

# Philadelphia Office of Watersheds

Stormwater  
BMP Project

## Porous Basketball Court at Mill Creek Playground

48<sup>th</sup> and Fairmount Streets, Mill Creek Sewershed in the Schuylkill River Watershed

### Partners

- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Philadelphia Department of Recreation
- Councilwoman Blackwell

### Contact

Amy Leib



### Project Description

The porous basketball court at the Mill Creek Playground is one of four stormwater management retrofit projects in the Mill Creek Sewershed funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Program.

The Mill Creek Playground is heavily used by the Mill Creek community for sports, activities, and meetings. The site includes two basketball courts, play equipment, a recreation center, a baseball field and a swimming pool built above the buried Mill Creek, which is now one of the largest combined sewers in Philadelphia. The basketball courts at the playground were cracked and deteriorating, with low spots that filled with water in the rain. To improve the quality of the courts and reduce the volume of stormwater that flows into the Mill Creek combined sewer, the basketball courts were retrofitted with porous asphalt over an infiltration bed. Rain that falls on the basketball courts passes through the porous surface and is stored in a subsurface stone bed until it can soak into the ground.

### Benefits

- Porous surface and crushed stone infiltration bed will capture more than 90% of the stormwater that falls on the two basketball courts, allow it to infiltrate into the soil, and reduce the volume of stormwater that flows into the Mill Creek Sewer.
- Office of Watersheds is able to monitor the long term stormwater function, integrity, and maintenance requirements of the porous asphalt surface.
- No puddles on the court ~ players can play immediately after it rains.
- Office of Watersheds and Recreation Department are able to monitor and survey the community response to the new surface and assess its suitability as a material for all new and replacement basketball courts in Philadelphia.

