

Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape SUCCESS STORY

By: Bushkill Township,
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Ballas Tract Stormwater Management Rain Garden

SUMMARY

Bushkill Township planted a rain garden on the 90-acre Ballas Tract, which is located off of Kromer Road, in the Spring of 2019. This property has experienced runoff and erosion issues soon after the completion of the parking lot. This was due to sheet flow coming off the upper end of the parking lot and the mowed lawn area above the parking lot.



CHALLENGE

This project was necessary due to the significant amount of erosion that was occurring on our parking lot. This sediment laden water would flow from our parking lot, then enter a tributary to Sobers Run. Sobers Run is an Exceptional Value (EV) stream, so the runoff from the parking lot needed to be filtered before entering the tributary as to not degrade the high-quality water in Sobers Run. The rain garden that was installed was designed to filter the runoff of any silt and sediment as well as allowing the water to infiltrate into the ground, which will cool the water before it enters the tributary.

FUNDING

Grant Award:
\$1,195.91

Match:
\$1195.91

Total Project Cost:
\$2391.82

PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

Bushkill Township partnered with the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor to make the Ballas Tract Rain Garden Project successful.



SOLUTION

The rain garden was installed according to plans by Bushkill Township's Public Works Department. The installed rain garden was designed to allow the runoff from the parking lot and surrounding areas to infiltrate into the ground, which will filter the runoff of pollutants and allow it to cool before entering the tributary of Sobers Run. This rain garden was planted a Rain Garden Mix from Ernst Seeds. This mix contains native plants and grasses that provide food and cover for rain gardens. It also promotes infiltration and filtration of stormwater runoff.

RESULTS

The planting of native plants and grasses in the rain garden increase the species diversity of the area while providing cold clean water to Sobers Run. The rain garden is allowing stormwater runoff to infiltrate into the ground where it is filtered and cooled before entering a tributary of Sobers Run. This project serves to educate the local community and park visitors about rain gardens and how stormwater Best Management Practices can effectively operate if installed correctly.

Contact



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