

**2017 August-September, Quarterly Report, Education & Outreach, Becky Laboy, E&O Specialist
November 21, 2017**

Outreach Programs, Conferences, Events, Meetings:

- September 27: Envirothon Meeting; discussed the Envirothon location for 2018.
- September 29: ANJEE Fall Conference at Duke Farms, presented on healthy soil and native plants **32 program participants**
- October 6: SWCS Fall Conference, presented JFY with Karen Walzer, PPT and garden tour **18 attendees**
- October 7: FREC Forestry Festival, exhibited **over 1000 attendees**
- October 14: "Bringing Nature Home to Your Jersey-Friendly Yard" Conference, presented on the JFY projects established by OCSCD in the Barnegat Bay watershed since the inception of JFY. Announced the JFY workshop series taking place in March. **approx 157 registered, 149 attendees signed-in**
- October 21: Ocean County Master Composters, presented on healthy soil and native plants. **28 participants**
- November 4: Native Plant Society of New Jersey Fall Conference, exhibited **approx 250 attendees**
- November 15: Barnegat Bay Partnership Communication & Education Committee Mtg. Discussed the CCMP.

Anticipated Outreach Programs, Conferences and Events:

- October 6: SWCS Fall Conference, presenting JFY with Karen Walzer, PPT and garden tour, assisted with facilitation
- October 7: FREC Forestry Festival, exhibiting
- October 14: "Bringing Nature Home to Your Jersey-Friendly Yard" Conference, presenting on JFY, co-facilitating
- October 21: Ocean County Master Composters, presenting on healthy soil and native plants

Grants and Projects:

- ***Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards*** grant, funded by Barnegat Bay Partnership: Completed installation of the 3 Jersey-Friendly gardens: Cattus Island County Park, Pine Beach Admiral Point Park and Island Heights Library. Began promoting the Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards Workshop Series, which will take place on March 10, 18, 24, 2018. (Draft of Report #2, including the EJFY Workshops Instructions and Application, attached.)
- Began implementation of ***Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative*** grant, funded by NACD. (Report #1 attached.)
- Pola Galie of The Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education, submitted a full proposal to The Watershed Institute Grant Program – with OCSCD as a partner, to request funding for: ***Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards at the Lighthouse Center***. Pola should be receiving information by the end of November, letting her know if the grant was funded or not.
- 2018 Poster Contest Theme: "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home". Will be promoted next week. (flyer attached)
- Barnegat Bay Environmental Educators Roundtable: April 18, 2018. "Save the Date" will be announced next week.

Professional Development:

- October 31: Webinar: "Restoring Native Plant Communities: Soil and Hydrology Suited Planning Tools"
- November 8: "Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Standards Training", 7 hour workshop offered by New Jersey Department of Agriculture and New Jersey Natural Resource Conservation Program.



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www.SoilDistrict.org

TO: Karen Walzer, Outreach Coordinator
Barnegat Bay Partnership

FROM: Christine Raabe, District Director
Becky Laboy, Education and Outreach Specialist

Re: Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards: C-17-3
Progress Report 2: August 23, 2017 – November 22, 2017

Date: November 23, 2017

Tasks Completed:

1. Organize and Facilitate “Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards” Projects

- a. Preliminary Planning for Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards Gardens (Project Objective #1)
- b. Facilitated meetings and conversations with the 2 remaining project location partners: Pine Beach Admiral Point – Dave McKeon representing the Pine Beach Environmental Commission, Island Heights Library – Betsy Hyle representing the Island Heights Library Committee, as well as landscaping experts – Jason and Kelly Austin of *the little plant company*®
- c. Conducted continued site visits and assessments to the 2 remaining project locations: Pine Beach Admiral Point, Island Heights Library
- d. Selected plants and designed Pine Beach Admiral Point Park’s *Jersey-Friendly* landscaping and Island Heights Ocean County Public Library’s *Jersey-Friendly* garden
- e. Installed JFY landscaping at Pine Beach Admiral Point Park and installed JFY garden at Island Heights Library

2. Research and Develop Educational Workshop Series and Intensive Workshops

- a. Continued planning for Comprehensive Workshop Series (Project Objective #2) and for Educational Programs (Project Objective #3).

Descriptions of Completed Tasks:

Task 1: Organize and Facilitate “Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards” Projects

Progress: During this reporting period, OCSCD connected with partners: Pine Beach Environmental Commission representative – Dave McKeon, Island Heights Library Board of Trustees, Chair – Betsy Hyle, and *the little plant company*® – native plant experts, Jason and Kelly Austin, as well as Cicconi Farms Nursery from whom all plants for this project were procured. The Jersey-Friendly Yards website was consulted for planning, garden design, plant selection and garden preparations. Ideas and plans were shared with partners about appropriate Jersey-Friendly plants for each site, garden and landscaping designs were discussed, and dates and times for site prep, soil amendments, and garden installations were determined and confirmed. Volunteers were recruited, respective boroughs’ public works

