



Water Pages eNewsletter

[Introducing Perth Amboy SWIM]



Within the past year, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program, in partnership with the City of Perth Amboy, has formed a municipal action team under the support of the SURDNA Foundation. A municipal action team, as defined by the RCE Water Resources Program, is a collaborative group created to set an agenda for a community-based green infrastructure initiative. The goal of this action team is to foster collaboration and collective action that helps the municipality speak with a common voice to achieve a common goal. Members of the municipal action team work together to help communities work together to define the

need and opportunity for green infrastructure, to educate residents and community leaders, to address permit and long term control plan requirements, and to leverage funding to design and implement green infrastructure demonstration projects.

Perth Amboy SWIM, an acronym for "Stormwater Infrastructure Management," is a group consisting of representatives from the city's planning department, local community groups, city engineers and utilities authorities, and other regional and statewide organizations. Together, the team meets once a month to work toward a common goal: to increase the development of green infrastructure demonstration projects in the City of Perth Amboy to help reduce the impacts associated with the 16 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) throughout the community.

Since mid-April, the group has made large strides toward this goal. Since their first meeting, the group has compiled a list of over 30 sites to prioritize for green infrastructure projects based on visibility and existing partnerships. With funding from the NJDEP 319(h) grant, awarded to the RCE Water Resources program earlier this year, the group has recently chosen nine (9) sites to design and implement



green infrastructure demonstration projects within the next year. These sites include: Edmund Hmieleski Early Childhood Center, Robert N. Wilentz Elementary, AristaCare at Alameda, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Brighton Avenue Community Center, Market Street near Water Street, Samuel E. Shull Middle School, Washington Park, and the Public Safety Complex.

Interested in joining the team? Any and all personal interested in participating in the green infrastructure initiative in Perth Amboy are welcome. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13th at the firehouse in the Public Safety Complex. Feel free to email PerthAmboySWIM@gmail.com for more details.

[Stormwater Management In Your Schoolyard Teacher In-Service Program]

The RCE Water Resources Program delivered a Teacher In-Service Program focused on *Stormwater Management in Your Schoolyard Program* on June 8th under the sponsorship of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) and in partnership with Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green). The program's goal was to engage teachers in helping the RCE Water Resources Program address stormwater management issues in New Jersey. The program was well attended with participants representing K-12 schools from Bayonne, Clifton, Edison, Kearny, Newark, Passaic, Paterson and Perth Amboy.

The Teacher In-Service Program provided teachers with a base knowledge on stormwater management to include what it is, how we managed stormwater over the years, and how we can use green infrastructure to manage stormwater better. This provided participants with a basic understanding of stormwater management and green infrastructure that was further supported through design applications within the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). A keynote speaker from the Fairmount Water Works Program provided teachers with guidance on how Philadelphia teachers are incorporating green infrastructure into the classroom and

their goals of testing curriculum aligned to the NGSS.

The morning program concluded with local programs that are available to little or no cost to schools across the state by the Greater Newark Conservancy, the New Jersey Tree Foundation, and the PVSC. Participants were invited to tour the wastewater treatment plant at PVSC and to tour the Passaic River as well as participate in a rain garden design charette as part of the Teacher In-Service Program.



For more information or to download the presentations from the Teacher In-Service Program, please visit our website by [clicking here](#).

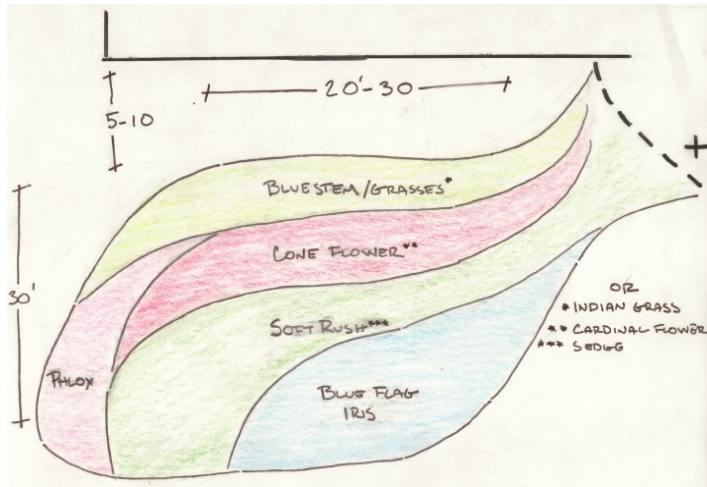
[Rain Garden Technical Assistance Program in Hamilton Township]



The RCE Water Resources Program and Hamilton Township partnered to create a rain garden technical assistance program for residents in Hamilton, New Jersey. The concept of the program is to provide guidance for homeowners to install rain gardens to help reduce flooding, address drainage issues, and improve water quality in Hamilton Township. An educational workshop was held at the Hamilton Public

Library on May 13th to introduce rain gardens to interested homeowners. Topics included why rain gardens are important, how to install rain gardens, and how to maintain rain gardens. The attendees were then given worksheets to collect information about their property so that the RCE Water Resources Program staff could design a rain garden in partnership with the homeowner to address their specific needs.

Two weeks after the initial educational program, six homeowners returned for a personal 30 minute technical review session where the RCE Water Resources Program staff reviewed site measurements, soils data, and photographs the homeowners had collected to determine the best location for a rain garden on their property. The RCE Water Resources Program staff then sized a rain garden and worked with individual homeowners to develop a unique plant palate and layout design. In all, four rain gardens and a bioswale were designed, and the RCE Water Resources Program staff provided recommendations for foundation drainage to another resident. The RCE Water Resources Program and Hamilton Township look forward to working with residents and reviewing the rain gardens installed by individual homeowners over the course of the summer! Future workshops are being planned in the coming year.



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