



JUNE 2021

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

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### *Newsflash* - We now have 122 new Green Infrastructure Champions!

Green Infrastructure Champions is an Extension program originally piloted in 2019 to empower local stakeholders to play a dominant role in encouraging their own municipalities to implement green stormwater infrastructure practices.

The Green Infrastructure Champions Program was offered for a third year in a row this past winter and spring. Ten unique and completely virtual educational sessions were offered from January through May 2021. The all virtual sessions expanded our outreach beyond New Jersey, and we had registrants from as far away as Kansas City, KS to Saint Croix, USVI and San Juan, PR!

This Extension program continues to train and certify Green Infrastructure Champions to be able to: 1) enhance their knowledge through green infrastructure seminars and research, 2) engage community leaders to adopt green infrastructure as a stormwater management solution by updating ordinances and municipal master plans, 3) encourage local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and schools to incorporate green infrastructure in their existing landscaping, 4) secure funding for green infrastructure, and 5) publicize the implementation of green infrastructure.

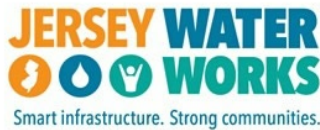
One hundred twenty-two participants completed five or more sessions to become certified Green Infrastructure Champions and leaders who can advocate for green infrastructure in their communities. Just like with the first and second years of the program, several Green Infrastructure Champions have begun to advocate for and implement green infrastructure projects in their own communities!

Here are the 2021 numbers:

- 10 training sessions (via Zoom) with an average attendance = 108
- # of people who attended at least one session = 226
- # of people who attended at least five sessions a.k.a. *Green Infrastructure Champions* = **122**
- # government/municipal organizations = 92
- # NGOs/Partnerships/Nonprofit Organizations/Academic = 33
- # of private organizations = 25

To learn more about the Green Infrastructure Champions Program, please visit our website at [www.water.rutgers.edu](http://www.water.rutgers.edu).

*This program is partially funded by the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and NJ Sea Grant Consortium and is a collaboration of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program and the Green Infrastructure Subcommittee of Jersey Water Works.*



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## 50 Rain Gardens for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day - Featured Rain Gardens for June 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 #12 & #13, #14 & #15, #37, and #38.

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### **#12 & #13**

#### **East Brunswick Elks Lodge**

**21B Oakmont Avenue, East Brunswick, NJ**

The Water Resources Program was awarded a 319(h) grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to design and implement green infrastructure projects in the Raritan River watershed. Two rain gardens were installed with this funding at the East Brunswick Elks Lodge on June 30, 2020. The Water Resources Program designed the rain gardens, and Wogisch Landscape Contractors Inc. excavated the rain garden areas, added bioretention media, spread mulch, and installed the plants. The managed drainage area for the two rain gardens is 2,280 square feet. The rain gardens are 315 square feet and 175 square feet in size and are filled with native plants that will attract pollinators and provide wildlife habitat. The rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 38,450 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



*Rain garden at work during a rain event in July 2020*

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## **#14 & #15**

### **Metuchen High School**

**400 Grove Avenue, Metuchen, NJ**

The Water Resources Program was awarded a 319(h) grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to design and implement green infrastructure projects in the Raritan River watershed. Funds from the grant were used to install two rain gardens at Metuchen High School that were completed on July 2, 2020. Wogisch Landscape Contractors, Inc. excavated the rain gardens, added bioretention media, spread a three-inch layer of mulch, and installed the plants. The managed drainage area for the two rain gardens is 4,677 square feet. One rain garden is 550 square feet, and the other is 336 square feet. They will serve as demonstration projects to residents of how to incorporate green infrastructure on their property. Most importantly the rain gardens will be used as educational tools for teachers to include in lesson plans. The rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 81,260 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



*Metuchen High School rain gardens, July 2020*

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**#37**

**Quaker Friends Village**

**1 Friends Drive, Woodstown Borough, NJ**

The Water Resources Program completed an impervious cover assessment of Woodstown and developed a green infrastructure action plan that identified Quaker Friends Village as a potential site to install green infrastructure. Funding for the reports and this project was

provided by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) and the William Penn Foundation to address stormwater runoff and water quality issues of the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer. The rain garden installation was completed on September 23, 2020 with Davis Lawns and Landscaping handling the excavation alongside staff from the Water Resources Program. The managed drainage area for the rain garden is 2,835 square feet. Measuring 475 square feet in size, the rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 50,830 gallons of stormwater runoff per year while providing habitat for pollinators.



