

Project Summary
For Growing Greener – Watershed Protection Grant Program

Grantee: Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel

Project Title: Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel Stormwater Retrofit

Document #: C990002464

Grant Awarded: 2019

Construction Completed: 2022

Project Summary

The Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel received project funding from Growing Greener, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Department of Community and Economic Development grants. Project management and technical support was provided through funding from the William Penn Foundation towards retrofitting the highly impervious property.

The project included intercepting existing stormwater pipes that carried flows offsite to Cheltenham Township's MS4 infrastructure. The project was constructed in two phases. The first phase completed in 2021 captured runoff from the roof of the 1.25 acre building and manage in a subsurface infiltration basin. The second phase completed in 2022 retrofitted the parking lot to reduce impervious and install 3 rain gardens and 2 bioretention parking islands. The parking lot features will be planted with native trees, shrubs and perennials in spring 2023.

The project is an example of an effective creative solution to implement green stormwater infrastructure on a property where land use is not changing and development of the property predates current stormwater management regulations.

This is a publicly visible property where project features can be seen from surrounding sidewalks and roadways. Temporary signage was included during construction and a more permanent sign will be added in the future.

The project is serving for educational purposes and there has already been two public tours of the project. TTF Watershed Partnership, Stroud and Temple University are actively monitoring the watershed and the outcomes of project aggregation on impaired headwater tributaries.

Temple University College of Engineering Senior Design Studio has utilized this project for the 2022/2023 course focus to observe construction and participate in property evaluation for a potential fourth rain garden.