Natural Landscapes for Homes with Jersey-Friendly Yards

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Ocean County Soil Conservation District

• Serves Ocean County, New Jersey
  • 629 sq miles of land
  • 287 sq miles of water
  • Population: 592,497 (doubles in summer)
  • 50 miles east of Philadelphia
  • 70 miles south of New York City
  • 25 miles north of Atlantic City
  • Jersey Shore
  • Pine Barrens
  • Kirkwood-Kohansey Aquifer

“To be recognized as a conservation leader with the ability to partner effectively, and use every opportunity to further sustainable resource management for current and future citizens of Ocean County and beyond.”
Barnegat Bay Partnership

- National Estuary Program
  - Working to improve the health of the Barnegat Bay Watershed
- Barnegat Bay Watershed
  - Overlays Ocean County
  - Water bodies drain over the land following a gentle slope towards to the Barnegat Bay
  - 30% impervious surfaces
  - Stormwater runoff
  - Non-point source pollution
  - Fertilizers
  - Eutrophication
Jersey-Friendly Yards Website

“Clean water in our state for drinking, swimming, fishing, and wildlife, and a healthier environment for everyone.”

- Developed by BBP with funding from NJDEP
  - To address eutrophication at the source
  - Build healthy soil
  - Conserve water
  - Re-establish habitat for pollinators
Orientation to the Jersey-Friendly Yard Website

www.jerseyyards.org
Piloting the Jersey-Friendly Yards Website

• 2015: “NJ Yards” - 6 Home Owners Associations along the Metedeconk River
  • Bay Head Shores
  • Cedarcroft Club
  • Metedeconk River Yacht Club
  • Nejecho Beach
  • Seawood Harbor
  • Visitation Relief Center

• 2016: “From Lawn to Garden – Going Green, Saving Green” - 3 OceanFirst Bank Branches
  • Hooper Ave
  • Adamston Rd
  • Leesville Rd

• 2017: “Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards” - 3 Barnegat Bay Watershed Community Properties
  • Cattus Island County Park
  • Island Heights Library
  • Pine Beach Municipal Park
2015: “NJ Yards” - 6 Home Owners Associations along the Metedeconk River

- Application Process
- Orientation Mtg
  - Introduced JFY website
- OCSCD Site and Soil Assessments
- Review Mtg
- Garden Installation
- Celebration
“NJ Yards” Projects – Success Stories
2016: “From Lawn to Garden – Going Green, Saving Green!”

- 3 OceanFirst Bank Branches: Leesville, Adamston and Hooper
- Plan the Jersey-Friendly Gardens
  - 8 Steps to a JFY
    - Site Assessments
    - Soil Tests
Design the Jersey-Friendly Yard Projects

Purple Coneflower

False Sunflower

Eastern Columbine

Blue Wild Indigo

[Diagram of garden map with plant names and dates]
Install the Jersey-Friendly Yard Projects
Showcase the Jersey-Friendly Yards Projects
2017: “Experience Jersey-Friendly Yards!” Project

• 3 Community-based Locations:
  • Cattus Island County Park
  • Island Heights Library
  • Pine Beach Municipal Park
Education Component

• Introduce the Jersey-Friendly Yards website
• Showcase Jersey-Friendly native plant gardens
• Share supplemental literature
  • Going Native!
  • Low Maintenance Landscaping
Success, Challenges, Opportunities

• Successes:
  • Jersey-Friendly Demonstration Gardens throughout the Watershed
  • Lawn replaced with native plants
  • Reduction in fertilizers and non-point source pollution

• Challenges:
  • Garden maintenance
    • weeding,
    • mulching,
    • watering

• Opportunities:
  • Continue to plant Jersey-Friendly Gardens
  • Continue to educate homeowners and residents about importance of planting native, Jersey-Friendly yards and gardens
Thank you!

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