*Following planting, September 2020*

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**#38**

**Pittsgrove Board of Education**

**1082 Almond Road, Pittsgrove Township, NJ**

The Water Resources Program completed an impervious cover assessment and reduction action plan of Pittsgrove Township with funding from a grant awarded by the William Penn Foundation. The Pittsgrove Board of Education rain garden and bioswale installations were completed on September 26, 2020 with excavation assistance provided by Davis Lawns and Landscapes. The fine sculpting of the rain garden and bioswale as well as mulching and planting was made possible by the combined labor efforts of the South Jersey Land and Water Trust and the RCE Water Resources Program staff. The managed drainage area for the rain garden is 2,440 square feet, while the drainage area filtered by the bioswale is 15,600 square feet. The rain garden is 520 square feet and will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 22,740 gallons of stormwater runoff per year. The bioswale is approximately 775 square feet and will filter an estimated 319,690 gallons of runoff annually.



*Pittsgrove Board of Education rain garden following planting, September 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>

**Municipal Action Team Green Infrastructure  
Initiative Updates**

### **Camden Collaborative Initiative Water**

The Camden Collaborative Initiative Water group met on June 9th via Zoom. Andy Kricun and Tim Dillingham from the Littoral Society presented on how the Long Term Control Plan addresses combined sewer overflow but does not include a full plan to restore the stretch of the Delaware River to recreational status. They are working on creating a road map to make this possible by trying to look at mitigation efforts past and future as well as identify funding streams to do so. The grant for the Adopt-a-Drain grant was awarded to Cooper's Ferry Partnership which will provide some funding to jumpstart the program which will allow residents to help with cleaning out stormwater inlets in problem areas. The next regular meeting will be on July 14th at 2PM via Zoom. Please go to the following to get added to the email list (<http://www.camdencollaborative.com/meetings.html>).

### **Gloucester City Green Team**

Gloucester City Green Team met on June 9th via Zoom. The meeting focused on a presentation by the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) discussing the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plan which will be implemented to prevent CSO events that pollute rivers and streams. Part of this plan is to expand the wastewater treatment plant capacity as well as install green infrastructure in both Camden and Gloucester City. The Green Team will continue to collaborate with CCMUA to help implement this plan. The next regular meeting will be on July 14th at 1:30PM via Zoom.

### **Jersey City START**

Jersey City START held a virtual meeting via Zoom on June 17th. START members discussed the NJDEP comments on the Jersey City Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) and the comments on the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) regional LTCP. The office of sustainability is currently working on a project to update their tree inventory and map areas vulnerable to urban heat island effects. Sustainable Jersey City provided updates on their community heat watch and air quality campaign to better inform community members on how to safely handle the upcoming hot days. The next meeting will be on July 15th at 2PM.

Contact [lsigmund@jcnj.org](mailto:lsigmund@jcnj.org) to be added to the email list.

### **Newark DIG**

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) held a virtual meeting at 11AM on June 22nd. Newark DIG partners discussed the status and development of several projects

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.

Camden SMART / Camden Collaborative Initiative Water

Gloucester City Green Team

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson Green Team

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners

on the Newark DIG green infrastructure project priority list. Discussed were several potential funding sources for green streets proposals, including Fairmount Avenue, near CityPlex 12. A cohort of 14 Newark residents recently completed a workforce development program aligned with the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program offered in part by the City of Newark Office of Sustainability. The program was taught and led by Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E. (Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program) and ran over several weeks virtually and focused on green infrastructure installation and maintenance. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11AM on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please contact [newarkdig@gmail.com](mailto:newarkdig@gmail.com) to attend future meetings.

### **Paterson Green Team**

Green team members gave a community presentation on Wednesday June 16th from 7-8PM via Zoom to inform the public about the Adopt-A-Catch-Basin initiative in the city. There will be an in-person material distribution for the new catch-basin adoptees on Saturday June 26th, where the kits containing safety materials will be distributed as well as the spring-themed basket that was raffled off to new catch-basin adoptees. Members are working with the city to implement a web-app that will allow the adoptees to log in online and document their work.

To join the green team mailing list please contact [marthaaren333@yahoo.com](mailto:marthaaren333@yahoo.com).

### **Perth Amboy SWIM**

SWIM members met virtually via Zoom on May 25th to discuss NJDEP's comments on the city's Long Term CSO Control Plan. Engineers from CDM Smith were present to answer questions about the plan and the NJDEP comments on the plan. The group also discussed the possibility of holding an event on City of Water Day on July 10th to engage the public in a fun way on issues surrounding water access. The group has applied for a grant for funding the event.

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 June 15th and discussed plans to return to in-person meetings. There will be a green team open house, which will serve to inform residents of Trenton on green team activities and to find out what their concerns are in their communities. The open house will be on August 3rd at 6PM. Members also drafted letters of support for two projects in the city: improvements along Taylor Street and a skate park at Amtico Square, which will include green



infrastructure in the design. The Hetzel Pool Rain Garden project is underway and will be finished in time for the pool's opening on July 1st.

Please contact [atabas@njfuture.org](mailto:atabas@njfuture.org) to be added to the mailing list for the group.



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**Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program**

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