

Manayunk

The Trails, led to the Canal, the River and the Watershed
--And finally Watershed Education

Manayunk 1978

- Canal and Trail under reconstruction
- Original towpath under the tracks on the right
- New path being constructed with fill on the left
- Venice Island was created with fill on a wetlands
- Venice Island was entirely industrial
- Last industry is now in the process of leaving



The trail and canal was seen as an Economic Opportunity for an Aging Industrial Community



But it became so much more....

Opportunity for:

- Trails
- Watershed mitigation
- Watershed interpretation
- Education
- Better quality of life
- River access
- Economic development



In the beginning the projects were mostly physical improvements



Education became critical



- ▶ Initially people were harming the wildlife
- ▶ Leaving trash and debris along the trail

Over the years found that a combination of Education and Projects was important



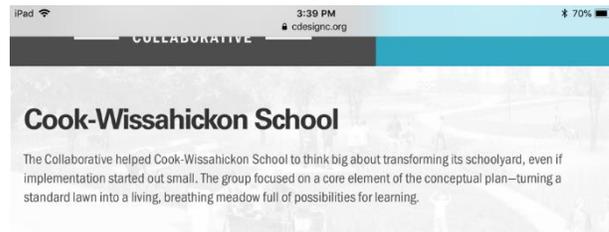
Projects - over the last few years have developed planning for school yards



Projects create opportunities

- ▶ For Teachers, Parents and Children to rethink the school environment.
- ▶ Be involved in design, funding and implementing projects
 - ▶ Large and small projects
- ▶ A requirement of the projects is to work with Philadelphia Waterworks or in many cases teachers have already participated in creating curriculum through grants and the Philadelphia Waterworks.

Cook-Wissahickon School



Services > Impact Areas >

Transforming Schoolyards

CASE STUDIES

Henry C. Lea School [Cook-Wissahickon School](#) Albert M. Greenfield School DESIGN ELEMENTS

STEPS TO A GREEN SCHOOLYARD SCHOOLYARD RESOURCES OUR SCHOOLYARD PROJECTS HOW WE CAN HELP



Orchestrating Incremental Improvements

The Collaborative's partner in this effort was the Wissahickon Sustainability Council (WSC)—a green committee of the Home and School Association comprised of families, teachers, and neighbors committed a broader vision for greening. The master plan that emerged from the conceptual design process empowered WSC to secure several partners for the meadow project, including the Philadelphia Water Department, the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, and the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund, which provided a grant and matching funds in 2012.

The conceptual plan for this unique site became the catalyst for a wider greening movement at the school—beyond the yard to the building and the curriculum. The group has continued to make headway on a series of smaller projects, such as planting beds, a tree nursery, and a magnolia grove.

