

Congress Heights Recreation Center Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance

Washington, D.C.



From top: Pre-restoration channel condition; Post-restoration channel condition

The Congress Heights Recreation Center is a small, but important hub for residents of the Southeast DC's Ward 8. The Center includes one of the District's most popular playgrounds. When uncontrolled flows from the surrounding

neighborhood began degrading a stormwater channel that ran alongside the Center and flowed into a piped section of a headwater tributary to Oxon Run, the District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) turned to Biohabitats for help.

A cost-effective design-build approach improves stormwater management, urban ecology, and opportunities for outdoor learning and fun at a Southeast Washington, DC recreation center.

In a design-build capacity, Biohabitats transformed the degraded channel into a fully functioning stream system, complete with natural hydrology and a robust riparian zone. The goals of the project were to restore natural hydrology, reduce erosion and stormwater pollution, and improve habitat. The design met these goals through the installation of a Regenerative Storm Conveyance (RSC) design approach that safely conveys storm flows through the site while providing ecological and habitat improvements.

Features included constructed riffles and a sand bed filter to clean stormwater, several boulder cascades to convey large flows down a steep slope, and a Water Quality Swale to filter stormwater from a small residential parking area. Care was taken to maintain

the forested character of the area while improving the stream corridor, a streamside walking path and removing invasive species.

In addition to meeting DOEE's goals on time and within budget through a streamlined design-build service, the project added beauty and new outdoor recreational and educational opportunities to a treasured community resource.

SERVICES

Engage
Assess
Plan
Engineer & Design
Build
Monitor
Manage



800.220.0919
www.biohabitats.com

