



Randy E. Hayman, Water Commissioner

11/21/2019

Dear Philadelphia Water Customer:

You are receiving this letter as a first notification that a Water Department construction job is soon to begin in your neighborhood. The blocks listed below are the blocks on which work will soon take place; however, as a neighbor in the same community, we want you to be aware of possible traffic disruptions and delays while this work is ongoing.

This project is part of the overall Green Infrastructure Initiative implemented by City of Philadelphia to improve the stormwater management of your neighborhood. Green stormwater infrastructure includes a range of soil-water-plant systems that intercept storm water, infiltrate a portion of it into the ground, evaporate a portion of it into the air, and in some cases release a portion of it slowly back into the sewer system. Prior to work starting on each of these blocks, residents directly impacted by this work will receive an additional hand delivered letter to their home alerting them that work is soon to begin. This project will be taking place at the following locations:

| <u>Street</u>     | <u>From</u>      | <u>To</u>          | <u>Type of Work</u>  |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Aramingo Avenue   | E. Lehigh Avenue | E. Somerset Street | Green Infrastructure |
| Cedar Street      | Aramingo Avenue  | E. Cambria Street  | Green Infrastructure |
| E. Cambria Street | Thompson Street  | Edgemont Street    | Green Infrastructure |

**Contractor: MECO CONSTRUCTORS INC.**

**Date: 12/02/2019 – 04/30/2020**

**Project Info: #50118 Street Crossings Pilot- Aramingo, Cedar, Cambria, Almond**

- During normal working hours (7:00am-3:30pm) it may be necessary to close the street
- Trash should be placed at the curb as regularly scheduled
- The Water Department has assigned an engineer and inspector to the project who will be on-site every day
- Our engineer and inspector will ensure that the work proceeds in a safe and workmanlike manner
- Should you experience any problems as a result of the work, please talk with the inspector on the job site who will be wearing clothing identifying him/her as a Water employee
- The inspector will notify you one day in advance of any scheduled water shut-offs, of which several may be required over the course of the project

If you are unable to contact the inspector at the job site, or have any other questions, please contact me at the number listed below between 8:00am-4:30pm Monday through Friday. Should an emergency occur, please call the Water Department hotline at (215) 685-6300. Further information about Philadelphia Water Construction can be found at [www.phila.gov/water/notifications](http://www.phila.gov/water/notifications). Questions can be sent to [waterinfo@phila.gov](mailto:waterinfo@phila.gov).

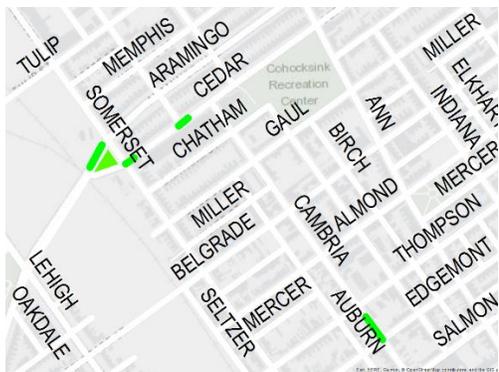
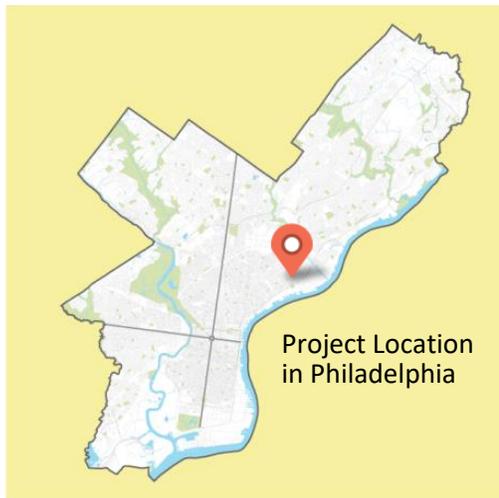
Sincerely,  
Nick Del Casale  
for Jovan Como, Division Engineer  
215-866-7185

