

West Branch Indian Creek Stream Restoration



After restoration, a lush and healthier environment (August, 2014)

History of the Creek

In 1928, the West Branch of Indian Creek was diverted underground into a culvert to connect with Philadelphia's combined sewer system. This allowed the flow of the creek to assist in the disposal of stormwater and other waste from the rapidly expanding Overbrook community.

When it rained, excess water and sewage went into this underground tunnel and overflowed into Indian Creek. The tunnel would also become clogged with debris from the creek, causing flooding in Morris Park and Papa Playground.

How This Project Came to Be

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is committed to stream restoration in the Cobbs Creek Watershed to protect our natural lands and existing infrastructure.

PWD works to improve the entire ecosystem at restoration sites by rebuilding stream banks, removing invasive vegetation, and replanting with native varieties.

Project Information

Address

1101 N 68th St
Philadelphia, PA 19151

Project Number

40640

Neighborhood

Overbrook

Date Completed

Spring 2014

Watershed

Darby/Cobbs Creek

Council District

District 4, Curtis Jones, Jr.

Change in Annual Combined Sewer Overflow Frequency

↓ 87% Reduction

Stormwater Management Practices

Stream Daylighting,
Wetland Creation

Partners

Philadelphia Parks &
Recreation, U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers - Philadelphia
District



A boulder wall protects critical streamside infrastructure (August, 2014)

A cascade structure connects the daylighted stream with the East Branch of Indian Creek (March, 2014)

Process & Funding

Today, Indian Creek once again flows naturally through Morris Park.

In 2008, PWD partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District (USACE) to daylight the West Branch of Indian Creek.

The project utilized an area of the park to create a stream bank. Engineers also reconfigured the existing culvert.

Once used to direct flow from combined sewer overflows, it now prevents them, serving as a storage tank for polluted stormwater.

The Benefits

These improvements help curb water pollution in the Cobbs Creek Watershed.

The project included 1,000 linear feet of stream bed and bank stabilization and created an additional 800 linear feet of newly daylighted stream.

This has significantly improved the habitat for frogs, birds, fish, and other wildlife.



A message of community support (August, 2014)

A Green City, Clean Waters Project

To meet state and federal regulations, The City of Philadelphia & PWD created *Green City, Clean Waters*: a 25-year plan to reduce the volume of stormwater entering combined sewers using green infrastructure and to expand stormwater treatment capacity with traditional infrastructure improvements.

The plan was formally adopted in 2011 and Philadelphia is scheduled to meet pollution reduction goals by 2036, in accordance with our Long Term Control Plan.