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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

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!
Smart Growth in Philly

• 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

Recreation Center & Playground
Ingersoll Park

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

Neighborhood

Park
Ingersoll Park

Park

Stormwater management, native grasses (Portland, OR)

Native grasses used in park (Seattle)

Philadelphia Story
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

Philadelphia Story
Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk

Connections

Trail

Philadelphia Story
Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk
Connections
Philadelphia Story
Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk

Connections

Trail
Lessons Learned

• 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