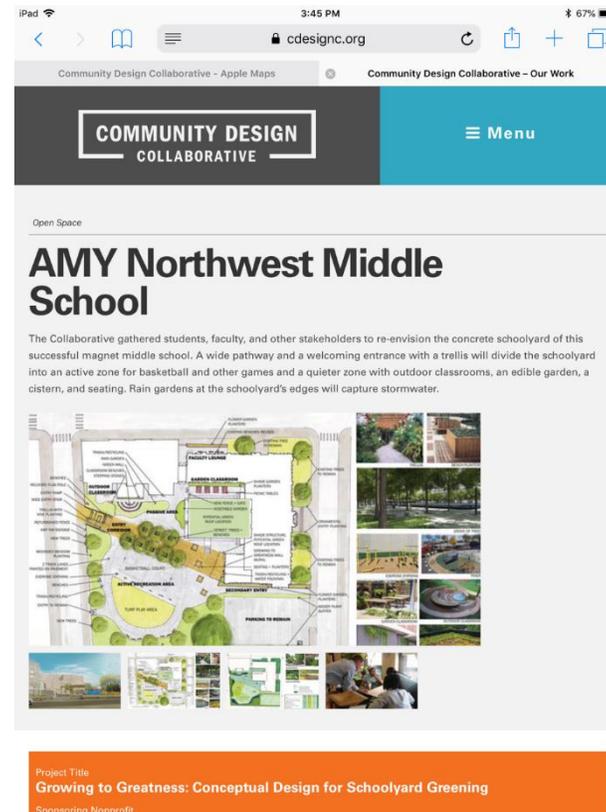
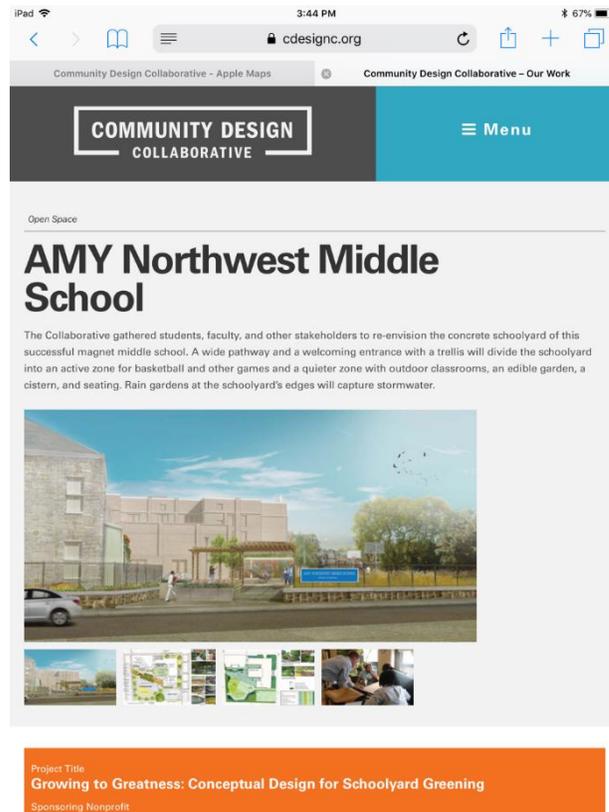


Students made observations during their outdoor journaling reflecting their sense of connection to the meadow:

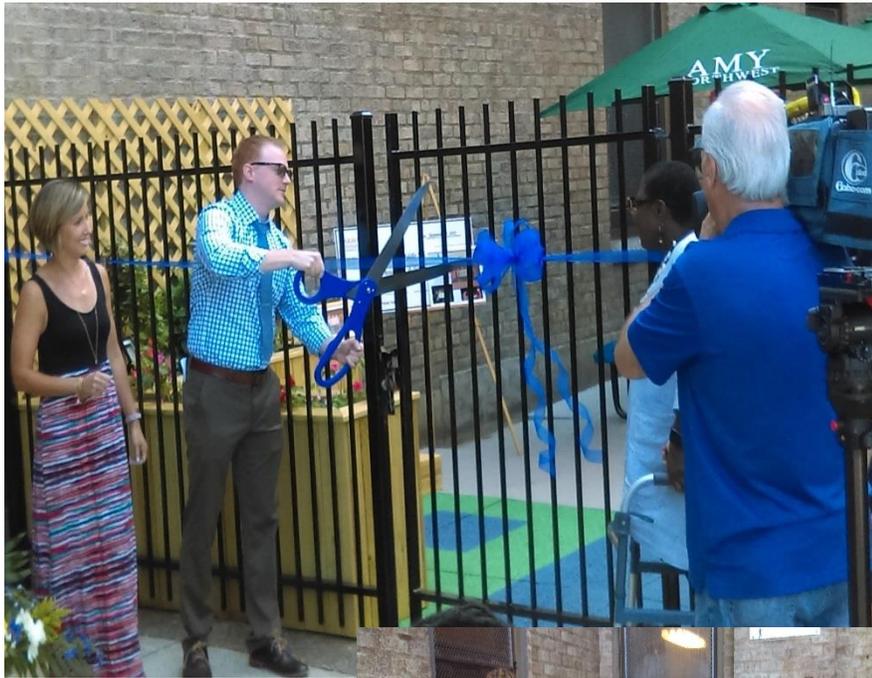
- "The meadow makes a good place for animals to live. It has lots of butterflies."
- "I saw bees collecting pollen from the Black-Eyed Susans."
- "The sound of the crickets makes the meadow sound alive."



