

SCHUYLKILL CENTER STREET FRONT

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Client: Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education
Size: 350 acre
Cost: N/A
Status: On-going

Viridian and The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education are long-time collaborators – from the transformation of a fire suppression pond into a thriving habitat to the reimagined street front and entry sequence together we've worked to develop habitats, change environmental thinking and make bold art interventions.

Sustainability is always on our mind and the fire pond is a great example. Working with Meliora Environmental Design, civil engineers and the client, we designed 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 of 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.

The client recognized that their identity suffers from poor curb appeal. They called Viridian to make a change. They wondered if teaming with an artist was an option. Viridian recognized that this was a great opportunity and engaged with the Center. Together they searched for the right artists and found Haddad Drugan. With Meliora, the team designed a new street front that weaves environmental art, land restoration and environmental education into an exciting entry sequence. They developed fund-raising materials and look to see the project shovel ready in the near future.



Fire Pond



Water Moment pedestrian crossing



Site gateway



Illustrated plan diagram