

Sustainable Landscapes Demonstration Site Network

The Sustainable Landscapes Education Program has established a network of demonstration sites illustrating best management practices for low-maintenance, environmentally friendly landscaping. Practices are implemented to enhance the goals and reduce resource consumption at each site.

United Water, Toms River Site

Location: Toms River, NJ

Public Programs:

- Drive through viewing
- Publications
- Website

Issues:

- Water conservation
- Ornamentals
- Mulching



Site Highlights

Native Ornamentals

This site has been a great example of how good plant selection and proper watering techniques applied to urban “commercial” properties.

Rain Barrel

A commercial rain barrel was installed to use in supplementing rainfall to provide water to ornamental beds.

Lawn Size Reduction

Ornamental beds make up nearly the entire unpaved area of this downtown property.

Impacts

Cost/Benefit

- Watering, when needed at all, is accomplished through drip hoses installed below 2-3” of mulch.
- Proper mulching keeps weeds to a minimum.
- The garden provides great aesthetic appeal to both employees and visiting clients.

Environmental

- Good Integrated Pest Management allow the garden to benefit wildlife.
- Approximately 200 gallons of water was conserved using by using the rain barrel.
- After establishment, this garden requires a very minimum of annual maintenance, including watering and fertilizing.