

JERSEY-FRIENDLY YARDS CASE STUDY #8

OceanFirst Bank
385 Adamston Road
Brick, NJ 08723



Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)

Actions:

Lawns are time consuming and costly to maintain, potentially create an environmental burden and are not as wildlife-friendly as other landscape choices. A 200 square foot area of lawn was removed and replaced with a native perennial garden. A native garden serves as an extension of the surrounding ecosystem offering food and sustenance to pollinators, birds and wildlife, while enhancing the natural beauty of the community. The Jersey-Friendly Yards website www.jerseyyards.org was used to select native perennials with high wildlife value.

Project Leaders:

Becky Laboy and Eileen Miller: OCSCD
Rita and Pierce Varneke: Volunteers

September, 2016

Project Goals:

Create a native plant demonstration garden for customers, employees and community members using a variety of *Jersey-Friendly* plants that support wildlife.

Site Assessment:

The Adamston Road OceanFirst Bank Branch in Brick, NJ, is located next to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. A soil test revealed the loamy sand exhibits a high level of organic matter, offering an excellent nutrient source for microorganisms that keep the soil healthy. The 6.38 soil pH is the optimum range for the growth of most perennials. Macronutrients including magnesium and calcium are at optimum levels. Compost will boost nutrient levels of phosphorous and potassium. An application of mulch retains soil moisture, deters weed growth and adds organic matter through its decomposition process.



PLANT LIST

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| Blue Giant Hyssop (<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>) | False Sunflower (<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>) | Moss phlox (<i>Phlox subulata</i>) |
| Eastern Bluestar (<i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i>) | Blazing Star (<i>Liatris spicata</i>) | Obedient Plant (<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>) |
| Blue Wild Indigo (<i>Baptisia australis</i>) | Great Blue Lobelia (<i>Lobelia siphilytica</i>) | Clustered Mountain Mint (<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i>) |
| Pink Tickseed (<i>Coreopsis rosea</i>) | Scarlet Bee Balm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>) | Showy Goldenrod (<i>Solidago speciosa</i>) |
| Purple Coneflower (<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>) | Evening Primrose (<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>) | New York Aster (<i>Symphotrichum novibelgii</i>) |
| Sedum (<i>Heliotelephium telephium</i>) | Foxglove Beardtongue (<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>) | New York Ironweed (<i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i>) |



Blue Giant Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)



Funding for this project was provided by the Barnegat Bay Partnership.

"The gardens have truly enhanced our traditional branch landscaping. We are proud to partner with Ocean County Soil Conservation District to bring this project to life." -Mark Tasy, First Senior Vice President, Chief Retail Officer at OceanFirst Bank