

CASE STUDY JFK and Pratt Willert Community Centers

Regenerating neighborhood community spaces on the city's East Side

The JFK and Pratt Willert Community Centers are important community assets in the Willert Park neighborhood on the city's East Side. These neighborhood centers provide community meeting spaces, recreational facilities, services and programs to build healthy communities. The Community Action Organization (CAO), a local antipoverty agency, operates both centers and provides several health and education programs for community members. The City's Division of Parks and Recreation also offers a variety of youth athletic programs and other community services at these community centers, and works with local residents to ensure these facilities are providing services that improve quality of life for local residents.

Community Partnerships

Local residents and community groups were consulted throughout the planning and design of the project. The project team participated with neighborhood residents in walking tours to identify where green infrastructure makes sense in the context of neighborhood conditions. This process identified

the JFK and Pratt Willert Community Centers as prime locations for green parking lots. The public also gave feedback in preliminary and final design updates. Buffalo Sewer commissioned the development of a youth STEM education program called Water Worx to connect youth participating in Community Action Organization (CAO) programs at both community centers with the projects.



Keeping the stormwater challenge in check with green infrastructure at JFK and Pratt Willert

3 rain gardens planted

These investments at JFK and Pratt Willert manage stormwater for 0.9 acres of the city.



14,063

gallons of runoff prevented from entering the sewer system in a typical rainfall event.



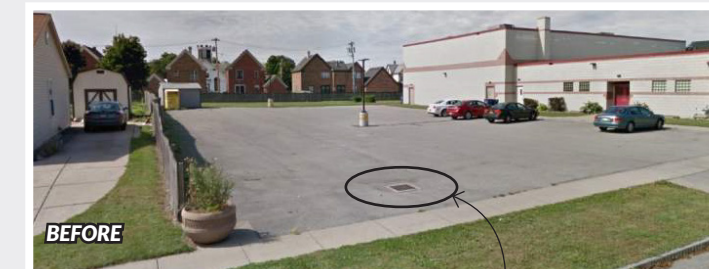
Green infrastructure at JFK and Pratt Willert Community Centers

Buffalo Sewer and City agencies recently invested in infrastructure improvements to reduce stormwater runoff from parking facilities at both of the community centers. The removal of impervious surfaces and installation of rain gardens in the parking areas at the centers redirect rain and snowmelt into the surrounding soils. These rain gardens can collectively keep over 14,000 gallons of stormwater from entering the sewer system during the typical rainfall event, while beautifying vital neighborhood spaces and educating residents on the benefits of green infrastructure.

How Pratt Willert's parking lot was turned into a green parking lot

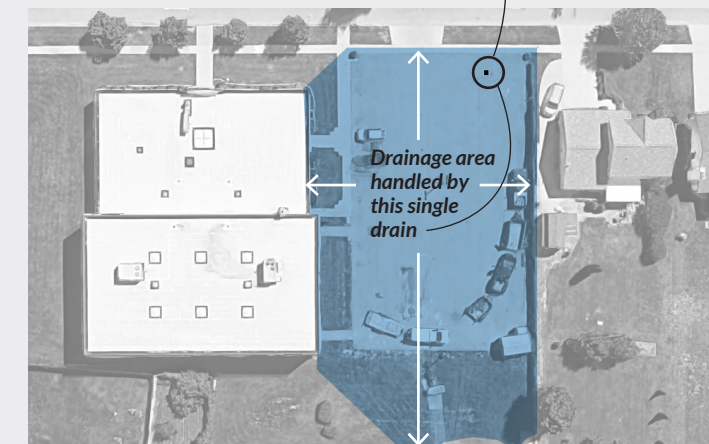
BEFORE

Stormwater runoff for the parking lot used to flow into a single drain at the southeast edge of the parking lot and discharged directly into the combined sewer in Pratt Street.



AFTER

Stormwater runoff flows into a rain garden constructed in the corner of the existing parking lot.



Work began with the removal of a section of existing asphalt pavement and installation of a storage basin under the rain garden to hold stormwater before slowly releasing it into soil.

Soil and plants were added to help absorb and filter rain and snowmelt from the parking lot.

