

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station



JULY 2021

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

Perth Amboy Holds First City of Water Day on its Historic Waterfront

On Saturday July 10, the community of Perth Amboy came together to get city residents out and paddling on the Raritan Bay for **City of Water Day**! For the past 14 years, the Harbor Estuary Program has been helping to organize waterfront events to raise awareness about the dangers of sea level rise and how climate change impacts coastal communities. Perth Amboy's recreation department, sailing team, police department, green team, and SWIM initiative all came together to make the city's first City of Water Day event a great success. This year, the theme was resilience, and the event focused on educating participants about the combined sewers in their historic city. SWIM members educated paddler's on the water quality issues surrounding the CSOs located right in their waterway and how to stay safe while interacting with the water in the Raritan Bay. They also had the option to collect a sample of water which was used to culture a petri dish to test for fecal coliforms – participants got very up close and personal with the Raritan Bay! The kayakers who collected samples got to set up the petri dish and then received pictures and a summary of their results the following week. Participants were excited to learn more about their waterways and to enjoy the fun and free kayaking the city was able to provide. There are additional free kayaking and sailing days available to Perth Amboy residents on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4-7PM through the rest of July at the Second Street Boat Launch. Perth Amboy officials expect that this is just the first event in a new tradition for the city. So, be sure to come out for some fun on the water next year!



United Vailsburg Services Organization's Green Youth Ambassadors Turn their Plans into Actions at the Norwood Community Garden



On July 12, Chris Perez from the Water Resources Program presented an overview of green stormwater infrastructure at the Unified Vailsburg Services Organization (UVSO) Green Youth Ambassadors Active Training Session in Newark, NJ.

Led by Sabrina Ross (UVSO), a group of 13 students enrolled in the program walked through Vailsburg with Chris discussing how green infrastructure can simultaneously help solve stormwater issues and beautify the community.

The walk ended at UVSO's Norwood Community Garden, where Tobias Fox, founder of the Newark Community Food System, spoke about the importance of community gardens in the local food system and the various ways to

engage and participate.

Together, the Green Youth Ambassadors came up with plans to redesign and renovate the garden. The following day, the Green Youth Ambassadors met to turn their plans into actions! Within a few hours, the garden was again a positive asset for the community and a rewarding sight for the individuals who put in the hard work!

50 Rain Gardens for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day - Featured Rain Gardens for July 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 #16 & #17, #18, #34 & #35, and #36.

#16 & #17

Anthony Rossi Elementary School

2572 Palermo Avenue, Vineland City, NJ

On July 20, 2020, the Water Resources Program completed the installation of two rain gardens at the Anthony Rossi Elementary School by partnering with the American Littoral Society, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), the Vineland Board of Education (BOE) Maintenance Department, and staff at the school. The Water Resources Program designed these gardens through an ongoing project to address stormwater runoff and water quality in the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer with funding provided by the William Penn Foundation. The Vineland BOE Maintenance Department provided the heavy lifting during the excavation, while planting was completed by staff at the school alongside staff from the Water Resources Program, the American Littoral Society, and ANJEC. The managed drainage area for the rain gardens is 11,075 square feet, with one rain garden that is 730 square feet and the other is 485 square feet. Students from the school were educated about rain gardens and their maintenance requirements in the spring of 2020 both in the classroom and via a virtual platform. The gardens will serve as a demonstration for residents and an educational tool for teachers and students. The rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 212,680 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Staff at Anthony Rossi Elementary School planting their rain garden in July 2020

#18

**Monroe Township Middle School
1629 Perrineville Road, Monroe, 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 design and install the rain garden at the Monroe Middle School in July 2020. Wogisch Landscape Contractors, Inc. excavated the rain garden area, added bioretention media, spread a three inch layer of mulch, and installed the plants. The managed drainage area of the rain garden is 2,620 square feet. The rain garden is 620 square feet and will serve as a demonstration project for residents of how they may incorporate green infrastructure on their property. Most importantly, the rain garden will be used as an educational tool for teachers to include in lesson plans. The rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 43,140 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Monroe Township Middle School rain garden, September 16, 2020

#34 & #35

Nervine Park

122 Mine Brook Road, Bernardsville Borough, NJ

On September 11, 2020 the Water Resources Program completed the installation of two rain gardens at Nervine Park in Bernardsville by partnering with the Department of Public Works who assisted with the heavy lifting during the excavation. The combined managed drainage area for the two rain gardens is 3,175 square feet. One rain garden is 890 square feet and the other is 535 square feet. These rain gardens will serve as a demonstration project to residents of something they can do at home to help improve water quality by capturing stormwater runoff. The rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 57,180 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Nervine Park rain garden following planting, September 2020

#36

Bridgewater YMCA

601 Garretson Rd, Bridgewater Township, 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 garden designs and installations made possible through the 319(h) funding was the Bridgewater YMCA rain garden project that was completed on September 15, 2020. Wogisch Landscape Contractors, Inc. excavated the rain garden area, added bioretention media, and spread a three-inch layer of mulch. Water Resources Program staff installed the plants with a volunteer from the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management. The managed drainage area for the rain garden is 2,400 square feet. The rain garden is 400 square feet in size, filled with native plants that will attract pollinators and serve as an example for residents who want to install rain gardens at their homes. The rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 43,140 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Bridgewater YMCA 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

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

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 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 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. 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 Collaborative
Initiative Water

Gloucester City Green Team

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson Green Team

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure
Partners

infrastructure installation and maintenance. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11AM on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please contact 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.

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 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 to be added to the mailing list for the group.



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Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

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