

OBJECTIVE 7 – RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION’S RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM

Project Summary

The Lake Hopatcong Commission (LHC) and Lake Hopatcong Foundation (LHF) worked with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension’s Water Resources Program (Rutgers) to initiate a rain garden program at Lake Hopatcong. The program involved a set of public meetings on the value, maintenance, and financial incentives associated with the installation of rain gardens. The objective of the program was to initiate a series of public presentations to raise awareness on the impacts of stormwater on water quality and develop a rebate program for stakeholders who installed rain gardens on their properties.

Schedule of Events

The LHC and LHF hosted two public webinars. Rutgers provided information on the value of rain gardens in improving water quality, how they contribute to harmful algal bloom (HAB) control and their maintenance requirements. The events were held on June 4, 2020 and March 3, 2021. Following the informational session, technical sessions were scheduled with property owners interested in installing a rain garden. At the virtual technical sessions, stakeholders met with an engineer and landscape architect to receive professional input on the installation of a rain garden on their property. The technical sessions provided homeowners with a rain garden design specifically for their property that they could install. After the installation of a rain garden, meetings were scheduled with Rutgers for inspection of the structure for compliance. With passing inspection property owners were able to apply for a rebate of \$3 per square foot up to a maximum rebate of \$450 (150 square feet).

Results

The LHC and LHF initially anticipated that 12 to 24 rain gardens would be installed in the watershed. Although over 100 property owners attended the information sessions and 25 rain garden designs were completed through technical sessions, only six rain gardens were installed.

Summary

Although the installation rate of rain gardens under the grant was lower than anticipated, the information sessions were well attended, so our public outreach goals were met. These sessions were important for distribution of information to the public about how stormwater runoff impacts the lake. Further, while only six (6) rain gardens were installed, 25 designs were produced and distributed to homeowners. There is potential for future installation of an additional 19 gardens throughout the watershed. Additionally, the LHC provides recommendations to the four municipal land use boards on all residential and commercial land use applications within 200 feet of Lake Hopatcong. As a result, these land use boards have requested green stormwater infrastructure on properties as a condition of variance approval.

So, while the final installation rate was lower than anticipated additional green stormwater infrastructure is being incorporated on residential and commercial properties in the watershed.

Finally, The LHC and LHF partially attribute the low rain garden installation rate to the COVID pandemic, having observed lower participation rates at events, conferences etc. across the country when compared to pre-pandemic conditions. If in person information and technical sessions were possible community involvement in the program may have been higher.

Rain Garden Workshop

For Residents of the Lake Hopatcong Watershed

The Lake Hopatcong Commission has partnered with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program to offer rebates of up to \$450 to homeowners that build **rain gardens or shoreline buffers**. Our goal for this program is to install at least sixteen (16) gardens within our watershed over the next two years to help improve the lake's water quality.

This **free** program is open to residents of Jefferson, Hopatcong, Mount Arlington and Roxbury who reside in the Lake Hopatcong Watershed to learn the basics of rain garden installation and design a rain garden for your home. As part of the registration process, attendees will be given the option to sign up for a **free** follow-up rain garden design session with Rutgers landscape professionals. With detailed guidance in hand, rebates may be awarded to participating residents who install a rain garden or shoreline buffer designed by Rutgers on their property.



Online Webinar Workshops
Wednesday March 3rd at 12p or 7p

For more information and to register
visit: lakehopatcongcommission.org
email: commissioner@lakehopatcongcommission.org
call: 973-601-7801



Funding for this program is provided by a NJDEP CBT & 319(h) grant awarded to the Lake Hopatcong Commission

2020-2021 Lake Hopatcong Rain Garden Program
NJDEP HAB Grant WM20-034

Installed Rain Gardens	
Address:	
522 Curtis Road	Landing, NJ 07850
229 Squaw Trail	Andover, NJ 07821
42 W Lakeview Trail	Wharton, NJ 07885
85 Espanong Rd	Lake Hopatcong NJ 07849-1301
5 homestead Rd	Lake Hopatcong NJ 07849-1302
342 Maxim Drive	Hopatcong, NJ 07843

Completed Rain Garden Designs	
Address	City, State, and Zip Code
2 Lagoon Lane	Lake Hopatcong, NY. 07849
104 Pitney Rd	Andover, New Jersey 07721
14 Papoose Trail	Andover, New Jersey 07721
229 Squaw Trail	Andover, New Jersey 07721
5 Three Rivers Drive	Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849
522 Curtis Rd	Landing, NJ 07850
512 Lakeside Ave	Andover, New Jersey 07721
17 Ithanell Road	Hopatcong NJ 07843
19 Portside Rd.	Hopatcong NJ 07843
45 Yacht Club Dr	Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849
32 Hillard Rd	Mount Arlington, NJ 07856
413A Lakeside Blvd.	Hopatcong NJ 07843
10 Algonquin Trail	Wharton NJ 07885
140 lakeside Blvd	Hopatcong NJ 07843
8 Benedict Drive	Lake hopatcong, NJ 07849
228 Dupont Ave	Hopatcong NJ 07843
42 W Lakeview Trail	Wharton, NJ 07885
85 ESpanong Rd	Lake Hopatcong NJ 07849-1301
5 Alpine Drive	Lake hopatcong, NJ 07849
47 St. Marys Drive	Succasunna, NJ 07876
342 maxim	Hopatcong NJ 07843
5 homestead Rd	Lake hopatcong, NJ 07849
582 Dell Rd	Landing, NJ 07850
24 Alabama Ave	Lake hopatcong, NJ 07849
24 East Shawnee Trail	Wharton NJ 07885