PVSC celebrates Montclair’s Green Infrastructure Initiatives

In May 2013, the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) partnered with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program to provide outreach and technical assistance programs to help guide and direct municipalities in the PVSC service area regarding the benefits and opportunities of implementing green infrastructure practices. What is green infrastructure? Green infrastructure is an approach to stormwater management that is cost effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. Green infrastructure projects capture, filter, absorb, and reuse stormwater to maintain or mimic natural systems and treat runoff as a resource.

The PVSC/RCE partnership helped the Township of Montclair with the development of a township-wide green infrastructure feasibility study. Working closely with Gray Russell, Sustainability Officer, and other municipal officials, the Township of Montclair identified potential green infrastructure projects and successfully launched a WaterWise Montclair program. “Rain barrels are a great way to capture rain from your roof’s downspout and use it for watering your garden or potted plants, conserving your use of drinking water while also reducing stormwater runoff” says Gray. Not only has Gray launched a WaterWise program, but he has also helped implement several green infrastructure initiatives in the Township of Montclair.

PVSC and the RCE Water Resources Program partners are pleased with the success of the Green Infrastructure Municipal Outreach and Technical Assistance Program in Montclair. Which municipality will be next to rise to the task?