

**Chatham Township Environmental Commission & Southern Blvd School PTO
Environmental Awareness Committee Receive an
Environmental Achievement Award from the
Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC)**



THE SOUTHERN BOULEVARD SCHOOL RAIN GARDEN

Inspired by The Nature Conservancy NJ chapter's contest "Show Us Your H2O," the Chatham Twp. Environmental Commission (CTEC) entered and won a grant for rain garden materials, an educational sign and help with design and labor. The contest challenged schools and civic groups to submit creative entries to answer the question "Where does your water come from?"

CTEC worked with the Southern Blvd school staff, parent volunteers, The Nature Conservancy members and Hazel England of the Great Swamp Watershed Association to dig, soil prep and teach how to plant perennials and bushes. The school's PTO Environmental Awareness Committee weeded the rain garden and made enhancements to increase the garden's functionality.

The garden has attracted different varieties of native bees, goldfinches, butterflies and other insects since its installation. It has also become a valuable educational tool for teachers and students.

Pictured above : Former Chatham Twp. Environmental Commission member Kathy Abbott, center, ANJEC Past President Nelson Dittmar and township resident Jennifer Mathews.

Read the full story in the [ANJEC Newsletter](#)

