



## ***Ocean County Soil Conservation District and Partners Support Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative in Lakewood Township***

**Goal:** Build community capacity in Lakewood Township by utilizing the knowledge and skills of partners who make up the newly formed Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee, in their areas of expertise, to provide strategic advice and planning towards accomplishment of our collective objectives.

### **Objectives:**

- 1) Establish Urban Agriculture Advisory Committee ([Ocean County Soil Conservation District](#), [Georgian Court University](#), [Barnegat Bay Partnership](#), [Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority](#), [Township of Lakewood](#), [New Jersey Agricultural Society - Farmers Against Hunger](#), [Lakewood High School](#), [Fulfill](#), and Healthy Landscapes NJ).
- 2) Establish a Sustainable Jersey Green Team through Lakewood Public Works, to support Lakewood Township. The Sustainable Jersey Program will help offer guidance towards supporting UAC project objectives.
  - a. Improve access to fresh food
  - b. Promote comprehensive food planning – at community and regional levels
  - c. Identify vacant lots as potential sites for urban gardens
  - d. provide site assessments and soil tests
- 3) Identify and enhance existing urban agriculture programs (Lakewood High School; Mercy Garden at Georgian Court)
  - a. Lakewood High School – support Agricultural/Horticultural programs currently taught; determine ways the partners can support and grow these programs.
    - i. Expand growth of vegetables in Lakewood High School greenhouses for harvesting and distribution
  - b. Georgian Court Mercy Garden – support Agricultural/Horticultural programs currently taught; determine ways UAC partners can support and grow these programs.
- 4) Support implementation of new community urban agriculture programs including community food gardens
  - a. Lakewood High School – determine Agricultural/Horticultural programs the High School would like to implement, including gardens/beds/containers; determine ways UAC

partners can support and grow the Lakewood High School Agricultural/Horticultural program.

- i. Install new raised beds on campus for growing food and planting pollinator-friendly plants with assistance from Barnegat Bay Partnership and [Jersey-Friendly Yards](#)
  - b. Georgian Court Mercy Garden – determine Agricultural/Horticultural programs the University would like to implement, including gardens/beds/containers; determine ways UAC partners can support and grow the Georgian Court University Agricultural/Horticultural program.
- 5) Organize and implement educational workshops, including topics such as:
  - a. Best landscape management practices (OCSCD, Healthy Landscapes NJ)
  - b. How to conduct a site assessment and soil testing (OCSCD, Healthy Landscapes NJ)
  - c. Soil Health (OCSCD, Healthy Landscapes NJ)
  - d. Nonpoint source pollution and stormwater runoff prevention using Barnegat Bay Partnership’s website: Jersey-Friendly Yards
  - e. Sustainable urban food gardening (Lakewood High School, and Georgian Court University)
  - f. Water conservation (BTMUA) programs at the Reservoir
  - g. Showcase community native plant gardens (SHIP gardens) at Jakes Branch (OCSCD), inquire with Ocean County Park about tours of their native plant gardens
  - h. Showcase community native plant gardens developed through this project on Jersey-Friendly Yards website as [Success Stories](#)
- 6) Coordinate community food harvesting and food distribution (NJ Agricultural Society - Farmers Against Hunger, Fulfill)
  - a. Identify local farms for gleaning food
  - b. Identify volunteers to do the gleaning/harvesting/distribution
  - c. Support Farmers Against Hunger produce gleaning efforts and food distribution through Fulfill
  - d. Determine other ways partners can support
- 7) Develop “Tool Kit” offering resources for healthy and sustainable gardening and community garden land use
  - a. Collect electronic resources (OCSCD, all partners)
  - b. [Low Maintenance Landscape Guide](#), in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), for distribution as part of the Tool Kit. (All partners)
  - c. Sustainable Jersey Green Team can assist with identification of other pertinent resources (Lakewood Public Works)
- 8) Consultation with Rutgers Cooperative Extension
- 9) Technical recommendations based on the [NRCS Field Office Technical Guide](#)