



OCTOBER 2021

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

Fall Maintenance Tips



Liatris spicata,
Dense Blazing Star



Eutrochium fistulosum,
Joe-Pye Weed

As autumn sets in, it's time to put your rain garden to bed for the winter. Here are some tips on how to make sure it's cozy!

- Identify desirable plants using your maintenance guide, plant list, and plant ID apps for your phone (such as PlantNet or Picture This). 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.
- Rake out excess leaves and add them to your personal compost bin or set them out in leaf bags for collection. A small layer of no more than two (2) inches is acceptable and will add organic matter to the rain garden soil.
- Check the height of the berm; rain gardens should generally be about six (6) inches deep from the top of the berm to the mulched base. If erosion has caused the berm

height to decrease, consider adding soil material to the berm before mulching it.

- For plants that have gone to seed, collect the seeds for sharing, or spread them around your rain garden to encourage more beneficial plants. Some plant seeds are also valuable food for winter birds and can provide winter interest to your garden; you decide what to do with the seed heads of the plants!
- Add a two (2) to three (3)-inch layer of undyed triple shredded hardwood mulch. This will help curtail weeds in the spring.

Take notes of what plants did well this year and which did not, and you will have this to compare to next year. Use this information to help you decide which plants to promote and which ones might need to be pulled from the stage. Now you will really start to know your garden in all its seasons!



Rudbeckia hirta,
Blackeyed Susan



Asclepias tuberosa,
Butterfly Weed

50 Rain Gardens for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day - Featured Rain Gardens for October 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 #23 & #24 and #26 & #27.

#23 & #24

Temple Har Shalom

104 Mount Horeb Road, Warren, NJ

On August 12, 2020, two rain gardens were installed at the Temple Har Shalom. 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. Wogisch Landscape Contractors, Inc. excavated the rain garden areas, added bioretention media, spread a three-inch layer of mulch, and installed the plants. The managed drainage area for the two rain gardens is 3,080 square feet. One rain garden is 445 square feet, and the other is 320 square feet. They will enhance the aesthetics at the Temple while attracting and nurturing pollinators. The rain gardens will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 50,160 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Temple Har Shalom rain garden ready for planting, August 2020

#26 & #27

Woodstown Borough Hall

25 West Avenue, Woodstown Borough, NJ

The Water Resources Program completed an impervious cover assessment of Woodstown and developed a green infrastructure action plan that identified the Woodstown Borough Hall 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 of the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer. The rain garden installations were completed on August 21, 2020 with combined efforts from the Department of Public Works, staff from the Water Resources Program, and the New Jersey Tree Foundation. The managed drainage area for the two rain gardens is 2,400 square feet. The rain gardens are 200 square feet each and will serve as a perfect example for borough residents that want to install rain gardens at their homes. The rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 42,800 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Woodstown Borough Hall rain gardens shortly after planting, August 2020

Hold the Dates! Become a leader, become a Green Infrastructure Champion!



The next Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program will be offered every other Friday from 10AM to 12NOON starting January 14, 2022!

All sessions for the 2022 training program will be offered via an online format.

Here is what we can offer as part of the program:

- Training on green infrastructure planning and implementation
- Technical support to develop a design for a green infrastructure demonstration project
- Networking opportunities with other Green Infrastructure Champions for mutual support

- Assistance with grant writing

2022 Training Program Class Schedule:

1. How to identify green infrastructure projects in your town (January 14)
2. Moving from planning to implementation of green infrastructure (January 28)
3. Maintaining green infrastructure practices/projects (February 11)
4. Stormwater management regulations, policies, and ordinances (February 25)
5. Green infrastructure planning and implementation for Sustainable Jersey points (March 11)
6. Green infrastructure projects for schools (March 25)
7. How to design and build a rain garden (April 8)
8. Retrofitting traditional detention basins with green infrastructure (April 22)
9. Developing green infrastructure master plans for an entire site or neighborhood (May 6)
10. Using green infrastructure to promote climate resiliency (May 20)

Registration is **required** (*Coming soon to water.rutgers.edu!*), and attendance at a minimum of five (5) classes is needed for certification.

This program is partially funded by 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.

Contact **Hollie DiMuro** (hollie.dimuro@rutgers.edu) if you are interested in becoming a Green Infrastructure Champion.

