



Water Revitalization Plan

Stakeholder Advisory Group

Meeting #2

October 25, 2023



**PHILADELPHIA
WATER**
— DEPARTMENT —



Disclosure Statement

- This Presentation is provided as of October 25, 2023. If you are viewing this Presentation after that date, subsequent events could have a material effect on this information. By presenting this information, PWD has not undertaken any obligation to update the information beyond the date of the Presentation. Data and other information provided are not warranted as to completeness or accuracy and are subject to change without notice. The views, policies, programs, and practices reflected herein also are subject to change without notice. This Presentation is provided for your information and convenience only.
- This meeting is being audio recorded to accurately capture meeting minutes.



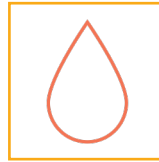
Meeting Overview and Objectives



Introductions



Meeting Norms Recap



Q&A on PWD 101



SRX Project Spotlight



Upcoming Community
Listening Sessions



Wrap Up



Meeting Norms Recap

(as developed by SAG members in July 2023)

- Attend each meeting and get up to speed if unable to attend
- Practice active listening and be respectful of all members, facilitators and other meeting attendees
- Come prepared for all meetings
- Honor the agenda and support meeting start and end times
- Respect speaking times and do not interrupt others while sharing
- Practice mindfulness of space and time during the meeting
- Agree as a group on what information shared in the meetings should be considered public knowledge vs. private for the group only



Stakeholder Advisory Group Members' Role

Important advocates connecting the community and the Water Revitalization Plan

Serve as advocates for the Water Revitalization Plan and communicate program progress

Participate in quarterly meetings

Review and monitor program progress

Utilize voices and influence within the community to gain support for programs

Represent Philadelphia Water Department and SAG initiatives, in a positive manner

Gather input from the public as it relates to ongoing WRP projects



Dr. Joi Spraggins, Inaugural SAG member at the Belmont Water Treatment Plant Tour, September 30, 2023



Q&A on PWD 101

Resources

- [Responsibility Diagram](#) (water system components that are PWD's responsibility, vs. homeowners' responsibility)
- [Customer Guide](#)
- [Projects & Construction Page](#)

Additional Learning

- [PWD Drinking water disinfection steps](#)
- [PWD Drinking Water Quality Report](#)

To Share with Neighbors

- [Water Revitalization Plan Overview](#)
- [PWD FAQ](#)
- [Link to Philly H2O Blog](#)
- [Link to PWD Announcements](#) (events, resource fairs, etc.)
- [Ad for Tiered Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#)
- [Contact PWD](#)





