



In 2014, green infrastructure remained the main focus of the District. We strengthened GI partnerships, including the SWIM Coalition, NYC Green Infrastructure Steering Committee, NY NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, and Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts and launched a new partnership for the New York City Urban Soils Institute.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

For details on the District’s Green Infrastructure implementation projects, please see the separate report, *Small Scale Green Infrastructure Retrofits on Private Properties in New York City 2014*.

Home Street Stormwater Capture Planter

The District completed the stormwater capture planter system in the courtyard of the apartment building at 1084 Home Street in the South Bronx. The project was funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Bronx River Watershed Initiative.

In May 2014, the District hosted a planting day with the residents and kicked off the gardening season at the site, which included a small planting bed for growing vegetables. One of the residents participated in the Citizen Science Program of Drexel University and GrowNYC.

Logan Gardens Green Roof

The District installed an extensive green roof on the roof of a low-income senior housing on West 131st Street in partnership with the Community Assisted Tenant Controlled Housing (CATCH), Deutsche Bank and a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program.

The existing structure necessitated an extensive sedum green roof with limited access for residents, only for maintenance purposes. However, the roof houses a

community room, where residents can view the green roof from indoors.

Rochester Avenue Stormwater Capture Planters

The stormwater capture planters, constructed in 2013, were planted in May. Some weeding was necessary after the initial planting, but the natives grew well.



Orange Cone Flowers, or *Rudbeckia hirta*, blooming in the South Bronx.

Because it is more difficult to recruit volunteers from smaller buildings (15 units) we were unable to create a group of residents to tend the planters. At the end of the growing season, there were non-native grasses in the planters, indicating the need to weed more frequently.

Maintaining Past GI Projects

We continued to monitor and

maintain the past projects – now a portfolio of eight projects.

Minor repairs were required at West 150th and Rochester Avenue sites in spring before the system was re-started for the season. Some weeding was necessary at West 150th Street as well as Home Street and Rochester Avenue sites.

The project at Bryant Avenue, completed in 2012, saw a new beginning in 2014. A group of residents came together to form a gardening committee and began using the planters. Unfortunately, miscommunication led to residents removing all the plants from the planters, including the natives we planted.

GI Bus Tour

The 5th GI Bus Tour showcased projects that included monitoring with an education and community benefit. This year, on a rainy day, we decided to turn our eyes to green roof projects. We visited three green roofs and one multiple-practice GI project, involving a green roof, a rainwater harvesting system and a community garden. It was wonderful to see and hear about the great community benefits of these projects in addition to their robust stormwater management capacities. We visited the following sites:

The Jacob K. Javits Convention Center	292,000 sq ft pre-vegetated extensive green roof system with monitoring
Lenox Hill Neighborhood Housing	2,400 sq ft multi-use space features 3 systems: agricultural/extensive/intensive
NYC Parks' Five Borough Building	A testing site with monitoring of 30 unique growing systems covering 30,000 sq ft of the roof
Kelly Street Garden	8,500 sq ft yard retrofitted into a rain-harvesting educational and agricultural community space



Tour participants inspect the raised bed vegetable plot at Kelly Street.

At each site we had a representative familiar with the project as the tour interpreters. This year's tour was funded through the Conservation Project Assistance Fund of the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

DEC Endorsed 4-Hr Construction Site Inspection Training

The District successfully hosted two NYSDEC endorsed 4-hr Erosion and Sediment Control Trainings in June. We served a total of about 100 people through these sessions. We will offer workshops as needed in the future in partnership with the Dutchess Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters Coalition

Tatiana and Shino continued to serve on the steering committee and provided leadership and administrative support.

SWIM operated without a coordinator in 2014. However, the fellowship program through Pratt Institute has allowed us to maintain our operation. Shino supervised graduate fellows, who compiled eblasts and updated the website.

SWIM also received a small grant from van Amerigen Foundation in late 2014 for general operations. The grant is being administered through the District.