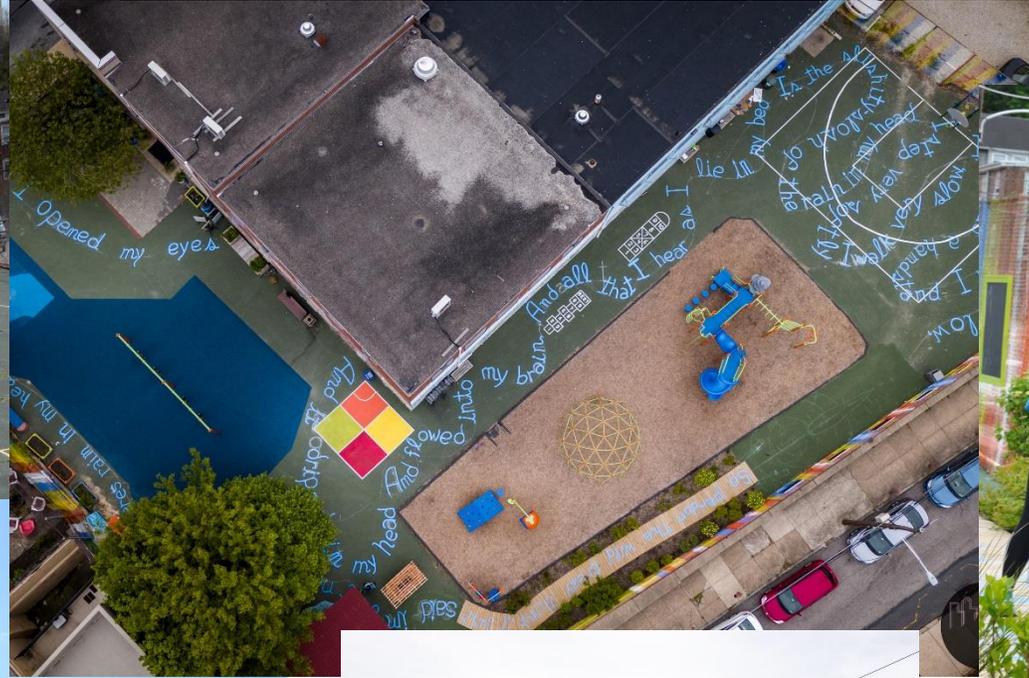
AMY Northwest Middle School



AMY Northwest Ribbon Cutting



North Light Community Center Raingarden



North Light Signs



Look for them along the canal



Monarch Butterfly



Artwork by the Children in Summer Camp 2018
NORTH LIGHT COMMUNITY CENTRE
A Place Where We Grow Our Future



Look for them along the canal



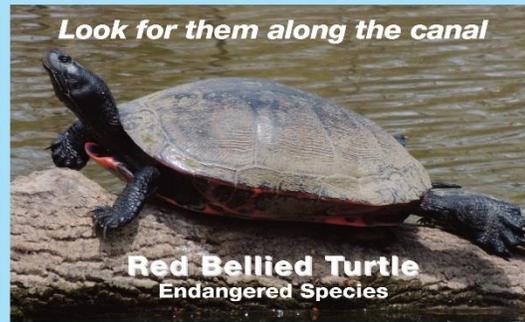
Bullfrog



Artwork by the Children in Summer Camp 2018
NORTH LIGHT COMMUNITY CENTRE
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Look for them along the canal



Red Bellied Turtle
Endangered Species



Artwork by the Children in Summer Camp 2018
NORTH LIGHT COMMUNITY CENTRE
A Place Where We Grow Our Future



Other Schools

W.B. Saul HS, James Dobson Elementary

Open Space

W.B. Saul High School

Philadelphia's agricultural high school's 130-acre campus contains barns, fields, pastures, classrooms, labs, and a gym. Saul came to the Collaborative for a master plan to connect a campus divided by busy Henry Avenue. The plan outlines strategies to improve the streetscape to celebrate the school's unique identity, add a teaching pathway and an outdoor gathering place at the school, add an outdoor learning space at the farm, and improve infrastructure to manage stormwater and farm waste runoff.