Water Revitalization Plan

SRX Project Spotlight

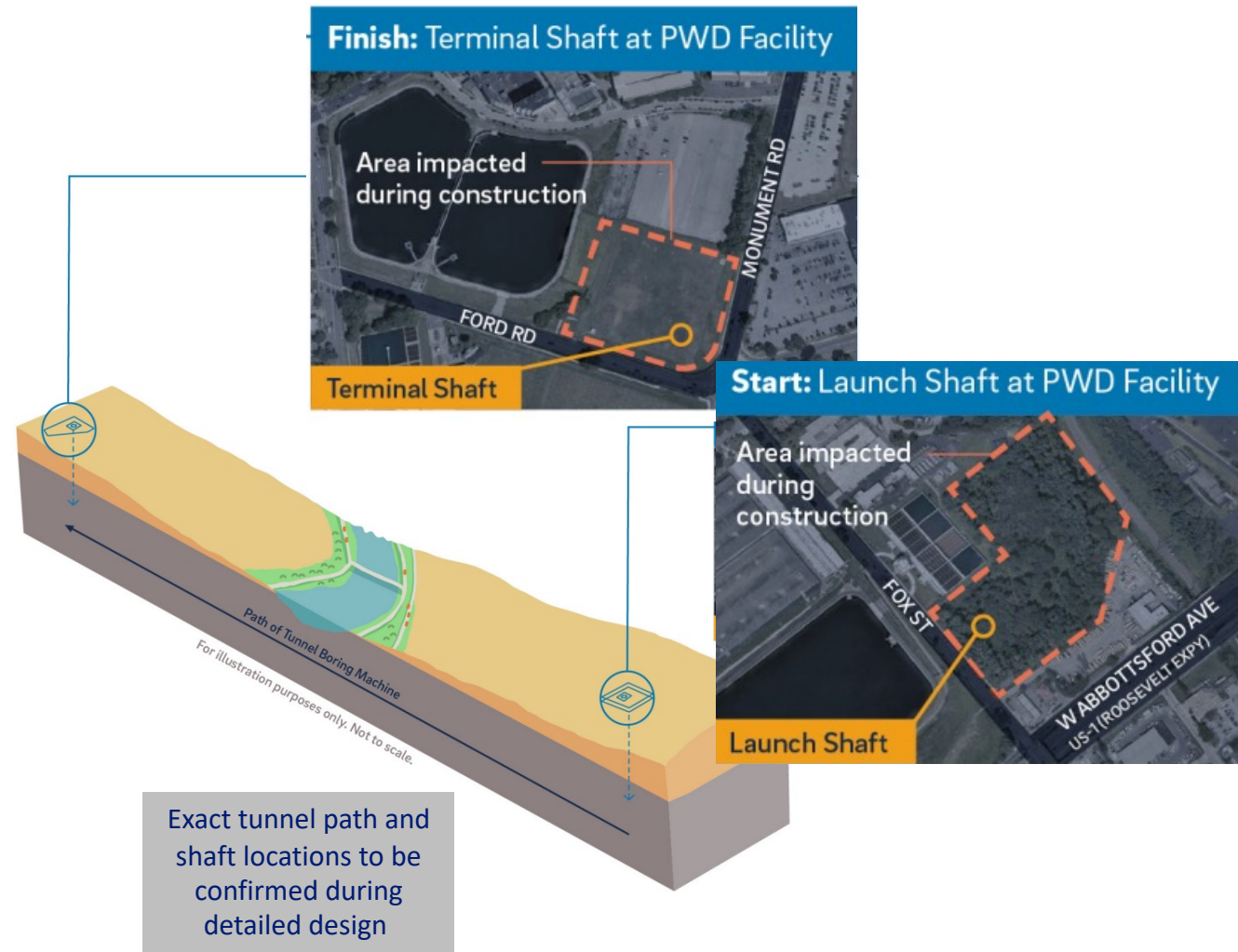
Digging into our first major project for
the Water Revitalization Plan



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Schuylkill River Crossing (SRX) Project

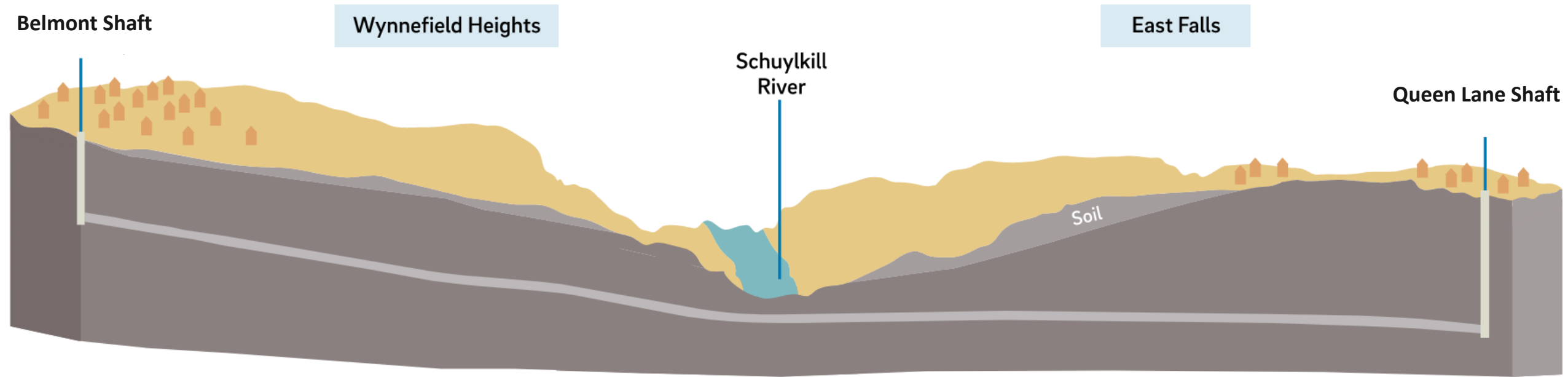
- SRX is a large-scale tunnel project, the first of the WRP, that will connect two of our City's drinking water plants to ensure that Philadelphia's current residents and future generations maintain access to safe, reliable drinking water.
- A tunnel will be constructed through rock over 100 feet (on average) below ground.
- Construction is estimated to begin in early 2026.
- PWD will continue to provide project updates to residents and communities.



