

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

The Briar Patch

Location:

Green briar I Adult Community
Brick, NJ

Public Programs:

Open by invitation
Workshops
Outdoor Filming Area

Issues:

- Vegetables
- Ornamentals
- Turf



Site Highlights

Raised Beds

Thirty raised beds, each 4' x 12', were built from untreated lumber and installed on existing sandy soils. Compost from Ocean County Recycling center was added to improve soil health and retain moisture. Protective fencing was installed as the physical component of Integrated Pest Management prior to the planting of vegetables and flowers.

Water Cistern

A large cistern was donated to the garden. It is filled with water from the irrigation system during the week, allowing gardeners to individually and properly hand water their plants.

Lawn Size Reduction

Ornamental beds were installed, replacing a large area of (unused) turf with gardens which are visited daily.

Impacts

Cost/Benefit

- Initial cost outlay has been offset by the leasing of garden space and the sale of vegetables.
- Approximately 10,000 square feet of lawn was converted to individually managed gardens, and are no longer required to be maintained by commercial landscapers.

Environmental

- Integrated Pest Management is practiced and taught in the garden by over 30 gardeners, who may adopt these practices at home and share this knowledge with their neighbors.
- Hand watering of plants from the cistern eliminates excess evaporation, and minimizes water use.