

Partners for Places Project Lessons Report

Project Name: *Green Infrastructure for Environmental Justice and Flood Mitigation*

- **Year Complete:** 2024
- **Local Government:** Hackensack, NJ
- **Local Foundation:** Northern New Jersey Community Foundation

Project Purpose

Enhance existing Combined Sewer separation plans with community designed green infrastructure to mitigate storm water flooding in low-income neighborhoods addressing Environmental Justice issues.

Key Lessons Learned

1. Focus on working on issues that everyone or most people have in common to develop an esprit de corps.
2. Work on projects that provide opportunities for people to volunteer and have key input on.
3. Plan to spend a lot of ‘quiet’ time dealing with others’ anxiety, anger or hurt feelings.
4. Keep an eye out for who’s not at the table. If you can’t get them to the table yourself, try to find people who can, and get them involved.
5. Create opportunities for people to become leaders – such as managing projects – and nurture that leadership.

Additional Information and Resources

Learn more about Hackensack’s Environmental Justice Alliance [here](#).