

Green Infrastructure Walking Tour

Highland Park installed its 10th green infrastructure demonstration garden in May 2023 thanks to a generous grant from Sustainable Jersey and the PSEG Foundation. To celebrate this milestone, Sustainable Highland Park developed a Green Infrastructure Walking Tour with ten stops at various green infrastructure demonstrations around town.



See below for the map, list of green infrastructure projects, and plant materials used in each of the projects, as well as suggestions in making your lawn and landscaping more stormwater-friendly!

What is green infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure is an approach to managing stormwater runoff by infiltrating it in the ground where it is generated using vegetation or porous surfaces, or by capturing it for later reuse. Green Infrastructure:

1. Reduces stormwater volume
2. Reduces impervious cover
3. Decreases and delays peak discharge
4. Prevents pollution
5. Recharges groundwater

Where can I experience Green Infrastructure in Highland Park?

Highland Park Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure Projects



Teen Center Rain Garden & Poured Pavement



So. 3rd Rain Garden - East



So. 3rd Rain Garden - West



So. 4th Rain Garden - East



So. 4th Rain Garden - West



So. 5th Rain Garden - West



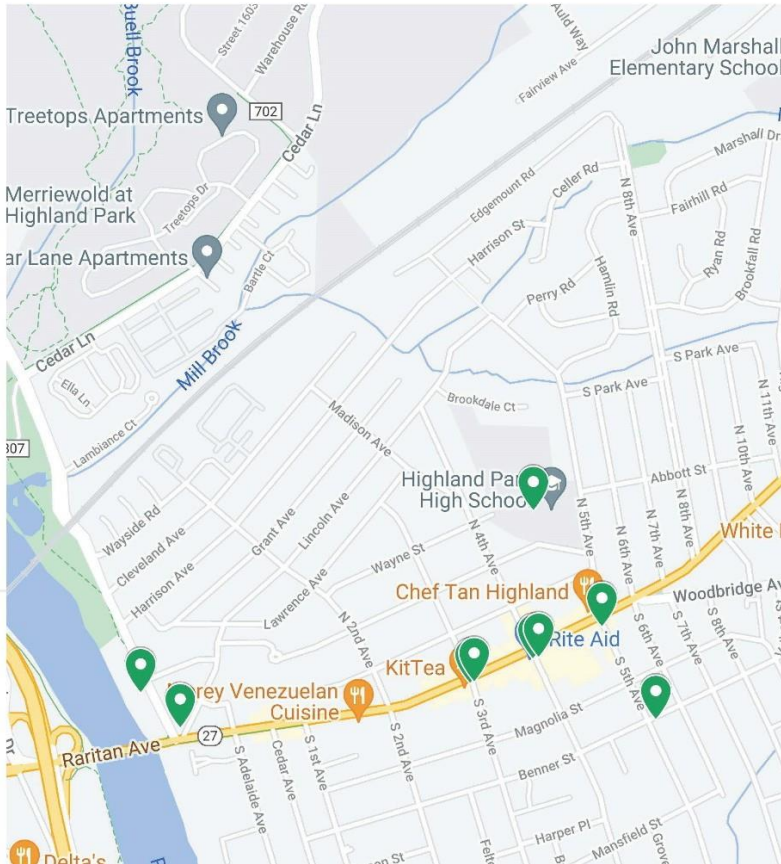
HPHS Rain Garden & Bioretention Basin



Environmental Education Center Green Roof



Centennial Park Rain Garden



***Tour Stop #1: Environmental Education Center Green Roof
20 River Road***

This green roof is designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the storm sewer system. Green roofs are planted with native vegetation and contain several layers of engineered soil to manage drainage and weight. The plants on this green roof are drought -resistant, native, and provide pollinator and wildlife habitat.

***Tour Stop #2: Centennial Park Rain Garden at entrance to Highland Park
Intersection of River Road, Raritan and Lincoln Avenues***

This garden is designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the storm sewer system. Rain gardens promote groundwater replenishment and reduce pollutants entering streams and waterways. The plants in our rain gardens are native to the region and provide pollinator and wildlife habitat.

***Tour Stop #3 & 4: Downtown Rain Gardens
South 3rd and Raritan Avenue, east and west sides of street***

These gardens are designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the storm sewer system. Rain gardens promote groundwater replenishment and reduce pollutants entering streams and waterways. The plants in our rain gardens are native to the region and provide pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Plant materials include: Black Chokeberry, Summersweet, Red Stem Dogwood, Inkberry, Northern Bayberry, Witherod Viburnum, Southern Arrowwood, Tussock Sedge, Fox Sedge, Blue Flag, Soft Rush, Coastal Panic Grass, Deer Tongue, Little Bluestem

***Tour Stop #5 & 6: Downtown Rain Gardens
South 4th and Raritan Avenue, east and west sides of street***

These gardens are designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the storm sewer system. Rain gardens promote groundwater replenishment and reduce pollutants entering streams and waterways. The plants in our rain gardens are native to the region and provide pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Plant materials include: Black Chokeberry, Summersweet, Red Stem Dogwood, Inkberry, Northern Bayberry, Witherod Viburnum, Southern Arrowwood, Tussock Sedge, Fox Sedge, Blue Flag, Soft Rush, Coastal Panic Grass, Deer Tongue, Little Bluestem

***Tour Stop #7: Teen Center Courtyard Rain Garden and Porous Pavement
South 5th and Benner Avenue***

This garden and porous pavement is designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the storm sewer system. Rain gardens promote groundwater replenishment and reduce pollutants entering streams and waterways. The plants in our rain gardens are native to the region and provide pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Plant materials include: Cardinal Flower, Joe Pye Weed, Blueberry, Chokeberry, Winterberry, Sweet Flag, Aster, Sedge

***Tour Stop #8: Downtown Rain Garden
South 5th and Raritan Avenue, west side of street***

This garden is designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the storm sewer system. Rain gardens promote groundwater replenishment and reduce pollutants entering streams and waterways. The plants in our rain gardens are native to the region and provide pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Plant materials include: Black Chokeberry, Summersweet, Red Stem Dogwood, Inkberry, Northern Bayberry, Witherod Viburnum, Southern Arrowwood, Tussock Sedge, Fox Sedge, Blue Flag, Soft Rush, Coastal Panic Grass, Deer Tongue, Little Bluestem

***Tour Stop #9: Highland Park Public Library Rain Garden
31 North 5th Avenue***

This garden is designed to capture and filter stormwater runoff before it enters the storm sewer system. Rain gardens promote groundwater replenishment and reduce pollutants entering streams and waterways. The plants in our rain gardens are native to the region and provide pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Plant materials include: Amsonia tabernaemontana Storm Cloud #1, Aster divaricatus Eastern Star #1, Aster ericoides Snow Flurry #1, Carex appalachica #1, Clethra alnifolia Sixteen Candles #3, Iris versicolor Purple Flame #2, Lobelia siphilitica #1, Tiarella cordifolia Brandywine #1

***Tour Stop #10: High and Middle School Rain Garden and Bioretention Basin
Enter on North 5th Avenue, by HS Cafeteria and in field facing playground***

Stormwater detention basins are designed to capture and temporarily hold stormwater runoff before it enters the storm sewer system. This bioretention basin, located in the back of the Middle School, has added vegetation and can reduce pollutants from entering streams and waterways. The plants in this basin are drought-resistant, native to the region, and provide pollinator and wildlife habitat.