



## **Mark A. Focht, PLA, FASLA**

*First Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation  
Immediate Past-President, American Society of Landscape Architects*

### **New Partners for Smart Growth**

*30 January 2015*



Purchasing of land began in 1844  
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation established in 2009  
by merging Fairmount Park & Dept. of Recreation  
Over 10,500 acres (13% of the City)  
130 parks, 151 recreation centers & playgrounds  
70 outdoor and 4 indoor swimming pools

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FY15 operating budget = \$53.6 million  
FY15 full time staff = 704 full-time employees  
Care of all street trees  
Six 18 hole golf courses  
1,168 athletic fields & outdoor courts  
Over 215 miles of trails  
Over 624 structures, of which 206 are historic  
175 restrooms  
Mow 36,571 acres of grass annually!

The Philadelphia Story

## Smart Growth in Philly

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- Improve / 'green' recreation centers and playgrounds.
- Build high-quality, environmentally appropriate neighborhood parks.
- Implement green infrastructure for innovative stormwater management.
- Provide high-quality amenities, tailored to neighbors' and users' interests.
- Provide trail systems and critical connections to facilitate recreation and non-vehicular commuting.

# Herron Playground *Playground*

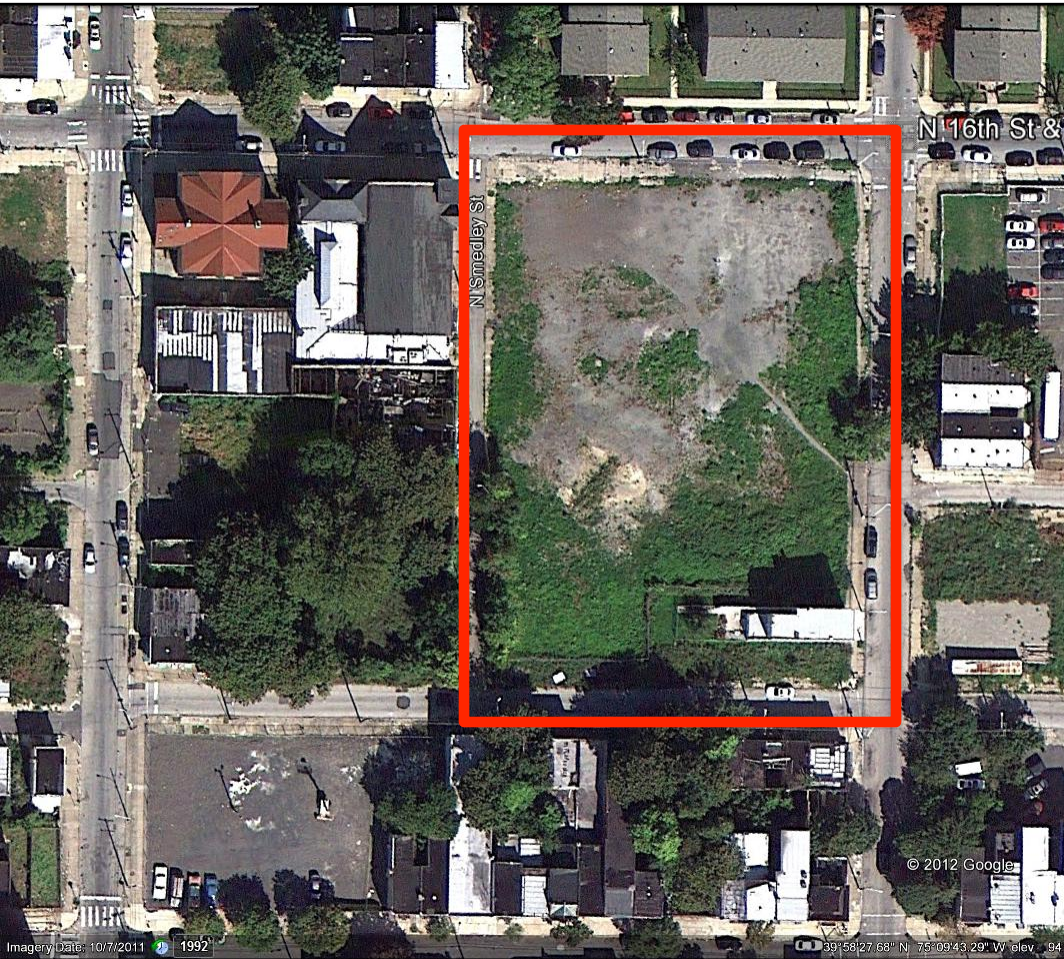
## *Recreation Center &*



# Ingersoll Park

Park

*Neighborhood*



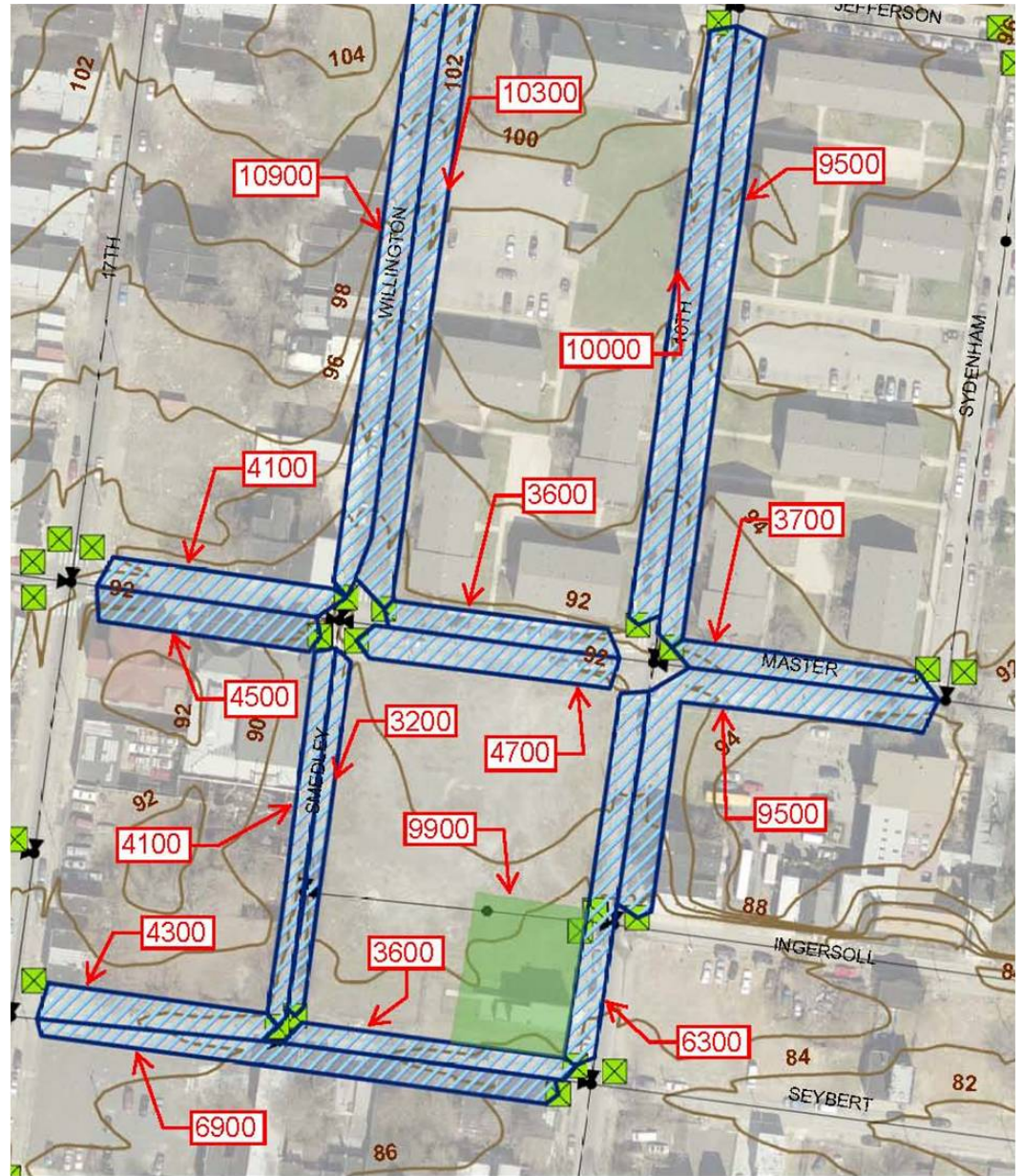
Philadelphia

# Ingersoll Park

Park

Neighborhood

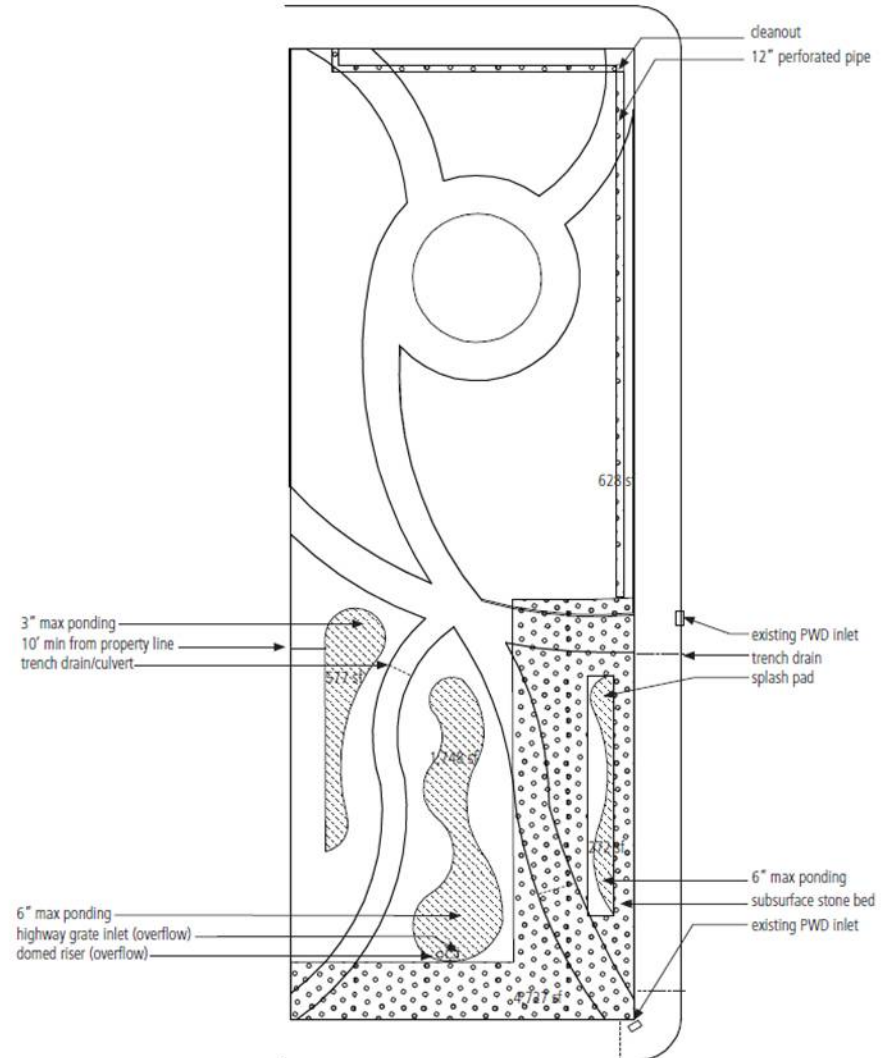
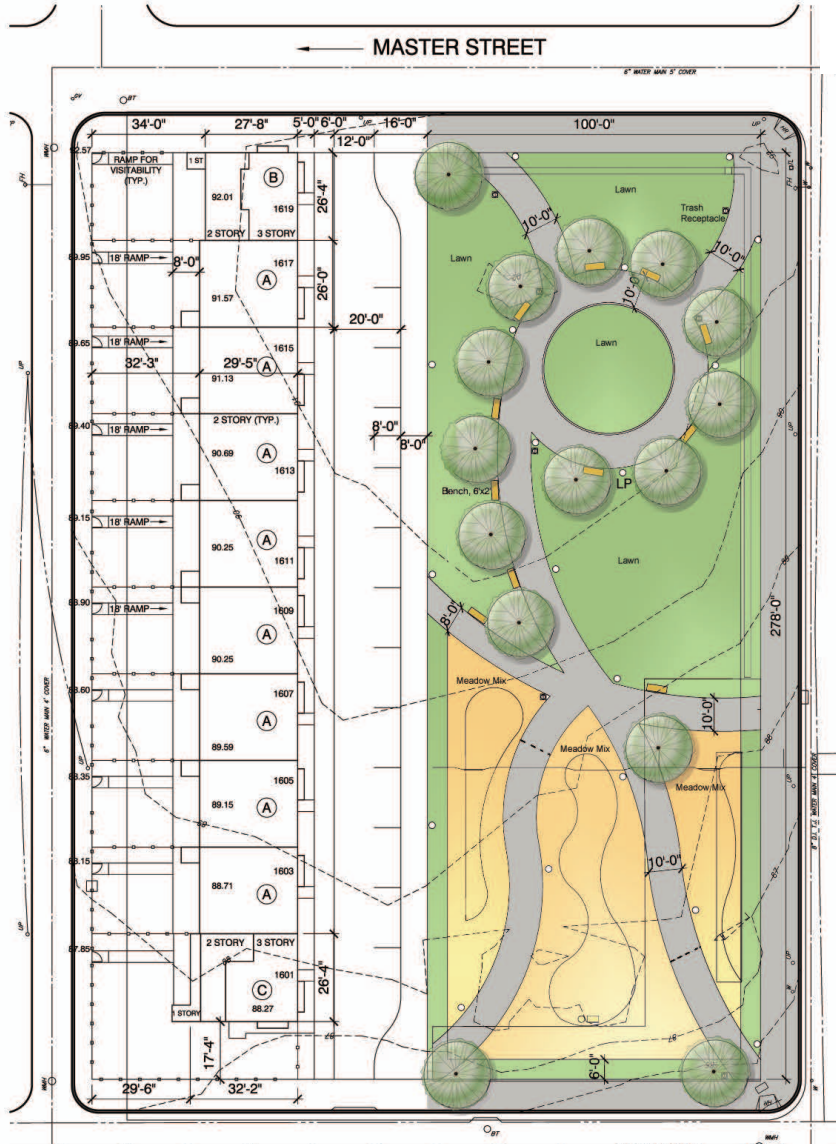
Can achieve approximately **two 'Greened Acres'** by re-directing surface and sub-surface drainage to Ingersoll Park.