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employees also offered assistance with site preparation. Landscaping and a garden were installed in Pine Beach and Island Heights, respectively. A Press Release was issued for Pine Beach. Photos were taken during the steps of each project and organized accordingly. Information was shared about reporting time and labor. Preparation continued regarding the educational program components of the project. Landscaping and garden installations are documented, as follows:

Pine Beach Admiral Point Park, site preparations on 09-20-17:

Admiral Point Park was established in 2015 as a riverside vista for community members to enjoy. It offers a boardwalk, pier and gazebo overlooking the Toms River. In 2016, the local Boy Scout Troop began landscape beautification efforts by creating garden beds on site, and planting grasses, perennials and two river birch trees. The “Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards” aimed to augment and enhance these plantings. Horticulture experts, Jason and Kelly Austin of *the little plant company* identified the established grasses that the scouts had planted as Maiden Grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) and Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*), both invasive species, according to the New Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. In an effort to halt the devastating effects of invasive species on our native New Jersey terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and to maintain the ecological diversity and stability in the landscape, project leaders decided to eliminate the invasive grasses and replace them with native grasses. Plans to augment the existing perennials and enhance the areas around the native river birch trees planted by the Boy Scouts, continued.

On September 20, OCSCD conducted site preparations at Admiral Point Park in collaboration with Jason and Kelly Austin of *the little plant company*, assisted by Pine Beach Borough Public Works, as pictured below. Compost, generously provided by Pine Beach Borough, was added to the beds within the landscape, and the invasive grasses were removed.



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Admiral Point Park, Pine Beach, Jersey-Friendly Yards Landscape Installation, 09-23-17:

The Jersey-Friendly Yards website was consulted to determine plant suitability for this dry, full-sun, location (see attached Pine Beach - JFY Plant List spreadsheet). On September 23, plants were delivered from Cicconi Farms, and the JFY Pine Beach Admiral Point Park landscape installation was completed. Because the site does not contain irrigation, the plants were hand-watered for several weeks until cooler weather set-in.



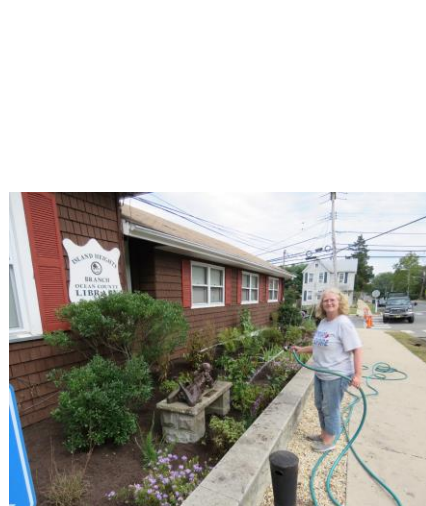
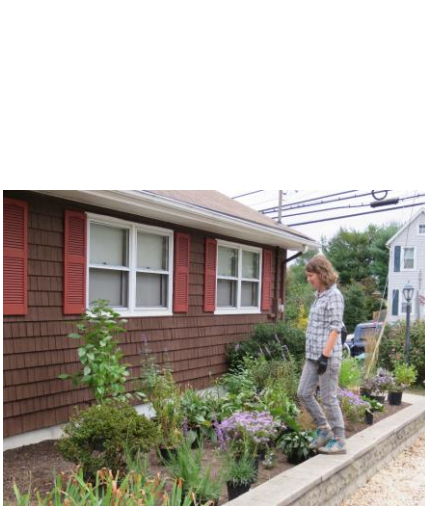
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Island Heights Library, 06-20-17

The Jersey-Friendly Yards website was consulted to determine plant suitability for the two garden locations at the Island Heights Library – one site receives full sun, and one site receives partial to full shade (see attached Island Heights - JFY Plant List spreadsheet). On October 4, OCSCD, *the little plant company*, and Island Heights Library volunteers prepped the site. In the sunny garden, weeds including Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginica*) and Leadwort (*Ceratostigma plumaginoides*) were pulled from the ground. The Island Heights Public Works crew assisted with pulling out invasive Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia spp.*). Daffodil bulbs remained beneath the soil or were relocated. Some Iris bulbs were relocated. In the shady garden, invasive *Liriope spp.* was removed along with other non-native plants. A rock pathway remained in place to direct any stormwater runoff down the slope and into the native *Aronia* shrubs.



On October 11, plants were delivered from Cicconi Farms, and the Island Heights Library garden installation was completed. A new spigot was installed by the Island Heights Library Board of Trustees and the plants were hand-watered by volunteers for several weeks until cooler weather set-in. Plans for a rain barrel installation in the spring were discussed.





