

Hudson

# DEP awards \$1.5 million for water quality projects in Hudson County

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By [Ron Zeitlinger | The Jersey Journal](#)

Three Hudson County municipalities and the Hackensack River Keeper have been awarded a total of \$1.57 million in grants to improve water quality and reduce the impacts of nonpoint source pollution from stormwater, state Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn LaTourette announced Monday.

The funding for Jersey City, Secaucus Hoboken and the river keeper is a portion of the \$9.4 million awarded across the state. In many cases, the projects will help mitigate local flooding problems that are increasing due to more severe storms resulting from climate change, state officials said.

“These grants will help a diverse group of DEP partners implement projects — many of them deploying green infrastructure technologies — that will reduce the many harmful effects of stormwater that are increasing due to climate change,” LaTourette said. “We are excited to facilitate projects that will improve environmental protection, safety and quality of life in our communities, and address local flooding.”

Jersey City received \$770,724 to expand the city’s green infrastructure initiative by partnering with Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program to implement two shovel-ready green infrastructure projects, including trenches and curb extensions along Martin Luther King Drive and Bramhall Avenue.

Jersey City is considered an overburdened community under the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law.

Secaucus received \$154,600 to implement the installation of rain gardens on Centre Avenue, near the Town Hall Annex and other municipal buildings. The proposed project

will deploy green infrastructure design strategies to reduce stormwater flooding and the amount of nonpoint source pollution impacting the Hackensack River. Once complete, the rain gardens will increase the town's capacity to capture stormwater.

Hoboken received \$562,060 to implement the construction of green/gray tanks to improve stormwater management efforts and delay stormwater discharge to Hoboken's combined sewer system. This will result in fewer combined sewer overflows and reduced nonpoint source pollution in the Hudson River.

The Hackensack River Keeper received \$90,000 to continue the Urban Watershed Education Program at locations in the Newark Bay Complex, which includes the Hackensack River, Newark Bay, Arthur Kill and Hudson River.

This watershed education program is targeted to middle school students and cover a broad range of topics such as nonpoint source pollution, climate change, combined sewer overflow infrastructure, water quality testing, legacy pollutants, fish consumption advisories, fish anatomy, casting techniques, and fishing etiquette.

Funding for these projects has been provided through Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act, Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration funds, and the New Jersey Corporation Business Tax.

The projects will help reduce the impacts of nonpoint source pollution, which is caused by stormwater runoff that carries a wide variety of pollutants into waterways, including nutrients from fertilizers, animal wastes and improperly operating septic systems.

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