

2024 Stormwater Pioneer:

Awbury Arboretum



Awbury Arboretum's basin helps alleviate stormwater problems in the community.

For more than a century, Awbury Arboretum's 56 acres in the Germantown neighborhood have been a green oasis for Philadelphians.

About the project

Awbury Arboretum's Stormwater Basin project restored the ponds and watercourse on the property's southwest portion and provided much-needed management of stormwater runoff.

This system diverts combined sewer overflows from polluting the Tacony-Frankford Creek.

The arboretum's pond and watercourse are the only existing above-ground portion of the Wingohocking Creek, which was transformed into sewers starting in the late 19th century.

Through \$377,783 from the Philadelphia Water Department and a \$75,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the reconstruction of the watercourse and ponds was completed in December 2021.

This restoration on Awbury's property could significantly alleviate the stormwater problems that regularly occur at the Washington Lane and Chew Avenue intersection.



Stormwater Pioneers

The Stormwater Pioneers Award recognizes the best in stormwater management on private property. The selected projects demonstrate innovation, excellence, the ability to overcome technical challenges, and a true dedication by the property owners, developers, and designers to improving the environment and reducing stormwater runoff.

2024 Stormwater Pioneer: **Awbury Arboretum**



Constructed in 2021, the system diverts combined sewer overflows from local waterways.

A resource for the community

Aside from housing a stormwater management system, the arboretum serves as a community hub, welcoming visitors to its grounds 365 days a year for various programs and activities.

Connecting an urban community with nature and history, the space partners with local schools, daycares, and organizations to utilize Awbury's landscape and historic house as an active learning center and context for place-based education.

Since 2015, the majority of the arboretum's grounds have enjoyed historical and ecological protection via its Conservation Easement granted to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and overseen by The Natural Lands Trust.



Awbury's Francis Cope House includes an art gallery and visitor information.

Project information

Watersheds

Tacony-Frankford Creek,
Wingohocking Creek

Project type

Stormwater Retrofit

GSI System

Surface Detention System Basin

Gallons diverted*

107,607 per typical storm event

Project Consultant & Construction Contractors

Irick Eberhardt & Mientus Inc.,
Engineers

LandConcepts, Consultants

Cerreleun, Consultants

James R. Kenney, Excavation &
Paving, Contractors

Project Cost

Grant Amount Requested

from PWD

\$261,607

Grant Amount Awarded

from PWD

\$377,783

Total Project Costs

\$452,783

***What are "Gallons Diverted"?**

GSI projects prevent significant volumes of stormwater from overwhelming sewer systems. Without this infrastructure, these overflows would pollute our local creeks and rivers. (For scale, one SEPTA bus could hold approximately 30,000 gallons of water!)



Awbury Arboretum

1 Awbury Rd
Philadelphia, PA 19138

awbury.org

(215) 849-2855