

Green Infrastructure

In the Wissahickon Watershed, many municipalities are investing in a practice called “green infrastructure.” Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle. The Wissahickon Creek suffers from what is known as the “urban creek syndrome,” which means it experiences flash floods, elevated concentrations of pollutants, impaired habitat and reduced species biodiversity due to suburban development. However, green infrastructure is a valuable tool to counterbalance these side effects in a way that is effective, economical, and enhances community safety and quality of life.

Green infrastructure incorporates both the natural environment and engineered systems to mitigate flooding and erosion, filter pollutants from rain water that flows off the land, and improve groundwater recharge. On the local level, green infrastructure practices include rain gardens, planting tree buffers along the creek, restoring wetlands and floodplains, and retrofitting stormwater basins. Lower Gwynedd Township is currently working on a basin naturalization and rain garden installation project located on the municipal complex site. The project received grant funding through the Growing Greener Program. These projects will help protect the Wissahickon Creek and our community!



Gwynedd Green Committee

Native Plants

What are native plants?

- Plants that were growing naturally in a particular area before the Europeans settled North America.
- Native plants are adapted to local soil, moisture and weather conditions.
- Download Native Plant List for a complete list of local native plants.

What are the benefits of native plants?

- They have deeper root systems that help the soil absorb and retain water.
- Once established, natives don't require irrigation or chemicals.
- Native plants are the foundation of a healthy ecosystem which supports insects, birds and wildlife.

Want to replace your non-native plants with native alternatives?

- Download Native Plant Alternative List for a complete list of native plant alternatives to commonly available non-native plants.

For more information visit:

- <http://www.wvwa.org/nativeplants/>
- <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/nativeplants/>
- <http://pa.audubon.org/audubon-home>

