



Helping MS4s Reach Their Residents

We provided materials for MS4s to implement public education and outreach within their communities, including factsheets, stormwater articles, educator resources, and specific outreach strategies focusing on pet waste, storm drain marking, yard care, and business good housekeeping, and contributed stormwater articles to local media outlets. We encouraged public participation by assisting with storm drain marking events, and supported the use of low impact development techniques by homeowners, developers, and business owners through factsheets, training manuals, and brochures.

Public Education and Outreach

- Created a comprehensive manual, *Reaching Out to Residents: Municipal Strategies for Public Stormwater Involvement*, to provide MS4s with public outreach materials and strategies appropriate for municipalities or non-profit/other community organizations to implement. Materials included factsheets, article bank, cartoons, outreach strategies, and youth educational resources.
- Produced a pet waste strategy with model ordinance, sample press releases, incentives, and pet waste station information to facilitate proper disposal of pet waste.
- Produced a yard care strategy to help publicize stormwater friendly yard care, schedule speaking programs by URI Master Gardeners organize rain barrel sales, and install rain gardens.
- Produced a storm drain marking strategy with cost information, event instructions, sample press releases, and marker template.
- Produced a business good housekeeping strategy with IDDE ordinance overview and model, sample press release, and business self inspection checklist for IDDE compliance.
- Produced seven customized stormwater education and outreach plans for the towns of Charlestown, Lincoln, Middletown, Pawtucket, South Kingstown, and Woonsocket and for the non-profit, Narrow River Preservation Association to provide straight-forward, low-cost methods for tackling the highest priority stormwater issues in each community.

Public Involvement

- We assisted 5 MS4s with storm drain marking events, involving more than 170 participants and marking a total of 834 drains in South Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly, Tiverton, and University of Rhode Island. Created “Know Where It Goes” storm drain markers, intended for MS4s to use at reduced cost.



Rain barrels for sale at the 2010 Richmond Earth Day celebration.



RISS storm drain markers have been used throughout the state during storm drain marking events.

- Worked closely with the Narrow River Preservation Association to secure a grant to fund a stormwater BMP demonstration and education project in a residential neighborhood.
- Worked closely with North Kingstown to begin an LID retrofit project in the Sawmill Pond Watershed. As a result, the Town plans to design and construct 10 demonstration rain gardens and provide education for installers and homeowners as a pilot training for the design and installation of rain gardens for landscapers.
- Participated in the design and installation of a 407-square-foot rain garden on the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center grounds in collaboration with the Providence Parks Department and CT NEMO during RI Residential Rain Garden Training in spring 2011. Trainees affiliated with GroundWorks Providence completed their field training by installing a second 320 square-foot rain garden at the Manton Heights Housing Development in Providence, RI under the direction of Gates, Leighton Associates in partnership with GroundWorks Providence.
- Participated in the design and installation of a 200 square-foot rain garden at Louttit Library in collaboration with the Town of West Greenwich during RI Residential Rain Garden Training in fall 2011. Developed a factsheet about the West Greenwich rain garden for town officials and library/ town hall visitors.
- Initiated planning of a Rain Garden Maintenance Program for URI Master Gardeners, who will be trained to support local stormwater managers in routine care, maintenance and troubleshooting of public rain gardens. The training program is tentatively planned for spring, 2012 depending on availability of resources. It is expected that Master Gardeners participating in the program will “adopt” a rain garden for up to one year, providing assistance to municipal staff with maintenance, training and technical support in rain garden care.
- Produced Rain Gardens: A Design Guide For Homeowners in Rhode Island, a general interest brochure adapted from the University of CT to assist homeowners with voluntary rain garden installation projects.
- Produced LID factsheets for business owners and land developers.



Providence GroundWorks trainees install a 320-square foot rain garden in the Manton Heights Housing Development to collect, treat, and infiltrate runoff from a portion of an adjacent parking lot.



Fall 2011 RI Residential Rain Garden Training participants install a 200 square foot garden at the Louttit Library to collect, treat, and infiltrate 1 inch of runoff from a portion of the roof.