

“City of Brotherly Love” Opened its Arms to PGMS

The 2013 Summer Regional and Site Visit that took place in Philadelphia, Pa. Aug. 5-7 was one of amazement, learning, creating networks and more. All photos are posted on the PGMS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ProfessionalGroundsManagementSociety. But for now, check out highlights of the event below and enjoy snapshots of some of the beautiful and pristine landscapes as well as the sustainable practices the sites use!

Villanova University

- In 2010 a stormwater wetland was designed and created for research. Researchers wanted to find out if plant life could survive. This area includes three infiltration pipes and six dams to slow down water. Results found there were not detrimental effects to the plant life and it was able to grow successfully, most likely because it could hold water well. A walking path was added for the campus and surrounding community to enjoy the wildlife and the campus has received great reviews



- A bio-infiltration area on campus is located on a parking lot/traffic island and is designed to hold one inch of rainfall. The native soil was dug out, 50% mix of sand was added, and the soil was put back. Surrounding curbs were retrofitted in 2011 and holes were cut in them so the rain goes into the unit. Research has found this area removes 85% of phosphorus just from the top layer of soil.



- In 2007 a staff parking lot was used as a test comparison site. Six to eight inches of porous/pervious asphalt was laid next to concrete with a large curb in between them. Researchers wanted to see which surface would hold up better. Results found both had the same excellent performance, it successfully serves as a low maintenance area where water from the surrounding buildings and parking lot runs into this area and then filters into the stormwater wetland.



There is an infiltration trench on campus that is separated into three rain gardens with weirs to allow for more infiltration. Water runs off surrounding surfaces, filters down through the long, line of plants to the trench.

Chanticleer Garden

“Chanticleer has been called the most romantic, imaginative, and exciting public garden in America. The garden is a study of textures and forms, where foliage trumps flowers, the gardeners lead the design, and even the drinking fountains are sculptural. It is a garden of pleasure and learning, relaxing yet filled with ideas to take home.”

- This is a privately owned 50 acre estate that is open to the public April-October. It is owned by the Chanticleer Foundation who aims to keep a “private estate intimate feel.”

- Seven full time horticulturists are employed for the estate and each have their own section where they are free to do whatever they want as long as it is OKed by the director. “They garden to have fun” and some of them even make their own benches, railings, structures, etc., mostly during the cold months

- The garden sections include: Bells Run Creek, Bell’s woodland, the Ruin and Gravel Garden, The Orchard, the Cut flower and Vegetable Garden, the Tennis Court Garden, the Teacup Garden, the Chanticleer House Garden, Minder Woods, the Pond Garden, the Asian Woods, and the Serpentine.

- In terms of maintenance they have a crew of three to four full time staff and some seasonal workers. They contract out all tree maintenance.

- For a map of the gardens and to read more please visit www.chanticleergarden.org.



Citizens Bank Park

- The stadium is a 21-acre site that holds 43,000 people.
- The playing field is 440,000 cubic yards (594,000 tons) of soil was excavated to 23' below street level.
- The playing surface is Riviera Bermuda grass, 101,000 square feet, overseeded in the spring and fall with perennial ryegrass.
- In terms of landscaping there are numerous flowers on the outside of the park plus flowers on top of the left field wall. There are more than 1,000 trees located around the ballpark.
- The Phillies' award-winning "Red Goes Green" program at Citizens Bank Park is in partnership with Aramark and Global Spectrum. To offset the carbon footprint created by the team's utility power usage at the ballpark, the Phillies have purchased 20 million kilowatt-hours of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) certified by Green-e Energy for the calendar year. An annual purchase of 100% renewable energy is equivalent to the planting of 100,000 trees. The Phillies Red Goes Green Team collects recyclable bottles throughout the ballpark during home games. There are 35 oversized, 80-gallon recyclable containers placed throughout the ballpark for fans to utilize and aid in recycling efforts.



Philadelphia Museum of Art, Water Works and Parkway

- The Philadelphia Park and Recreation system is huge with over 10,000 acres, 70 pools, six golf courses, five ice rinks, six major watershed parks (5,000 acres), 60 recreation centers, six older adult centers, 200+ miles of trails, six horse stables, six cafes, two major restaurants, 30 historic houses, one marina, and two major skate parks.



- The tour included: a drive around the Parkway, a walking tour of the surrounding grounds of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Boathouse Row, a visit to the public skate park and a stop at "Eakins Oval," eight acres of public space at the base of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. This area includes free daytime and evening programming for all ages and interests, free interactive games and fitness activities, free educational and environmental programs, free live entertainment, free movie nights and new food trucks daily.

