



April 2021

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

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### **A New Rain Garden Project Is In the Works for Trenton, New Jersey!**



A new rain garden project is in the works for Trenton, New Jersey! The project site is at the newly redeveloped Hetzel Pool, a beloved summertime locale for the area's residents. Hetzel Pool has been renovated to include modern water features in the pool area and additional parking spaces for ease of access to the pool. A large center island has been included in the additional parking area, which will function as a rain garden. The rain garden, as planned for by BRS Inc.,

who has been managing the redevelopment project, is now being brought to life by the Water Resources Program in partnership with Trenton community members. BRS Inc. designed and constructed the parking lot area so that the curbs around the island are level with the rest of the asphalt, allowing stormwater runoff to flow directly into the rain garden instead of having to be redirected with curb cuts. This will allow a maximum amount of stormwater to be captured by the rain garden and will also help prevent debris accumulation at the inlets. The project is a great example of how to plan for green infrastructure practices from the beginning of development as opposed to retrofitting a site to include green infrastructure. Staff from the Water Resources Program and members of the greater Trenton Community, including the **East Trenton Collaborative**, will be planting the rain garden during the second week of May to complete the project and have it looking beautiful by the time the pool opens this summer! Contact the **Trenton Green Team** to get involved in the planting, or simply come by to enjoy the pool and rain garden this summer!

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### **Spring Maintenance Tips**

It's that time of year! Rain gardens are starting to bloom once again, and here are a few spring maintenance tips to keep your planted green infrastructure functional and beautiful.



- Identify desirable plants using your maintenance guide and plant list. Prune or cut back previous perennial growth. Remove non-desirable and invasive plant species.
- Inspect inlet and outlet structures, stone, pipes, drains, and grates. Remove accumulated debris from the rain garden.
- Add a 2"-3" layer of undyed triple shredded hardwood mulch. This will help curtail weeds and retain moisture during the heat of summer.

Start early and weed often to keep the work manageable and fun!

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## 50 Rain Gardens for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day - Featured Rain Gardens for April 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 rain gardens #7, #8 & #9, and #44 - #47.

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### #7

#### **Manville Memorial Park 1608 Colorado Avenue, Manville, 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 Raritan River watershed. One of the rain gardens made possible through the 319(h) funding was the Manville Memorial Park rain garden project that was completed on June 26, 2020. The Manville Borough Department of Public Works excavated the rain garden, and Water Resources Program staff worked with the New Jersey Tree Foundation to install the plants. The managed drainage area for the rain garden is 3,230 square feet. The rain garden is 740 square feet in size and is filled with native plants that will attract pollinators. The rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 69,560 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.





*Manville Memorial Park rain garden after adding additional plants in July 2020*

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## **#8 & #9**

### **Edgar Middle School**

#### **49 Brunswick Avenue, Metuchen, 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 Raritan River watershed. Two of the rain gardens made possible through the 319(h) funding were built at Edgar Middle School in June 2020. Wogisch Landscape Contractors, Inc. excavated the rain garden, and Water Resources Program staff worked with the New Jersey Tree Foundation to install the plants. The managed drainage area for these two rain gardens is 4,060 square feet. Each rain garden is 630 square feet in size and filled with native plants that will attract pollinators. These gardens will serve as a demonstration project to residents and an educational tool for teachers. The rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 60,520 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.





*Staff from the Water Resources Program and the New Jersey Tree Foundation working together on the planting, June 2020*

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**#44 - #47**

### **Gloucester City High School**

**1300 Market Street, Gloucester City, NJ**

The Water Resources Program partnered with the Camden County Soil Conservation District (CCSCD) and was awarded a 319(h) grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to embrace green infrastructure and address combined sewer overflows and improve water quality in the Gloucester City sewersheds. Gloucester City High School was identified in a green infrastructure feasibility study as a site where multiple rain gardens could be installed in the school's courtyard. Water Resources Program staff designed the green courtyard and assisted Eric's Nursery with the rain garden and recycled concrete path installations that were completed on October 2, 2020. The managed drainage area for the rain gardens is 12,705 square feet. The four rain gardens vary in size between 530-800 square feet and are filled with native plants to attract pollinators while providing an outdoor educational tool for teachers. Cumulatively the rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 218,030 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.





