

MEDIA ADVISORY

Oct. 19, 2016

Contacts:

Debbie Mans, NY/NJ Baykeeper, 732-888-9870 x 2; debbie@nynjbaykeeper.org

Michelle Hartman, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 848-932-6711;
mlhart@envsci.rutgers.edu

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON PERTH AMBOY'S FIRST RAIN GARDEN

Project will Green City and Improve Water Quality

(PERTH AMBOY, NJ): The Alameda Center of Perth Amboy, NJ, broke ground this week on an innovative stormwater management project. The project, completed in partnership with Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the City of Perth Amboy, Alameda Center, and Perth Amboy SWIM, represents the first rain garden to be constructed in Perth Amboy to address stormwater runoff and reduce flows to combined sewers.

Media are invited to view the construction of the rain garden and talk with partners and local elected officials. (Please consider wearing sneakers or work boots to the event.)

WHEN: Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 10:30am

WHERE: Alameda Center, 303 Elm Street, Perth Amboy 08861

WHO: Mayor Wilda Diaz, the Alameda Center of Perth Amboy, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, Perth Amboy SWIM, NY/NJ Baykeeper

This project, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, is part of a larger community-based green infrastructure initiative in the City of Perth Amboy, called Perth Amboy SWIM (Stormwater Infrastructure Management). The rain gardens at the Alameda Center are designed to capture, treat, and infiltrate an estimated annual 21,330 gallons of rainwater that falls on the facilities rooftop. These gardens, once

complete, will provide storage for this stormwater runoff, allowing it to slowly infiltrate into the ground.

Rain gardens are an environmentally friendly approach to stormwater management for the City of Perth Amboy. In addition, the rain garden will provide ecological benefits and provide a relaxing environment for the residents of the facility.

“We are thrilled to be partnering with Rutgers and the community to build a rain garden at our site,” said **Jay Berger of the Alameda Center**. “Our facility has been an integral part of the Perth Amboy community for decades and we are proud to be showcasing a project that demonstrates that commitment by improving local water quality and providing a relaxing environment for the residents of the facility.”

“Our City is proud to be working with Rutgers and Alameda Center to take proactive steps to manage our stormwater like this rain garden, a great example of green infrastructure,” said **Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz**. “By working together, we’re going to reduce flooding in our City and protect the health of our local waterways”

“The rain gardens at the Alameda Center will capture and infiltrate an estimated 21,330 gallons of stormwater annually. This is equivalent to the volume of water need to fill 500 full bath tubs. Removing this quantity of water from Perth Amboy's combined sewer system reduces the occurrence of combined sewer overflows and helps improve overall water quality throughout the city,” said **Christopher C. Obropta, Associate Extension Specialist in Water Resources, Rutgers Cooperative Extension**.

“We’re so excited that Rutgers, Alameda Center and members of Perth Amboy SWIM have chosen to make our City a showcase for these technologies. We know they’re going to make a big difference for all of us that live here,” said **William Kurzenberger, Program Coordinator, City of Perth Amboy and coordinator of the City’s Green Collaborative**.

“Green infrastructure not only prevents polluted stormwater from entering our local waterways, such as the Raritan River and Bay, it also greens the community and reduces discharges from combined sewers,” said **Debbie Mans, Executive Director, NY/NJ Baykeeper**. “Our goal is to have rain gardens, cisterns, bioswales and other natural systems brought to every community in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary in order to improve water quality and resiliency.”

The goal of the initiative is to increase the development of green infrastructure demonstration projects within the City of Perth Amboy to help reduce the impacts associated with the 16 combined sewer overflows (CSOs) throughout the community. Since April 2015, this community-based initiative, formally called Perth Amboy SWIM,

has worked collaboratively to identify sites for green infrastructure demonstration projects throughout the city. In addition to the Alameda Center, projects have been installed at the Brighton Avenue Community Center (56 Brighton Avenue) and the Middlesex Vocational Technical School (457 High Street). With more projects planned for 2017.

###

About Alameda Center

An integral part of the Perth Amboy community for decades, Alameda Center is a community-based facility that serves the area's diverse skilled nursing and subacute needs with distinction. At Alameda Center we want our patients to have the comforting sense of feeling at home regardless of how long their stay with us may be. Our beautiful, state-of-the-art building is a nurturing home-inspired setting where our kind and professional staff is passionate about fulfilling the physical, medical, social, and cultural needs of each patient. For more information, please visit:

<http://alamedacenter.com/>

About NY/NJ Baykeeper

NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen advocate of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. Since 1989, we've worked to protect, preserve, and restore the environment of the most urban estuary on Earth – benefiting its natural and human communities. Through our Estuary-wide programs we seek to end pollution, improve public access, conserve and restore public lands, restore aquatic habitats, encourage appropriate and discourage inappropriate development, carry out public education, and work with federal and NY/NJ state regulators and citizen groups as partners in planning for a sustainable future for the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary watershed. For more information, please visit: www.nynjbaykeeper.org

About Perth Amboy SWIM

Perth Amboy SWIM is a community-based collaboration advocating for green infrastructure to improve water quality and reduce combined sewer overflows, using stormwater management and education.

About Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

Our mission is to identify and address community water resources issues using sustainable and practical science-based solutions. The Water Resources Program is funded by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), which receives state and federal financial support. For more information, please visit:

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

Protecting, preserving, and restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary since 1989.
Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) @NYNJBaykeeper

{{OrganizationAddress}}

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
[{{UnsubscribeLink}}](#).