



Environmental, Planning, and Engineering Consultants

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Vernon Park Members List Accomplishments

It doesn't seem right to end the year without patting ourselves on the back for all the wonderful work carried out in Vernon Park in 2011. So with grateful thanks to you, here is what we all accomplished together.

The Tookany/Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership called together a group of stakeholders with connections to Vernon Park in April. The group included the Friends of Vernon Park, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Philadelphia Water Department, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Center in the Park and many local Germantown groups. Lesley Saliga, community liaison at TTF and an AmeriCorp VISTA Volunteer, organized the meetings to plan for a rain garden in Vernon Park. The group met once a month to plan, determine a site, and construct the garden.



The group held work days every other Wednesday in Vernon Park for 2 hours, cleaning the park, pruning trees and shrubs, and weeding, usually with 20-30 volunteers. The group held two well-attended community meetings to provide information on the watershed, storm water runoff, Philadelphia's overall plan for reducing this, and what kind of rain garden the community would like to have in Vernon Park. Plans were drawn up by AKRF, a consulting firm, and approved by the group. In September we had one really large group when we were joined by students from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Temple Law School. Other days Chew and Belfield Neighbors Group, Green Tree School students, Germantown Friends School students, and Gaudenzia participants joined in the work. A full list of participants is at the end.

The ground for the rain garden was broken with a backhoe and after that volunteers dug, moved earth, raked, laid erosion control material, spread mulch, and planted native trees, shrubs and plants. Many volunteers worked two and three days a week as the ribbon-cutting ceremony neared.

On November 5th, the Park and Recreation Commission named Vernon Park the featured park for Love Your Park Day. We had close to 100 people who volunteered to work raking leaves, planting bulbs and celebrate the ribbon cutting with Mayor Nutter.

Since then Friends of Vernon Park have held three additional clean ups, including one this past Monday and consider the park ready for the winter months. We hope many friends from the surrounding area will come out in the spring. We have found that our ongoing frequent presence in the park has made the park beautiful and more enjoyable for all.

With best wishes and special thanks to those of you who were part of this major effort and also helped by buying plants and greens to raise funds.

Sue Finch, Mary Wood & Ruth Seeley

Over 40 community and citywide organizations have participated in the Vernon Park Improvement Effort and the Rain Garden Demonstration Project:

Action United
AKRF, Engineering, Planning and Environmental Consulting Firm
AmeriCorps Youth Build USA
Awbury Arboretum
Awbury Landscape Services (ALS)
Brian Rudnick Campaign Group
Cabbage Rose Design Company
Center in the Park
Central Germantown Council
Chew and Belfield Neighbors Club, Inc.
Classic Town Germantown (CTGT)
Corporation for National and Community Service—AmeriCorps VISTA
David Brothers Nurseries

Divine Beauty School
Earth Force
Fairmount Park Conservancy
First Presbyterian Church
Fresh Grocer
Friends of Vernon Park
Gaudenzia DRC, Inc.
Germantown Community Connection (GCC)
Germantown Friends School (GFS)
Greater Germantown Business Association (GGBA)
Green Tree School
Living All Together In Germantown
NAM Planning & Design, LLC
KJK & Associates
North Creek Nurseries, Inc.
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)
Pennsylvania Master Naturalists

Program (PMN)
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation
Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Philadelphia Police Department
Philadelphia Water Department
Philadelphia Young Democrats
Philadelphia Zoo
Pinelands Nursery & Supply
State Rep. Rosita Youngblood's office
Steve Kinsey, Chief of Staff for John Myers' office
Senior Environmental Corps
The Crefeld School
The Cyberhood Initiative
The Germantown Y
Weavers Way Community Programs