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Front Page

November 29, 2007

Ads by Yahoo!

NJDEP receives grant for water conservation

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, has received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to develop a model communitybased water conservation education program.

The program focus will be to promote a responsible water-use ethic in both the private and public sectors and reduce overall water waste, according to the DEP.

Conservation can save water utilities and the state considerable capital expenditures over the long term by delaying or even eliminating the need to develop new or expanded water supply systems and wastewater treatment plants.

Reducing water waste is a major component of the state's water supply planning efforts, a press release from the DEP said.

As New Jersey's population continues to grow and water sources are further constrained, more must be done to safeguard a sustainable water supply. Promoting the efficient use of water will help meet this goal for generations to come, the agency said in the release.

Communities interested in participating in this pilot model water conservation program should contact Katie Barnett at (609) 633-0764 or at Katie.barnett@dep.state.nj.us.

Environmental Testing

Asbestos, Mold, Bacteria, Metals, Lead, VOC's, Env. , IAQ, www.emsl.com



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Egg Harbor Township Environmental Commission 2009 Achievements

New Projects

- Worked with NJDEP Water Conservation Pilot Program and Eagle Academy to create a series of Public Service Announcements concerning water conservation
- Worked with NJDEP as part of the Water Conservation Pilot Program in creating a demonstration Rain Garden. A site has been chosen at Veteran's Memorial Park with construction to start in the Spring 2010

Ongoing Projects

Arboretum

- Continued to work with Eagle Academy on implementing the "No Child Left Inside" curriculum with the regular weekly classes held at the Arboretum throughout the summer
- Completed construction of second storage shed
- Performed routine maintenance at Arboretum throughout the year, including cutting grass, picking up trash, etc

Arbor Day

- Continued to promote and organize the poster contest
- Presented individual Environmental Achievement Award to John Ferry of Fresh Cut Lawn Service
- Presented Excellence in Commercial Landscaping Award to ACUA

Miscellaneous

- Continued to review plans, as required, to ensure compliance with our township ordinances
- Continued to work with Boy Scouts on Eagle Scout Certification programs, planning installation of a bird creek at Arboretum
- Continued to publicize the Commissions activities and accomplishments in the Current, the Press and various environmental publications such as the ANJEC Quarterly Report
- Participated in EHT's Clean Communities Day with Public Works
- Continued to work with NJ Audubon Society member John Layton and Township Administration to identify retention basins suitable for bluebird houses. This project has been a great success and EHT is part of the Birdhouse Network with statistics reported to Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Attempted to work on strengthening and upgrading our environmental ordinances in

conjunction with Planning Board and Livable Communities.

E.H.T. Retention Basin Bluebird Project 2009

33 Bluebird houses
70 Bluebird chicks banded & fledged
18 Tree swallows fledged
6 House Wrens fledged
5 Chickadees fledged

Arboretum Bluebird Project 2009

4 Bluebird houses
14 Tree swallows fledged
13 House wrens fledged

[See Our Goals for 2010!](#)

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**EGG HARBOR
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DEP program helps Egg Harbor Township create plan to conserve water

Study of water needs was commissioned during drought conditions

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By CHRISTOPHER RAMIREZ, Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, May 12, 2010

While record snowfall and heavy rains have saturated the area in recent months, a short water supply only a few years ago raised concerns.

In 2006, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection warned state residents of a possible water shortage, and in 2007, eight southern New Jersey counties were ruled natural disaster areas because drought and high temperatures hurt crops.

With water conservation in mind, the DEP partnered with Rutgers' Water Resources Program to study and counsel water-saving efforts in five communities throughout the state.

Among those chosen was Egg Harbor Township, which was given consideration as a regional growth area. The others were Livingston, Rahway, Belmar and East Greenwich.

The three-year pilot program runs into 2011 and has already had an impact in the township.

A catch basin at Veterans Memorial Park for water flowing off nearby roads will be converted into a natural garden in the coming weeks, and on Saturday, a group of residents at the township Community Center took part in a workshop sponsored by the study that detailed how to use rain

barrels.

Mike Haberland, of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Waters Resources Program, oversaw the workshop. He said the advantage of rain barrels is that they are a simple way for people to become involved in conservation.

