

## JERSEY-FRIENDLY YARDS CASE STUDY #9

**OceanFirst Bank**  
**975 Hooper Ave**  
**Toms River, NJ 08753**

**Project Leaders:**

Becky Laboy and Eileen Miller: OCSCD  
Rita Varneke: Volunteer

**Project Goals:**

Create a native plant demonstration garden as a model of low maintenance landscaping best management practices for OceanFirst customers, employees and community members, using *Jersey-Friendly* plants.



**Site Assessment:**

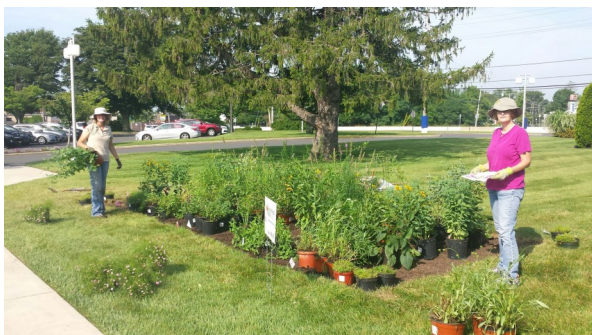
The Hooper Ave OceanFirst Bank Branch in Toms River, NJ, houses the OceanFirst Corporate Offices. A high-visibility location on site was selected for the *Jersey-Friendly Yards* garden. The acidic sandy loam soil exhibits a high level of organic matter offering excellent support for the growth of native plants. Macronutrients including magnesium, calcium and phosphorous are above optimum levels. Compost will boost nutrient levels of potassium. Mulching retains soil moisture and deters weed growth.

**PLANT LIST**

Blue Giant Hyssop ( <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> )	Blazing Star ( <i>Liatris spicata</i> )	Clustered Mountain Mint ( <i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i> )
Eastern Bluestar ( <i>Amsonia tabernaemontana</i> )	Great Blue Lobelia ( <i>Lobelia siphilytica</i> )	Obedient Plant ( <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> )
Blue Wild Indigo ( <i>Baptisia australis</i> )	Scarlet Bee Balm ( <i>Monarda didyma</i> )	Orange Coneflower ( <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> )
Lanceleaf Tickseed ( <i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i> )	Evening Primrose ( <i>Oenothera fruticosa</i> )	Wrinkleleaf Goldenrod ( <i>Solidago rugosa</i> )
Pink Tickseed ( <i>Coreopsis rosea</i> )	Foxglove Beardtongue ( <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> )	Showy Goldenrod ( <i>Solidago speciosa</i> )
False Sunflower ( <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> )	Moss phlox ( <i>Phlox subulata</i> )	New York Aster ( <i>Symphotrichium novibelgii</i> )
Sedum ( <i>Heliotropium telephium</i> )		New York Ironweed ( <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> )

**Actions:**

Lawns can be costly, time-consuming, require large amounts of water and can be a burden on the environment. A 200 square foot area of lawn was removed and replaced with a native perennial garden. A native landscape requires little-to-no fertilizer and little water once it is established. Native plant roots grow deep into the soil creating pore space for soil organisms, which in-turn keep the soil “alive” and healthy. Healthy soil supports low-maintenance gardens. The *Jersey-Friendly Yards* website [www.jerseyyards.org](http://www.jerseyyards.org) was used to select drought-tolerant perennials that require minimal care, yet offer 3 seasons of colorful blooms.



Funding for this project was provided by  
Barnegat Bay Partnership.



*“I loved learning about all of the plant species selected to make-up our garden. Understanding the role each piece plays within the overall landscape was fascinating. The Ocean County Soil Conservation District team was knowledgeable and excited to answer any questions I had.”*

*-Lydia D’Amore, Vice President, Business Development Officer at OceanFirst Bank*