



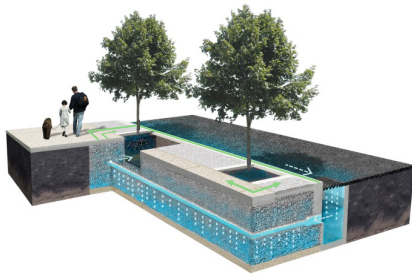
Green Stormwater Infrastructure FAQ for Plumbers & Contractors

PWD is installing hundreds of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), often not visible from the surface. You'll be responsible for expensive repairs if you damage hidden infrastructure. Avoid the cost, call before you dig.



Call PA One Call before you dig!

To avoid damaging City-owned GSI, call **PA One Call** at **8-1-1**



Subsurface Infrastructure

What is GSI?

GSI is a surface and/or subsurface drainage system that stores, filters and conveys stormwater runoff. GSI slows the flow of stormwater into sewers, and natural features such as soil and plants remove pollutants.

Why should I care about GSI?

State and federal regulations require our city to reduce the pollution discharged into our rivers when it rains. GSI helps meet these regulations. Our combined sewer overflow prevention program, Green City, Clean Waters, reduces pollution and provides secondary benefits to communities around Philadelphia.



Subsurface Stone Adjacent Excavation

GSI is fragile and a disturbed system may collapse. **If you damage GSI, please notify our Green Stormwater Operations team at (215) 300-9079 immediately.** You will be responsible for any damage caused to GSI and may have to pay additional fines.

What can I do to avoid damaging GSI?

- Call PA One Call at 8-1-1
 - Get GSI drawings from PWD Records: (215) 685-6271
- Philadelphia Water Department will provide record plans showing locations, type of GSI, GSI footprint area/extent, and critical elevations (top of storage, bottom of storage, invert elevations of connection points). We will mark out the extent of GSI during field one-calls. Emergency exceptions may be made.

How can I avoid damaging GSI?

If a private pipe or other infrastructure must run through GSI or if you must dig near GSI, Philadelphia Water Department will provide specific requirements. Plumbers and contractors must contact PWD for any proposed work in the immediate vicinity of GSI. A Philadelphia Water Department inspector must be on site during construction and must give final approval after appropriate GSI restoration.

What does GSI look like?

GSI takes a variety of forms. Typically, there are surface and underground stormwater storage areas. Surface storage can include rain gardens, tree plantings, and stormwater planters. Subsurface storage is typically a trench or other area comprised of clean-washed AASHTO No. 57 aggregate wrapped in non-woven geotextile or a geomembrane. Subsurface storage trenches can run several hundred feet under the sidewalk. **GSI often blends into its surroundings, and even installations that appear to be standard street trees can have extensive underground infrastructure.**



Subsurface Infrastructure

Where is GSI located?

GSI is located throughout Philadelphia in sidewalks, streets, parks, and community centers. Visit the Big Green Map to locate many of our planned and completed projects: www.phillyh2o.info/gccw. **This map is not a comprehensive list of projects and is not a substitute for calling Philadelphia Water Department and/or PA One Call (8-1-1).**

What else should I know?

Sediment can damage GSI and is generally not permitted in the sewer system. GSI is designed to filter and clean stormwater, and sediment runoff from construction or excavation sites can clog GSI and negatively impact performance. Install appropriate erosion and sediment (E&S) controls at all times.

Where can I learn more?

More information about *Green City, Clean Waters* and GSI is available at www.phillyh2o.info/gccw. Email general questions to: waterinfo@phila.gov.

Philadelphia Water Department Contact List

For GSI drawings, contact **Records** at **(215) 685-6271**

To schedule work near GSI or report damage,
contact **Green Stormwater Operations** at **(215) 300-9079**