GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN PARKS

Hunting Park Rain Gardens



One of the Hunting Park rain gardens in full bloom

About *Green City, Clean Waters (GCCW)*

The Green City, Clean Waters (GCCW) 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 is a direct result of the goals set forth by the Clean Water Act (established in 1972). Since the start of GCCW, PWD has constructed thousands of public 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. In Hunting Park, PWD has installed and manages 5 rain gardens.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in Hunting Park

GSI combines vegetation (flowers, grasses & trees) in addition to engineered systems (inlets & piping) to capture and collect stormwater runoff 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. The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) maintains all functional aspects of all public GSI systems. The Hunting Park rain gardens were constructed in partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation (PPR). They have the added benefit of beautifying Hunting Park and providing habitat for native pollinators. PWD generally plants native plants that are effective at managing stormwater. In the rain gardens of Hunting Park you can find over 25 different species of plants.

Project Information

Neighborhood
Hunting Park Neighborhood

Date Completed
Spring 2021

Watershed
Tookany/Tacony-Frankford

Council District
District 5 - Jeffery Young Jr.

Project Number
50060

Estimated Gallons of Stormwater Diverted from Combined Sewer System
6.27 million per year

Stormwater Management Practices
Rain Gardens, Subsurface Trench

Partners
Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, Fairmount Park Conservancy

Project Page URL
water.phila.gov/projects/p50060/



Rain garden during active construction

Process & Funding

PWD dedicated approximately $1.7 million to the Hunting Park rain gardens and subsurface trenches. PWD designed and constructed the GSI, working closely with PPR throughout the design, construction, and post-construction process. This partnership ensured the preservation of the historical characteristics of the park, maintained existing pedestrian connections, and safe-guarded mature trees that PPR had stewarded for decades.

PWD also incorporated elements from Fairmount Park Conservancy's Hunting Park Revitalization Project into this process. The revitalization plan identified the impact of poor drainage in Hunting Park and the resulting damage to the road. The rain gardens are a part of implementing best practice for stormwater management that helps preserve Hunting Park as a whole. Additionally, rain gardens contributed to the overall 385 new trees planted as a part of the revitalization project.

Thank you

Proactive collaboration and partnership makes PWD's work possible. PWD would like to thank PPR, The Fairmount Park Conservancy, local leaders & stakeholders, and residents for their contributions to this project. These contributions made this project a success and helped create a cleaner and greener Hunting Park.

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

History of Hunting Park

Hunting Park is both a neighborhood and a park in Philadelphia. The park itself was originally a horse racing course known as Allen's Race Course that operated from 1808 to 1853. Two years after the course closed it was opened as a public park at the edge of a growing Philadelphia. The park and the neighborhood developed alongside each other. The Hunting Park neighborhood is a predominantly Black and Latino area and the park serves as a center of social life and recreation for the neighborhood. The Hunting Park neighborhood also struggles with excessive heat. Hunting Park is a site of relief and heat management for the neighborhood.



The site during routine maintenance



Hunting Park neighborhood overlooking a Hunting Park rain garden