Task 2: Develop, Promote and Implement Educational Workshop Series

Progress: The “Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards” project has two educational components: 1) “Objective #2” of the EJFY project states that OCSCD will plan, develop and present a series of comprehensive workshops to showcase and utilize the website as a tool, guide and resource for planning, designing and installing a home garden, resulting in 10 Jersey-Friendly home gardens throughout the Barnegat Bay watershed. Dates for the workshops were selected: March 10, 18 and 24. Lecture rooms for the workshops have been confirmed at Cattus Island County Park. An application, along with instructions, was created (attached). An announcement for this opportunity was made on October 14th at the “Bringing Nature Home to Your Jersey-Friendly Yard” Conference. The instructions and application were uploaded to the OCSCD website and sent out to over 1,300 contacts via Constant Contact. OCSCD has issued a Press Release announcing the EJFY educational workshop opportunity. At this time, one application has been received.

Curriculum for the workshops is being developed and is based on the Landscapes for Life information. Participants will be introduced to the Jersey-friendly Yards website and encouraged to use it to plan, design and install their own Jersey-friendly garden. Further progress will be described in Report #3.

2) “Objective #3” of the EJFY project states that OCSCD will develop, promote and present 4 separate educational programs promoting the JFY website as a tool, guide and resource for planning, designing and installing a Jersey-Friendly home garden or landscape, resulting in more than 100 knowledgeable community members equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the Jersey-Friendly Yards website, including low-maintenance landscaping best management practices, and garden planning tools

and resources. In consultation with project partners, it was determined that one workshop would be presented at each of the 3 locations where Jersey-Friendly gardens are being installed: Cattus Island County Park, Pine Beach, and Island Heights. Each presentation will showcase the local, newly installed Jersey-Friendly garden or landscape, while offering information about how to create your own Jersey-Friendly yard. Jersey-Friendly plant giveaways will be offered at each presentation. The dates of these presentations are not yet selected, but will take place in 2018. Further progress will be described in Report #3.



Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards!

Applicant Instructions

The Ocean County Soil Conservation District is pleased to be the recipient of a 2017 grant, funded by the Barnegat Bay Partnership, in support of our project, *"Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards"*. This education, outreach and engagement initiative is designed to showcase and promote the *Jersey-Friendly Yards* (JFY) website, www.JerseyYards.org, as an information resource and implementation guide for home gardeners to design, plan and install Jersey-Friendly gardens and landscapes in their own yard. The goal of this project is to properly manage stormwater runoff, reduce non-point source pollution, build healthy soil, implement water conservation practices, prevent negative water quality impacts, build resiliency from storm events due to climate change and sea level rise, and to support stewardship of the natural resources in the Barnegat Bay watershed. This can be accomplished one Jersey-Friendly yard at a time!

A major component of the project is to provide a series of workshops for home gardeners to introduce them to the *Jersey-Friendly Yards* website as a tool to build a healthy yard. Ten (10) applicants residing in the Barnegat Bay watershed will be selected to attend a "training" consisting of a series of three (3) 2-hour workshops, and a 1-hour private consultation of their yard. Upon completion of the "training", each of the 10 selected participants will receive a \$150 value in plant materials and amendments, including a soil test, and compost and mulch as deemed appropriate, for the sole purpose of creating a *Jersey-Friendly* garden or landscape in the selected home gardeners' yard. It is mandatory that selected applicants participate in all 3 workshops, in their entirety, in order to receive the funding. The \$150 value in materials must be used for the sole purpose of creating a Jersey-Friendly garden or landscape in the selected applicants' property, in the Barnegat Bay watershed.

The workshops will take place from 10:30am-12:30pm, at Cattus Island County Park, on:

- Saturday March 10
- Sunday March 18
- Saturday March 24

Interested home gardeners should submit a completed application to education@soildistrict.org postmarked by Saturday, January 13, 2018. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me using my contact information below.

Best regards,
Becky Laboy
Education Outreach Specialist
Ocean County Soil Conservation District
714 Lacey Road
Forked River, NJ 08731
education@soildistrict.org
609-971-7002 ext. 114

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Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards!

Application for Home Gardeners

Design, plan and install your own Jersey-Friendly yard!

**Project funded by the Barnegat Bay Partnership*

(For all responses, please elaborate on additional paper as needed.)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

Phone:

Email:

Is your property within the Barnegat Bay watershed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION:

Do you have a computer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How comfortable are you with using a computer and browsing the internet? ☐

(Reply using a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest.)

Describe your familiarity with the Jersey-Friendly Yards website (www.jerseyyards.org).

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: *(Please elaborate on additional paper as needed.)*

Describe a location within your property that you are interested in landscaping or planting a garden?

Calculate the size (square footage) of your anticipated garden or landscaping area that you want to plant.

Calculate the approximate size of your property (square footage).

Is your anticipated garden or landscaping on a salt marsh, bay or ocean (near salty or brackish water), or adjacent to a woodland? If so, please describe.

Please describe the current status of your yard, garden and landscaping. Include building structures, lawn area, paved or stone patios or driveways, existing garden beds and gardens, trees, shrubs, hedges, fencing, etc... Attach a sketch or basic site plan. Attach photos if available. (Use a separate sheet, if necessary.)

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LANDSCAPE PRACTICES: *(Please elaborate on additional paper as needed.)*

Do you...

Test your soil? ☐ Yes ☐ No How?

