



January 2021

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

---

**May every day of the new year inspire you to grow!  
Happy New Year !  
~Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program~**

---

### Green Infrastructure Training is Going Strong in 2021!

On Friday, January 15, 2021, the highly successful Green Infrastructure Champions Program returned for a third year with 96 participants!

The second of ten workshops is scheduled for Friday, January 29, 10AM - 12NOON, via a virtual format.

Don't miss out on your chance to become a Green Infrastructure Champion this year! Registration is still open and **FREE**. A minimum of five (5) workshops is required for certification.

**Register [HERE!](#) What are you waiting for?**

The program has been made possible with support from the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium and is a collaboration of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and the Green Infrastructure Subcommittee of Jersey Water Works.

---



---

**Project Update:  
Naturalizing Detention Basins to Enhance Habitat and Water  
Quality in Hamilton Township, New Jersey**



In January 2019, the Water Resources Program was awarded a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) – Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund for *Naturalizing Detention Basins to Enhance Habitat and Water Quality in Hamilton Township, New Jersey*. The overall objective of the project is to naturalize detention basins in Hamilton Township (Mercer County) to improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, enhance groundwater recharge, and reduce stormwater volumes that discharge to the local waterway, thereby reducing localized flooding.

Each detention basin design will be unique to demonstrate the various methods for naturalization of a basin. This will enable the project partners to use the basins in educational programs to demonstrate the possibilities when retrofitting a detention basin to be more environmentally friendly. Each of the basins will be installed by the Hamilton Township Department of Public Works under the guidance of the Water Resources Program.

Four detention basins (i.e., #158, #159, #160, and #161), located in Hamilton Veterans Park, have been selected for naturalization so far. Hamilton Township Veterans Park is centrally located within the township, and the 333 acre park was built in honor of Hamilton Township's veterans in 1977. The township approved an area masterplan that considers the park area that contains basins #158, #159, #160, and #161 as a model of integration of naturalized basins and bioswales within heavily used park spaces. Naturalization of the four basins, as part of the area masterplan, was initiated in the late summer and early fall of 2020 with assistance from the Hamilton Township Department of Public Works, the New Jersey Tree Foundation, Davis Lawns & Landscapes, and Water Resources Program staff.



*Basin #160 planting, August 2020*



*Basin #159 completed planting of cells a, b, and c; September 2020*



*Basin #161 planting and seeding preparation; November 2020*



*Basin #158 outfall retrofit; December 2020*

Additional detention basins are slated for naturalization in Hamilton Township as part of this project in the coming months. To learn more about retrofitting detention basins, consider registering for and attending the **2021 Green Infrastructure Champions Program workshop #8 “Retrofitting traditional detention basins with green infrastructure,”** scheduled for April 23, 2021.

---

## 50 Rain Gardens for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day - Featured Rain Gardens for January 2021

The Water Resources Program worked with our partners to install over 50 rain gardens in 2020, while following social distancing guidelines, as part of our *50 Rain Gardens for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day Initiative*. This month we highlight the first two and the last two rain gardens installed as part of this initiative.

---

### **#1 & #2**

**Saint Peter's Episcopal Church  
Rectory  
183 Rector Street, Perth Amboy, NJ**

The Water Resources Program was awarded a 319(h) grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to implement green infrastructure projects in the city of Perth Amboy. With funding from the 319(h) grant, two rain gardens were installed at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church on April 6, 2020. Enviroscapes, Inc. excavated the rain gardens, added bioretention media, added mulch, and constructed curb cut inlets to

allow stormwater runoff to enter the rain gardens. Water Resources Program staff designed the rain gardens and installed the plants. The managed drainage area for the two rain gardens is 4,802 square feet. The rain gardens are 142 square feet and 280 square feet in size and filled with native plants that will attract pollinators. The rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 94,640 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



*Planting underway by Hollie DiMuro at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church Rectory*

---

## **#52 & #53**

### **Deal Lake**

#### **Wickapecko Drive, Ocean Township, NJ**

The Water Resources Program partnered with Deal Lake Watershed Alliance to complete an impervious cover assessment of the Deal Lake Watershed and develop a green infrastructure action plan and feasibility study. Through these reports this vacant lot on Wickapecko Drive was identified as a suitable site for demonstration projects; as a result, two rain gardens were completed on October 21, 2020. Funding was provided through the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium. Central Jersey Trucking excavated the rain garden area, and the Water Resources Program staff worked alongside to shape the gardens. Members of the Deal Lake Watershed Alliance and local volunteers installed the plants with the Water Resources Program staff. The managed drainage area for the two rain gardens is 1,520 square feet. One rain garden is 250 square feet, and the other is 170 square feet. They will enhance the aesthetics at the entrance of the Senior Center while attracting and nurturing pollinators. The rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 9,030 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



