Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management
CASE STUDY

Community Meditation Garden

Location: 3333 Greenmount Ave., Baltimore, MD
Client: Community Mediation Program
Design Firm(s): Floura Teeter Landscape Architects Inc.
Landscape architect/Project contact: Joan Floura
Email: jfloura@ftla.com
ASLA Chapter: Maryland

Project Specifications

Project Description: Floura Teeter Landscape Architects worked closely with the Community Mediation Program to create a sustainable space for reflection. The garden features a large circular paved area appropriate for events surrounded by flowering shrubs, perennials, grasses and a stone seat wall that provides an area for people to sit and reflect under a semicircular trellis. The walls of the plaza are covered with a planted greenscreen, and donor information is engraved on the brick pavers at the entryway. Adding function to beauty, the porous pavement functions as a water collection system. Some of the water is diverted into a 350 gallon cistern

while the rest is sent to recharge the ground water. The cistern water is used to drip irrigate drought-tolerant plantings, while stormwater from the roof irrigates a sculptural, planted downspout. Overflow roof water is collected in a rain barrel for supplemental watering.

Project Type:
Institutional/education
A retrofit of an existing property

Design features: Cistern, rain barrels, porous pavers, and planted downspouts.

This project was designed to meet the following specific requirements or mandates: Developer/client preference

Impervious area managed: less than 5,000 sq/ft

Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site: less than 5,000 sq/ft

The regulatory environment and regulator was supportive of the project.

Did the client request that other factors be considered, such as energy savings, usable green space, or property value enhancements? No

Cost & Jobs Analysis

Estimated Cost of Stormwater Project: $100,000-$500,000 (Public funding: Regional, TFK Foundation grant)

Was a green vs. grey cost analysis performed? No

Cost impact of conserving green/open space to the overall costs of the site design/development project: The cistern, irrigation system, porous pavement, and dry well added to the cost of the project.

Cost impact of conserving green/open space for stormwater management over traditional site design/site development approaches (grey infrastructure)? Slightly increased. If the site drained to the street the project would not have included the cost of stormwater management system.

Number of jobs created: Not available

Job hours devoted to project:

Planning and Design: 90
Construction: 400
Annual Maintenance: 40

Performance Measures

Stormwater reduction performance analysis:
Not available

Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project: The addition of the Community Garden added a green public gathering space to the community helping to revitalize the neighborhood. Converting the rundown lot to an inviting space served to increase property aesthetics and value.

Additional Information

Links to images: http://www.ftla.com/2010/04/mediation-garden/