



project profile: regenerative design



Planning stage rendering



This natural riparian woodlands inspired rain garden is a key component of the Bronx Zoo's Bronx River Comfort Station and serves as the most visible and engaging element of this regenerative design project.

Bronx Zoo

Rain Garden

Bronx, New York

Based on our Stormwater Management Plan recommendations for the Bronxdale portion of the Bronx Zoo, Biohabitats developed recommended concepts for various Hydrologic Improvement Plans to improve water quality. The first Hydrologic Improvement Plan selected for design and construction by the Zoo was a demonstration rain garden at the Zoo's Bronx River Comfort Station.

The approach to the comfort station project design was to demonstrate 'green' sustainable design techniques and responsible waste treatment approaches. In addition to the composting toilets, the comfort station also has a greywater garden to treat hand wash water from the sink drains. Biohabitats was asked to design a companion rain garden to demonstrate the treatment of stormwater run-off from the comfort station roof and adjacent paving. The rain garden uses a bioretention filtering system designed to treat stormwater pollutants in the run-off and to infiltrate the run-off into the soil. The rain garden is a demonstration for using all native plants species and providing an environmental education opportunity in a high profile area.

One additional challenge Biohabitats successfully met was to collaborate with and integrate our design work with the comfort station plans designed by the architect and civil engineer to make it a holistic and integrated project to enhance the guest experience.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

SERVICES	Inventory & Assessments Planning Green Infrastructure Design Public Outreach
CLIENT	Wildlife Conservation Society
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE	Atlantic Coastal Plain
BIOREGION	New England
WATERSHED	Bronx River