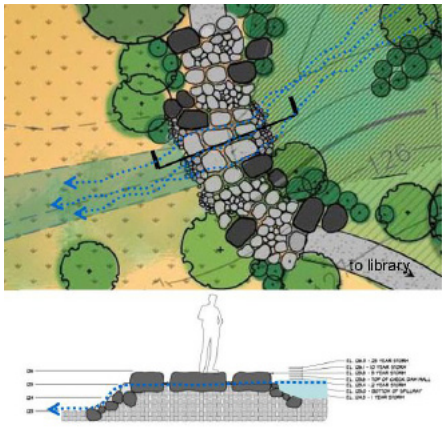
viridian
landscape studio

Teaching Landscapes
Places for People



A stone bridge provides passage across the waterway, but also allows for observation and measurement of different rainfall events.

Mollie Dodd Anderson Library
George School

VLS worked with the campus building committee to design the site as a sanctuary and native arboretum devoted to creating sustainable habitat & managing all onsite stormwater. The construction of six raingardens, makes possible the collection of all site and building runoff allowing water to infiltrate and recharge groundwater supplies, as well as help to restore the larger ecosystem of the Neshaminy Valley. Using native plants and local materials, the site design promotes a diversity of habitats - wetlands, woodland and meadows - in order to reconnect students and faculty to the natural elements of the campus.

Southern facade swathed in native meadow grasses.

North west facing teaching terrace & woodlands on a late fall afternoon.

Raingardens adorned with Great Blue Lobelia frame the front entrance walk at the George School Library.

Planting shelf with student seating & observation area

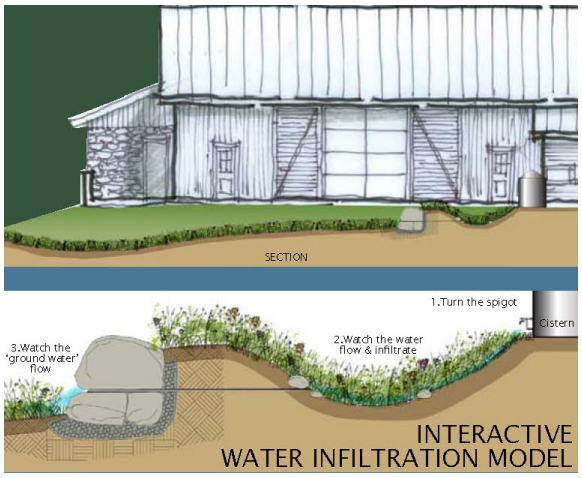
Fire Pond
Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education needed a fire suppression pond to protect their building. Viridian collaborated with the client and Meliora Environmental Design, civil engineers, to design a fire suppression pond that is recharged with rainwater collected from the building and aerated using a solar oxygenator and a submerged plant shelf. An overlook area using native boulders adjacent to the plant shelf allows school children and adults an intimate area in which to study the aquatic plant shelf and associated vegetation and animals. During its first year of installation, Summer 2009, Center staff reported seeing more species of dragonflies than ever before observed on site. They plan to make a formal study of these fascinating insects in the near future.

Teaching Landscapes, *continued*
Places for People

Okehocking Nature Center
Willistown Township

Okehocking Preserve is a 180-acre preserve providing passive recreation and over 5 miles of mown and wooded trails. The Township hired the design team to develop a plan that included shelter, restrooms, running water, parking, and improved access. The final plan calls for 47 parking spaces on porous pavement - a mixture of porous asphalt and grass pave, bus access for camp and school groups, a three season pavillion, and an accessible walk through a landscape that educates visitors by demonstrating ways in which they can transform their suburban homes and offices into rich ecosystems that heal and restore our native landscapes.



Students can replicate the stormwater infiltration process and watch it first hand.

Greening Greenfield
Albert M Greenfield Elementary School

The design for Greenfield Elementary transforms the site into a living laboratory that teaches children about microclimates and other aspects of the natural environment. Bioswale with check dams slow run-off, allow absorption and are planted with a lush variety of native plants. The landscape evapotranspires stormwater, provides shade, and creates a mini native Pennsylvania forest ecosystem. Rain gauges, rain barrels & green roofs allow students to document and observe alternative technologies.


Student waters newly planted trees


Phase 2 Rubber Surface Mounds and Bioswale Stormwater Plant Bed.


Recycled Bridge Abutments for Seating