*Gloucester City High School, October 2020*



**Check out our  
calendar of events  
to see what we're  
up to!**



**Don't miss out on  
all the fun!**

*<http://water.rutgers.edu/UpcomingEvents.html>*



# Rain Garden Program!

Rebates available to residents of  
Hamilton Township, Mercer County

## Rain Gardens:

- Capture rainwater and allow it to soak into the ground
- Slow down stormwater runoff, alleviating localized flooding and reducing pollution
- Provide beauty and are a valuable food source for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects



## Educational Session

April 28, 2021 7-8pm via ZOOM

## Design Sessions

May 10th 9am-7pm via  
30-minute ZOOM appointments only

For more information and to register

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

register: <https://forms.gle/cn5viTVAvMfPq5iz8>

REBATES UP TO

\$450

1. Attend the Educational Session (mandatory)
2. Set up a free 30-minute design consultation with Rutgers professionals to plan your garden
3. Install your garden
4. Get up to \$450 back

**RUTGERS**  
New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station



## Municipal Action Team Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

### Camden SMART/CCI Water

Camden SMART (Camden Collaborative Initiative Water group) met on April 14th via Zoom. Possibilities of starting an Adopt a Catch Basin program similar to the program in Newark continued to be discussed. Possible needs were identified such as hot spots of flooding from catch basins being clogged or groups that would be interested in participating. The idea to pilot the program in North Camden in collaboration with the Camden Block Supporter Initiative was brought up as a way to gauge interest with existing partnerships. The next monthly

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

meeting is a CCI Community Meeting for Wednesday, May 11th at 7PM via Zoom. The next regular meeting will be on June 9th at 2PM.

Please go to the following to get added to the email list (<http://www.camdencollaborative.com/meetings.html>).

**Gloucester City Green Team:** No meeting this month

### **Jersey City START**

Jersey City START held a virtual meeting via Zoom on April 1st. Members discussed the comments which were submitted to the NJDEP regarding the LTCP for Jersey City. The members also discussed the recently passed stormwater ordinance for the city, which redefines major development and minor development, with both categories requiring different levels of stormwater management that are more appropriate to urban development than definitions used in the past. Contact [lsigmund@jcnj.org](mailto:lsigmund@jcnj.org) to be added to the email list.

### **Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green)**

Newark DIG held a virtual meeting at 11AM on March 23, 2021. Newark DIG partners discussed the status of several pending projects including the Clinton/Badger Avenue Traffic Triangle, Memorial Rain Garden, and the PVSC demonstration project, among others on the green infrastructure project priority list for installation. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11AM on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please contact [newarkdig@gmail.com](mailto:newarkdig@gmail.com) for information.

### **Paterson Green Team**

Green team members held a virtual community presentation and workshop on March 31st at 7PM in which the mayor, a council member, and a representative from the DPW were present to answer questions from residents regarding garbage issues. The meeting then detailed how adopting a catch basin can help with sewer issues, and attendees were encouraged to sign up. The city is currently working on a web-app which will allow residents to sign up for the adopt-a-catch-basin program and map the locations of the catch basins adopted. Green team members also met April 13th to discuss next steps for the adopt-a-catch-basin program and will plan to conduct a survey of current basin adoptees to gather data for the project. To join the green team mailing list please contact [marthaaren333@yahoo.com](mailto:marthaaren333@yahoo.com).

### **Perth Amboy SWIM**

Perth Amboy SWIM met virtually for an evening meeting on March 23rd and on April 15th. During these meetings members discussed the details of ongoing engineering meetings between the city, CDM Smith, MUA and Middlesex Water regarding the LTCP. During these

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.

Camden SMART

Gloucester City Green Team

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson Green Team

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners



meetings the participants are working to re-evaluate the alternatives outlined in the LTCP to find more affordable solutions for Perth Amboy. Members are also working to reach out and work with Partner NJ in Perth Amboy to increase awareness of the CSOs among residents. A new pamphlet with info on CSOs, green infrastructure, and SWIM is in the process of being developed to share at community events. **An Earth Day Clean Up event will be held on April 22nd at the American Legion at 2PM** – come out to help out! SWIM will meet virtually again in May. Please contact [epyshnik@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:epyshnik@envsci.rutgers.edu) to be added to the email list.

### **Trenton Green Team**

Members met via Zoom on Tuesday April 20th. During the meeting, members participated in breakout groups to make progress on the topics of community engagement and green infrastructure projects. In the interest of reaching out to the community more, the members will be participating in a Juneteenth event and also holding evening meetings in the future. There are multiple green infrastructure projects planned to be completed this year, with the first being a rain garden parking lot island at Hetzel Pool. A community planting event will be held in mid-May (contact [epyshnik@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:epyshnik@envsci.rutgers.edu) for more information). A skatepark which incorporates green infrastructure is also being discussed as well. Please contact [atabas@njfuture.org](mailto:atabas@njfuture.org) to be added to the mailing list for the group.



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