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**NEWS**

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## **PVSC Installs Rain Collection Systems At Two District Schools**

*Rain Gardens Reduce Pollution and Flooding Issues*



**Newark, NJ –Newark, NJ** – The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) partnered with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program five years ago to pilot a Green Infrastructure Outreach and Technical Assistance Program. The program is designed to provide guidance and direction to the 48 municipalities in the PVSC service area regarding the benefits and opportunities of implementing green infrastructure practices.

One of these efforts is the management of storm water, a major cause of water pollution. When rain falls on grass or other vegetation, the water is absorbed and filtered by soil and plants. However, when rain falls on paved streets and surfaces, the rain water cannot soak into the ground. In those cases, the rain water must be properly managed to prevent flooding and remove pollution that the rain water/storm water may have picked up from streets, driveways, or other paved surfaces. At many local schools, rain drains from rooftops only to settle on the asphalt or cement playgrounds and driveways next to the schools.

Over the last five years, PVSC and RCE have worked with various municipalities to develop Green Infrastructure feasibility studies to identify rain-harvesting projects. This fall, PVSC and RCE addressed this concern at Abraham Lincoln School No. 6 in Garfield (above, left) and Langston Hughes Elementary School in East Orange (above, right). PVSC’s River Restoration Program, Line Operations Department and Pipe Shop teamed to install the rain gardens at both of these schools. Both rain gardens collect storm water from the

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rooftops that would otherwise puddle on playgrounds and eventually make it to the nearby sewers, collecting trash and other forms of debris along the way.

“At PVSC, we have always taken pride in our mission to protect the public health and the environment,” said PVSC Chairman Thomas Tucci, Jr. “Our commitment to that mission is reflected in the partnership we forged with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. Together, we have worked with several communities and schools to showcase how rainwater harvesting systems can reduce flooding and other hazards in our local waterways.”

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