

# Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

**BMPs:**

Rain Barrels

Dry Well

Pervious Paving:

Concrete pavers

Plastic pavers

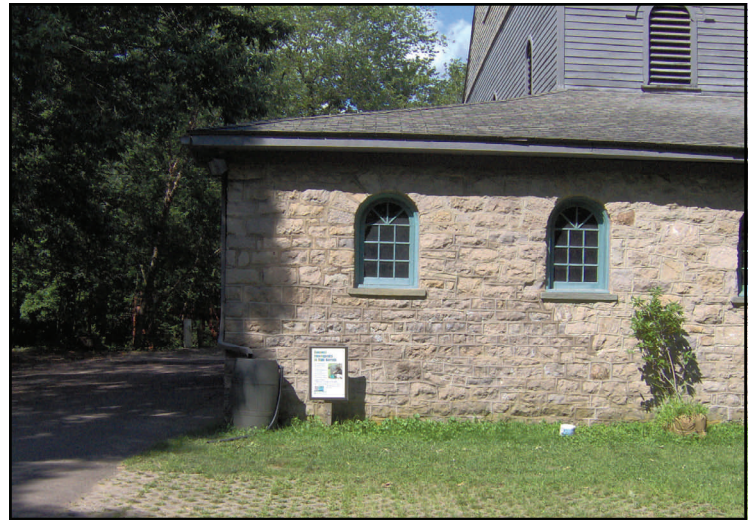
Constructed wetland

**Address:** 12 Morris Drive, Ambler, PA 19002

**Property owner:** Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

**Website:** [www.wvwa.org](http://www.wvwa.org)

**Watershed:** Wissahickon Creek



The Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) has been protecting the quality and the beauty of the Wissahickon Creek and Watershed since 1965.

WVWA focuses on protecting and enhancing open space, promoting awareness of environmental issues through education and wise land use, and preserving sites important to the history of the Wissahickon.

Over time, the organization has installed multiple Stormwater BMPs to demonstrate how individual property owners can reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality in the Wissahickon Watershed.

**Planning your visit:** Please schedule visits in advance if your group will be five or more people because of limited parking.

**Contact Info:**

Bob Adams  
(215) 646-8866  
Bob@wvwa.org

**Hours:**

dawn to dusk

**Directions:** Visit [www.wvwa.org](http://www.wvwa.org), and click on “contacts” for directions to the Four Mills Barn Headquarters building.

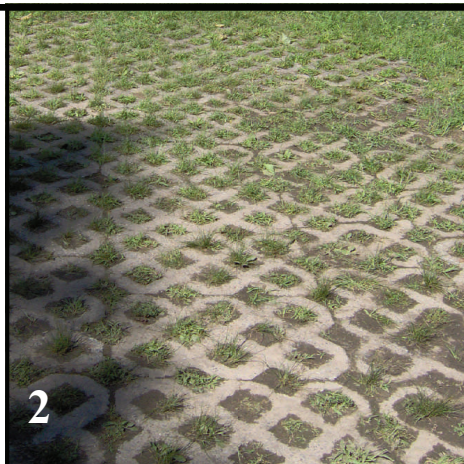
**To the Sandy Run Stormwater Wetland:** continue East on Morris Road for one mile, continue on Lafayette Avenue, and the wetland is located at the intersection of Bethlehem Pike and Lafayette Road Connector.

**Parking:**

The Headquarters has some parking, and additional parking is available directly after the driveway on Morris Road.



Stormwater BMPs decrease the cost of damage from frequent flooding. The BMPs displayed at WVWA are easy additions to any residential or commercial property.

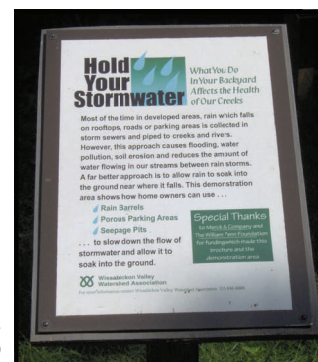


Both the plastic (1) and concrete (2) paving grids provide the structural support needed for vehicular traffic, while allowing the stormwater to infiltrate through the exposed soil. WVWA has had long-term success with the pervious parking lot. The concrete paving was installed in 1991 and the plastic structure in 2002. The only required maintenance is mowing. Two rain barrels (3) collect roof runoff from the Headquarters Building. The water is then used for watering landscaped areas. WVWA recommends disconnecting and draining rain barrels in the cold weather to avoid damage caused by freezing.



A dry well (4) is another BMP used in residential areas to hold stormwater and delay the peak flow. The dry well needs to be cut or weeded regularly.

Signs (5) at the WVWA explain each of BMP to visitors.



### The Sandy Run stormwater wetland

This three acre wetland was enhanced and expanded in the Spring of 2006 with funding from an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant. Located 0.1 mile south of the Ft. Washington Septa R-5 train station and at a busy intersection (Bethlehem Pike and Lafayette Road Connector), the wetland retains stormwater from the suburban landscape and provides habitat for reptiles, insects, birds, and small mammals. Before the vegetation matures, it has attracted Canadian geese. To



discourage the geese from landing in their wetland, WVWA has installed a grid system of string above the vegetation. This method has proved to be quite successful. Other maintenance requirements include the removal of invasive species during the first five years.

The wetland decreases the quantity of stormwater discharge to Sandy Run. The WVWA monitors the dissolved oxygen and temperature of the stream to study how much the wetland improves water quality over time. The Montgomery County Cross Country Trail will be extended alongside the Sandy Run wetland in 2007.