

Site 1: Black Rock Park, Upper Providence Twp.

BMPs:

Naturalized basin
Infiltration trench

Address: 1286 Black Rock Rd, Oaks, PA 19456

Property owner: Upper Providence Township

Website: www.uprov-montco.org

Watershed: Schuylkill River

In 2004, the Township of Upper Providence expanded their facilities to include a police station and a new public works depot. With the help of the Friends of the Mingo Creek, Delaware RiverKeepers, and the Montgomery County Conservation District, the stormwater basin serves as a model for future development in the township, and provides the following direct benefits:

1. **Decreases maintenance costs for Upper Providence Township**
2. **Provides education opportunities to fulfill MS4 permit requirements**
3. **Enhances the beauty of Black Rock Park for local residents**
4. **Improves water quality in the Schuylkill River**
5. **Reduces stormwater damage to downstream properties**



Planning your visit:

The basin is located behind the police department and beside the parking lot for Black Rock Park.

Contact Info:

Alice Lang

Friends of the Mingo Creek

Mingowatershed@aol.com

Tom Broadbelt

Public Works Director

Upper Providence Township

(610) 933-9179

Directions: Directions are posted on the township's website on the Community Day section accessed by clicking on recreational activities.

Parking:

Parking is available beyond the basin in Black Rock Park.



The naturalized basin is featured at Upper Providence Township's Community Day. Educating residents is one way that the township fulfills its requirements under the federal stormwater MS4 permits.



Planting of the naturalized basin took place on Saturday, August 28, 2004. The Delaware River Keepers and local watershed groups taught volunteers and the public works staff how to plant and care for native plants.

Even after a heavy rainfall days after it was planted, the basin has never overflowed, preventing flooding in a small stream below Black Rock Park.

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program

The Naturalized Basin at Black Rock Park is certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation because it provides food, water, shelter, and nesting grounds for wildlife. The best part is, that what's good for wildlife is good for the township and residents too:



Food: native plants are easier to maintain because they are adapted to the local environment

Water: rainwater collected in the basin provides water for wildlife and retains stormwater from flowing downstream

Shelter: letting plants grow tall saves the cost of mowing



Maintenance Requirements for a Wildlife-Friendly Basin:

- Mow once a year-Fall is the best time for wildlife
- Mow carefully around trees and shrubs
- Mow no less than six inches high
- Remove invasive species

The Basin at Black Rock Park is cared for by Alice Lang, a dedicated member of the Friends of the Mingo Creek. She transplants wildflowers and other plants that attract butterflies.

“Picking plants that are attractive to park visitors, helps them understand that the basin is there to provide benefits for the community, by creating wildlife habitat and managing stormwater runoff.”

- Alice Lang, Friends of the Mingo Creek