



For Immediate Release  
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## ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL CENTER

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, partnering with the Newton Creek Watershed Association, ShopRite and Haddon Township, will lead volunteers October 4<sup>th</sup> in installing native trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses at the Haddon Township Environmental and Historical Center. These plants will enhance the newly-dug rain gardens and vegetated swales which will clean, filter and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the parking lot and roof areas before entering a creek that feeds Newton Lake. The event runs from 9A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Center at 143 Ormond Ave in the Oaklyn section of Haddon Township, NJ.



*Sketch of the Proposed Landscape around the Center*

The project was designed by John Nystedt, a landscape architect and restoration specialist at the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN), and Carol Maxwell, an intern at DRN, as part of DRN's Ecological Master Plan that describes the framework and action needed to restore the site and adjacent wooded stream corridor. The Ecological Master Plan was approved by the Haddon Township Mayor and

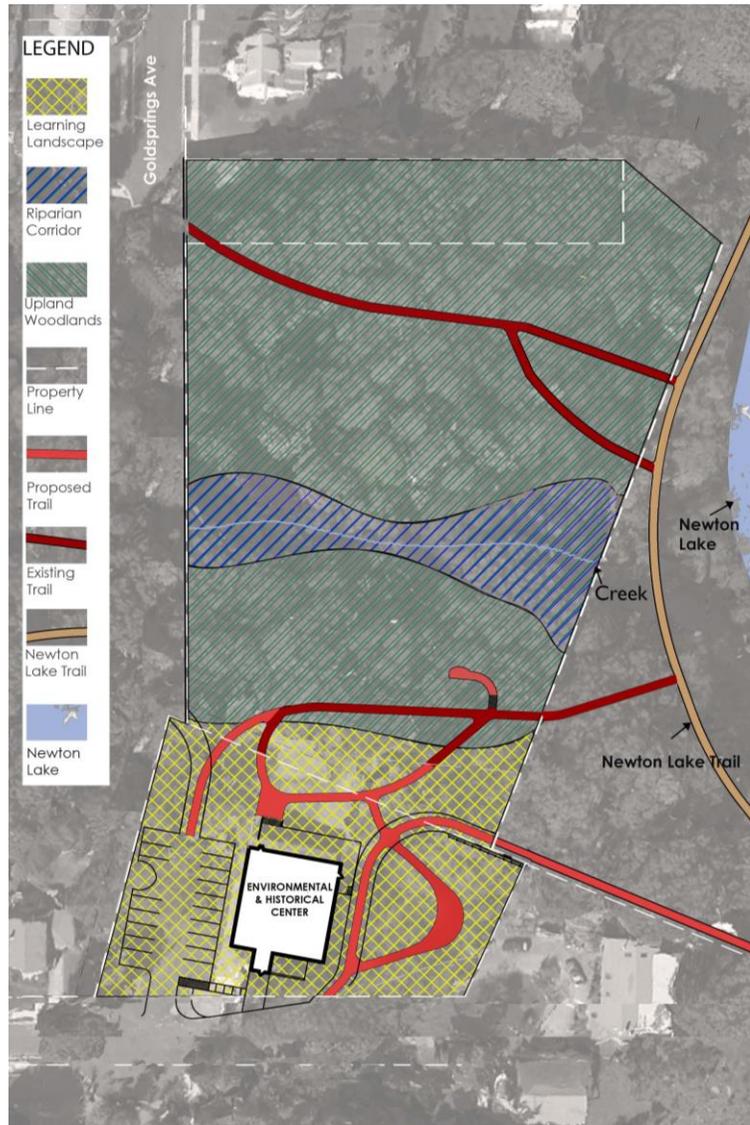
Commissioners in the spring of 2014, and work began in early 2014 when the Haddon Township Environmental Commission, DRN and Comcast volunteers began installing the plantings and trails. In September 2014, the Haddon Township Department of Public Works and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network began work re-grading the rain garden and vegetated swales, completed the trails, and began the installation of the native meadow.

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*Restoration Site Plan Proposed for the Center and Woodlands.*

John Nystedt at DRN explained the project will “improve stormwater management and water quality; create trails linking the neighborhood with the Center, the woodland and Newton Lake Park; increase native plant diversity and habitat; improve the riparian buffer zone; enhance learning opportunities and be used by educators at the Center; and beautify the site.” He continued, “The land adjacent to the Center was degraded by a utility project, and it was used for storage and parking for a street construction project, and this restoration project will help heal the landscape. We are looking to create a natural environment worthy of an Environmental and Historical Center.”

Almost an acre of the site will be restored as native meadow around the Center, with patches of native trees and shrubs enhancing the habitat. In upcoming years, the project partners will work on increasing the native diversity of the woodlands and stream corridor which currently have a mix of wonderful native species but also aggressive non-native invasive plants which suppress the native plants and need to be managed.



“This project will serve as a living example of the right way to manage stormwater runoff and restore a stream corridor” says Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and head of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. “The runoff is treated as a resource, guided through an improved native landscape to help water the plants, and captured by the rain gardens where it is further cleaned and infiltrated into the soil below. This infiltration helps feed the creek with a clean and steady supply of groundwater.”



*The creek and wetland, looking towards Newton Lake*