



For Immediate Release  
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Contact:

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## A BEAUTIFUL RAIN GARDEN IS FINISHED IN AUDUBON PARK

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, working with the Borough of Audubon Park, NJ, led 20 volunteers on Saturday, October 26 in finishing the planting of a 5,000 square foot garden in this small community that is situated next to Peters Creek, a tributary of Newton Creek and the Delaware River. The rain garden cleans pollutants from stormwater runoff coming from the parking lots before the water can flow into the Creek. The rain garden also infiltrates stormwater runoff into the soil to supplement the natural underground flow of water towards the Creek, enhancing the natural water cycle and the health of the Creek.

600 native trees and shrubs were planted earlier in the week in the rain garden and along the creek-side buffer area, funded by the Borough. Saturday the volunteers installed the 1,000 native perennials and grasses in the rain garden, provided by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

“The native plants were chosen to handle both wet and dry conditions, as well as provide flowering and visual interest throughout the year to help beautify the park” said John Nystedt of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, who designed the rain garden plantings. “The plants help soak up and purify the stormwater runoff that flows into the rain garden, stabilize the soil, enhance the habitat, and beautify the open space along the Creek. We had great volunteers helping today, who worked hard and finished on time.”

The volunteer day was capped off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by the Audubon Park mayor, Larry Pennock, after he finished planting alongside the other volunteers including his wife, Dawn Pennock. After the Audubon Park fire department finished watering the plants, all went on to enjoy a celebratory lunch provided by the Borough. On the way to lunch, John Nystedt and Fred Stine of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network were lucky enough to spot a bald eagle passing by over the Creek, and then a half-dozen white egrets circled overhead after being disturbed by the eagle.

Funding for the project was provided from sources including Community Development Block Grants, Camden County Municipal Sewer Authority, ShopRite and private donations.

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“This project is a living example of the efforts of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network in improving stormwater management and water quality in our region,” says Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.



Mayor Pennock, surrounded by the volunteers, cut the ribbon to officially open the rain garden.



The finished rain garden cleans pollutants from runoff and is ready to start growing and flowering in 2014.

For more information, contact John Nystedt at 215.369.1188 ext 112, or [john@delawariverkeeper.org](mailto:john@delawariverkeeper.org).

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