

**SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES  
FOR BUILDING OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS**

# **GREEN SPACE**

**CREATE OR ENHANCE GREEN  
OPEN SPACE NETWORKS**

# Create or Enhance Green Open Space Networks



## Background:

Rochester's available housing exceeds its current demand. In some areas of the city, this imbalance is more noticeable than others. There are also parcels of land with vacant industrial or commercial space.

## Concept:

Open space can be existing or created. In some situations, an abandoned industrial or commercial site becomes available. In some cities, a residential area may have become so run down that the benefit of creating open space is greater than the option of renovating the homes. In each case, it would be a community decision.

The open space that is created can take the form of several uses:

- A community park.
- A community garden.
- A recreational complex.
- A stormwater treatment facility
- Other uses as defined by the community.

## Did you know?

The City of Philadelphia has dedicated over 900 acres of land for the creation of public parks, recreation centers, and playgrounds. These green spaces provide a great opportunity for stormwater management systems, as they can capture runoff from adjacent streets, parking lots, and other impervious areas.

This 16-acre site in lower North Philadelphia was acquired by the City of Philadelphia in 1968. Originally planned for open space, the parcel had remained vacant for over 40 years. When the neighborhood was identified in Philadelphia's "Green 2015" Plan as an area under served by public parks, Community Ventures saw this as an opportunity to create a landmark development that would provide the much-needed public space, while addressing the Philadelphia Water Department's stormwater management goals. The result will create a focal point and amenity for a new residential development facing the park.

The stormwater management system features utilized porous pavement surfaces, a bioswale, and three hydraulically-connected rain gardens with subsurface storage. The systems manage runoff from approximately two (2) acres of the park and adjacent street network.



**Typical Green Parks Program**



## Did you know?

The City of Rochester has created and updated forestry plan to guide the care and maintenance of approximately 70,000 public trees located along City streets and in City parks and cemeteries. Find more about the updated 2012 "Urban forest Master Plan: City in a Forest, Third Edition" and the Forestry Department by [clicking here](#).

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Congress for New Urbanism and PriceWaterhouse Coopers. "Greyfields into Goldfields – From Failing Shopping Centers to Great Neighborhoods" Hyperlink: <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936664>

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| TARGET GROUP   | WHAT CAN I DO   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>All members of the Rochester community</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in neighborhood meetings to discuss thoughts about the area and what uses would be beneficial for the community. Attend planning meetings for community masterplans and become active in the process.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Developers</b></p>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider green infrastructure and local benefits as a part of the project when preparing schematic site plans for projects.</li> </ul>   |

## Helpful Links:

[City of Rochester Planning Department](#)

[City of Rochester Zoning](#)

[Rochester Farmers Markets](#)

Sources: <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/category.aspx?id=8589934809>  
<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/zoningcode/>  
<http://www.farmersmarketsroc.com/>