Project Title
W.A.T.E.R.: A Conceptual Master Plan for the Saul School Campus

Sponsoring Nonprofit
Manayunk Development Corporation

Address
**7100 Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128**

Neighborhood
**Roxborough
Roxborough/Manayunk**

Volunteer Hours
684

Open Space

James Dobson Elementary School

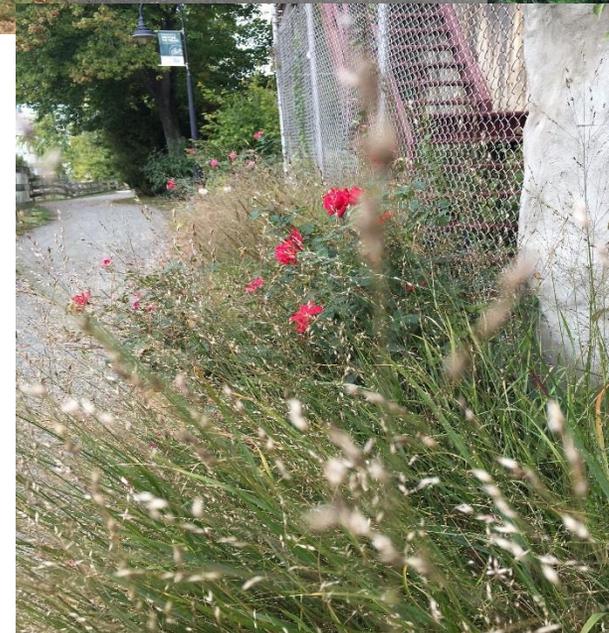
Inspired by a community-driven vision of Dobson Elementary School's outdoor space as "not just a schoolyard, but a common ground," the volunteer team created a versatile master plan that manages stormwater runoff and incorporates green features like a learning grove, a picnic grove, and a woodland walk as well as a basketball court, playground, and performance stage.



