

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape **SUCCESS STORY**

By: City of Easton
Easton-pa.com

Smith St Urban Meadow Project (2011)

SUMMARY

The main pedestrian connection from downtown Easton to the Lachenour Heights neighborhood, Smith Street Hill faced continued soil erosion issues that threatened pedestrian and traffic safety. The installation of an urban meadow utilizing native grasses and wildflowers has served to stabilize the steep bank as well as create an attractive landscape that both improves aesthetic value and limits ongoing maintenance costs to the City.



CHALLENGE

Prior to stabilization, the Smith Street Hill was largely bare soil with scattered trees and scrub growth. This area faced continuous erosion and danger to a major pedestrian thoroughfare in the South Side of Easton. The landscape additionally required frequent maintenance, weed management, and cleanup.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$11,900

Match:
\$11,900

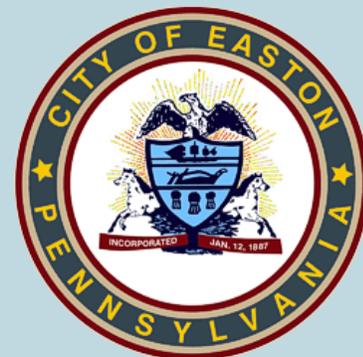
Total Project Cost:
\$23,800

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Nurture Nature Center

**Easton Southside Civic
Association**

Lafayette College



SOLUTION

The combination of seed and live plants installed on Smith Street help prevent continued soil erosion and are able to inhibit weed invasion with minimal management. The diverse composition of native grasses and wildflowers provides a changing seasonal display, while providing food, cover and nesting sites throughout the year. These plants are highly resistant to insect and disease infestation.

RESULTS

Due to the resilient nature of the plantings, maintenance costs and time spent have been significantly reduced. These plants do not require supplemental watering after the initial establishment. In addition, the increase in foliage has served to stabilize bank erosion and increase the safety and aesthetic value of Smith Street for pedestrians and motorists.

Contact



www.LVgreenways.org

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