



August 2019

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and Stormwater Management

On Tuesday, August 20th, Dr. Obropta participated in a forum on HABs that was hosted by the Lake Mohawk Preservation Foundation in Sparta, NJ and jointly sponsored by the New Jersey Highlands Coalition, the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, and the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). Dr. Steven Souza started the evening speaking about *Harmful Algal Blooms: Why do they occur, and how do we control them?* Since phosphorus from stormwater runoff was identified as a significant cause of HABs, Dr. Obropta provided an overview on various stormwater management practices that could be used to reduce phosphorus loading from stormwater runoff to lakes. James Cosgrove rounded out the presentations with a discussion about funding opportunities for addressing the HAB problem such as stormwater utilities. After the presentations, there was a 90-minute question and answer session with lots of great questions from the audience. It was a productive evening, and a great deal of information was shared by both the speakers and audience.

Here is a link to the New Jersey Highlands Coalition website where you can see the three PowerPoint presentations that were given:

<https://njhighlandscoalition.org/other-publications/hab-public-forum-presentations/>

If you were not one of the 300 people who attended this forum, it was recorded and is available at **<https://youtu.be/0dQ3iaQqon4>**, or you can wait to see it live. Plans are currently underway to hold the same forum at Greenwood Lake and at Mountain Lakes in the near future!

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS



What are they?

- Freshwater harmful algal blooms in rivers, streams or lakes are caused by cyanobacteria.
- Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, are not true algae.
- May form dense blooms under suitable environmental conditions: elevated temperatures, high levels of nutrients and calm water.
- Can produce toxins that are dangerous for humans, pets, livestock and wildlife.
- Toxins are referred to as cyanotoxins.
- Blooms not producing toxins can cause allergic reaction or skin irritation.

What do they look like?

- May look like blue or green spilled paint, pea soup or parallel streaks
- Contact or ingestion may cause illness
- **Avoid It & Report It!**



For more info, scan the QR Code with your smart phone.



AVOID IT & REPORT IT!

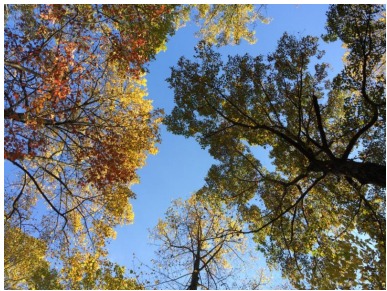
Report a suspected **harmful algal bloom** by calling the DEP Hotline at **1-877-WARNDEP** (927-6337) or using the **WARN NJDEP** mobile app. Download it at www.nj.gov/dep/warndep.htm



Visit the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring:
www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bfbm



RCE Water Resources Program partners with the New Jersey Highlands Council to complete regional stormwater



The New Jersey Highlands Council just awarded the RCE Water Resources Program a grant to complete green infrastructure plans for 27 municipalities in the Highlands portion of Watershed Management Area 8 — North and South Branch Raritan. Over the next 12 months, impervious cover assessments (ICAs), impervious cover reduction action plans (RAPs), and green infrastructure (GI) feasibility studies will be completed for all 27 municipalities. These plans characterize the impervious cover of each municipality on a subwatershed basis and identify opportunities for installing green infrastructure to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff. Since the information in each of these municipal green infrastructure plans is prepared on a subwatershed basis, information for subwatersheds can be combined from the municipal plans to summarize recommendations for subwatersheds (e.g., HUC 14 basis). This will provide the foundation for regional planning to address many stormwater issues. Many of these municipalities are in the Sustainable Jersey program and can earn points to their accreditation for both green infrastructure planning and implementation. The RCE Water Resources Program will work closely with the New Jersey Highlands Council to engage municipalities throughout this rapid planning process and to help them implement recommendations from the plans.

Municipal Action Teams' Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

AUGUST 2019

Camden SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training): The next monthly meeting is postponed until Wednesday, September 11th at 10:30AM.

Gloucester City Green Team met on August 14th. The group is going to have a school contest to develop a logo for the group which will be awarded at the September 28th Cultural Arts Festival. Construction of the rain garden at the Gloucester City Water Department is scheduled for the end of August. The water department and NJ Tree Foundation will excavate and shape the garden, and students and local volunteers will be involved to help with planting the garden. Locations for tree plantings throughout the city were discussed for Shane Chapman Park, Brown Street, and other areas. The group also continued discussing the Sustainable Jersey certification application. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for September 14th at 1PM at the Gloucester City Municipal Building.

Harrison TIDE (Transforming, Infrastructure and Defending our Environment): The next monthly meeting is postponed until September 12th at 2PM at Harrison Town Hall.

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. 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

Jersey City START (Stormwater Treatment and Resiliency Team) members met on Thursday August 8th at the JCMUA office and received a presentation from Arcadis on the draft report of the Evaluation of Alternatives plan that was recently submitted to the NJDEP. The group is planning public meetings for the fall to receive comments from the public on the details of the CSO Long Term Control Plan. The Division of City Planning is also rolling out their Flood Overlay Zones and will be holding a public meeting on Wednesday, August 28th at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on 99 Broadway at 6:30 PM. The next START meeting will be September 12th at the JCMUA at 10 AM.

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) held a conference call in lieu of the regularly scheduled August meeting on August 27th. Comments and questions were discussed and recorded for submission to NJDEP (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) regarding the Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report for the CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) Long Term Control Plan. The Newark Green Infrastructure Reformers and City of Newark Office of Sustainability shared that 40 catch basins were adopted, 10 catch basins were painted, and over 20 local businesses participated in the Adopt a Catch Basin Program. The Urban League of Essex County will begin installing green infrastructure in the fall of 2019 as a part of the Fairmount Model Block Project. New Jersey Tree Foundation will be hosting two public tree plantings in Newark in the coming months. For additional information and upcoming public meetings about the LTCP and CSO issues, visit the webpage of Newark DIG. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11:00 AM on the fourth Tuesday of every month in Newark City Hall.

Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training) members and community members met on August 22nd in the Great Falls Youth Center at 5:30 PM and reviewed the alternatives outlined in the Development and Evaluation of Alternatives for the CSO Long Term Control Plan. SMART members also received comments and concerns from the members of the community in attendance. Community members expressed interest in the green infrastructure projects at schools throughout the city and suggested that the educational aspects of these programs can be expanded to include more parents. A rain garden was constructed at Paterson Public School 7 on August 26th and will be planted by students in the fall, where SMART members will engage the students and parents to further CSO and stormwater education efforts. The next meeting time and location are TBD but will be an evening meeting held in Ward 3.

Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure

(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

Management) members met on Wednesday August 21st in the Perth Amboy Fire Department building and continued to discuss methods for engaging the community to promote green infrastructure projects throughout the city. The group also discussed finalizing comments for the recently submitted Development and Evaluation of Alternatives for the CSO Long Term Control Plan. Efforts to install downspout planter boxes at City Hall have been halted due to the structure's historical significance, and the group is determining alternate locations for cisterns/downspout planter boxes in the city. The next SWIM meeting will be on September 19th at 6PM, location TBD.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners (TGIP) members met in conjunction with the Trenton Green Team on Tuesday, August 20th and discussed ongoing green infrastructure projects in the city. A rain garden has been installed at the Joyce Kilmer Middle School, and TGIP members will be working with the students in the fall to plant the garden. Members of the group are working with the City to form a complete streets ordinance, which would prioritize green street development. The group is also working with the Tri-State Transportation Campaign on their upcoming Ciclovía event on September 21st from 10 AM-4PM. The next TGIP meeting will be held at 3PM on either September 16th or 26th at the Isles Tucker Street offices, date TBD.



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