Graphical representation of SRX tunnel. Not to scale.



SRX Project Overview



How a Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Works

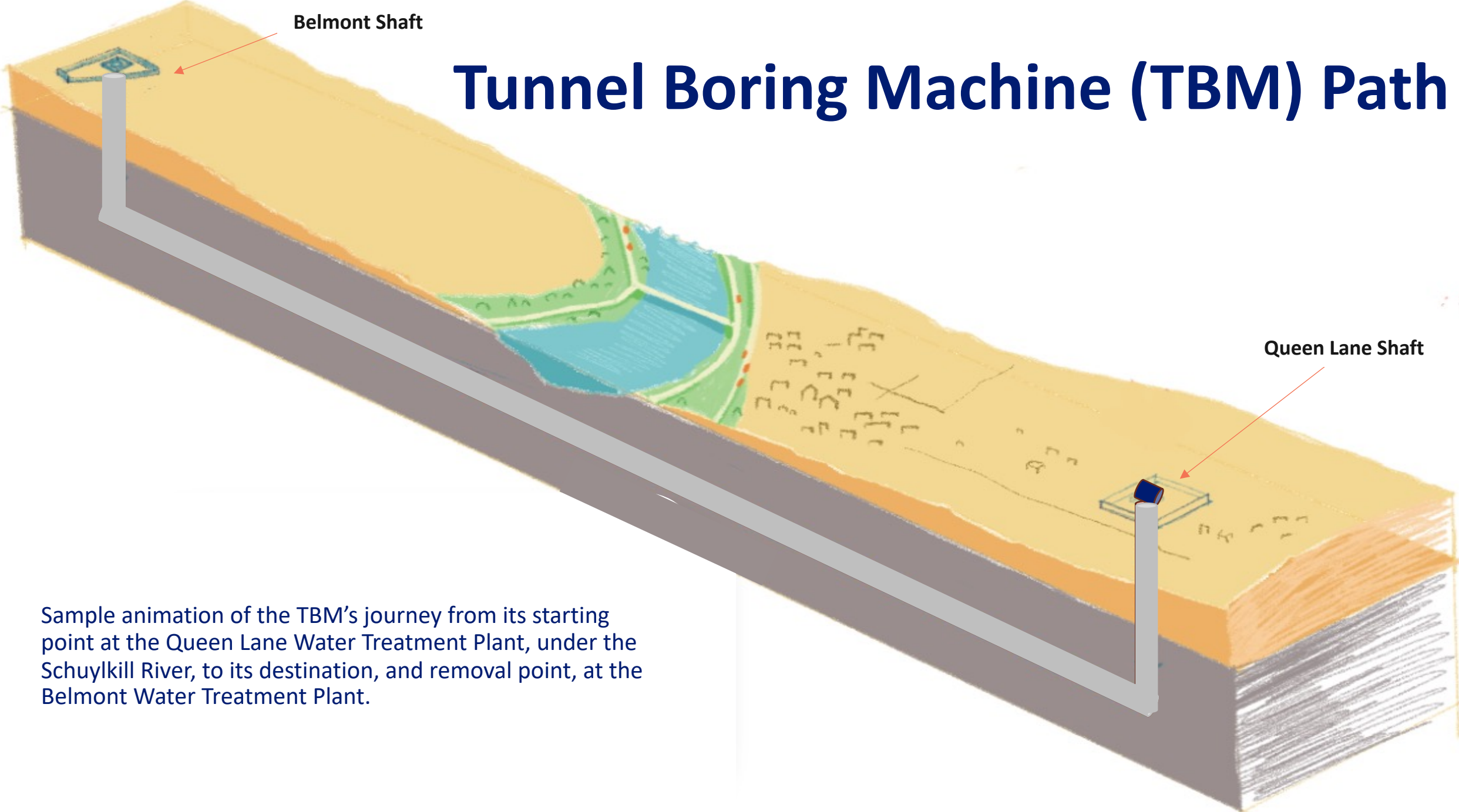
The following video (<https://vimeo.com/819916422>) provides a general overview of how a tunnel boring machine works. This video was developed for the RiverRenew project in Alexandria, VA.