Schools and groups volunteered



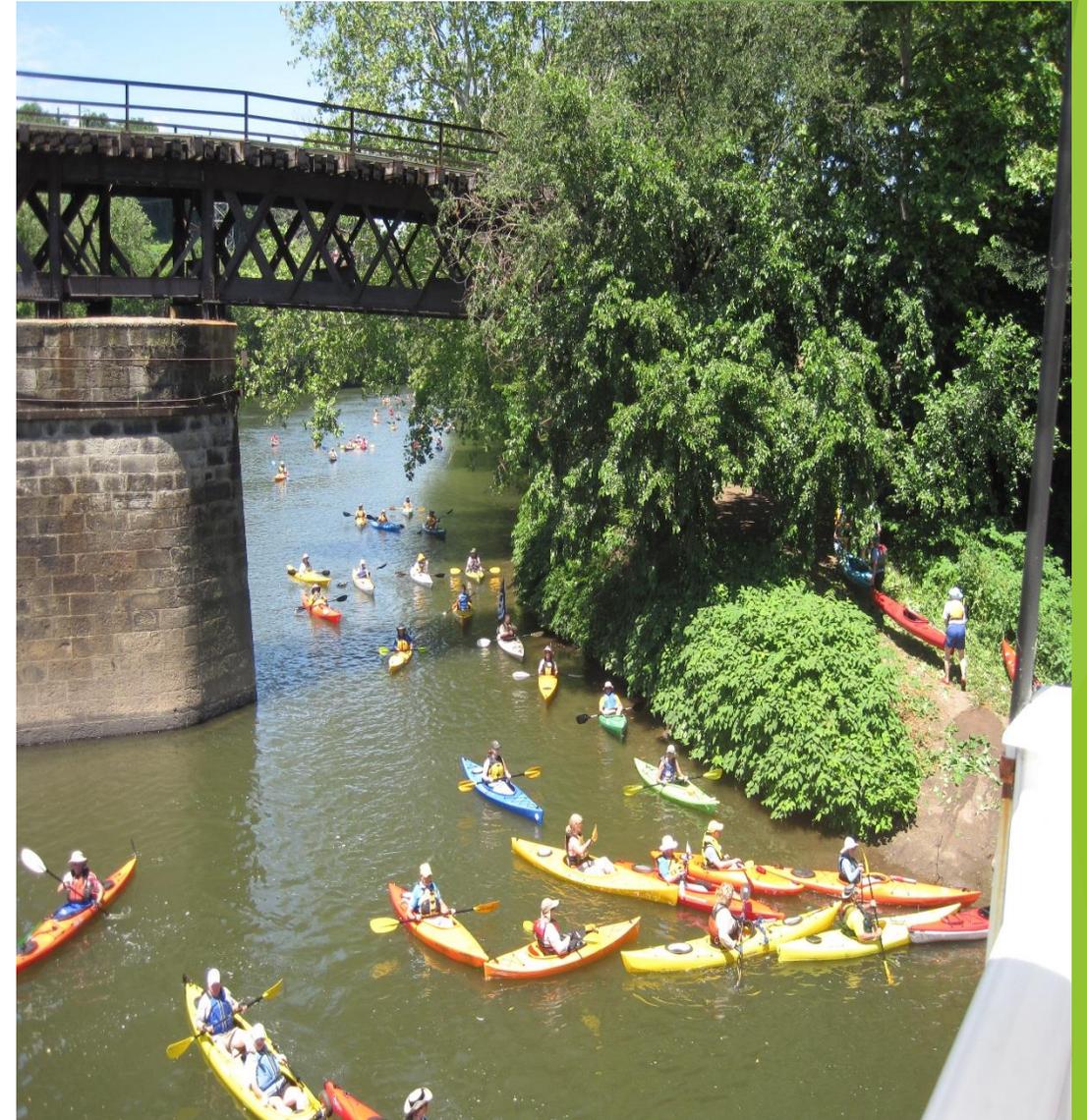
Volunteer Results



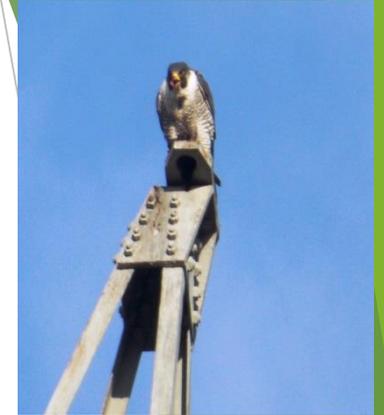
Other Results



Recreation on the River

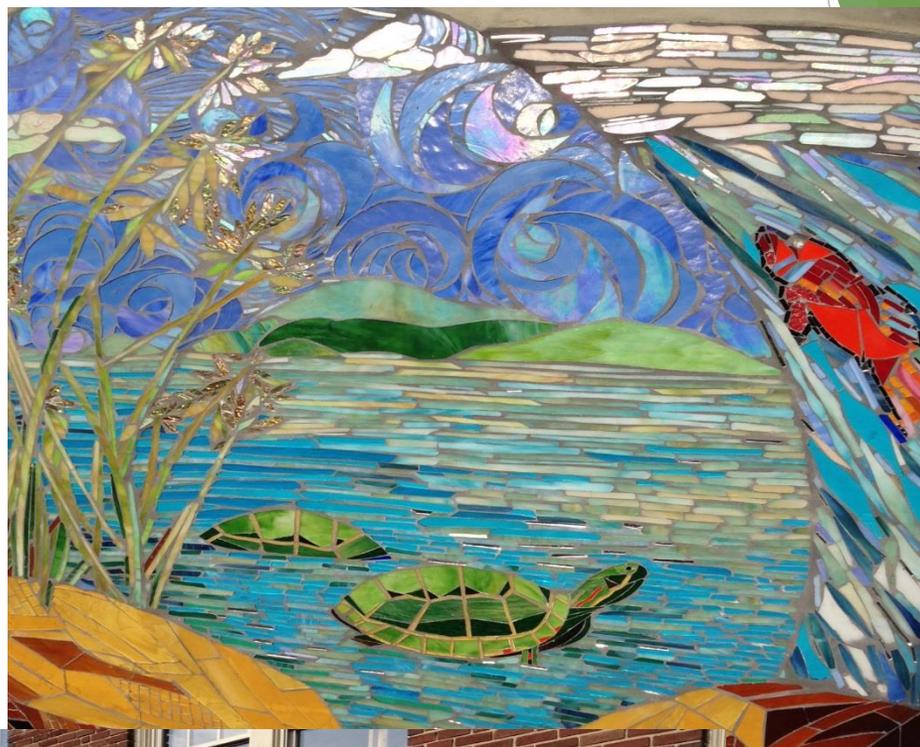


Now have extensive wildlife in a very urban context... fox, wide range of birds, beaver ...cutting down trees

