



Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

Wight & Company Corporate Campus

Location: Darien, IL

Client: Wight & Company

Design Firm(s): Wight & Company

Landscape architect/Project contact: Jay Womack, ASLA, LEED AP

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ASLA Chapter: Illinois

Project Specifications

Project Description: Designing and constructing a new building for the firm, Wight & Company incorporated a number of BMPs to showcase green infrastructure into the property they were developing.

Project Type:

Architecture firm building

Part of a new development

Design features: Rain garden and bioswale. The majority of the site was re-established as a prairie, which helps immensely with the reduction of runoff on the site. A large rain garden on one side of the building takes all of the roof runoff and infiltrates almost 100% of the flow from the roof.

This project was designed to meet the following specific requirements or mandates:

Local ordinance

Impervious area managed: 1 acre to 5 acres

Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site: 5,000 sq/ft to 1 acre

The regulatory environment and regulator was apprehensive about 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: \$50,000-\$100,000 (Public funding: None)

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: Development costs for the project were very low and many of the team members were skeptical that the BMPs and landscape would fit within the set budget. Not only did they fit within the budget, they cost less than anticipated.

Cost impact of conserving green/open space for stormwater management over traditional site design/site development approaches (grey infrastructure)? Slightly reduced costs (1-9% savings).

Number of jobs created: Not available

Job hours devoted to project: Not available

Planning and Design: Not available

Construction: Not available

Annual Maintenance: Not available

Performance Measures

Stormwater reduction performance analysis:

A performance analysis was never completed but the detention facility rarely (3 times in 5 years) receives enough water to create standing water. The detention, because it does not receive water, except in extreme cases and during the winter months, has been established as a prairie.

Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project: For a number of months the community repeatedly called the village, who in turn called Wight, about the amount of weeds growing on the site. After inviting the public to the site and explaining that the weeds they were seeing were actually prairie plants and they were part of a thriving ecosystem, the city never received another phone call.

Additional Information

This project was successful because of the direct and on-going collaboration between the architect, owner, civil engineer, and landscape architect.