

# Utility and Environmental Conservation measures and the impact on the Hightstown Housing Authority

The Hightstown Housing Authority has undertaken several projects in the last 3 years with a goal of reducing the carbon footprint of the Housing Authority and reducing operating expenses. Shrinking budgets due to lack of funding from the federal government have left major gaps in the budgets of every federally funded agency. In order to survive in the new normal of federal funding, The Hightstown Housing Authority completed the following projects.

## **Storm Water Runoff**

**Condition:** Storm water is a condition that exists when our impervious surfaces such as roofs, sidewalks and parking areas drain directly to the street, causing rushes of water during rain events. This rush of water carries debris, oils, road salts and chemicals directly into our waterways. We have been installing storm water solutions that put the water that normally would become storm water into the ground in our planting beds. Currently we have developed 4 types of storm water solutions for the Housing Authority. They are 1. Drywells, 2. Rain gardens, 3. Rain barrels, and 4. Pervious Paving. This reduces the need for as much irrigation and recharges the water into the aquifer.

**Solution:** The Housing Authority began its storm water projects in coordination with the local environmental commission. A rain garden, 3 rain barrels and a dry well were installed to recharge the water from approximately 4000 square feet of roof. Since that time, the Housing Authority has added 5 additional sites that include drywells and pervious drainage trenches to pick up an additional 10,000 square feet of roof area. In 2017 the Housing Authority will resurface one parking lot with a unique subsurface drainage system to capture all of the stormwater.

**Results:** The Housing Authority property is currently capturing and recharging into the aquifer rain water from just over 50% of the impervious surfaces on the Housing Authority property. This is preventing over 500,000 gallons of water from running down our streets annually.

Monitoring and compliance of the water saving measures will be ongoing to insure the devices are in place and operating efficiently.



