



March 2021

WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

Project Update:

Regional Stormwater Management Planning for the Highlands Portion of Watershed Management Area 8 - North and South Branch Raritan



In the fall of 2019, the **New Jersey Highlands Council** awarded the RCE Water Resources Program a grant to complete green infrastructure plans for 27 municipalities in the Highlands portion of Watershed Management Area 8 — North and South Branch Raritan. Impervious cover assessments (ICAs), impervious cover reduction action plans (RAPs), RAP web maps, and green infrastructure feasibility studies have been completed for all 27 municipalities and can be found on the RCE Water Resources Program's *Projects & Programs* page at <http://water.rutgers.edu/Projects/NJHighlandsCouncil/NJHC.html>.

These plans characterize the impervious cover of each municipality on a subwatershed basis and identify opportunities for installing green infrastructure to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff. Since the information in each of these municipal green infrastructure plans is prepared on a subwatershed basis, information for subwatersheds are currently being combined from the municipal plans to summarize recommendations for subwatersheds (e.g., HUC 14 basis). This will provide the foundation for regional planning to address stormwater issues within the Highlands. Many of these municipalities are in the **Sustainable Jersey** program and can earn points toward their accreditation for both green infrastructure planning and implementation.

The RCE Water Resources Program is working closely with the New Jersey Highlands Council to engage municipalities with this rapid planning process and to help them implement recommendations from the plans. For more information about this project and the green infrastructure planning documents prepared for Highlands municipalities, please contact Christopher Obropta, Extension Specialist (obropta@envsci.rutgers.edu) or Kelley Curran, Senior Resource Management Specialist with the Highlands Council (kelley.curran@highlands.nj.gov).

50 Rain Gardens for the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day - Featured Rain Gardens for March 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 #5, #6, #48, and #49.

#5

Bernardsville Public Library

1 Anderson Hill Road, Bernardsville Borough, NJ

On June 15, 2020, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program completed the installation of a rain garden at the Bernardsville Public Library. The Bernardsville Department of Public Works assisted with the heavy lifting during the excavation. This rain garden opportunity was identified via funding provided by the New Jersey Highlands Council to complete an impervious cover reduction action plan for Bernardsville Borough. The managed drainage area for the rain garden is 840 square feet. The rain garden is 215 square feet in size and will serve as a demonstration project for residents that want to install rain gardens at their homes. The rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 13,380 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Bernardsville Public Library construction, Bernardsville Borough, NJ, June 2020

#6

Hammonton Canoe Club

100 Sports Drive, Hammonton, NJ

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program completed an impervious cover assessment and reduction action plan for the Town of Hammonton with funding from New Jersey Future. The Canoe Club location was identified as a possible site to incorporate green infrastructure. The rain garden was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) as a demonstration project as part of the South Jersey Landscape Makeover Program with the Pineland Preservation Alliance. The Hammonton Department of Public Works and the RCE Water Resources Program staff worked

together to excavate the rain garden area, add bioretention media, spread the mulch, and install the plants. The installation was completed on June 23, 2020. The managed drainage area for the rain garden is 5,220 square feet. The rain garden is 980 square feet and will serve as a perfect example for residents that want to install rain gardens at their homes. The rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 91,630 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Hammonton Canoe Club rain garden, July 2020

#48

**Somerset County Office of Emergency Management
402 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough Township, NJ**

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) 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 Somerset County Office of Emergency Management rain garden project, that was completed on October 5, 2020. Wogisch Landscape Contractors, Inc. excavated the rain garden area, added bioretention media, and spread a three inch layer of mulch. The RCE Water Resources Program staff installed the plants. The managed drainage area for the rain garden is 1,000 square feet. The rain garden is 350 square feet in size, filled with native plants that will attract and nurture pollinators. The rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 14,040 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Somerset County OEM rain garden, October 2020

