



Borough of Westwood Environmental Committee Installs a Rain Garden



In the fall of 2015, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program partnered with the Borough of Westwood to prepare a rain garden design that was identified by the Environmental Committee through the Bergen SWAN (Save the Watershed Action Network) program. The municipal building was identified as a priority project due to its feasibility to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff draining from the roof as well as the high visibility within the community to educate residents on best stormwater management practices.

In June 2017, the Environmental Committee and the Department of Public Works secured funding from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation to construct the rain garden. The RCE Water Resources Program provided construction oversight, and the Department of Public Works excavated the rain garden and disconnected the municipal building's downspouts

from the Washington Avenue storm sewer and redirect them into the bioretention area. The Environmental Committee worked with Rohsler's Nursery to select native plants and recruited local residents to participate in planting the rain garden. Sixty native species were installed by volunteers, the Borough of Westwood Environmental Committee, the Westwood Community Garden, and the RCE Water Resources Program. Since the installation, residents and borough officials have been pleased with the landscape design and have discussed how to initiate additional rain gardens throughout the borough.



Municipal Action Teams are Moving Green Infrastructure into Action Across the State of New Jersey Update

Municipal action teams have been formed to foster collaboration and collective action that helps the municipality speak with a common voice and achieve a common goal while advocating for green infrastructure. Detailed below is an update on the various municipal action teams across the state.

The **Camden SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) partners held their monthly meeting on August 8th at CCMUA. Participants are preparing for several upcoming events in the City of Camden. Another rain barrel workshop will be held for Camden residents on August 22nd. Camden SMART partners will be actively participating in the Camden Jam Discovery Zone on September 9th distributing information and promoting the rain barrel program. New Jersey Tree Foundation is preparing for fall planting events and a fruit tree give-away for Camden residents. CCMUA is coordinating a Day of Service with Aramark to conduct rain garden maintenance and planting on September 20th. Cooper's Ferry Partnership is coordinating a Holman Automotive Day of Service at Cooper's Poynt Waterfront Park on September 15th. The Rutgers Environmental Stewards will be touring the green infrastructure projects in Camden on September 16th. CCMUA and its partners are preparing for another round of NJ EIT gray and green infrastructure projects to be bid and contracts awarded this fall. Finally, be sure to check out the [Camden SMART](#) website for recent updates!

The **Gloucester City Environmental Partners** met on August 9th to review progress on several initiatives. Gloucester City and its consultants are finalizing an Economic Development Assistance (EDA) grant, and the green team is reviewing and responding to comments received from Sustainable Jersey on their recent application. The Camden County Soil Conservation District, in partnership with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and NJ Tree Foundation, will be leading efforts to implement demonstration green infrastructure projects through a New Jersey Department

of Environmental Protection 319(h) grant. The grant partners are currently preparing concept designs and plan to present priority projects to the group at the next meeting in September. The NJ Tree Foundation and the Gloucester City Shade Tree Committee are identifying tree planting projects for spring of 2018 and also looking to host a rain barrel workshop for Gloucester City residents.



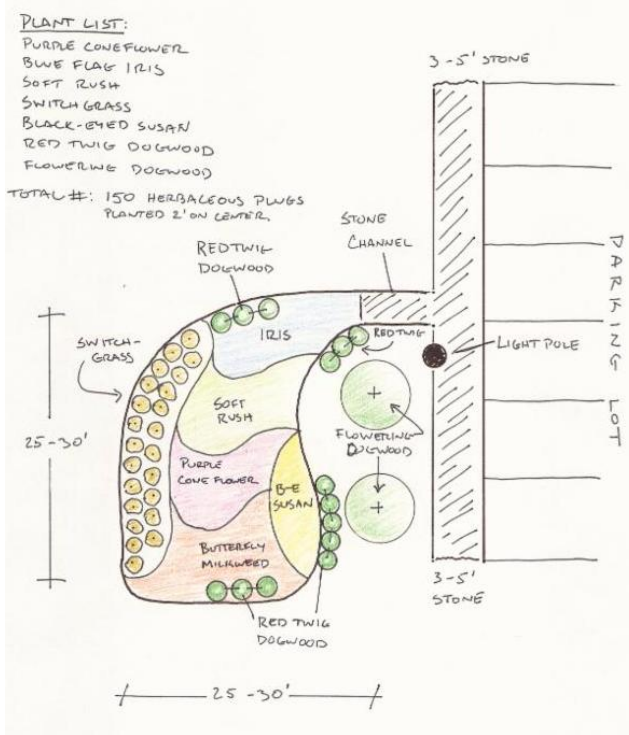
The **Harrison TIDE** (Transforming Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) partners are working together to implement a demonstration rain garden at the Public Library, a project that was well received during Harrison's National Night Out Against Crime on August 1st. A rain barrel workshop will be held this September for residents; please be sure to check out TIDE's Facebook page for additional information! For the latest updates on Harrison TIDE activities, please like our [Facebook page](#).

