Project Summary

For Growing Greener - Watershed Protection Grant Program

Grantee: Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership

Project Title: Jenkintown Creek Restoration: Alverthorpe Park

Document #: C990002504

Grant Awarded: 2021

Construction Completed: 2023

Project Summary

TTF Watershed Partnership, in collaboration with Abington Township and Temple University implemented the installation of a new infiltration basin at Alverthorpe Park.

Stormwater runoff from 21 acres of developed land drains towards the stormwater inlets along Jenkintown Road. The runoff from surrounding residential neighborhoods is collected in the storm system and discharges through a pipe directly to the lake and Jenkintown Creek without any prior stormwater management.

The Jenkintown Creek is an 1178 acre watershed with 3.75 miles of stream tributary to the Tookany Creek. Much of the development in this watershed pre-dates current stormwater regulations and as such only one existing stormwater basin existed in the Jenkintown Creek watershed prior to it becoming a priority focus for TTFs restoration work.

Similar to other neighboring tributaries in the greater Philadelphia area, it is listed as impaired and not meeting its designated use. The creek has altered hydrology and has had sections enclosed or channelized over the years as development pressures persisted.

Restoration along headwater creeks, such as the Jenkintown Creek, provides us the greatest opportunity to reduce impacts downstream.

The objective of this project was to reduce the volume and velocity of runoff and pollutants being discharged to our waterways. We accomplished this by intercepting the drainage pipe and diverting it into the subsurface infiltration basin. The system consists of 6,350 rain tanks which were installed below the 38,000 SF parking lot. These rain tanks allow water to be slowed down and infiltrated in the ground to reduce discharge to the waterway.

The feature provides 36,000 CF of storage for stormwater runoff. This is equivalent capacity to 276,000 gallons or 7500 bathtubs.