"It's a great first step for homeowners that want to do something environmentally conscious, and it's something easy to do," said Haberland, the Environmental and Natural Resource Management Agent for Camden and Burlington counties.

He gave a presentation about using a rain barrel and how to fit the device into the landscape so that rainwater can be captured for later use such as watering plants. Then the participants built their own rain barrels, which were recycled olive barrels from Canada.

"The idea is that the use of rain barrels is a way to get individuals to conserve water on their properties," Haberland said. "We're trying to get more water into the ground than on the roads that can get back to the streams."

Deputy Township Administrator Dale Goodreau noted that it's important for residents to take into consideration simple details such as ensuring lawn sprinklers are directed at the grass and not sidewalks or streets.

"Everybody needs to be aware and conserve," said Goodreau, who, with Environmental Commission Chairwoman Janis Hetrick, has attended meetings with the other communities, the DEP and Rutgers.

He added that the study has influenced the school district.

Students at Eagle Academy have created several public service announcements about water conservation, and at the district offices, toilets have been installed in two bathrooms that give the user option of deciding how much water is used to flush.

The intent is for techniques learned during the study to be circulated to communities throughout the state once the pilot program is complete.

"Just because we had a lot of rain doesn't mean its going to be like this forever," Hetrick said. "There's going to be droughts again in the future, and hopefully we use what we have learned."

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PRINTABLE VERSION

E.H.T. STUDENTS ENJOY 'MAKE A SPLASH! WATER FESTIVAL'

Michelle Dawn Mooney (mmooney@nbc40.net) - 6/2/10 04:48 pm

Last Updated - 6/2/10 07:10 pm

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EGG HARBOR TWP.--Some area students make a splash with little kids, in terms of environmental education.

It was all part of Project WET's "Make a Splash! Water Festival" at the Alder Avenue Middle School in Egg Harbor Township, which was designed to teach kids about keeping water sources clean.

Alder students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades have been learning about environmental issues in the classroom and they were able to pass on that knowledge to 2nd and 3rd graders from Slaybaugh School, in a fun, outdoor environment.

The event was made possible with a \$1,500 grant from the New Jersey DEP that guaranteed more than 500 elementary school children from across the district would not be without an end-of-the-year excursion.

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**EGG HARBOR
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Egg Harbor Township's Veterans Memorial Park gets good looking pollution barrier

Combination of flowers helps clean runoff water, send it deep

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By CHRISTOPHER RAMIREZ, Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, June 16, 2010

By CHRISTOPHER RAMIREZ

Staff Writer

An ordinary grass basin is now a beautified pollution barrier.

A 4,000-square-foot patch of land at Veterans Memorial Park was converted Thursday from lawn turf into a plot of plants that are helpful in cleaning water and whose root systems help water seep deep into the ground.

The project was a part of the township's participation in a pilot program conducted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Rutgers' Water Resources Program to study and advise on water conservation.

Four representatives from Rutgers oversaw the planting with help from the township Environmental Commission and a group of Eagle Academy students.

The chosen area is behind the park sign on Veterans Avenue and viewable from the memorial site in front of the library. Providing a scenic view from the memorial of the basin was a consideration

in designing the project.

“It’s beautiful, and functional by collecting the water,” said Caitrin Higgins, a landscape architect with the Water Resources Program.

Besides their appearance, she also touted the valuable work the plants do.

The project site includes a previously located storm drain, and receives a large amount of runoff water from Ocean Heights Avenue. That has created a temporary pond during times of heavy rainfall and provided a breeding ground for mosquitoes in the summer.

The project’s plants are expected to help remove pollutants from the water and to have deep roots that will break up the soil and allow for the water to seep deep into to the ground, rather than collecting near the surface.

A combination of flowers such as joe-pye weed, goldenrod, bee balm and black-eyed Susans were planted at the front of the basin, nearest to the sign and Ocean Heights Avenue. Seeds for a bed of wild grasses were laid in the remaining area, and the basin as a whole was encircled by about 25 shrubs of either sweet pepperbush or Virginia roses.

The plants were provided through the program. Higgins said that as native species, they are ideal for the area’s sandy soil and tolerant to any salt that may come from road ice removal in the winter.

It also will be a welcoming area for birds, bees and butterflies.

