



CASE STUDY

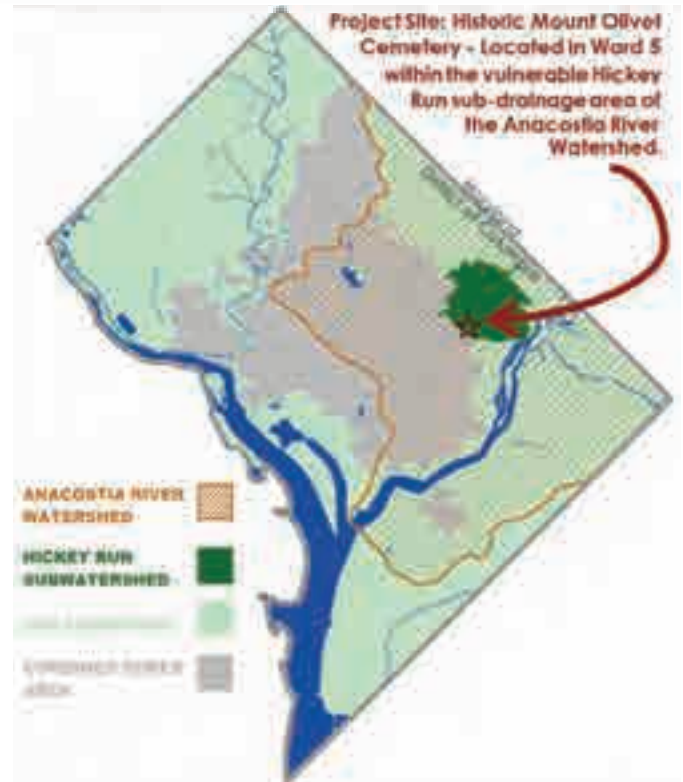
SRC-Generating Rain Garden Project at the Historic Mount Olivet Cemetery by District Stormwater, LLC

WHAT: District Stormwater LLC, in collaboration with the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Washington, has completed nine rain gardens to generate Stormwater Retention Credits (SRCs). The rain gardens can capture more than 150,000 gallons of polluted stormwater runoff from the driveways and parking areas at the Mount Olivet Cemetery. This runoff would otherwise carry pollution into Hickey Run, a tributary of the Anacostia River. To date, this is the largest voluntarily-installed green infrastructure project in the District.

WHO: District Stormwater, LLC is an SRC aggregator, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

WHY: The rain gardens capture harmful stormwater runoff, reducing pollution to Hickey Run and the Anacostia River. Selling SRCs helps to finance large-scale green infrastructure projects like this in the District.

WHEN: Five rain gardens were completed in 2018. Four more rain gardens were completed and trees were planted in early 2019. More rain gardens are planned for the future.



BENEFITS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The benefits of installing Green infrastructure (GI) practices like rain gardens include:

- Capturing and filtering runoff
- Allowing stormwater to be absorbed into the ground and soaked up by plants
- Preventing small streams like Hickey Run from being polluted and eroded by stormwater
- Reducing the urban heat island effect
- Improving air quality, wildlife habitat, and climate resiliency
- Beautifying local communities through an increase in green space

HOW STORMWATER RETENTION CREDITS WORK

Developers in the District must reduce stormwater runoff. They can install GI or choose to purchase SRCs, generated

by voluntary GI projects that capture stormwater runoff. Purchasing SRCs may be more cost-effective for developers than building GI on-site. Selling SRCs helps to finance new GI projects in the District. Learn more about DOEE's SRC Trading Program at doee.dc.gov/src.

THE SRC PRICE LOCK PROGRAM

The SRC Price Lock Program is an important way that DOEE supports GI projects to help to fully restore the Anacostia River. Through the SRC Price Lock Program, DOEE purchases SRCs at fixed prices from SRC aggregators, who also have the option to sell SRCs to developers. The ability to sell SRCs to DOEE supports large-scale private investment in GI in the District because SRC aggregators can be more confident about making a sale at a predictable minimum price. Learn more about DOEE's SRC Price Lock Program at doee.dc.gov/service/src-price-lock-program.

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WHY IS STORMWATER A PROBLEM?

Stormwater runoff erodes streambanks and carries harmful pollutants like pet waste, oil, and litter into the District’s waterbodies.

WHY DID THE DISTRICT STORMWATER, LLC TAKE ON THIS PROJECT?

District Stormwater, LLC seeks to show that a stormwater market is a viable way to achieve positive environmental outcomes through private investment. Through this project, District Stormwater, LLC is demonstrating that building green infrastructure can be a source of revenue. TNC is eager to take the District’s stormwater market and replicate similar models to address stormwater challenges in cities around the world.

WHAT MOTIVATED THE ARCHDIOCESE AND MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY?

The project provided the Archdiocese and the cemetery with an effective opportunity to be environmental stewards. The green space and wildlife habitat created by the project enhances the cemetery’s aesthetic and meditative virtues for the neighboring community and visitors.

Mount Olivet Cemetery also received reductions to the charges on its water bill that are based on impervious surface. Impervious surface removal reduced the cemetery’s water bill enough to support the benefits for several staff positions. The rain gardens also supported the cemetery’s applications for RiverSmart Rewards and Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC) Nonprofit Relief Programs, further reducing the cemetery’s water bill. Learn more about RiverSmart Rewards at doee.dc.gov/riversmartrewards. Learn more about the CRIAC Nonprofit Relief Program at doee.dc.gov/service/criacrelief.

PROJECT PARTNERS

The SRC program supports the green economy by fostering partnerships to build green infrastructure. District Stormwater, LLC was originally established as a partnership with Encourage Capital and attracted financial backing from the private sector in the form of a \$1.7 million impact investment from Prudential Financial. The rain gardens were designed by Tetra Tech, the first phase was constructed by Environmental Quality Resources, the second phase was constructed by Triangle Contracting, and they will all be maintained through the SRC certification period by Ruppert Landscaping.

BEFORE



AFTER



*Photos courtesy of The Nature Conservancy