

June 2023

Double the Rain Gardens, Double the Impact at Hackettstown Middle School

Hackettstown Middle School (HMS) is the latest school in New Jersey to install rain gardens to manage stormwater runoff and create wildlife habitat in the Upper Delaware River watershed and New Jersey Highlands Planning Area. Two rain gardens, 360 and 325 square feet, were installed at the front entrance of HMS. These rain gardens manage runoff from two rooftop drainage areas of 1,440 and 1,405 square feet, respectively, and each have the potential to manage 25,070 gallons of runoff annually.

The Water Resources Program provided the design, and local excavator, Robert Burd and the Hackettstown School District facilities staff constructed the rain gardens. Six classes of HMS students and teachers planted over 200 native perennials and shrubs, beautifying the entrance, and creating a new habitat for pollinator species.

The two HMS projects were funded through a combined effort of the Hackettstown School District and the Water Resources Program. Funding was provided from Hackettstown Middle School through a New Jersey Department of Education Climate Awareness Education grant and from the Water Resources Program through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant.

Photos:



Completed rain gardens at Hackettstown Middle School (RCE Water Resources Program)



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Completed rain gardens at Hackettstown Middle School (RCE Water Resources Program)



Before rain garden installation at Hackettstown Middle School (RCE Water Resources Program)



Completed rain gardens at Hackettstown Middle School (RCE Water Resources Program)