Amend your soil? (Please explain.)

Mow your lawn? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Hire a landscape company or lawn service? (Please explain.)

Use fertilizer? ☐ Yes ☐ No What kind? How often?

Plant flowers, trees or shrubs? (Identify, if possible.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are any of your plants native to New Jersey? (If so, please identify, if possible.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Use mulch? (Please explain.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have an irrigation system? ☐ Yes ☐ No

WORKSHOPS:

Are you willing and available to attend a series of workshops to learn about Jersey-Friendly Yards and best landscape management practices on **ALL** the following dates, from 10:30am-12:30pm: Saturday March 10, Sunday March 18, Saturday March 24? ☐ Y ☐ N

If you are selected, are you willing to maintain your own Jersey-Friendly garden or landscape once the project has been completed? ☐ Y ☐ N

If selected, are you willing to have your Jersey-Friendly garden or landscape photographed and showcased on the Jersey-Friendly Yards website, www.JerseyYards.org ? ☐ Y ☐ N

On a separate page, please **submit an explanation** of why you feel you should be selected to participate in the "Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards initiative and receive funding and technical assistance to install a Jersey-Friendly garden and/or landscaping in your yard.

By signing below, you agree that: You are the owner of or responsible party for the property listed on this application. If your application is selected, you will have the option to enter into a formal agreement with the Ocean County Soil Conservation District that details responsibilities for project implementation, including annual follow-up reports. The funds allocated for each applicants' project is \$150 for the sole purpose of the purchase of plants and plant materials. Continuous long-term maintenance of your newly installed Jersey-friendly garden or landscape will be required and expected. Technical support and assistance for the installation of the Jersey-Friendly garden or landscape is provided by OCSCD, Barnegat Bay partnership, and program partners. Submission of this application is totally voluntary, is not binding, nor a guarantee of approval.

NAME

DATE

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS URBAN AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE QUARTERLY REPORT

Ocean County Soil Conservation District

Reporting Period: August 3 – September 30, 2017

1. Describe in full the project activities during the quarter.

This first reporting period began with the formation of the *Urban Agriculture Conservation Advisory Committee*. The Committee outlined objectives (below) based on our project goal, as stated in the project proposal:

Goal: Build community capacity in Lakewood Township by utilizing the knowledge and skills of partners who make up the Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee, in their areas of expertise, to provide strategic advice and planning towards accomplishment of our collective objectives.

Objectives:

- 1) Establish Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee, composed of: Ocean County Soil Conservation District (OCSCD): Christine Raabe, Becky Laboy and Jean Baluski, with Healthy Landscapes, Inc. subcontracting through OCSCD: Eileen Miller; Georgian Court University (GCU): Louise Wootton and Rich Mohr; Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP): Stan Hales and Karen Walzer; Lakewood Public Works: Patrick Donnelly; Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority (BTMUA): Rob Karl and Shari Kondrup; New Jersey Agricultural Society (NJAS): Elyse Yerrapathruni; Lakewood High School: Brian Surgent (Horticulture Teacher); Fulfill: Riki Milchman
- 2) Establish a Sustainable Jersey Green Team (Lakewood Public Works – Patrick Donnelly). The *Sustainable Jersey* program will help offer guidance towards our actions.
 - a. Improve access to fresh food
 - b. Promote comprehensive food planning – at community and regional levels
 - c. Identify vacant lots as potential sites for urban gardens
 - d. provide site assessments and soil tests (OCSCD/Eileen Miller)
- 3) Identify and enhance *existing* urban agriculture programs (Lakewood High School – Brian Surgent; Georgian Court University Mercy Garden – Louise Wootton and Rich Mohr)
 - a. Lakewood High School – identify Ag/Hort programs currently taught, determine ways the partners can support and grow school programs.
 - i. Brian Surgent is teaching 6 Horticulture classes this school year, juniors and seniors, 150 students. Topics within his courses include: greenhouses, greenhouse management, soil, soil amendments, soil health, vegetable gardening, seed germination, transplanting, and more... he will share his syllabus with the group. He is teaching “block scheduling”, so programs provided by partners should be taught over two days so that all students are reached.
 - ii. Brain and students grow ingredients for traditional beverage which they harvest, make and enjoy at a Family Day.