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) partners are working together to design and implement green infrastructure projects at Washington Park and two municipal parking lots over the next few weeks. Currently the Washington Park project is scheduled to begin at the end of August. In addition, Perth Amboy SWIM participated in the citywide event, Family Day, earlier in August. There the group hosted a rain barrel workshop and demonstration giving out ten ready-to-use rain barrels. Over the next month, the group will be working to install projects, host community planting events, and other great activities. The partners recently met on August 17th for their monthly meeting and continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Technical assistance provided to these municipal action teams by the RCE Water Resources Program is funded in part by the Surdna Foundation with support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and our local partners. For more information about the New Jersey Technical Assistance Program for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) communities, please [click here](#).

St. Mark Lutheran Church in Hamilton, NJ Builds a Rain Garden

St. Mark Lutheran Church in Hamilton, Mercer County, New Jersey installed a rain garden this summer, adding sustainable stormwater management to their landscape. According to the RCE



Water Resources Program, a rain garden, or bioretention system, is a landscaped, shallow depression that captures, filters, and infiltrates stormwater runoff at the source (Green Infrastructure Guidance Manual, 2016).

The 600 sq. ft. rain garden is designed to manage stormwater runoff from nearly 20,000 sq. ft. of paved parking area at the Hamilton church. Native perennials like Blueflag Iris, Purple Coneflower, Milkweed, Black Eyed Susan, Switchgrass, and Soft Rush were planted in the garden to provide pollinator habitat and seasonal

interest. Shrubs and trees planted included Flowering and Red Twig Dogwoods.

The garden was designed by landscape architects from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program in the spring of 2016. The program, sponsored by Hamilton Township, taught residents about stormwater best management practices and offered tailored rain garden design plans for each property.



Upcoming Workshops and Programs



"Protecting Public Health and the Environment"

Turning Data Into Action: Strategies for Protecting the Navesink River

Monday, September 18th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Huber Wood Environmental Center located at 25 Brown's Dock Road, Middletown.

Join the professional staff of the RCE Water Resources Program and ANJEC to:

- Ensure new development is in compliance with stormwater management regulations
- Review checklists for site plan applications and training on the E-Tool: *Asking the Right Questions in Stormwater Review*
- Learn to take data from collection tools and implement changes through ordinances

This workshop is open for township staff, officials, planning board and/or environmental commission members, and interested public. Please register by September 12th. Registration fee is \$20 (includes light supper and workshop materials). Email ANJEC or call 973-539-7547.

Complying with New Jersey Stormwater Management Regulations

Friday, September 22nd from 9 am to 12:30 pm at the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission's Training Center located at 600 Wilson Avenue, Newark.

Join the professional staff of the RCE Water Resources Program and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to:

- Ensure new development is in compliance with stormwater management regulations
- Review the MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) permit changes
- Learn about the benefits of inventorying stormwater infrastructure

This workshop is being offered for free and open for all; space is limited and priority will be given to municipal representatives within the PVSC service area. Please register here no later than September 20th. Three (3) continuing education credits will be available for participants, click here to review the agenda.



Make Clean Waterways a Priority in Paterson - Public Meeting

Sick of flooding & basement sewer backups? Learn how to help!

The City of Paterson has an old and outdated water infrastructure system known as a Combined Sewer System. After rainfall, the system can become overloaded and release both stormwater and raw, untreated sewage into the Passaic River.

Flooding is a major problem due to a lack of green space to absorb the water. Learn what the city and state are doing to improve this problem and how you can help.

Together, we can insist clean waterways and water infrastructure are high priorities!

WHEN

September 13, 2017
6:30-8:30 PM

WHERE

Paterson Museum
2 Market St # 202,
Paterson, NJ 07501

PRIZES!

**Refreshments will be served.
Free admission.**

***Learn how green infrastructure
strategies can help you:***



**Save
money**



**Increase
property value**



**Reduce
flooding**



**Improve Water
Quality**



Questions? Email sandra@nynjbaykeeper.org

RCE Water Resources Program | New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | M-F 8:30 - 4:30pm

