Programs within the National Sea Grant College Program. The National Program is housed within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce. Sea Grant addresses marine issues and coastal sustainability in the context of wise resource use and management. NJSGC fulfills its mission to promote the sustainable use of New Jersey's coastal and marine resources through relevant research and student training, educational excellence, and rapid dissemination of acquired knowledge. NJSGC is a statewide program bringing together the best talent within the region's member colleges and universities without regard to academic affiliation.

NJSGC seeks to support one two-year social science research project in the area of coastal resiliency. Award level is for \$50,000 Sea Grant funding (\$25,000 per year) with requisite 50% nonfederal match totaling at least \$25,000. Approved institutional indirect costs are allowed as part of the \$50,000 request. Funding for the new project may begin as early as October 1, 2014.

Proposals are due by September 15, 2014. For more information on this funding opportunity, please [click here](#) to download the RFP.

[Rain Barrel Art Project Artist Feature: Norma Wokas]

The NJSGC and the RCE Water Resources Program teamed up to use rain barrels as a tie-in project for this year's New Jersey Top Ten Beaches. A rain barrel is a 55-gallon recycled food-grade container placed at the downspout of a roof to collect rainwater. They help the environment by reducing the amount of rain that flows into storm drain systems, which helps prevent flooding and cuts down on nonpoint source pollution entering New Jersey's waters. Artist Norma Wokas was a finalist for the 2014 Rain Barrel Art Project where she painted an iconic beach scene commemorating the Jersey Shore.

In participating in this year's Rain Barrel Art Project, Norma's favorite part was being a part of creating awareness to water conservation and educating all people about how important water is. In Norma's own words, "everything starts with water, water IS life." Becoming involved in the project, Norma enjoyed the networking and meeting new people through the project from artists, groups, and the public. Norma was born in Nicaragua where life surrounds itself with water. At a young age Norma left behind the luscious landscape she called home after becoming ill from contaminated water and moved to the United States. As the years flew by, so has nature's beauty. It is Norma's life goal to "capture all the beauty we still have and create awareness to preserve." Depicting the beauty of



nature through art is one way Norma hopes to inspire people to conserve water.

To learn more about the Rain Barrel Art Project, please [click here](#).

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