



Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management CASE STUDY

Historic Fourth Ward Park - Phase 1

Location: Atlanta, GA

Client: Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.

Design Firm(s): HDR, Inc.

Landscape architect/Project contact: Robert Bryant, ASLA

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ASLA Chapter: Georgia



Photo: Christopher Martin

Project Specifications

Project Description: This stunning new park in one of the city's oldest neighborhoods did not begin with a vision to create something beautiful. It grew, rather, out of a need to address the very unglamorous urban problem of combined sewer overflows, or CSOs. The idea came from the people – rather than adding more costly, traditional sewer tunnels to address the problem, the blighted industrial lowland area has been transformed into a beautiful park surrounding a functional stormwater retention pond. Landscape architects led a team of engineers and a local artist to design Phase 1 of Historic Fourth Ward Park.

Design details and sculptural elements disguise engineering solutions by “celebrating” the water as it enters the park at four entry points. The stormwater pond serves as the centerpiece of the park, surrounded by walking trails, urban plazas, native plantings and an amphitheater. This project is a harbinger for development and revitalization, providing the cornerstone for a sustainable, high-density and high-quality urban transformation along with an outstanding design solution for a serious CSO problem.

Project Type:

Open space - park

Part of a new development

Design features: This project includes a detention pond that captures water during storm events and eliminates overflows of the adjacent combined sewer system.

This project was designed to meet the following specific requirements or mandates: EPA / EPD Consent Decree

Impervious area managed: greater than 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 supportive of the project.

Did the client request that other factors be considered, such as energy savings, usable green space, or property value enhancements? Yes.

Cost & Jobs Analysis

Estimated Cost of Stormwater Project: >\$5,000,000 (Public funding: Local, City of Atlanta Department of Watershed funding)

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.

Cost impact of conserving green/open space for stormwater management over traditional site design/site development approaches (grey infrastructure)? Did not influence costs.

Number of jobs created: Not available

Job hours devoted to project:

Planning and Design: approx. 10,000 hours

Construction: 18 months

Annual Maintenance: To be determined

Performance Measures

Stormwater reduction performance analysis:

100% of the 2-year storm is contained on site.

Community & economic benefits that have resulted from the project: See earlier response.

Project Recognition

2009 ASLA Honor Award - Analysis and Planning; ASLA Georgia Chapter award; 2011 Georgia ACEC Award of Excellence; 2011 National ACEC Honor Award

Additional Information

Links to images: Our client's website:

<http://www.beltline.org/BeltLineBasics/Maps/HistoricFourthWardPark/tabid/3872/Default.aspx>

Please contact Robert Bryant (404.601.8657 or wbryant@hdrinc.com) for design documents, project images or renderings.