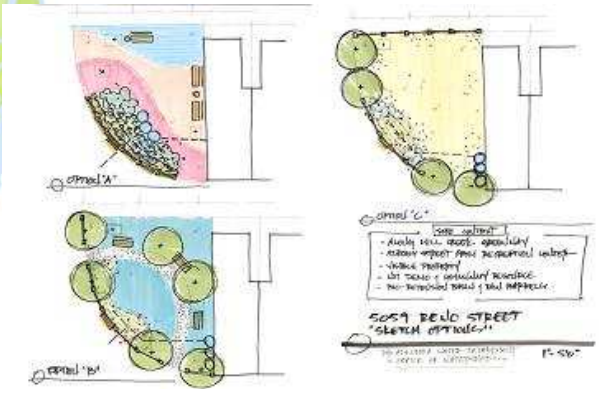
Bioswale at Reno Street in Mill Creek Watershed

Stormwater BMP Project

Schuylkill Watershed



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Status: Monitoring

Partners:

Councilwoman Blackwell
Redevelopment Authority (RDA)
University of Pennsylvania (UPENN)

Mill Creek Coalition (MCC)
Sulzberger Middle School (SMS)

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The Mill Creek Phase I Watershed Redevelopment Project is geared to transform publicly owned land that is currently vacant or a community eyesore into a green community amenity that also detains stormwater in an environmentally sensitive manner. The ultimate goal of these demonstration projects, once replicated, is the reduction of combined sewer overflows to the Schuylkill River. The Reno Street project involves the creation of a community “block” park that invites residents to gather and share tips on planting or life. A vegetated bioswale in the southwestern corner of the park will detain and clean stormwater runoff from the site (the storage portion is underground). The bioswale has an overflow pipe to the city sewer should the swale become saturated.

Benefits:

- Reduces the flow of stormwater into the combined sewer system through on-site detention. This detention holds the stormwater until there is capacity again in the combined sewer, thus reducing overflows to the river.
- Reduces nonpoint source pollution from stormwater runoff through vegetation and bioretention.
- Creates a pleasant green space for residents of the block and encourages community participation in the care of the site.

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Office of Watersheds
Philadelphia Water Department