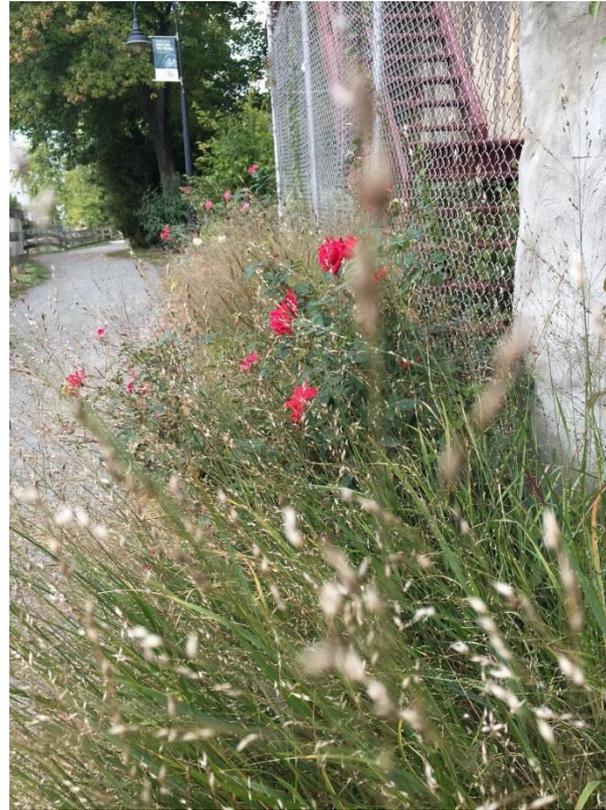




creative projects



Plantings by volunteers





Large Projects

Manayunk Bike and Pedestrian bridge





Pencoyd Bridge

Lower Main Street to Lower Merion

PWD Projects - Tank, Pumping Station, theater and rain gardens



SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT MANAYUNK IS TALKING ABOUT!



