

Philadelphia's Green City, Clean Waters — 25-Year Green Stormwater Infrastructure Programme

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Under a 2011 EPA/PA DEP consent order, Philadelphia Water Department has built 3,850+ 'greened acres' of rain gardens, bioswales and green roofs, keeping billions of gallons of combined sewer overflow out of local rivers at roughly a quarter of the cost of an all-grey alternative

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-24

[Philadelphia Water Department](#) — accessed 2026-08-24

[Philadelphia Water Department — 15 Years of Green City, Clean Waters](#) — accessed 2026-08-24

[ScienceDirect — Assessing the influence of green stormwater infrastructure on urban streamflows \(2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-24

[NACTO — Green City, Clean Waters / Green Street Program, Philadelphia](#) — accessed 2026-08-24

[Circle of Blue — Billions over Budget: Questions Swirl over Philly's 'Green' Fix for Sewers \(2024\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-24

Cite this — Evidoria. *Philadelphia's Green City, Clean Waters — 25-Year Green Stormwater Infrastructure Programme*. Persistent ID: 7853787c-fad9-447f-8e46-644e2d3eb1d7.