



Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

Eisenhower Park Wetland Creation Project

Location: Milford, CT

Client: Connecticut Light & Power

Design Firm(s): Stantec Planning & Landscape Architecture PC

Landscape architect/Project contact: Gary Sorge, FASLA, AICP

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ASLA Chapter: Connecticut

Project Specifications

Project Description: The wetland creation project encompasses approximately 5.5 acres of former gravel pit area in Eisenhower Park. The site is immediately adjacent to the Wepewaug River and is situated in the 100-year floodplain of the river. The project included a series of breaches within an existing man-made levy to allow river floodwaters to enter the floodplain. Within the floodplain, newly created and planted depressions receive and retain the flood waters providing flood attenuation and wildlife habitat in a continuous wet meadow environment.

Project Type:

Open space - park

A retrofit of an existing property

Design features: Bioretention facility, rain garden, bioswale, and connected wet meadow depressions.

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

State statute, New England Army Corp of Engineers

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

Amount of existing green space/open space conserved or preserved for managing stormwater on site: greater than 5 acres; 2.5 acres of newly created wetland and 3 acres of wetland buffer area.

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: \$500,000-\$1,000,000 (Public funding: Not available)

Related Information: Design and wetland monitoring approximately \$200,000 Construction approximately \$800,000

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: Utilization of existing but significantly disturbed open space was a benefit to the project. The project, in a 330-acre public park, was funded by a regional utility company. Use of park land allowed the City of Milford to achieve desired improvements to a former gravel pit, provide flood attenuation and create a unique wet meadow resource at no cost to the municipality. Green space was restored within a floodplain to restore its natural flood attenuation capacity, reducing flood impacts downstream (in Milford Town Center).

Cost impact of conserving green/open space for stormwater management over traditional site design/site development approaches (grey infrastructure)? Significantly reduced costs (10% or greater savings). Providing the equivalent storage via linear infrastructure would have been considerably more expensive in this location. Regulatory restrictions would have likely precluded a grey approach.

Number of jobs created: 6-8 for construction duration; 2 ongoing

Job hours devoted to project:

Planning and Design: approx 750

Construction: Not available

Annual Maintenance: approx 80

Performance Measures

Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project: The project provides a unique and highly functional wet meadow environment in Eisenhower Park. The wetland is a scenic and educational resource enjoyed by park visitors. Construction was completed approximately two years ago and the wetland already provides the most diverse wildlife habitat in the entire 330-acre park.

Project Recognition

NEWEA Presentation, Boston, MA 2010. Featured in Land and Water Magazine, Fall of 2010

Additional Information

Links to images: Available upon request. We can provide photos and plans via our designated ftp site. Please contact individual named above.