The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program was awarded $820,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to incorporate green infrastructure resiliency in the Raritan River Basin under the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program.

The project will include 54 municipal assessments and impervious cover reduction action plans for communities in the Raritan River Basin, including East Brunswick, Old Bridge, Hillsborough, Sayreville, Milltown, North Brunswick, South Amboy and South River to name a few. The project will create municipal strategy guides to identify recommendations and help implement projects to capture over 68 million gallons of stormwater annually.

[Rain Garden Rebate Program]
We received our first application for a rebate! Kevin Zuidervliet attended the April 29, 2014 Rain Garden Education Workshop and then returned for a Technical Support Session on May 13, 2014 where he received two designs for his family's home in Bridgewater, NJ.

The Zuidervliet's were experiencing a lot of stormwater runoff from their neighbor's backyard and also from their own due to the loss of trees from Super Storm Sandy. These rain gardens are capturing stormwater runoff and helping reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering the sewer system. This is the first of several rain gardens being installed as part of the Rain Garden Rebate Program, which is being funded by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Watershed Protection Program.

[New Jersey CSO Technical Assistance Program]

The New Jersey CSO Technical Assistance Program, provided by the RCE Water Resources Program and sponsored by the SURDNA Foundation, helps CSO communities understand green infrastructure and financing through the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) remain paramount water resource concerns in over 20 urban communities throughout New Jersey because they are a significant source of pollution and a human health issue. Through the use of green infrastructure, stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces can be managed in a cost effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly manner to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and reduce the occurrence of CSOs. Workshops will be held for utility entities, municipal leaders, and local stakeholders to create municipal action teams which will help guide and lead efforts to fund and implement green infrastructure.
Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)

Dry Weather

Flow to Wastewater Treatment Plant

Water is held in the pipes and flows to treatment plant.

Stormy Weather

Flow to Wastewater Treatment Plant

The combination of stormwater and sewage exceeds capacity and overflows into local waterways

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