The SRX tunnel will have a few key differences from the RiverRenew project.

- The SRX tunnel will be through rock (vs. soil)
- The SRX will TBM will dig at a deeper depth
- The pipeline will be installed after the TBM completes its journey between plants, not building as it goes along as the RiverRenew TBM does
- The design of the TBM may look different (cutterhead, internal features, etc.) than the TBM in this video – this is for reference purposes only to begin to familiarize yourself with a TBM



Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Path



Sample animation of the TBM's journey from its starting point at the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant, under the Schuylkill River, to its destination, and removal point, at the Belmont Water Treatment Plant.

SRX Project Community Engagement & Outreach

- What type of information would be helpful to SAG members and community?
- Examples of communication materials
 - Fact sheet
 - Postcard
 - Digital campaign (e.g., social media, email newsletters, website)
 - Educational K-12
 - What did we miss?



Outreach Examples from Other PWD Efforts

Green City, Clean Waters

- Fact sheets
- Targeted digital campaigns
- Signage
- Enamel pins
- Murals
- ...and more



GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Harrowgate Park

About Green City, Clean Waters

Green City, Clean Waters plan is the City of Philadelphia's 25-year initiative to improve the quality of our waterways by installing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in our neighborhoods, coupled with traditional infrastructure like collection, pumping, and wastewater treatment plant enhancements. This plan is regulated and a direct result of the goals set forth by the Clean Water Act. Since the start of GCCW, we have constructed thousands of GSI systems throughout the city. These GSI projects consist of public investments along streets and in parks, private property incentives, and development regulations, which showcase multiple successful pathways toward cleaner local waterways.

About Green Stormwater Infrastructure

GSI can combine vegetation (flowers, grasses & trees) in addition to engineered systems (inlets & piping) to capture and collect rainwater flowing from hard surfaces, such as streets and sidewalks. Vegetation and trees are planted on the top of a GSI system to soak up water while the stone bed underground is used to store as much stormwater runoff as possible. PWD maintains all functional aspects of all public GSI systems.



This rain garden manages stormwater runoff from the streets next to the park and is planted with Blue Flag Irises.

Project Information

Address
3455 Kensington Avenue

Neighborhood
Harrowgate/East Kensington

Date Completed
November 2016

Watershed
Delaware River

Council District
1

Gallons of Stormwater Diverted from Sewer System
97,750 gallons per storm event

Stormwater Management Practices
Rain Gardens

Rain Garden Plantings

- Blue Flag Iris
- Beefsteak Plant
- Boneset
- Fountain Grass

Partners
Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Project Page
water.phila.gov/projects/p50059/

How the Project Came To Be & Continued Stewardship

PWD and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR) spearheaded site improvements to improve the park space and capture runoff that would otherwise pollute our local waterways. The community members joined the effort to share their larger goals for the park, and their input was incorporated by PWD & PPR into the final plans. PWD remains committed to maintaining GSI system functionality and is excited to continue working as a team with partners, stakeholders, and community members to uplift Harrowgate Park.



Park users can easily find out more information about the rain gardens by engaging with PWD-installed signage.



This image showcases how water enters into the rain gardens from the street (the blocks in the lower left), as well as how smaller rain gardens are connected to larger rain gardens via a pipe network (under the sidewalk).



The use of 'native plants' in these rain gardens, and all of our GSI systems, provide valuable food and habitat for our local pollinators, like this bee.



All public GSI systems, including these rain gardens, are maintained regularly for peak functionality and to ensure the health and safety of the site, care-givers, and park users.

PWD Process & Funding

PWD committed over \$1 million dollars (a combination of both design and construction costs) toward stormwater management and parkland beautification at Harrowgate Park. These rain gardens were constructed in the Fall of 2016. PPR reviewed design plans to ensure that the improvements aligned with planned park upgrades and community needs.

Learn more about Green City, Clean Waters
water.phila.gov/green-city

Sign up for PWD News & Updates
water.phila.gov/signup

Follow PWD on social media
f @phillyh2o



Outreach Examples from Other PWD Efforts

JOIN US!

