

PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT

Philadelphia Water Department— Stormwater Outfall BMP Retrofit Study

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Philadelphia now has a strategic, streamlined methodology for evaluating potential stormwater retrofit outfalls.



The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) has a well-established history of retrofitting stormwater outfalls in order to deliver better water quality, habitat, and open space to communities. Until recently, the projects pursued have been primarily opportunistic, being by committed stakeholders and staff or to address local nuisance and maintenance issues.

PWD recognized the need to develop a more proactive and science-based planning process to identify a broader inventory of opportunities for restoration at outfalls. Biohabitats helped PWD establish a rapid, repeatable, and effective desktop method to screen stormwater outfalls for retrofit potential before devoting resources to detailed field assessments.

Biohabitats developed screening factors and weighting schemes to vet potential retrofit opportunities. Field-verified as an effective approach to the prioritization and ranking of retrofit opportunities, the methodology will be used to evaluate nearly 400 outfalls citywide.

SERVICES

- Inventory & Assessments
- Planning
- Green Infrastructure
- Program Management

Biohabitats utilized existing GIS data from the City of Philadelphia to locate and evaluate stormwater BMP retrofit locations. Using the GIS data and an understanding of potential design constraints,

*conservation planning
ecological restoration
regenerative design*



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800.220.0919
www.biohabitats.com

