

BAYSHORE REGIONAL WATERSHED COUNCIL

End of Grant Report

Date: May 15, 2006

**END OF GRANT REPORT
for project funded by the
NEW ENGLAND INTERSTATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION**

Grant Awarded to

Bayshore Regional Watershed Council

NEIWPC Job Code: 0355-002

Project Code: 2005-025

Project title:

Storm Drain Labeling and Public Education Program in Raritan Bay Watershed

Specific subwatershed areas included in this project:

1. Matawan Creek in the Borough of Matawan, Monmouth County, NJ
2. Pews Creek in Port Monmouth, Middletown Township, Monmouth County, NJ

Individual Managing Grant for the BRWC:

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Grant Amount:

\$1,700.00 contract awarded on May 20, 2005

Summary

On May 20, 2005, the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council entered into an agreement with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) to use public funds to implement a storm drain marking program for both Matawan Creek in the Borough of Matawan and Pews Creek in Port Monmouth, Middletown Township as an effective way to inform local residents about the direct link between what they do on their property and the health of the watershed.

During the summer of 2005, the BRWC worked with environmental commission members in Matawan and Middletown, along with members of the Friends of Pews Creek, an all volunteer group, and local residents of Matawan and Port Monmouth to label approximately 450 storm drain inlets for Matawan Creek and Pews Creek. Each waterway was marked with around 220 storm drain markers.

The markers were purchased from das Manufacturing (www.dasmanufacturing.com). The markers were 4-inch plastic discs that contained a direct message of: "NO DUMPING – DRAINS TO CREEK." Please see the enclosed picture of the disc on storm drain inlet.

To emphasize education and outreach beyond those individuals directly involved in the project, two types of door hangers were distributed as outreach material to residents who live near each waterway. One door hanger was purchased from das Manufacturing and contained specific information about nonpoint pollution source reduction in the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The other door hanger was purchased from Clean Ocean Action and contained general information about nonpoint source reduction. Both door hangers were perforated, so the hanger might be removed, but the message can be saved and posted inside the house to remind residents about their actions. Approximately 2,000 door hangers were distributed to local property owners.

To continue educating residents on watershed protection and improving water quality in Raritan Bay, the BRWC conducted stream clean ups of both Matawan Creek and Pews Creek and free public nature walks during the grant project period to help increase awareness and stewardship of these two waterways.

Highlights

An unexpected positive outcome was how local residents in Matawan and Port Monmouth were willing to assist in the project. The BRWC did not encounter any resistance or reluctance to meet our goals from local government officials or property owners. Indeed, they were quite willing to help!

PROJECT TIMELINE

TASK	STARTED	COMPLETED
1 – Coordinated efforts with partner organizations	2 weeks	1 st month
2 – Researched town maps and conduct stream walk survey	1 month	2 nd month
3 – Advertised event to media	2 weeks	3 rd month
4 – Conducted free nature walk & stream clean up in Matawan	1 day	4 th month
5 – Conducted stormdrain labeling in Port Monmouth	1 day	5 th month
6 – Evaluated program with partner organizations	1 months	6th month
7 – Conducted a stream clean up and free public nature walk for Pews Creek Conducted stormdrain labeling for Matawan Creek	5 months	7 th month
8 – Evaluated results of the grant program with project partners and submitted final report	2 weeks	11 th month

Goals Reached

The original goals of the project were to:

1. Meet *Goal 1* of NY-NJ HEP by helping to make Harbor waters to become fishable and swimmable under the Clean Water Act.
2. Meet *Goal 1D: All of the Harbor will be essentially free from floatable debris and Target 9: Continue the decreasing trend in the number of floatable slicks in the Harbor so that by 2009, there are less than 6 observed per year.*
3. Meet *Goal 2: Habitat and Ecological Health* by contributing to the restoration of Raritan Bay and improving the ecological function and biodiversity in Matawan Creek and Pews Creek that are part of the Raritan Bay subwatershed.
4. Help to satisfy *Goal 5: Stewardship and Target 19 and Target 20* by encouraging local residents, scout groups, schoolchildren, and public officials to become stewards of their local stream ecosystem and the neighboring estuary. Public participation is an essential factor in the success of this program through volunteer groups, such as environmental commissions and scout groups.

These four goals have been achieved. Over 400 storm drain inlets were marked with an educational message and around 2,000 door hangers were distributed to local property owners on nonpoint source pollution reeducation. This grant project helped to create a healthier ecosystem for two creeks in the Raritan Bay watershed: Matawan Creek and Pews Creek, and a more informed local population about water quality issues. Moreover, public participation was an essential factor in the success of this program through volunteer groups, such as environmental commissions and local scout groups.

Problems

Stormy weather was the only problem encountered. Storm drain marking activities for Matawan Creek had to be postponed several times due to heavy rain during autumn 2005. Otherwise, no other problems were encountered in carrying out the project.

Results of Evaluation

There was no formal evaluation forms created for this project. Yet, the BRWC did receive positive comments from local government officials and property owners for this project.

A common reaction from property owners who received information about local water quality issues was that they did not realize that stormwater directly discharged into a waterway via a storm drain. A majority of people believed that water in storm drains was filtered before it was discharged into the bay. In addition, many people did not realize that the over-use of fertilizers, the improper disposal of pet waste, cigarette butts, and individual car washing activities were adding to the degradation of bay waters.

Expenses

An invoice is included in this packet. This invoice contains the receipts for the activities funded by the NEIWPCC plus funds contributed by the BRWC.

Below is a list of expenses incurred during this grant project:

<u>ITEM FUNDED BY NEIWPCC</u>	<u>COST</u>
1. Four Storm drain marking starter kits	\$1,200.00
2. One Thousand Custom-made Door hangers	\$280.00
3. Fifty extra storm drain markers	\$125.00
4. 10 extra marker adhesive tubes	\$89.00
TOTAL TO BE FUNDED BY NEIWPCC =	\$1,694.00

<u>ITEMS PURCHASED BY BRWC</u>	<u>COST</u>
1. Two thousand Storm drain program door hangers	\$100.00
2. Shipping chargers for storm drain marker supplies	\$38.85
TOTAL SPENT BY BRWC =	\$138.85

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT = \$1,832.85

Attachments

1. Invoice plus receipts
2. A storm drain marker from das Manufacturing.
3. Pictures of local residents marking storm drains in Port Monmouth and Matawan.

Pictures of storm drain marking activities for storm drain labeling and public education in Raritan Bay Watershed