NYC Department of Environmental Protection's Water Infrastructure Steering Committee

Shino continued to serve on the Water Infrastructure Steering Committee, which met twice in 2014.

Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts

The District continued to serve as the fiscal administrator of the Coalition as well as provide programmatic leadership. Shino served on the Steering Committee and worked closely with the coordinator.

In November, Shino was appointed to serve on the Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee representing the Coalition. The position was previously held by the coordinator, who left the Coalition to pursue a law degree in August. A new coordinator was hired in November.

New York New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

Shino continued to serve as the alternate to the NY Co-Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee. 2014 was a busy year for the HEP CAC, which submitted several comment letters on a range of issues. The CAC leadership also assisted in the transition of the program from EPA to the Hudson River Foundation.

Participation in various coalitions and committees has been highly productive: it has allowed the District to

leverage limited resources to accomplish tasks and to reach out to a wider audience – both in number and

types of people.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

NYC Envirothon

The 2014 Envirothon was held in Bronx River Park in the Bronx. Con Edison generously provided the funding for the event. The current event topic was sustainable agriculture – a topic that is quite relevant to urban residents as well as rural dwellers. A total of 21 teams participated from 12 different schools across all five Boroughs. Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School and Staten Island Technical High School were the first, second and third place winners respectively. Grover Cleveland HS from Queens and Pelham Bay HS from the Bronx were the other borough winners.

The event was supported through partnerships with the Bronx River Alliance, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, NYC Parks, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYC Law Department, and Audubon Constitution Marsh Center & Sanctuary.

NY State Envirothon

Rebecca attended the State Envirothon with the teams. Out of the 50 teams from across the state,

Stuyvesant High School and Staten Island Technical High School received 18th and 19th place overall. Grover Cleveland HS also participated in the State Envirothon.

NYC Outdoors: Environmental Education Expo

Rebecca coordinated the 14th Annual NYC Outdoors! Expo with The River Project and NYU Wallerstein Collaborative. We were able to host the event in the Kimmel Student Center at NYU, where we hosted more than 30 exhibitors and had over 130 attendees.

School requests

The District received several requests for technical assistance. We continued to assist with the water and soil quality laboratory sessions for AP Environmental Science classes at two high schools. Shino shared the District's green infrastructure projects with 4th graders in Manhattan, tested the water of the Upper Harbor with two 5th grade classes in Bay Ridge, took Kindergartners to the Hudson River for water testing once a month, and demonstrated how CSOs pollute our water using the Sewer in a Suitcase to a small group of high school students with special needs.

HUDSON RIVER FOODWAY CORRIDOR

The RC&D Coordinator, Jill, and Shino worked on a NYSERDA funding proposal for the next phase of the project. Shino attended some local food events to

continue her research on potential products and backhaul for barge transportation.

NEW YORK CITY SOIL SURVEY

NYC Urban Soils Institute

The New York City Urban Soils Institute (USI) had its very first Advisory Committee meeting in the spring of 2014. This meeting was attended by twenty people from community based organizations, institutions of higher education, botanical gardens, and city and federal agencies. The meeting was very constructive, spurring interest and support as well as very constructive feedback.

In October, we made a formal announcement about the USI to a wider audience at the Initial Soil Survey Workshop, jointly hosted by the District and USDA-NRCS at the Arsenal. At this Soil Survey event, 50 people were in attendance and the organizations represented were United States Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation, NYC Mayor's Office of Environmental Remediation, NYC Department of Environmental Protection, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York Botanical Garden, Lower East Side Ecology Center, College of Staten Island, New York Restoration Project, Environment New York, DLand Studio, Wildlife Conservation Society, ARUP Services Ltd., and TRC Engineers.

Currently we are in the process of establishing working groups with Advisory Committee members to take on tasks to move the USI initiative forward. We are also soliciting more support as we actively seek funding for the first phase of USI's goals.