#49

**Borough of Caldwell Community Center
1 Provost Square, Caldwell Borough, NJ**

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program partnered with Caldwell to complete an impervious cover assessment of the Borough and develop a green infrastructure action plan and strategic plan. The Borough received a grant from Sustainable Jersey to complete these green infrastructure planning documents and to install two demonstration projects. The first demonstration project was a rain garden completed in October 2020 at the Borough Community Center. The Borough Department of Public Works excavated the rain garden, and the RCE Water Resources Program staff worked with volunteers to install the plants. The managed drainage area for the rain garden is 765 square feet. The rain garden is 100 square feet in size, six inches deep, and will serve as a perfect example for residents that want to install rain gardens at their homes. The rain garden will capture, treat, and infiltrate approximately 16,760 gallons of stormwater runoff per year.



Water Resources Program staff give the rain garden a big thumbs up!



**Check out our
calendar of events
to see what we're
up to!**

Our calendar is quickly filling up with virtual Rain Garden Educational and Design Sessions for the spring!

Don't miss out on all the fun!

<http://water.rutgers.edu/UpcomingEvents.html>

Rain Garden Program!

*Rebates available to residents of
Hamilton Township, Mercer County*

Rain Gardens:

- Capture rainwater and allow it to soak into the ground
- Slow down stormwater runoff, alleviating localized flooding and reducing pollution
- Provide beauty and are a valuable food source for birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects



Educational Session

April 28, 2021 7-8pm via ZOOM

Design Session:

May 5th 5-8pm via
30-minute ZOOM appointment only

For more information and to register

visit: www.water.rutgers.edu

register: <https://forms.gle/cn5viTVAvMfPq5iz8>

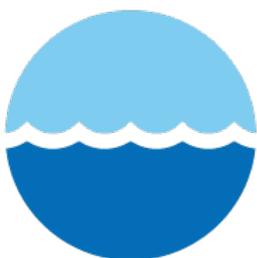
REBATES UP TO

\$450

1. Attend the Educational Session (mandatory)
2. Set up a free 30-minute design consultation with Rutgers professionals to plan your garden
3. Install your garden
4. Get up to \$450 back



Raritan Headwaters Seminar Series - *Watershed Tools for Local Leaders* - is back for 2021!



Raritan Headwaters Seminar Series **Watershed Tools for Local Leaders**

Winter/Spring 2021 Webinars

Municipal and county officials in the Upper Raritan River watershed region are responsible for making many important decisions affecting local drinking water and stream water quality. Empowering them with knowledge to make the best possible decisions and forming partnerships is the aim of Raritan Headwaters' "Watershed Tools for Local Leaders."

The goal of the seminars is to provide expert-level knowledge and practical guidance on scientific principles, useful tools, government regulations and funding sources for watershed protection. Workshops are presented by Raritan Headwaters scientists and policy experts, as well as visitors from regulatory agencies, universities, and other non-profit organizations. In addition, participants and presenters learn from one another's experiences and find ways to partner on projects to protect and restore water resources. We have adapted our program into a webinar series to provide easy and safe accessibility from home or office.

To learn more about this seminar series and view past presentations, **visit RHA's Watershed Tools for Local Leaders webpage.**

February 24, 2021 | 1:00-2:00 PM

Local issues, local solutions: How to address stormwater in your community

Register Here

March 11, 2021 | 3:00-4:00 PM

Working together for lead-free drinking water in your community

Register Here

April 15, 2021 | 1:00-2:00 PM

Watershed planning for municipalities: control stormwater, improve water quality and save money ~ *Christopher Obropta is the presenter!* ~

Register Here

April 22, 2021 | 1:00-2:00 PM

Intro to Sustainable Jersey's Gold Star Standard in Water: Pathways for protecting & enhancing community water resources

Register Here

April 29, 2021 | 1:00-2:00 PM

How healthy are streams in your municipality? An intro to RHA's stream monitoring program

Register Here

May 6, 2021 | 1:00-2:00 PM

A guide to incorporating climate vulnerability and adaptation planning into municipal master plans

Register Here

Webinars are free of charge and open to the public.

