



## **USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference**

### [The Restoration of the Robinson's Branch Waterway: An Example of Integrating Research, Education](#)

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program was awarded a NJDEP 319(h) grant to prepare a Regional Stormwater Management Plan for the Robinsons Branch Watershed, a tributary to the Rahway River, New Jersey. This research project has a strong extension component that involves working with nine municipalities, two counties, and non-governmental organizations to develop a Regional Stormwater Management Plan. To strengthen these activities, RCE Water Resources Program began working with the Union County RCE to launch an extension program entitled "Stormwater Management in Your Backyard." As part of this effort, 30 Master Gardeners were trained on how to build rain gardens, and five demonstration rain gardens were constructed. Today, these rain gardens are being used as educational tools by the Union Co. RCE. To complement this research and extension effort, two undergraduate student projects were developed in the watershed. The first was an independent study to analyze water reuse possibilities at the many golf courses in this watershed. The second was a bioresources engineering senior design project to develop a stream restoration plan for Pumpkin Patch Brook, a tributary to the Robinsons Branch. The first project has attracted the attention of the Union County Engineering Department and will likely lead to an additional project. The second provided supplemental information for the Watershed Restoration Plan being developed for the 319(h) grant. The Robinsons Branch Research Watershed is an example of integrating research, education, and extension to improve water quality and eliminate flooding issues.

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