



Case study 1: Groundwork Garden Community Garden

Background:

The Groundwork Garden Community Garden project is located in the Federal Hill neighborhood of Providence and owned by Groundwork Providence. The site is flanked on the north and south by two-way residential streets and the east and west by residential properties and grassy parking lots. Before redevelopment the site contained two parking lots with 10000 sq' of asphalt and a small garden in the center. There was no water serving the garden and the garden served very few community members. The parking lots have been used for changing oil and car maintenance, loitering and public unpaid parking. Through a public design process in partnership with the Department of Graduate Studies at RISD, Groundwork Providence gained public support for the redevelopment of the garden site. Funding of the project came from multiple sources including the City Of Providence, The US Department Of Labor, The Environmental Protection Agency, (REI) Recreation Equipment Inc. and Ocean State Charities.

Training objectives:

The garden project was aimed to be a model for adaptive reuse, urban reclamation and a teaching site for sustainable landscape practices. Before construction all materials were inventoried and stored for future use. The overall plan took into consideration the re-use of asphalt, galvanized posts and chain link and other construction debris or material uncovered in the building process. Employees of Groundcorp were encouraged to problem solve and take part an active role in all of the deconstruction and construction processes. Groundwork Garden continues to provide a venue for Groundwork Providence to support it's mission of environmental stewardship. The garden site is used as a test site to support the Adult Job Training sequences including storm water management, horticulture/arboriculture and landscape construction and landscape calculations as well as a living laboratory for youth engagement and enrichment.

Hands on Experience:

Site analyses: gathering and preparing soil tests, site inventory and documentation, stormwater assessments for paved areas, general survey for master plan

Deconstruction and construction: Reading landscape plans, daily safety/materials checks, earth moving, asphalt removal, unit paver installation, concrete preparation, fence fabrication/installation, setting retaining wall units, carpentry, work-site safety

Landscape construction: Tree / Shrub planting and care, landscape materials calculations, landscape maintenance, driving a trailer



Groundwork Garden Community Garden, Grove Street Winter 2011



Groundwork Garden Community Garden, Ring Street Winter 2011



Groundwork Garden Community Garden, Grove Street Fall 2011



Groundwork Garden Community Garden, Ring Street Fall 2011



Groundwork Garden Community Garden, Building raised beds on asphalt



Hand cut/hand set recycled asphalt pavers



Concrete debris repurposed for a garden work table made from recycled fence post and recycled cedar pallets