Municipal Action Team Green Infrastructure Initiative Updates

Camden SMART/CCI

Camden SMART (Camden Collaborative Initiative Water group) met on March 10th via Zoom. The main purpose of the meeting was to finalize a list of goals and actionable objectives for the year with focus on the major issues of stormwater, drinking water, and public access 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

waterways. The new Stormwater Ordinance was passed by Camden City Council with an effective date of March 2nd which largely followed NJDEP's model ordinance based on the new stormwater rules requiring more use of green infrastructure practices to be considered in major development projects. Possibilities of starting an Adopt a Catch Basin program similar to the program in Newark are being considered. On the drinking water side, education materials were reviewed on lead risk to understand what kind of materials would be best to educate Camden residents on the issue. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 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

The Gloucester City Green Team met on March 10th via Zoom. The NJ Tree Foundation applied for a grant opportunity from the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the RCE Water Resources Program that would allow more funding to continue implementing rain gardens and tree plantings in the city. The remaining funding in the 319(h) grant is reserved to maintain the Gloucester City Water Department rain garden. The Community Forestry Management Plan work has been completed and is being reviewed by the New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry program. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14th at 1:30PM via Zoom. Please contact lryan@cityofgloucester.org if you would like to attend these meetings.

Jersey City START

Jersey City START did not have a meeting in March but will meet via Zoom on Thursday April 1st at 10:30AM. 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 February 23, 2021. Newark DIG partners emphasized the need to reach out to elected officials with comments on the need to address environmental justice and financial equity in municipal and regional solutions in the CSO (combined sewer overflow) Long Term Control Plan. The Newark Office of Sustainability presented a mapping project to identify priority locations for street tree planting by developing criteria using social and environmental data. The City of Newark's Love Your Block program offers mini-grants for community organizations for neighborhood beautification proposals and is open for application

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 Station (NJAES) and the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission with support from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and our local partners.

Camden SMART

Gloucester City Green Team

Jersey City START

Newark DIG

Paterson Green Team

Perth Amboy SWIM

Trenton Green Infrastructure Partners

through March 24, 2021. The City of Newark achieved Sustainable Jersey's Silver Certification. Newark DIG meetings are held at 11AM on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please contact newarkdig@gmail.com for information.

Paterson Green Team

Members met virtually on Thursday March 18th at 3PM to finalize plans for a community presentation and workshop on March 31st. The members are working on finalizing the materials in the Catch Basin Sponsors' kits which include supplies and safety materials. The city is currently working on a web-app which will allow residents to sign up for the program and map the locations of the catch basins adopted. To join the green team mailing list, or to sign up for the March 31st workshop, please contact marthaaren333@yahoo.com.

Perth Amboy SWIM

Perth Amboy SWIM met virtually for an evening meeting on February 23rd. Members discussed the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) and their concerns around the costs outlined in the plan. The group is working on a letter to send to state and city officials with these concerns. The 2021 goals were also outlined and will be discussed again at the next meeting. SWIM will meet again in the evening during the week of March 22nd. Please contact epyshnik@envsci.rutgers.edu to be added to the email list.

Trenton Green Team

Members met via Zoom on Tuesday March 16th and discussed methods for executing the 2021 goals, including how to reach out to more Trenton residents. The website for the green team is almost ready for launch, and members are working on the final touches. Members are working on identifying locations for new green infrastructure projects, such as rain gardens and stormwater tree boxes, to be installed this year. Please contact atabas@njfuture.org to be added to the mailing list.

Support Rutgers Giving Day ~ Support the Water Resources Program

Rutgers Giving Day is an annual 24-hour day of giving to raise funds for students, schools, and programs. On March 24 2021, the global Rutgers community will come together to help Rutgers help the world. No matter how each of us chooses to make a difference, the impact we make together can move us toward a better future.

RUTGERS Giving Day 3.24.21



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Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program
water@envsci.rutgers.edu
www.water.rutgers.edu

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