Philly Water Bar

POP-UP AT RALPH BROOKS



Learn and provide input about green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in your neighborhood while sampling Philly's Tap.

August 12, 2023
0:00 pm - 0:00 pm

Ralph Brooks Park
1606 S 20th St
Philadelphia, PA 19145

More green improvements are coming to Ralph Brooks Park!
The current GSI will stay in place while the rain garden will be updated to help reduce pollution to our local waterways.




This rain garden will be redesigned and replanted.

Visit the 50395 Project Page for Updates
water.phila.gov/projects/p50395/
Scan QR Code to visit



The event is rain-or-shine and the location is ADA accessible.

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

Sign up, stay informed
Find out what we are doing in your community. Get emails and texts for projects, meetings, and other events in your ZIP code.
water.phila.gov/signup

YOU'RE INVITED!

Community Meeting

Give input on a green stormwater project planned for Cobbs Creek



MEETING LOCATION:
Cobbs Creek Parkway
and South 59th Street

 Light refreshments will be served.

 This meeting site is not ADA accessible.
Rain Date: November 4th

Meeting Hosted By: Philadelphia Water Department

LEARN ABOUT THE PLANNED WORK



This is an example of a PWD-constructed rain garden that manages street runoff.

Project Name:
Cobbs Crossing Rain Garden

Project Number:
50349

Timing:
This project is in the design phase. Visit the project page for the latest timing information.

About:
It will implement green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to reduce pollution and protect local waterways.

 Visit the project page and sign up for updates!
water.phila.gov/projects/p50349/


PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT | Green City, Clean Waters

Contact:
Dan Schupsky
daniel.schupsky@phila.gov

facebook

Community Meeting

Learn about green projects in your area!




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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023 AT 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT

Cobbs Crossing Community Meeting
Cobbs Creek Parkway & South 59th Street



Outreach Examples from Other PWD Efforts



REMOTE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

New at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center!
Each program has recommended pre-meeting activities, followed by a 30-minute virtual session with an FWW environmental educator.

Freshwater Mussel Research
Why is the Philadelphia Water Department interested in freshwater mussels? Learn about these creatures' unique life cycle, the ecological service they provide, and how we are advancing our knowledge of how to propagate these animals in the Mussel Hatchery at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center.

Urban Watershed Basics
Explore the relationship between the water cycle and your watershed, specifics about urban watersheds, and learn what happens to all the water that goes down the drain or runs off our streets, sidewalks and rooftops.

History of Philadelphia's Water Supply
Discover the innovative beginnings of Philadelphia's water supply system. Learn how the Water Works' state-of-the-art design and engineering solved supply and distribution issues, contributing to the growth of our city. Impact of city's development on the Schuylkill River will be discussed.

Register your 3rd to 12th-grade class (10-student minimum) for one of these free virtual experiences at www.fairmountwaterworks.org

Mussel Maniacs

📅 **Saturday, October 28th**

🕒 **10:00am—12:00pm**

👤 **Adults, College Students, Educators, Elementary School Children, Everyone, Family Friendly, High School Students, Middle School Students, Seniors**

★ **Hands-On Science**

📍 **The Discovery Center**
3401 Reservoir Drive
Philadelphia, PA 19121

[Directions →](#)

📄 **FREE, but pre-registration is required**

[Register Now!](#)

ADD TO CALENDAR: [Google Calendar](#) [iCal Format](#)

Join us for our monthly freshwater mussel measuring event at the Discovery Center on Saturday, October 28 from 10am - 12pm! This community science program helps our freshwater mussel propagation program and brings us a step closer to cleaner water for birds and for ourselves. For more information, contact Bria Wimberly at bria.wimberly@audubon.org or Stacey Heffernan at stacey.heffernan@phila.gov.



Outreach Examples from Other PWD Efforts

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

Water Utility ▾ Sustainability ▾ Education & Outreach ▾ About Us ▾

Projects & Construction

Active and upcoming work in your neighborhood

Projects by Type ▾ Projects by Status ▾ Construction Map 🔍

To report construction-related incidents or issues requiring immediate attention, please call (215) 685-6300.