**First ever open house of the Venice Island
Performing Arts and Recreation center**

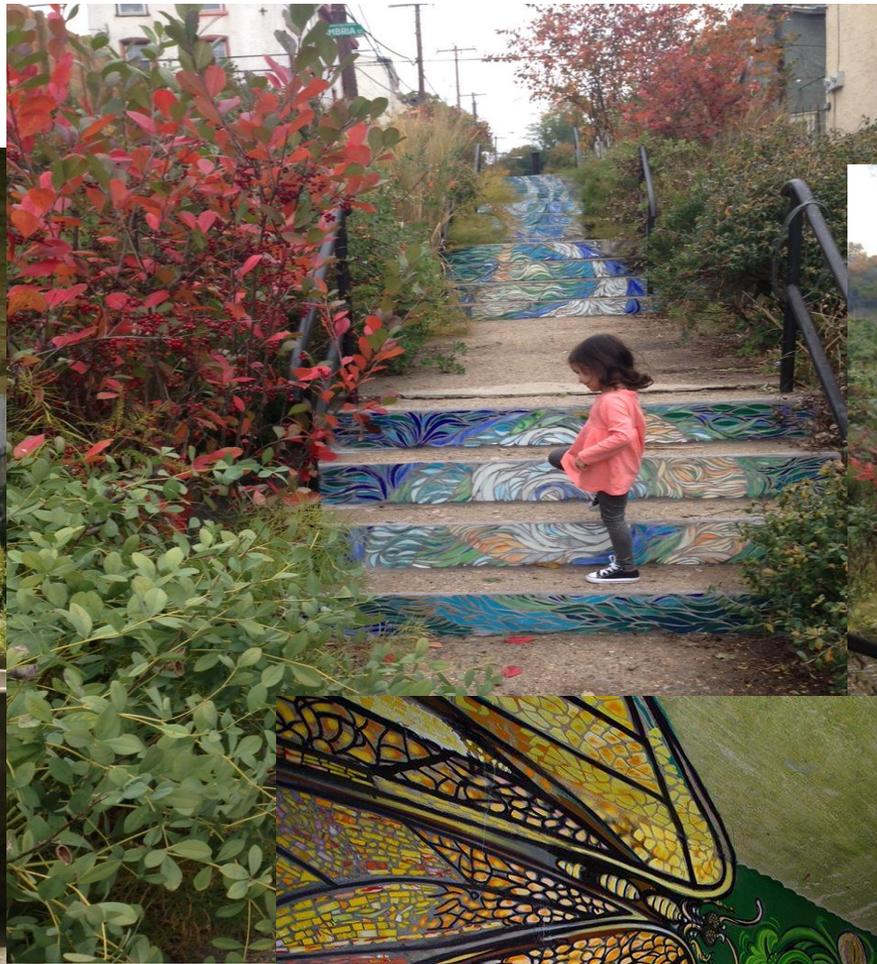
**TIME:
SAT., OCT 11TH
10 am - 2 pm**

**PLACE:
Venice Island, at
Cotton Street &
the Schuylkill R.**

APPEARING LIVE ON STAGE:

- 10:00 am - Roxborough Symphony Orchestra
- 11:00 am - Children of the Arts (ML King RC choral group)
- 11:30 am - Philly Fighting Tigers (martial arts)
- 12:00 pm - Merge Dance Studio
- 12:20 pm - Manayunk Theatre Company
- 12:40 pm - Dorothy Emanuel RC Dancers
- 1:00 pm - Brian Flanagan Band
- 1:20 pm - Hip Hop Modeling (Happy Hollow Plgd.)
- 1:40 pm - "Once On This Island" opening scene (full show onstage Fri-Sun October 17-19 at 7 pm)