# Ingersoll Park

## Park

# Neighborhood





# Ingersoll Park

Park

# Neighborhood



Stormwater management, native grasses (Portland, OR)



Native grasses used in park (Seattle)

# Hawthorne Park

Park

*Neighborhood*



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# Hawthorne Park

Park

*Neighborhood*



# Hawthorne Park

Park

*Neighborhood*



# Hawthorne Park

*Neighborhood*

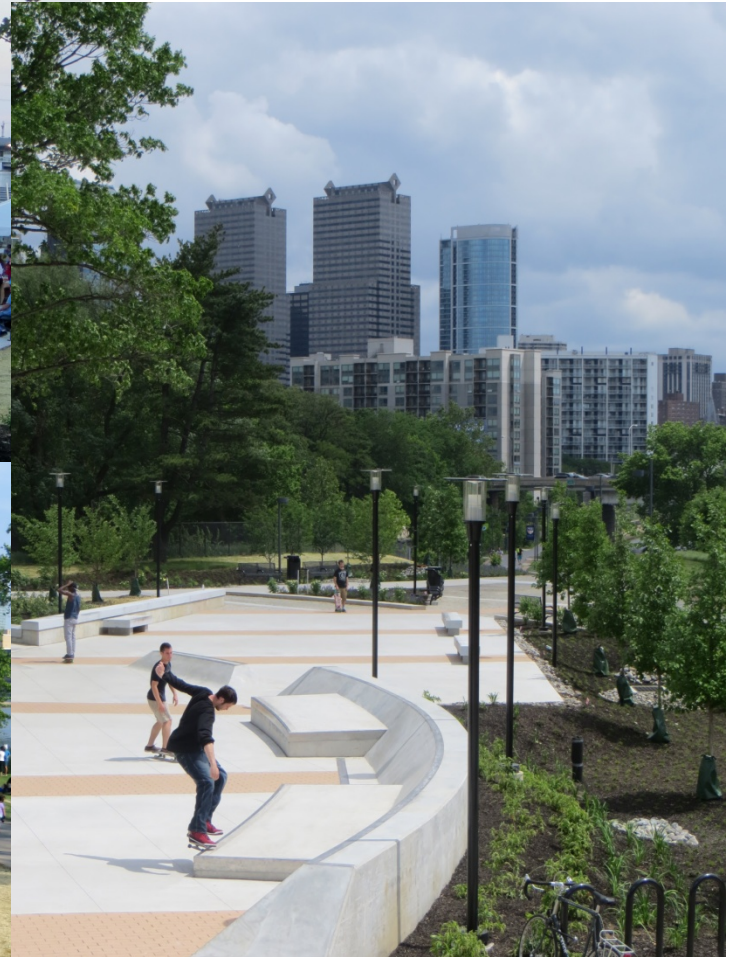
*Park*



# Franklin Paine's Skate Park

## Amenities

## Neighborhood



# Franklin Paine's Skate Park

## Amenities



## Neighborhood



# Schuylkill River Dog Park

## Amenities

## Neighborhood





# Schuylkill River Dog Park

Amenities

Neighborhood



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# Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk

