

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station



DECEMBER 2022 ~ HAPPY HOLIDAYS!  
WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

---



*Best wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy holiday  
season from the  
Rutgers Cooperative Extension  
Water Resources Program!*

*Chris, Lisa, Chris, Hollie, Matt, Alex, Rich, & Kacper*

---



**Increasing Climate Resilience  
throughout the Royce Brook  
Watershed ~ A National Fish and  
Wildlife Foundation Project**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), announced the 2021

Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund (ECRF) in December 2021 to support projects that increase the resilience of coastal communities impacted by hurricanes and wildfires in 2020 or 2021. Manville and Hillsborough are two municipalities in Somerset County that fall within the areas eligible for funding. The Water Resources Program was funded under the 2021 ECRF in October 2022 to create a partnership between Manville, Hillsborough, Rutgers University, Somerset County Office of Emergency Management, and the Watershed Institute to focus on identifying five to 10 larger nature-based resilience projects (i.e., green infrastructure projects) that could be constructed in Manville and Hillsborough. Projects will be selected that have a significant impact on reducing flooding in both municipalities. In Hillsborough, the upstream municipality, there was significant flooding during Hurricane Ida along the Royce Brook, which resulted in road closures throughout the town and serious property damage. In Manville, during Hurricane Ida, the Royce Brook flooded a significant portion of the businesses in the southern section of the borough.

The Royce Brook watershed is 16.8 square miles with approximately 20% impervious cover. A substantial portion of the development throughout Manville and Hillsborough was built prior to stormwater management regulations. The goal of this project is to identify and develop preliminary designs for stormwater management projects that can capture and store stormwater runoff from developed areas and release it slowly well after storm events. These preliminary designs will allow the communities of Hillsborough and Manville to make informed decisions on these nature-based resilience project options and be ready for final design and permitting.

---



## **Green Infrastructure Implementation in New Jersey's Overburdened Communities ~ A New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Project**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has published a list of overburdened communities and has provided notice to the 331 municipalities in which those communities are located. An overburdened community (OBC), as defined by the law, is any census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States Census, in which (1) at least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households (at or below twice the poverty threshold as determined by the United States Census Bureau); (2) at least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a state recognized tribal community; or (3) at least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency (without an adult that speaks English “very well” according to the United States Census Bureau). The goal of this project is to install ten green infrastructure projects in OBCs to increase coastal adaptation and resilience.

Over the last ten years, to help communities address climate change, New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium (NJSGC) and Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) have been working with communities to develop green infrastructure plans and implement green stormwater management practices to minimize the impact of stormwater runoff from existing development that currently has no stormwater management. The

communities where green infrastructure has been successfully implemented have one thing in common. They all have local champions that have played a key role in advocating for the installation of green infrastructure. To accelerate the adoption of green infrastructure practices, NJSGC and RCE have developed a Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program to help communities create leaders that can advocate for green stormwater infrastructure in their municipalities. Over the last four years, 292 people have been certified as Green Infrastructure Champions. Many of these Green Infrastructure Champions are from OBCs or work in OBCs. For 2023, the Green Infrastructure Champion Program will target the OBCs and seek out individuals from these communities or people working in these communities to participate in the training.

For this project, we will work with existing Green Infrastructure Champions from OBCs to design and implement green infrastructure projects in their communities. These projects will help further train the Green Infrastructure Champions and serve as examples of how OBCs can be transformed into more climate resilient communities.

---

## DID YOU REGISTER YET? What are you waiting for? Become a leader, become a Green Infrastructure Champion in 2023!



The next Green Infrastructure Champions Training Program will be offered every other Friday from 10AM to 12NOON starting January 13, 2023!

All sessions for the 2023 training program will be offered via an online format. Generous support from our funders is allowing us to offer this year's training for free.

### 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

### 2023 Training Program Class Schedule:

1. How to identify green infrastructure projects in your town (January 13)
2. Moving from planning to implementation of green infrastructure (January 27)
3. Maintaining green infrastructure practices/projects (February 10)
4. Stormwater management regulations, policies, and ordinances (February 24)
5. Green infrastructure planning and implementation for Sustainable Jersey points (March 10)
6. Green infrastructure projects for schools (March 24)
7. How to design and build a rain garden (April 7)

8. Retrofitting traditional detention basins with green infrastructure (April 21)
9. Developing green infrastructure master plans for an entire site or neighborhood (May 5)
10. Using green infrastructure to promote climate resiliency (May 19)

**Registration is required.**

Attendance at a minimum of **five (5) classes** is **needed for certification**.

This program is partially funded by the **New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, William Penn 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](mailto:hollie.dimuro@rutgers.edu)) if you are interested in becoming a Green Infrastructure Champion.

---

## **Rain Garden Native Plant Spotlight ~ Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)**

Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is a deciduous shrub known best for its striking red berries that persist through the winter months, providing food for birds and adding winter interest to rain gardens and decorative cuttings.

For more information:

Jerseyyards.org native plant database

<https://www.jerseyyards.org/plant/ilex-verticillata/>

Wildflower.org

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=ILVE](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ILVE)



*Photo credit: Sara Mellor, Rutgers Gardens*

---



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



Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program | 14 College Farm Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

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



Try email marketing for free today!