Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management
CASE STUDY

Springside School

Location: 8000 Cherokee St., Philadelphia, PA
Client: Springside School
Design Firm(s): Stacey Levy, PWD, URS
Landscape architect/Project contact: Glen Abrams
Email: glen.abrams@phila.gov
ASLA Chapter: None

Image: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Project Specifications

Project Description: This green infrastructure project at Springside School demonstrates unique and creative methods for capturing stormwater runoff, filtering pollutants from the stormwater runoff and allowing stormwater to seep slowly into the ground. An impervious, paved traffic circle in the school parking lot was redesigned as a rain garden, and school children assisted in the planting of the garden. The new garden absorbs a significant amount of stormwater runoff from the surrounding parking lot that had previously flowed directly into a nearby storm drain. Students from the school assisted in the planting of over 50 native species

in the garden. Additionally, both the upper and lower school buildings disconnected their downspouts and redirected them into an art sculpture that will filter rainwater and deposit it into a rain garden. Physics and art students assisted in the design along with a visiting artist.

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

Design features: Rain garden and downspout removal.

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

Impervious area managed: 5,000 sq/ft to 1 acre

Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site: Not applicable.

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: Federal, local)

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: Not applicable

Number of jobs created: Not available

Job hours devoted to project: Not available

Performance Measures

Stormwater reduction performance analysis:
Philadelphia designs their systems to manage the first inch of every storm from the drainage area. The metric used is acre-inches. This project manages .11 acre-inches.

Project Recognition

State/Local Government Award - Project was funded by the Schuylkill Watershed Initiative Grant from the EPA

Image: Philadelphia Water Department