Project Number 50118

# Construction of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

Start Date: February 2020

Anticipated Completion Date: Fall 2020



## Areas impacted by construction:

- Intersection of Aramingo Avenue, E. Somerset Street and Cedar Street
- Aramingo Avenue between Cedar Street and East Somerset Street
- Cedar Street from E. Somerset to E. Cambria Street
- Cambria Street from Edgemont Street to Thompson Street

## Why are we doing this project?

State and federal regulations require Philadelphia to reduce the pollution entering our rivers when excess stormwater causes sewer overflows. **Green City, Clean Waters** is a program designed to meet those regulations and invest in neighborhoods across the city by creating stormwater infrastructure that incorporates green space.

In addition to water quality benefits, green tools used by **Green City, Clean Waters** provide a number of community benefits. New green spaces have been found to **improve the value of homes** and **encourage outdoor recreation** while **reducing stress, noise, air pollution** and **litter** in neighborhoods.

## What is green stormwater infrastructure?

Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) uses materials such as plants, soil, stone and special pavement to slow, filter and soak up water during storms. This project includes the following types of green stormwater infrastructure:

**Rain Garden** - A rain garden is a planted, shallow depression designed to catch and filter stormwater runoff from a downspout or nearby paved areas, such as streets. The plants in rain gardens are generally hardy, native species that can thrive in extremely wet and dry weather.

**Stormwater Tree Trench** - A stormwater tree trench looks like a series of traditional street trees, but underground the trees are connected by a concrete structure designed to store and filter water. During construction, a trench is created along the sidewalk and lined with special fabric, then filled with stone and topped with soil and trees.

**Stormwater Bumpout** - A stormwater bumpout is a landscaped extension of the curb. Underneath the bumpout is a large concrete storage system filled with gravel or stone and topped off with soil. Grasses, perennials and shrubs are planted on top of the storage system.



Above: Graphic rendering of completed Tree Trench work at Cambria Street near Edgemont Street.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

With all construction there is a level of inconvenience. Philadelphia Water is working to minimize construction impacts. Please refer to our Frequently Asked Questions for more information:

**Q: Will I lose water service during construction?**

A: Minor disruptions of water service are anticipated during construction, resulting in the loss of water service for 1-2 hours while house connections to new pipes are made and for 4-8 hours while water main connections are completed. Residents will be notified when water service outages are anticipated.

**Q: Will other utilities be interrupted during construction?**

A: Yes. We are working with other utility providers to minimize any disruption to service during construction.

**Q: What are the hours of construction?**

A: Typical construction hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. but can vary seasonally.

**Q: How will construction impact traffic, sidewalk access and parking?**

A: Street parking during hours of construction will be restricted. Temporary “No Parking” signs will be installed as needed for safety and construction. Signs will be installed before the start of work indicating the dates and hours that the areas will be closed. Vehicular traffic, pedestrian access, trash collection and deliveries will be maintained. Any cars left on streets where work is scheduled to take place will be towed to a nearby public street. Project personnel will be available to direct you to your car.

**Q: How dusty will my street be during construction?**

A: All construction work is subject to dirt and dust, but we try to keep it to a minimum. At the end of each work day, the contractor will be responsible for keeping the site clean.

**Q: Will trees be protected during construction?**

A: A tree specialist will assess all trees in the project area prior to construction to identify measures to protect the trees.

**Q: Will SEPTA service in the area be impacted?**

A: Yes. Bus Routes 25 and 89 at Aramingo and E. Somerset Street. Visit [SEPTA.org](http://SEPTA.org) for more information.

**Q: Once the project is built, who will maintain the new plants and trees?**

A: Philadelphia Water is responsible for maintaining all of our infrastructure, including green stormwater infrastructure. We visit sites about once a month to perform routine maintenance.