- iii. The “Senior Lounge” on campus is a possible place to add a Jersey-Friendly pollinator garden (Karen Walzer, BBP).
 - iv. Brian coordinates a Spring Bulb Planting Breakfast – partners can assist with coordination once date and time is determined.
 - v. Expand growth of vegetables in greenhouses for harvesting and distribution
 - b. Georgian Court Mercy Garden – list Ag/Hort programs currently taught, determine ways the partners can support and grow your program (Rich Mohr). The GCU Mercy Garden is an opportunity for students to earn their mandatory Service Learning credits or an opportunity for internships.
- 4) Support implementation of new community urban agriculture programs including community food gardens.
 - a. Lakewood High School – identify list of new Ag/Hort programs you wish to implement, gardens/beds/containers you wish to create, determine ways the partners can support and grow your program (Brian Surgent).
 - i. Install new raised beds on campus for growing food and pollinator-friendly plants (assistance from BBP – JFY website) Create a soil web survey for the campus (Eileen Miller). There is a possibility for raised beds in some areas of the tennis court grounds, as well as other areas on schools grounds – to be identified.
 - b. Georgian Court Mercy Garden – list Ag/Hort programs you wish to implement, gardens/beds/containers you wish to create, determine ways the partners can support and grow your program (Rich Mohr).
 - i. GCU is looking to incorporate a “Globalization and Sustainability” approach to their Mercy Garden program.
 - ii. Install “community gardens” at the Mercy Garden
 - iii. summer programs; adult internships; training program for families
 - c. Identify opportunities to connect GCU Mercy Garden interns or Service Learning students with Lakewood HS students/programs – determine who is interested in participating on an individual student bases; and/or set-up field trips to connect students from both schools.
 - d. Explore opportunities for field trips to the Ocean County Park Master Gardeners greenhouses.
 - e. Connect with Doug Kaufman of NRCS regarding a High Tunnel for Lakewood High School.
 - f. Shari Kondrup (BTMUA) shared a list of faith-based groups in Lakewood for outreach and possible places for community gardens.
- 5) Organize and implement educational workshops, topics include:
 - a. Best landscape management practices (OCSCD, Eileen Miller)
 - b. How to conduct a site assessment and soil testing (OCSCD, Eileen Miller)
 - c. Soil Health (OCSCD, Eileen Miller)
 - d. Nonpoint source pollution and stormwater runoff prevention using BBP’s website: Jersey-Friendly Yards (BBP – Karen Walzer) *BBP hosts the NJ Watershed Ambassador who can visit Lakewood High School and teach non-point source pollution through the Enviroscope
 - e. Sustainable urban food gardening (Lakewood HS – Brian, and GCU – Louise/Rich);
 - f. Water conservation (BTMUA – Shari Kondrup) programs at the Reservoir.

*There is a cut down-spout on Lakewood HS campus that is ready for a rain barrel. Shari can assist with installation of a rain barrel on Lakewood HS campus

- and water conservation programs. “Community Day” at Ocean County Park – Rain Barrel workshop with Shari; connect with Chris Claus at Ocean County Park.
- g. Showcase community native plant gardens, such as the “SHIP Gardens”, at Jakes Branch (OCSCD), inquire with Ocean County Park about tours of their native plant gardens (OCSCD, OCP – Chris Claus)
 - h. Showcase community native plant gardens developed through this project on Jersey-Friendly Yards website as “Success Stories”
 - i. Shari Kondrup has suggested we investigate additional venues for educational programs – faith based organizations, libraries, etc...
- 6) Coordinate community food harvesting and distribution (Fulfill – Riki; NJ Ag Society - Farmers Against Hunger – Elyse Yerrapathrui) *November gleaning event at Hallocks in Ocean County, per Riki and Elyse – can the Lakewood students participate in a field trip to the gleaning farm?
- a. Identify local farms for gleaning food: Eastmont Orchards in Colts Neck (apples), Hallocks U-Pick Farm in New Egypt, Ocean County – potatoes, green beans, beets.
 - b. Identify volunteers to do the gleaning/harvesting/distribution: Lakewood HS students – field trips.
 - c. Support NJ Agricultural Society’s *Farmers Against Hunger* produce gleaning efforts and food distribution through Fulfill (with support from all partners)
 - d. Determine how partners can support *Bus for LHS field trip to Hallocks Farm, on a weekday
 - e. Recent natural disasters have put a strain on food banks in regards to need for food, carriers, freight cost – how can we address this?
- 7) Develop “Tool Kit” offering resources for healthy and sustainable gardening and community garden land use
- a. Collect electronic resources (OCSCD)
 - b. Low Maintenance Landscape Guides, in English print in Spanish, for distribution as part of the Tool Kit. (OCSCD; GCU/BTMUA facilitated the translation into Spanish by Gisselle Mesa’s Service Learning hours)
 - c. Sustainable Jersey Green Team can assist with identification of other pertinent resources (Lakewood Public Works – Patrick)
- 8) Consultation with Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 9) Technical recommendations based on the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide

Also discussed and shared:

- Summary of Labor Expenditures - template (for time spent on any particular grant activity) – fill-in based on “salary” (supported by the grant) or “in-kind” (time offered/supported by partner’s own employer). Electronic copies sent to partners.
- NACD Quarterly Report Template – fill out any grant-related activities (which will coincide with your Summary of Labor Expenditures – time sheet), then submit to Becky Laboy (OCSCD) by: Oct 15, Jan 15, April 15, July 15.
- Partner email contact info shared with all partners.