Connections

Trail



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# Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk

Connections

Trail



# Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk

*Connections*

*Trail*



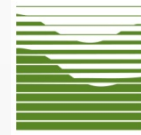
## Lessons Learned

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- Importance of city-wide planning frameworks
- Strong mayoral commitment
- Access to increased resources
- Concurrent planning and policy efforts
- New partnerships and shared agendas across city agencies
- Commitment to equity and sustainable investment
- Community support



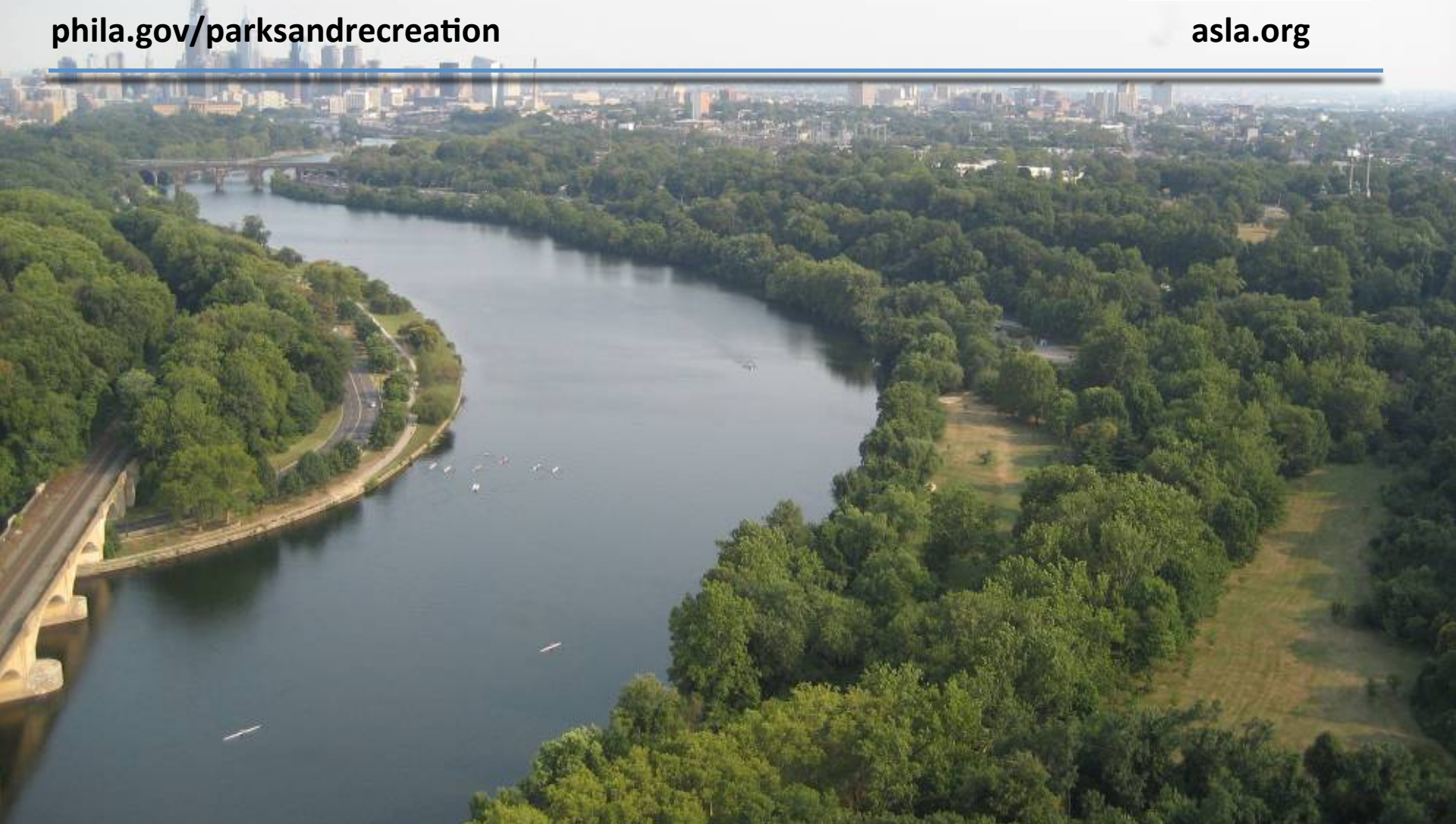
**PHILADELPHIA  
PARKS &  
RECREATION**



**AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTS**

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[asla.org](http://asla.org)



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