



Morris Park North



This large rain garden manages stormwater runoff from the sports field (July, 2023)

History of the Park

Before colonization, the Lenni Lenape took care of the land we call Philadelphia. After colonization, European settlers used the dense forests for fuel and building. Over time, the remaining trees were cleared for farming and raising livestock. Industrialization further changed the landscape when Indian Creek was rerouted to use the water to power mills. These mills produced flour, lumber, and later, wool and cotton products.

In 1910, the Morris family donated land to the City of Philadelphia for Morris Park. The park changed with people's recreational interests. Paths for horses became walking trails and tennis courts became athletic fields. In 1976, the Papa Playground recreation center was built.

Project Information

Address

1101 N 68th St,
Philadelphia, PA 19151

Project Number

50110

Neighborhood

Overbrook Park

Date Completed

November, 2023

Watershed

Cobbs Creek

Council District

District 4, Curtis Jones, Jr.

**Volume of Stormwater
Diverted from Sewer System**
174,210 gallons per typical
storm event

Stormwater Management Practices

Infiltration/Storage Trench
& Rain Garden

Partners

Philadelphia Parks &
Recreation

Project Page

water.phila.gov/projects/p50110/



Rain garden progress (May, 2020)

This rain garden captures water as it moves downhill towards the recreation building and playground (August, 2022)

How This Project Came to Be

Working with the community, the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) decided to place the rain gardens around the edge of Papa Playground. Previously, muddy water would flow across the parking lot and other nearby hard surfaces.

The 3 rain gardens in this project collect rainwater from nearby hard surfaces. These rain gardens help reduce the frequency of sewer system overflows.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) helps capture runoff. Rain gardens have plants and trees to soak up water. The water trickles down through roots and soil, entering an underground storage container. This process helps prevent pollutants from entering our local waterways.

This project combines traditional infrastructure and innovative stormwater management practices.

Process & Funding

In 2019, PWD started planning the GSI project "Morris Park North." This project included three rain gardens and a relining of the sewers on Leeds Street and Lebanon Avenue.

A shallow stormwater-only sewer was constructed to send stormwater to the rain gardens in Morris Park. These steps reduced the flow of polluted water into nearby Indian and Cobbs Creeks.

This \$3.1 million investment improves stormwater management and boosts resilience in Morris Park. The construction finished in late 2023. The improvements benefit nearby residents, park visitors, and local wildlife.

Thank you

Many residents and community groups helped make this project happen. Private land donations, city planning, environmental projects,

and community involvement were key in this project's success.

Over the last 100 years, Morris Park has transformed from an industrial site into a thriving ecosystem keeping local streams clean.

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.