

<b>Presenter</b>	Antonio F Federici URS Corporation
<b>Type</b>	oral presentation
<b>Category</b>	<b>Benefits of Stream Restoration</b>
<b>Title</b>	<i>Urban Watershed Management and Public Outreach – Introducing the Philadelphia Water Department Backyard Buffer Program</i>
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Urban streams are often negatively impacted by concentrated stormwater runoff resulting from increased impervious cover and infrastructure development practices. Current landowner practices (while often well intentioned) may contribute to degraded conditions. Philadelphia, like many older cities, has to contend with an antiquated stormwater system designed and installed generations ago. As part of watershed-scale management designed to improve these conditions, the city through the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is taking steps to develop Green-infrastructure (e.g. Installing green roofs, rain gardens, tree islands, etc.) which includes public outreach, education and small-scale demonstration projects. One of the Philadelphia Water Department's current projects is the Backyard Buffer Program. The goal of this program, underway since January 2009, is to increase stream bank stability and riparian habitat through the establishment or improvement of vegetative buffers. To achieve this goal the PWD is assessing stream bank conditions along two of Philadelphia's major watersheds (Penny Pack Creek and Poquessing Creek) and has enlisted volunteer homeowners and businesses that reside adjacent to these waterways. The programs initial phase will provide participants with information and instruction to establish or improve the vegetative riparian buffer on their property for bank stabilization and habitat enhancement. URS Corporation, the consultant contracted to implement this program, will present the program goals and objectives, assessment approach, information gathered and educational materials that result from this program. Pending demonstration projects will also be presented.</p>