“It’s a benefit to wildlife, plus it’s cleaning the water,” said Janis Hetrick, chair of the Environmental Commission.

She believes the project can also serve as a blueprint for enhancing the many other basins in the township.

“(Hopefully) we can get more developers to plant basins like this,” Hetrick said.

The planting progressed quickly with help from the high school students, who spread out with trowels in hand to put the flowers in the ground.

“I like working in the environment,” said junior Alexis Felker, 17.

Eddie Platt, also a junior, has a bit of gardening experience from helping his parents, but said this project differed from those at his home.

“This one has more of a cause,” said Platt, 18.

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A screenshot of a Facebook comment box. On the left, there is a small, partially visible profile picture. The main area contains a text input field with the placeholder text "Add a comment...". Below the input field is a "Login" button. Underneath the button, the text "Log in to Facebook to post your comment" is displayed.

 Facebook social plugin

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Sustainable Jersey plans water conservation workshop

Township is one of five municipalities in pilot program

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By ELISA LALA, Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Sustainable Jersey, a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that aims to preserve quality of life over the long term, will host a water conservation workshop in Egg Harbor Township on Thursday, Sept. 16, said Katie Barnett of the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection Division of Water Supply.

The workshop will focus on the implementation of the Water Conservation Ordinance, one of the program's priority actions, as well as conservation tips and tactics for township residents.

Despite the signs of security - such as 44 inches of rainfall per year - New Jersey is vulnerable to serious water supply shortages, in part because of its dense population, Barnett said.

"Most people focus on an area of difficult climate, such as Arizona or Florida, but even in areas where water seems abundant, like New Jersey, water conservation is important," she said.

Barnett said nearly 1 trillion gallons of water are used per year in the state, with the average resident using 100 gallons of water per day.

"The rain gives the impression that we are fine, but we're not," she said.

In 2007, Egg Harbor Township was one of five targeted municipalities within the state chosen to

take part in a drinking water conservation pilot program known as Water Savers. Water Savers, a joint effort between Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Water Resources and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, took into account the demographics of the area and its needs for conservation.

Egg Harbor Township was chosen because of its once-agricultural turned suburban demographic, which brought in a large number of people in a short amount of time, Barnett said.

The first mission of Thursday's conservation workshop will be to urge municipal officials to implement the Water Conservation Ordinance. If the ordinance is enacted, residents would be restricted to watering lawns two times per week, the hours allotted for hand held or automatic systems would be set, watering any single area would be restricted to 30 minutes per day and no watering would be permitted when it is raining, Barnett said. As of now, this is just a recommendation. It is not enforced.

The second component of the workshop will be educating the public on the need to save.

Speaking at the workshop will be John Jones, a sixth-grade teacher from Alder Avenue Middle School and the leader behind the Catawba Project, a districtwide environmental education program and EHT's Project WET, a water education program.

Jones said he believes it is vital for residents to take their own initiatives to conserve water, despite the lack of enforcement.

"Our environment is delicate," he said. "The water supply is strained."

His advice is to get the younger township residents' involved in the movement.

"Utilize the kids as a resource. They will then educate their parents," Jones said. "It's amazing how willing children are to go out with a purpose."

Contact Elisa Lala:

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If you go

What: Water Conservation Workshop

When: Sept. 16, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Alder Avenue Middle School, large board room, 25 Alder Ave., Egg Harbor Township

For more information and to preregister for the workshop, visit:

<http://sustainablejersey.com/events.php>

Water-saving tips

Inside the Home:

Turn the water off while brushing your teeth (water/dollar savings = 11,680 gallons/ \$75 per year for a family of four)

Only wash dishes when the dishwasher is full (water/dollar savings = 2,920 gallons/ \$19 per year for a family of four)

Wash only full loads of clothing (savings = 10,534 gallons/ \$68 per year for a family of four)

Upgrade to a high efficiency clothes washer (water/dollar savings = 14,585 gallons/ \$94 per year for a family of four)

Outside the Home:

Only water when needed, New Jersey landscapes need approximately one inch of water per week (most of which often comes from natural rainfall.)

Water flowers with rain collected from your roof with a rain barrel connected to your gutter downspout

Use native plants that survive best in local conditions, and group plants together based on water need

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