

MEDIA ADVISORY

August 2, 2017

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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON PATERSON CITY SCHOOL PROPERTY

(PATERSON, NJ): Paterson Academy for the Gifted and Talented School 28 and the Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. School of Technology broke ground on an innovative stormwater management project! The projects, completed in partnership with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, the City of Paterson School Facilities, and Paterson SMART, represent one of the first green infrastructure projects to be constructed in Paterson to address stormwater runoff and reduce flows to combined sewers. An additional green infrastructure project at the John F. Kennedy High School is expected to break ground in upcoming weeks as well.

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

WHEN: Friday, August 4, 2017 at 10:00 AM

WHERE: School 28, 200 Presidential Blvd, Paterson, NJ 07522

These projects, funded by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, are part of a larger community-based green infrastructure initiative in the City of Paterson, called Paterson SMART (Stormwater Management and Resource Training). This fall, students will have the opportunity to work with Paterson SMART partners and plant native species in the rain gardens. Once complete, rain gardens will provide storage for stormwater runoff, allowing it to slowly infiltrate into the ground at school property.

Rain gardens are an environmentally friendly approach to stormwater management for the City of Paterson. In addition, rain gardens will provide ecological benefits, provide a relaxing environment for students, and provide an outdoor living lab for STEM education. [Click here](#) to learn more about rain gardens.

"The two rain gardens, annually will capture, treat, and infiltrate up to 500,000 gallons of stormwater runoff that will not flow into the combined sewer system in Paterson and the Passaic River," said **Christopher Obropta, Extension Specialist in Water Resources, Rutgers University.**

“Green infrastructure not only plays a natural role in preventing pollution from entering our local waterways, such as the Passaic River, it also beautifies the community and brings attention to the need for improved water infrastructure,” 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 order to improve water quality and resiliency.”

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About Paterson SMART

Paterson SMART is a community-based collaboration advocating for green infrastructure to improve water quality and reduce combined sewer overflows, using stormwater management and education. To learn more, visit www.patersonsmart.org

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/>

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

Protecting, preserving, and restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary since 1989.

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