

Jefferson Square Park

Size & Type of Project:

Passive "green" Park; 2.6 acres

Location:

South Philadelphia, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

Budget:

\$616,332.20

Project Phase:

Completed July 2008

Project Overview

The architects working on Jefferson Square Park have developed sustainable methods to manage its storm water runoff problem and prevent the runoff from flooding the surrounding streets. The park contains four sidewalks that all meet at the center of the park. To achieve efficient storm water management, permeable pavers were installed along each side of the sidewalks as well as the outside edge of the park's central planting bed. In addition, the four sidewalks have been restored and regraded. Bordering the street and adjacent to the park, a holding tank has been installed underground to collect the runoff from the street sidewalks. With help from DCNR and matching funds from the city, the park was completed in July 2008. Since Jefferson Square Park's completion, the park has been in constant use by the surrounding neighborhoods. The park functions as a peaceful place to sit and read and as a site for the neighborhood's Spring Clean-up Day as well as various other activities.



Pavers on top of slope

Site Context

Jefferson Square Park, located in South Philadelphia, was originally established in the 19th century as a strolling park. Also during this time, the park served as a camp for the Union Army during the Civil War. Since then, the surrounding area has gone through many transformations, mirroring the changing of the times and the row home growth of South Philadelphia. The park is surrounded on three sides by residential row homes and on one side by Washington Avenue, a major east-west street in the City.

Sustainable Practices

Permeable Paving:

Permeable pavers line the edges of the new pavement; this includes the four major sidewalks and the center where each sidewalk meets. Grading was applied to the new pavements as well; the sidewalks slope into the permeable pavers to decrease standing water on the sidewalks. New planting beds with native plants and shrubs were developed in the center of the park, with



pavers on the down slope of the park made flush with the beds and those on the down slope raised up to keep the water filtrating down through the soil and plants to maximize water absorption.

Stormwater Street Trench:

Storm water is also collected by a 20 foot by 15 foot street trench outside the park, constructed at a cost of slightly more than \$7000. The street trench contains a holding tank with a planting bed above. The trench is planted with ornamental grasses and different species of Day Lilies to create a highly absorptive environment above the holding tank. The trench is located between the outside sidewalk and street where it accumulates additional runoff.

Native Vegetation:

Only native drought-tolerant grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees were planted within the park:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|--------|
| Magnolias | Cercis | Styrax |
| Roses | Low Bush Blueberry | |
| | Hypericum | Ilex |
| Lilies | Panicum | Day |
| Cherry Tree | Silver Leaf Lindens | |



Street trench, Day Lilies, and Panicum

Maintenance/ Monitoring Information

The Philadelphia Water Department is responsible for the holding tank along the street. Their duties involve monitoring and maintenance of the tank; the tank is serviced four times a year. A walkthrough of the park is conducted about six to eight times a year and the results communicated to the PWD. The Parks and Recreation Department is in charge of the general maintenance, such as cutting the grass, changing the light bulbs, and trash. Despite the usage of drought tolerant plants, maintenance of the planting beds is required. The community park friends group weeds and waters the many beds. The first three years will be the most critical for plant survival.



Project Consultants

- Capital Projects Division of Public Property
- Cahill and Aversa
- PHS Design
- BEAM Lighting Consultant
- Miniscalco
- Carr & Duff

- Overall Supervision
- Site Supervision
- Design Consultant
- Lighting Consultant
- Construction Contractors
- Electrical

More Project Details

<http://jeffersonsquarepark.org/>