Reporting Period #1 - Accomplishments:

- Goals and Objectives of the project were outlined. Based on these goals and objectives (see above), partners began working towards, and accomplished, the following during this reporting period:
- Submitted a proposal to the Lakewood High School Board of Education for the following - on the Board's Agenda for October 18, 2017:
 - *Approve that the Lakewood School District partner with Ocean County Soil Conservation District, Georgian Court University, Ocean County Food Bank (Fulfill), and the Lakewood Dept. of Public Works, on the Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative. The initiative has been awarded a grant of \$50,000 from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to achieve our vision. The goal of the initiative is agricultural production utilizing the technique of Urban Agriculture, (the use of urban spaces for crop production) and bringing this produce to the disadvantaged of our community. We seek the eventual establishment of a summer Farmers Market and a series of informative seminars on nutrition and gardening practice that will be available to the local community. The Lakewood High School Horticulture Program will utilize a plot on school grounds for the construction of a series of raised vegetable beds. Grant funding will be utilized.*
- Compiled a list of web resources for the "Tool Kit"; will continue to build on this list throughout the project. (attached)
- Created soil maps of Lakewood High School using the Web Soil Survey, in an effort to determine the best places for a school garden. This 144 page survey will be available on the OCSCD website during the second reporting period. Further soil assessment and sampling will begin once the garden site has been determined.
- Steps are being taken to bring Lakewood High School students to a local orchard, "Hallocks U-Pick Farm" and/or Eastmont Orchards, for participation in "gleaning" efforts. One gleaning event will take place in October and Lakewood High School is requesting a field trip in November, subject to approval from the Lakewood Board of Education. More details will be submitted during the next reporting period.
- Educational opportunities: viewed webinars to gather information about other Soil Conservation Districts' and organizations' participation in similar projects.
 - NACD webinar: "Urban and Community Conservation", viewed by Eileen Miller, Healthy Landscapes, Inc.
 - NACD webinar: "Enhancing Resiliency through Natural Resource Management", viewed by Eileen Miller, Healthy Landscapes, Inc.
 - NACD webinar: Urban Agriculture Conservation webinar featuring the Durham County SWCD, viewed by Eileen Miller, Healthy Landscapes, Inc.
- Plants for a garden at Lakewood High School were offered by *Pope's Gardens*, through Camden County Soil Conservation District. Delivery of these plants to Lakewood High School will take place in the following reporting period.

- The Low Maintenance Landscaping Guide was translated into Spanish this past summer by a Georgian Court University student, Gisselle Mesa. During this reporting period, the proofs were sent to our printing house, who then reformatted the text and illustrations (see live link on the attached “Tool Kit” resources page). The actual reprinting and delivery of the Spanish version of the Low Maintenance Landscaping Guides will occur in the next reporting period. Distribution of the LML Guides will take place throughout the period of this grant project, and beyond.

2. Using the project budget chart, list the quarter’s expenses and describe them in narrative below.

Instead of using the chart provided, I attached “Time Sheets” from each of our partners indicating the time spent on our objectives and the financial value of each partner’s time. I indicated if the expense was paid through NACD funds or if it was “in-kind” (non-NACD funds). A brief description of activities was indicated in everyone’s Time Sheet. Activities are also discussed in this narrative. An attached Consolidated Financial Report reflects all expenditures for this reporting period.

OCSCD initiated the printing of a Spanish version of our Low Maintenance Landscaping Guide within the first reporting period (08/03/17-09/30/17). When making our payment in the second reporting period, we anticipate modifications in the budget, not exceeding 10%, to be enacted in the second report, in order to cover costs: 1) all monies allocated for reprinting the 2 identified pieces of literature: Low Maintenance Landscaping guide in Spanish, and the New Jersey Soil Health Assessment (\$4400), will be put towards the reprinting of the LML guide in Spanish, only. 2) the NJ Soil Health Assessment Guide will not be reprinted through this project. 3) Money allocated for “Travel” (\$500) will be put towards the printing of the LML guide in Spanish. 4) OCSCD will offer in-kind funds to supplement the remainder of the cost of the LML guide in Spanish. These changes will be reflected on the Consolidated Financial Report document for the second reporting period.

3. Explain who has participated and/or been assisted in the project during this quarter.

Participants:

Ocean County Soil Conservation District (OCSCD): Christine Raabe and Becky Laboy, with Healthy Landscapes Inc. subcontracting through OCSCD: Eileen Miller; Georgian Court University (GCU): Louise Wootton and Rich Mohr; Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP): Karen Walzer; Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority (BTMUA): Shari Kondrup; New Jersey Agricultural Society (NJAS): Elyse Yerrapathruni; Lakewood High School: Brian Surgent (Horticulture Teacher), Fulfill: Riki Milchman. Patrick Donnelly of Lakewood Public Works, although a partner on this project, did not participate in activities in the first reporting period.

Recipients of Assistance:

Lakewood High School, Brian Surgent - Horticulture Teacher, and Lakewood High School students – received plants for school beautification.

4. Describe conservation and other outcomes that have resulted from the project to date.

- A soil survey was created for the Lakewood High School campus using Soil Web Survey.