Municipal Action Team Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

Camden Collaborative Initiative Water

The Camden Collaborative Initiative Water group met on October 13 via Zoom. The group continues to discuss how to revitalize Camden Reports possibly by trying to tie it into social media since reports of flooding are often seen there. Partners are also excited about the official ribbon cutting at Cramer Hill Waterfront Park on October 26 with the opening event on November 6. Also, *SAVE THE DATE*, Tuesday, November 23 for the Camden Environmental Summit 2021. **Register for the Summit HERE!**

The next regular meeting will be on November 10 at 2PM via Zoom. Please go to the following to get added to the email list:

<http://www.camdencollaborative.com/meetings.html> or contact camdencollaborative@coopersferry.com.

Gloucester City Green Team

The Gloucester City Green Team met on October 13 via Zoom. The group discussed the wrapping up of the 319(h)

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

grant and the need of a replanting at the Gloucester City High School. It was suggested that the school look into Sustainable Jersey Schools for potential funding for this effort. The City is set to receive funding from the Neighborhood Preservation Program which focuses on revitalizing neighborhoods in key areas. The City also is applying for additional grants to help with the CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) Long Term Control Plan in collaboration with Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority. These new sources of funding will allow the Green Team to continue working on new green infrastructure projects in the City. The New Jersey Tree Foundation also has a planting of 12 trees planned for November 5. The next regular meeting will tentatively be on November 10 at 1:30PM via Zoom. The group is considering moving the meeting to accommodate new members. Please contact lryan@cityofgloucester.org to join the green team mailing list.

Jersey City START

The October START meeting will be held on Thursday October 28, and meetings will continue on a bi-monthly basis. Contact lsigmund@jcnj.org for the link for the upcoming meeting or to be added to the email list.

Newark DIG

Newark DIG (Doing Infrastructure Green) met on September 28 to discuss upcoming activities and initiatives of Newark DIG partners. Also discussed were ongoing green infrastructure projects and programs, and an inventory of flood prone locations in Newark, as recorded during Hurricane Ida. The Newark Office of Sustainability and Newark Green Team hosted a planning event for climate change preparedness, 'Extreme Weather Is Not a Game' at the Greater Newark Conservancy on October 2. Newark Office of Sustainability hosted Canoemobile, a program in Riverfront Park which offered guided canoeing on the Passaic River on October 14, 15, and 16. New Jersey Tree Foundation held successful tree plantings on October 1 on Fairmount Avenue, October 16 on Sanford Place, and on October 20 in Branch Brook Park. Upcoming events include the NY/NJ Baykeeper Fall Gala on October 27. Newark DIG Zoom meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 11AM. Please contact newarkdig@gmail.com to attend and for more information about any of the listed events.

Paterson Green Team

Green team members did not hold a meeting in October. There was a Green Team clean-up event at Cobb Park on October 9 with over 20 community members joining the team. Members are also continuing to distribute Adopt-A-Catch-Basin kits to residents who sign up to adopt a catch basin in their neighborhood. The next clean-up event will

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

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Paterson Green Team

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners

be held on October 30 at the Paterson Great Falls and will also be an opportunity to sign up to adopt a catch basin and receive a cleaning kit. For more information and to join the green team mailing list please contact marthaaren333@yahoo.com.

Perth Amboy SWIM

Perth Amboy SWIM members met virtually again this month in conjunction with the Perth Amboy Green Team on Tuesday, October 19 at 6PM. The green team held it's first clean up event at the Water Stadium Park and will host the next clean up on November 13. Members joined new committees such as the Events Committee and the Communications Committee, and the potential for forming others such as the legislative and sustainability committees were discussed. There will be a DPW training for green infrastructure maintenance coming up as well. The St. Peter's Food Pantry will be hosting an event on October 30 to unveil a memorial to the first black voter in the US, Thomas Mundy Peterson. The next meeting will be on November 16 at 6PM. Please contact epyshnik@envsci.rutgers.edu to be added to the email list.

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners

Trenton GIP met virtually on Tuesday, October 19 at 3PM and finalized plans and materials for the upcoming Open House that will be held virtually on Wednesday, October 27. Members listened to details of the new Land Development Ordinance which is open for public comment until November 1 and is available [here](#). Stormwater planter tree pits will be installed at the Martin Luther King Elementary School in Trenton on November 5 by the NJ Tree Foundation. Two rain gardens are slated to be installed as well in November, one at MLK Elementary School and one at the Trenton Central High School. There is a conference being held by the Watershed Institute on November 3-5 and details are available [here](#). The next meeting will be on November 16 at 3PM via Zoom; please contact atabas@njfuture.org to be added to the mailing list for the group.



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