



November 2018

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

### Paraprofessional Training for Watershed Restoration with AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program held a paraprofessional training program for the twenty AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors. During the classroom section of the training, the Watershed Ambassadors learned about stormwater basics, how to manage stormwater, and how impervious cover assessments (ICAs), impervious cover reduction action plans (RAPs), and green infrastructure feasibility studies are prepared. During the hands on session, the Watershed Ambassadors were able to put the information they just learned into action. During this activity they were able to show where they could potentially implement green infrastructure practices and why the locations were suitable for green infrastructure. After this activity, the group went on a site visit to have a hands on experience of identifying potential green infrastructure opportunities and how and why they would work in these locations. We are very excited to work with this year's AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors and to partner with them to get projects in the ground!



### Partnering with the Deal Lake Watershed Alliance (DLWA)



Earlier this summer, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program developed a new partnership with the Deal Lake Watershed Alliance (DLWA). Laura McBride, a resident of Ocean Township, has developed this community-lead non-profit to advocate for and restore water quality in Deal Lake. The Deal Lake is New Jersey's largest coastal lake benefiting the residents of coastal Monmouth County for recreation and local property value. However, in the last few years, excess stormwater runoff has caused a steady decline of this treasured asset. On November 8th, the group held their first meeting following a recruitment gala earlier in the fall. At the meeting, local residents and organizations were introduced to the current

conditions of Deal Lake to begin discussing options for the future. At the meeting, Christopher Obropta presented options for integrating green infrastructure into a broader stormwater management strategy. Overall, the group is really enthusiastic about the future of Deal Lake. The goal is to take this multi-organizational partnership to develop ways to engage residents and municipal leaders to take action to reduce runoff. The group plans to meet again after the new year. For more information visit <http://www.dlwanj.org/> for more information and upcoming meeting dates!

## Rainwater Harvesting in Paterson's Community Gardens

Running a community garden is a hectic job, especially in an urban area where natural resources can be in short supply. But wait, there is a free resource that falls from the sky! Rainwater is an often overlooked resource, even though when it rains a sense of relief is often felt. Relief that you don't have to water the lawn or your garden, relief from poor air quality, and relief from heat or cold are all things that the rain brings. Not having to water the



lawn or garden is a benefit that can be extended long past the actual rainy day, though. By using a rain barrel or rainwater cistern, stormwater that drains from a roof can be captured and stored for a later time.

On November 27, 2018, rainwater harvesting cisterns were installed at two community gardens in Paterson, New Jersey. The Father English Center Food Pantry Community Garden formed a partnership with Paterson Public School #3 to harvest rainwater from a trailer classroom building roof. With the gutters added to the trailer building and the cistern installed in the garden, the school is now managing all the rooftop runoff from the trailer and collecting rainwater to water community garden plants during times of drought. The Green Acres Community Garden at the intersection of Rosa Parks Boulevard and 12th Avenue is now capturing runoff from the roof of a neighbor's building and will be able to use the collected rainwater to water the plants at the garden that have fed so many members of the community. The efforts of the community garden managers, Sister Maureen Sullivan of the Father English Food Pantry and Deacon Willie Davis of the Green Acres Community Garden, and the skilled team from American Water Management came together to see these projects through. We look forward to seeing all the beautiful food growing in these gardens next season.

## Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

**Camden SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) met on November 13th. Issues concerning citywide flooding, the rain barrel program, and the CSO long term control plan were discussed. The North Camden Stormwater Initiative also updated with a total of 27 installed downspout

Municipal action teams have been formed to foster collaboration and collective action that helps the municipality speak with a



planter boxes by Camden Lutheran Housing, Inc. (CLHI), in cooperating with Rutgers and Camden County Soil Conservation District. Plans for projects at Camden Tool and Higher Ground Church are also in the works. The Camden County Historical Society has reached out to Camden SMART for help in building a sculpture garden that incorporates rain gardens into the design, and partners are excited to be involved in the project. The next monthly meeting is planned for December 11th at 1 PM.

**Gloucester City Green Team** postponed the meeting to November 28th. Plans for construction of a rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department in the spring and a design for a project at the high school courtyard will be discussed. Plans for the urban forestry LSR grant should be discussed as well. The next monthly meeting is anticipated for December 12th at 1 PM.

**Harrison TIDE** (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment) canceled the November meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Plans for the Washington Middle School courtyard were provided to the group for comment and will be discussed at the next meeting. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for December 13th at 2 PM.

**Jersey City START** (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on November 8th at the Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority. The city architecture department provided updates on projects that will continue to move forward into construction in the spring. Discussion on the CSO Long Term Control Plan alternative analysis focused on incorporating a triple bottom line assessment for the consideration of alternatives.

**Newark DIG** (Doing Infrastructure Green) partners met on November 27th to discuss current projects and initiatives. Students from Parsons/The New School presented potential design solutions for a website and educational material for the CSO Long Term Control Plan public outreach component. The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources program is collaborating with the Newark Department of Engineering in an effort to combine green stormwater infrastructure design and city traffic safety improvements wherever feasible. An example of which, the Clinton/Badger Avenue Traffic Triangle Greening Project, is now open for public bid through Wednesday, December 19. Find more information about the project and see the bid advertisement at the Newark Department of Engineering (<https://www.newarknj.gov/departments/engineering>). The next regularly scheduled Newark DIG meeting will be on January 22 at 10:00 AM, location to be determined.

**Paterson SMART** (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) members will not meet this month and instead will have an evening meeting on December 5th in Paterson City Hall.

common voice and achieve a common goal while advocating for green infrastructure. Updates on the various municipal action teams across the state are listed in this newsletter.

Technical assistance provided to these municipal action teams by the RCE Water Resources Program is funded in part by the Surdna Foundation, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission with support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and our local partners.

Camden SMART

Gloucester City Green Team

Harrison TIDE

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson SMART

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners

**Perth Amboy SWIM** (Stormwater Infrastructure Management) has continued their efforts toward promoting green infrastructure throughout the city of Perth Amboy. Last month, the group met to discuss upcoming projects, future workshops, and next steps. The group is continuing their efforts on educating the public on the importance of green infrastructure. In partnership with the Lower Raritan River Watershed, SWIM plans to host a rain barrel workshop this upcoming spring (more information to follow). The partners recently met on November 15th for their monthly meeting and continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

**Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners** (TGIP) met on November 20th. Partners continue to identify and evaluate local properties for green infrastructure opportunities. With a number of projects scheduled for installation this spring, the group is currently working with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program to prioritize sites for design and implementation in 2020. The partners typically meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month.



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