- Plants were donated to beautify the Lakewood High School campus, and offer a platform for future educational opportunities.
- Initiated reproduction of a Spanish version of OCSCD's Low Maintenance Landscaping Guide for the Barnegat Bay Watershed

5. Explain what steps have been taken during the quarter to ensure long-term sustainability of the project.

Partners are continuing to investigate grant opportunities so that we may continue our work in “urban agriculture” when this grant project is completed. Grants and topics investigated so far include:

- Sustainable Agriculture Grants: <http://www.sare.org/Grants>
- EPA Healthy Places for Healthy People: Smart Growth grants: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/healthy-places-healthy-people-2017-2018-application>
- USDA NRCS Soil Health: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>
- USDA NRCS Soil health at Any Scale: Building Soil Health in a High Tunnel: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcseprd1318030>

6. Describe how the project has been promoted and attach materials such as press releases, flyers, etc.

A Press Release (attached) was sent to local media on July 18, 2017, as soon as we learned of the award.


CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION : Ocean County Soil
Conservation District

PROJECT NAME: Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative
PERFORMANCE PERIOD: 8/03/17 to 08/01/18
REPORT PERIOD: 08/03/17 to 09/30/17

BBP-FUNDED EXPENSES						MATCH				
CATEGORIES	Budget (A)	Prior Period Expenses (B)	Current Period Expenses (D)	TOTAL Expenses to Date (E=C+D)	Balance (F= A-E)	Budget (G)	Prior Period Expenses (H)	Current Period Expenses (I)	TOTAL Expenses to Date (J=H+I)	Balance (K= G-J)
A. PERSONNEL (OCSCD Salaries)	24,500.00		1,415.00	1,415.00	23,085.00	11,020.00			-	11,020.00
B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (Eileen Miller)	10,000.00		1,650.00	1,650.00	8,350.00				-	-
C. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (Rich Mohr/Partners)	10,000.00					5,000.00		536.92	536.92	4,463.08
D. OCSCD TRAVEL	500.00			-	500.00	500.00		43.66	43.66	456.34
E. REPRINTS (OCSCD Literature)	4,400.00		-	-	4,400.00				-	-
F. TRAINING WORKSHOP (printing, planning, mailing)				-	-	500.00			-	500.00
G. SOIL ASSESSMENTS/TESTING	600.00			-	600.00					
H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	50,000.00	-	3,065.00	3,065.00	36,935.00	17,020.00	-	580.58	580.58	16,439.42
I. INDIRECT COSTS				-	-				-	-
J. TOTALS	50,000.00	-	3,065.00	3,065.00	36,935.00	17,020.00	-	580.58	580.58	16,439.42
PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET SPENT				6%						3%

JEAN BALUSKI: OFFICE MANAGER
NAME AND TITLE - OFFICE MANAGER


SIGNATURE - OFFICE MANAGER

11-1-17
DATE



PRESS RELEASE – *For Immediate Release* – July 18, 2017

Ocean County Soil Conservation District and Partners Awarded Grant Funding to Support Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative in Lakewood Township

Contact: *Becky Laboy, Education Coordinator,*
Ocean County Soil Conservation District
609-971-7002 ext. 114, education@soildistrict.org

Ocean County Soil Conservation District (OCSCD) is pleased to announce an award of \$50K in grant funding from National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These funds will support our "Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative", a project developed in partnership with Georgian Court University, Lakewood Township, Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority, Barnegat Bay Partnership, and New Jersey Agricultural Society. An Urban Agricultural Advisory Committee consisting of all partners, as well as Fulfill (previously Monmouth-Ocean Food Bank), Lakewood High School, and New Jersey Farm Bureau, has been established. The Committee will utilize the knowledge and skills of partners in their areas of expertise to provide strategic advice and planning towards accomplishment of our goals:

- assist in establishing a *Sustainable Jersey Green Team*
- enhance existing urban agricultural programs
- support the implementation of new community gardens
- facilitate educational workshops on best landscape management practices and sustainable urban food gardening
- coordinate community food harvesting and distribution

Outcomes of this project include building capacity in Lakewood Township in an effort to encourage civic engagement and education that is necessary to prosper as a leader in providing healthy food and clean water for the community. By engaging residents in meaningful practices, participating partners will be building the foundation for a sustainable urban agriculture program in Lakewood Township that will benefit the community for many years to come.

For more information about this project, please contact Becky Laboy, OCSCD Education Outreach Specialist, 609-971-7002 ext. 114, Education@soildistrict.org. Connect with the many resources on healthy soil found at the Ocean County Soil Conservation District website: www.soildistrict.org.

