

Project Summary
For Growing Greener – Watershed Protection Grant Program

Grantee: Sisters of Saint Basil the Great

Project Title: Jenkintown Creek Restoration: Sisters of Saint Basil the Great

Document #: C990000621

Grant Awarded: 2018

Construction Completed: 2022

Project Summary

The Sisters of Saint Basil the Great, through funding received from the Growing Greener grant, the sisters were able to repair the failing grotto and decommission a 430' pipe (circa 1930) which was a direct discharge to the Jenkintown creek.

The failing system had caused degradation to the landscape, uprooted trees and a stagnant well condition at the grotto. In August 2022, we created a new conveyance and shallow impoundment areas for storage as drainage flows to the Jenkintown Creek. The area was then planted with 135 trees and shrubs and 1000 herbaceous perennials. Wetland areas were enhanced and expanded through creation of microtopography features.

Reduced volume and velocity to the Jenkintown Creek. Provided vegetated wetland cells for shallow impoundment and evapotranspiration. Converted 15,000 SF of mowed turfgrass to native meadow which improved habitat and water quality.

Prior to the project being implemented, the flows from the grotto were causing trees to uproot and was a source of sedimentation. In addition, the saturated conditions and short turf grass had become a desirable habitat for an unwelcomed goose population. The density of geese in close proximity to the waterway was concerning and a challenge for water quality in the watershed. Their fecal matter is carried by runoff to the waterways and contributed to increased phosphorus levels and decreased oxygen levels.

By establishing a stabilized conveyance, and incorporating taller meadow vegetation through a riparian buffer, we minimized the extent to which geese reside along the waterway.

This project is an example of creative solution to address failing gray infrastructure which benefits the environment. The project functions as green stormwater infrastructure providing a more beneficial and sustainable conveyance as its gray alternate.