*Richard Kelly laying out native plants for installation at the Wickapecko Drive rain garden sites*

## Municipal Action Team Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

### **Camden SMART**

The January meeting has been moved to January 27th at 10AM via Zoom as part of a joint meeting for the Camden Collaborative Initiative all working groups meeting.

### **Gloucester City Green Team**

The Gloucester City Green Team met on January 13th via Zoom. The limited remaining funding in the 319(h) grant will be reviewed once Rutgers finishes processing invoices, but remaining funding will likely be used to maintain the Gloucester City Water Department rain garden. NJ Tree Foundation is meeting with the Shade Tree Committee to plan spring tree plantings next week. The Community Forestry Management Plan work is complete except for the inventory that is to be completed in the spring. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th at 1:30PM via Zoom.

### **Jersey City START**

The first 2021 meeting was held on January 7th at 3PM via Zoom. Partners received a presentation from those planning the Essex-Hudson Greenway project to hear about the plans and where the Greenway will be in Jersey City. The project planners will remain engaged with Jersey City START over the course of the project to receive and incorporate feedback. Members are planning to hold a separate meeting to finalize comments on the

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 currently funded in part by the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) and the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission with support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and our local partners.

CSO Long Term Control Plan. The Jersey City Office of Sustainability presented on their updated tree dashboard which displays the trees and respective information that have been counted in their municipal tree inventory (<https://jcmakeitgreen.org/tree-mapping/>). Sustainable Jersey City also presented on their open source tree canopy-mapping project, which is working off of historical data. The next meeting will be announced by email. Contact [lsigmund@jcnj.org](mailto:lsigmund@jcnj.org) to be added to the email list.

### **Newark DIG**

Newark DIG held a virtual meeting at 11AM on December 22, 2020. A presentation was made on potential opportunities for CSO storage through ongoing infrastructure land bank projects including the Hudson Essex Greenway. Newark DIG was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and is participating in the National Fish and Wildlife Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program. Partners discussed the selection and location of future green infrastructure projects as a part of the CSO Long Term Control Plan and scheduled future meetings with City officials to discuss the list of priority projects. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11AM on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please contact [newarkdig@gmail.com](mailto:newarkdig@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Paterson Green Team**

The Paterson Green Team has not yet met in 2021 but will be meeting via Zoom. Please contact [marthaaren333@yahoo.com](mailto:marthaaren333@yahoo.com) to be added to the email list.

### **Perth Amboy SWIM**

Perth Amboy SWIM held its first meeting of 2021 on January 15th at 2PM via Zoom. Partners discussed their comments on the CSO Long Term Control Plan for the city. A final draft of the comments will be sent out for approval to SWIM members before the comment deadline of January 31st. Members also discussed the proposal for a municipally run tree farm project and how SWIM can help engage the community in understanding the benefits of such a project. The group is also developing new relationships with the new mayoral administration. A 2021 goal discussion will be held at the next meeting, to be announced by email. Please contact [epyshnik@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:epyshnik@envsci.rutgers.edu) to be added to the email list.

### **Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners**

The Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners/Green Team had its first meeting of 2021 on January 19th at 3PM via Zoom. Members of the University of Pennsylvania Green

Camden SMART

Gloucester City Green Team

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson Green Team

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure  
Partners

New Deal studio worked with the Green Team members to identify projects for the studio this semester. Students will be working to bring designs and presentations together for existing projects within Trenton, to aid in communication and development of these projects. Green Team members also discussed goals for 2021, which include holding meetings during the evening to increase participation from community members, and also more concrete projects such as Sustainable Jersey re-certification and green infrastructure projects. The next meeting will be announced via email. Please contact [kperry@njfuture.org](mailto:kperry@njfuture.org) to be added to the email list.



DONATE TO THE WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM



**Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program**

[water@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:water@envsci.rutgers.edu)

[www.water.rutgers.edu](http://www.water.rutgers.edu)

Connect with us

