Site 8:
Temple University, Ambler College

BMPs:
Wetland Garden
Green Roof

Address: 580 Meetinghouse Road, Ambler, PA 19002
Property owner: Temple University
Website: www.temple.edu/ambler
Watershed: Wissahickon Creek

Temple Ambler originated in 1910 as The Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women. In 1958 it was transferred to Temple University and became Ambler College. Today, it is possible to obtain a degree in any undergraduate program on this campus. The stormwater BMPs on campus are integrated into the Landscape Architecture – Horticulture and Community and Regional Planning programs, both home departments at the Ambler College.

The wetland garden was added to the campus in 1998. It originated as the "Green Machine" exhibit at the 1997 Philadelphia Flower Show to illustrate how wetlands can clean water. Parts of the exhibit were salvaged to become the foundation of the wetland garden. Both the exhibit and the garden were built by Temple students enrolled in Landscape Architecture and Horticulture classes.

Originating as a 2002 winning Flower Show exhibit, the green roof was installed in 2005 on the new Ambler Field House with funding from PECO Energy. Located adjacent to the student parking lot, It has become an integral element of the Temple University Ambler's sustainable campus landscape. Research by Temple students and faculty will also examine the green roof's impact on energy efficiency, water quality, water retention, and roof temperature.

Planning your visit: Visitors who wish to see the Green roof must be accompanied by a member of the Temple University staff or faculty, and scheduling an appointment is required. Guests are welcome to visit the wetland garden on their own, but can also schedule a guided tour if they wish.

Contact Info:
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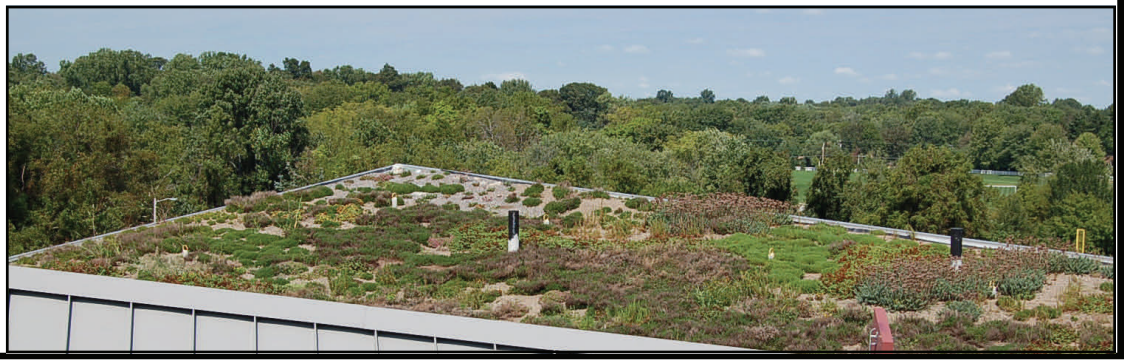
Hours:
Weekdays
9AM– 5PM

Directions: Directions to the Ambler College can be found at the website listed above.

Parking: Visitor parking is available across Meetinghouse Road from the main entrance. For a campus map, please stop at the main office, once you cross the street .



Published by the Montgomery County Conservation District in 2006 through funding provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through its education grant with the PA Department of Environmental Protection and the US Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Program.



The planting design of the PECO green roof included two separate sections – one planted with traditional cutting mats, and the second planted with test material to determine what species are suitable to grow in the local climate.

Vegetation includes species from the *Sedum, Delosperma, Jovibarba, Orostachys, Petrorhagia, Sempervivum,* and *Talinum* families. In addition to Temple's monitoring, the contractors, David Brothers Landscaping, part of the RoofScapes network, will biannually weed and replant material that does not survive. The PECO green roof should be self-sufficient at the expiration of their two-year maintenance contract.

Wetland Garden

Located at the busy plaza on campus between Widener Hall and Cottage Hall, the wetland garden is viewed as a landscape amenity by the Temple Ambler community. The garden interior is somewhat hidden by vegetation, providing a private respite for students to study or enjoy nature. Formerly a large mud puddle, the wetland garden now functions as a thriving community of plants and animals. Wildlife such as frogs, butterflies, birds, and rabbits returned to live here because their needs, such as food and nesting places, are provided by the more than 300 species of vegetation. The wetland has five different topographic zones ranging from dry or mesic, to wet. The plants were specifically chosen for their wetness tolerance, wildlife value and beauty. The success of the wetland garden indicates that biodiversity can be reintroduced to formerly sterile places.

The wetland garden improves water quality and captures the drainage from five acres, mostly impervious surfaces such as roofs and a patio. Stormwater flows directly into the garden via swales and gutters, no longer running off the site to Rose Creek. Instead, it is absorbed by the plant roots and transpired back into the atmosphere through the plant leaves, illustrating restored function of the hydrologic cycle. Temple University would like to conduct further research to quantify the plants' ability to capture and break down pollutants from stormwater.