[What you need to know about water emergencies →](#)

Search Projects... 🔍

Browse Projects

- Project Type +
- Phase +
- ZIP Code +
- Neighborhood +
- Watershed +
- Council District +
- Green Tool +

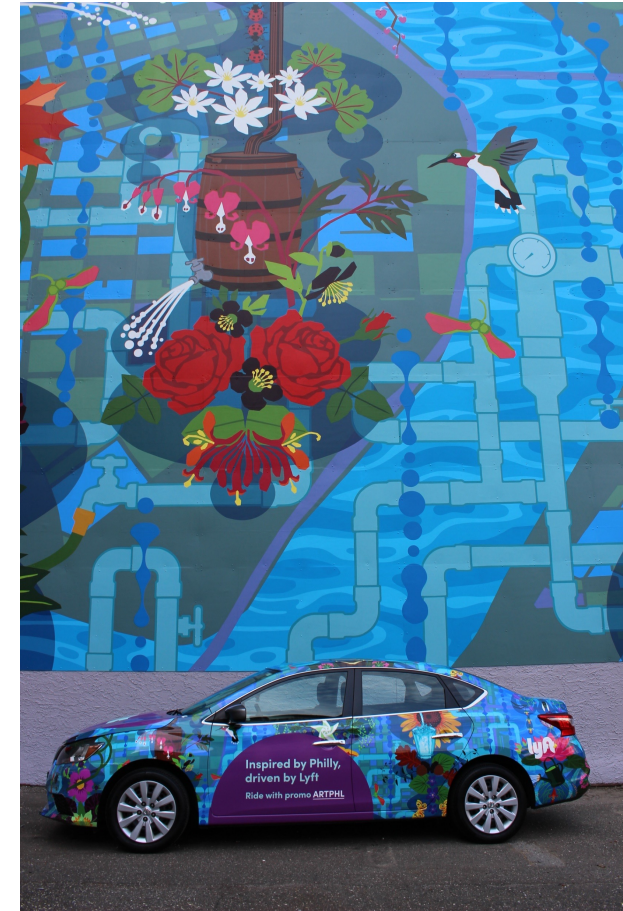
Construction Projects Map

Projects:

Project Name	Location	ZIP Code
Harrowgate Rain Garden	EAST KENSINGTON, HARROWGATE, RIVER WARDS	19134
Nichols Park	WEST PHILADELPHIA	19139
Warrington / Windsor	KINGSSESSING, WEST PHILADELPHIA	19143
Awbury Streets	GERMANTOWN, NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA	19104
Holmesburg Edge	HOLMESBURG, NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA	19122
Cantrell / 5th	SOUTH PHILADELPHIA, WHITMAN	19146



Outreach Examples from Other PWD Efforts





Breakout Session

What type of information would be helpful to SAG members and community?

- Examples of communication materials
- Fact sheet
- Postcard
- Digital campaign (e.g., social media, email newsletters, website)
- Educational K-12
- What did we miss?

The following responses were developed from the breakout group responses to the question: What type of information would be helpful to SAG members and community?

Issues to Consider

- Quality of life
 - Impacts on traffic,
 - noises
 - lighting impacts
 - vibrations
 - air quality/dust
- Parking loss
- Soil from tunnels - where does it go?
- What is the cost? Will this change water bills?
- Water still safe to drink during/after construction - different sources? Any changes?
- PWD has to work to establish trust

Media/Communication Ideas

- Multiple rounds of communication
- Local publications
- Paper mailers/notices in mailboxes and telephone poles
- Traffic advisories - Route 1 ramps
- Distribute materials at schools, businesses, and public libraries
- 3D Model of SRX – display at schools, libraries, RCO meetings
- Bus stops signage, SEPTA ads
- Radio
- 1-800 number and dedicated email address
- Translation services
- Digital media/social media
- Educational material aimed at children



The following wordcloud was developed from SAG responses to a live Poll Everywhere to the question below:

What benefits of the SRX project do you see as the most valuable/impactful to all Philadelphians? 64

The word cloud contains the following terms: upgrading service, alternative drinking water supply, updated water infrastructure, long term clean safe water, improved water quality and service reliability, climate resilience, water accessibility, and 21st century water revitalization.

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app



Upcoming Community Listening Sessions

- Intent
- In-person sessions
- Timeframe for first round
- SAG member input and requested involvement





Questions?

Water Revitalization Plan landing page:
water.phila.gov/projects/revitalization/

Email support:
WRPsupport@phila.gov