PWD Project



Fountain St Steps



Canal Trail Murals



Shawmont Stormwater Project



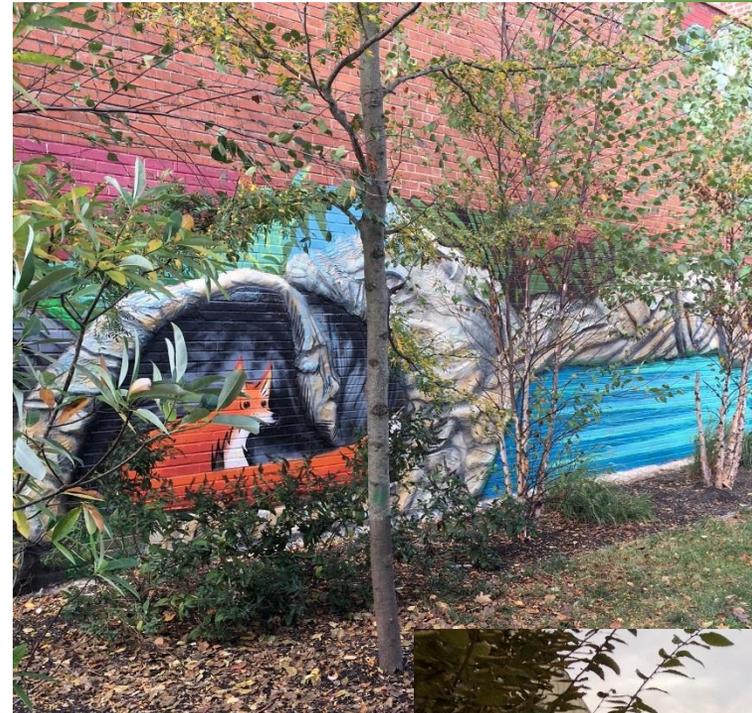
Roxborough Pocket Park



Depaving a parking
Lot

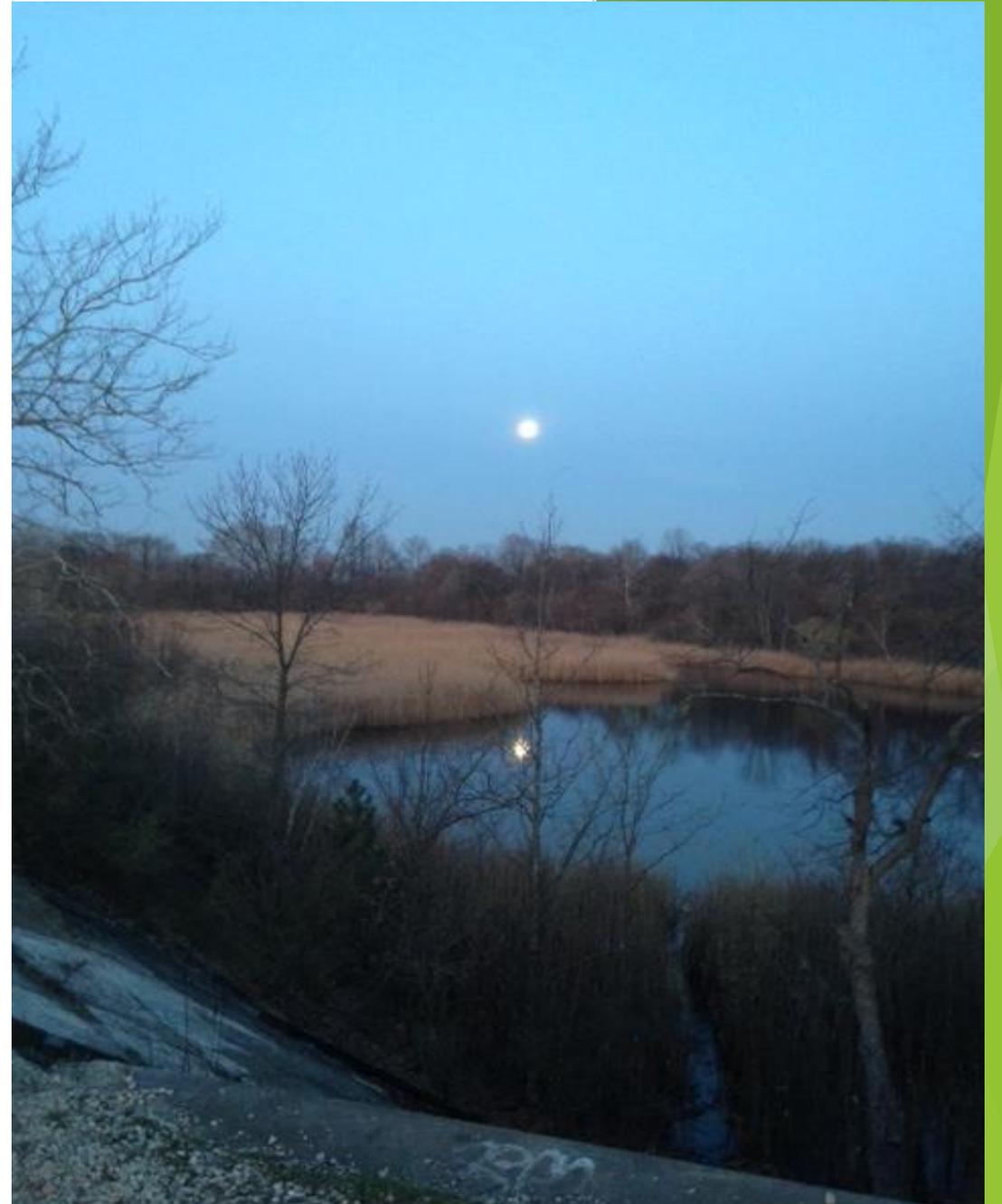
Raingarden

Educational signage



Roxborough Reservoir

- ▶ A project of many partnerships
- ▶ Schuylkill Heritage Area-planning
- ▶ Fairmount Park
- ▶ Philadelphia Water Dept.
- ▶ Local Volunteer groups



Roxborough Reservoir



What has helped tell the story of the Watershed

- ▶ Education - initially in the 5 Manayunk Schools, but later in all the local schools.
- ▶ Planning in 3 schools and the local community center for watershed focused plans for the their school yards. Partnered with educational programming
- ▶ Two schools and the community center are implementing their plans
- ▶ Volunteerism - fostered and supported along the trail and local green projects.
- ▶ Murals that tell the watershed story, in many areas and most recently in Roxborough at the crest between the Schuylkill and Wissahickon.



The Power of Water

Year 2010

And the Beauty