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Lakewood Religious Institutions

Location	Address
Ocean County Library	301 Lexington Ave
Congregation Dov "V" Schmuel	1143 West County Line RD
Chabad Jewish Center of Jackson	645 Cross Str
Congregation Sons of Israel	590 Madison Ave
Congregation Sons of Israel	4 Ridge Ave
Zeev Rothschild	231 Main Street
St Mary of the Lake	43 Madison Ave
St Anthony Claret	780 Ocean Ave
First Baptist Church	1st & Clifton ave
Macedonia Baptist Church	143 Joh Street
Sixth Street Baptist Church	15 6th ave
Christian Missionary Church	220 E 7th Str
All Saints Episcopal Church	213 Madison Ave
Bethel Spanish Pentecostal Assembly of God	219 Clifton Ave
Lakewood Spanish SDA Church	1451 Pine Street
Bethel AME Church	18 Clifton Ave
Christ United Methodist Church	678 5th Str
St John AME Zion Church	114 1st Str
Immanuel Lutheran Church	20 Monterey Circle
Future Glory of Zion Church	204 2nd Str
Hisblood Church	423 Woodlake Manor Dr.
Intercessory Tabernacle Ministry	500 Arlington Ave
Restoration Family Worship Center	525 E County Line Rd
First Presbyterian Church	313 Clifton Ave
Hope Presbyterian Church	617 Hope Chapel Rd
Missionary Pentacostal Church	155 E 4th Str
Holy Family	1143 E County Line
Calvary Lighthouse	1133 E County Line Rd, Route 526

All addresses in Lakewood, NJ 08701

Resource List for Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative “Tool Kit”:

Ocean County Soil Conservation District:

<http://www.soildistrict.org/>

OCSCD is proud to support the Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative project, designed to engage Lakewood Township residents in agricultural practices within an urban setting. Funding for this project has been provided by the National Association of Conservation Districts through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Through this project OCSCD has made their Low Maintenance Landscaping Guide available in two languages: [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Partners supporting the Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative:

Healthy Landscapes, Inc.; [Georgian Court University](#) (GCU); [Barnegat Bay Partnership](#) (BBP); [Lakewood Public Works](#); [Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority](#) (BTMUA); [New Jersey Agricultural Society](#) (NJAS); [Lakewood High School](#); [Fulfill](#).

Growing Food Connections:

The overarching goal of this partnership is to enhance community food security while ensuring sustainable and economically viable agriculture and food production. This requires building the capacity of local governments to remove public policy barriers and deploy innovative public policy tools.

<http://growingfoodconnections.org/>

<http://growingfoodconnections.org/tools-resources/community-guide/>

Download a copy of “Growing Local: A Community Guide to Planning for Agriculture and Food Systems”

http://growingfoodconnections.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/06/AFT_GFC_Community-Guide_lo_res_04-2017.pdf

This guide is meant to help communities remove public policy barriers and advance policy solutions to strengthen community food systems.

The Sustainable Urban Forest: A Step-by-Step Approach:

http://www.itreetools.org/resources/content/Sustainable_Urban_Forest_Guide_14Nov2016.pdf

Meadowscaping Guidebook:

<https://wmswcd.org/types/habitat-restoration/>

Mary Logalbo, mary@wmswcd.org

West Multnomah SWCD, OR

www.wmswcd.org

USDA NRCS Soil Health:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/soils/health/>

The Good Food Project:

A model community garden network that feeds, educates, and connects Food Bank clients and the broader CENLA community, empowering people to achieve better health through sustainable gardening and access to nutritious food.

<https://www.goodfoodprojectcenla.org/>

Kids Gardening:

Opportunities for kids to learn through gardening, engaging their natural curiosity and wonder by providing inspiration, community know-how and resources.

<https://www.kidsgardening.org/>

Planting Justice:

A grassroots organization with a mission to empower people impacted by mass incarceration and other social inequalities with the skills and resources to cultivate food sovereignty, economic justice and community healing.

<http://www.plantingjustice.org/>

National Gardening Association:

<https://garden.org/>

Clean Water, Beautiful Bay: Barnegat Bay Stormwater Projects in Action, Stories of Success

by American Littoral Society

An overview of successful stormwater projects in the Barnegat Bay Watershed

Cornell University Manual: Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health

<http://soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu/training-manual/>

A downloadable resource to guide land managers in making targeted management practices to alleviate identified constraints and maintain healthier soils.

Local Government Commission: “Cultivating Community Gardens”

<https://www.lgc.org/community-gardens/>

LGC works to build livable communities and local leadership by connecting leaders via innovative programs and network opportunities, advancing policies through participation at the local and state level, and implementing solutions as a technical assistance provider and advisor to local jurisdictions. Program areas include: healthy community design including community gardens, climate change, energy and water.

Case Studies can be downloaded:

http://www.lgc.org/wordpress/docs/freepub/community_design/fact_sheets/community_gardens_cs.pdf

EPA Local Food Local Places

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places>

EPA Local Foods, Local Places Toolkit was developed to help communities interested in using local foods to support downtown and neighborhood revitalization. It provides step-by-step instructions for planning and hosting a community workshop and includes case studies and templates that communities can adapt to their needs.

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places-toolkit>

Grow NYC

<https://www.grownyc.org/gardens/publications>

This website offers a Community Garden Manual and several Green Infrastructure Guides.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden

https://www.bbg.org/gardening/how-tos/category/kitchen_gardening

A collection of “Gardening How-To Articles” from BBG.

