

A lush green forest scene with a dense canopy of trees. In the foreground, a branch with small green leaves and tiny brown buds extends from the right side. A small black bird with a red patch on its head is perched on this branch, partially obscured by the text.

Port Royal Gully Project

2026



365 acres of nature
in Philadelphia



The largest private
nature center in the city



6 miles of trails



Ponds, wetlands, fields,
woods—a rich resource





SINCE 1965

enriching connection
between people and nature

Project Overview



Port Royal Gully Project

The Port Royal Gully project is a multifaceted engineering and restoration project designed to mitigate the effects of flooding and soil erosion from Port Royal Avenue using techniques that will create a resilient landscape at the Schuylkill Center.



Causes of flooding and erosion

- Paved surfaces
- Increase in severe weather



Impacts of erosion

- Flooding and soil on the roadway
- Damage to habitat from runoff
- Flooding and damage to trails
- Pollution of vulnerable headwater streams



Project Site

Two acres uphill from Smith Run at the section of the Schuylkill Center next to Port Royal Avenue.



Our Contractors

Construction will be managed by **Hinge Collective**, a design firm that oversaw the design of the newly renovated ADA Accessible Tall Trees Nature Playground.

Tree planting, construction, seeding, and engineering, will be completed by **Flyway Excavating** and **Terracon**.

Flyway Excavating is a waterway improvement and excavating company with a focus on environmentally friendly services.

Terracon are consulting engineers and scientists specialize in environmental, facilities, geotechnical, and materials consulting & engineering services.



Funding

Total Costs are expected to be about \$1,014,000

Funding for this project is provided by a variety of sources including:

- PIDC stormwater grant administered for the Philadelphia Water Department
- Schuylkill River Greenways
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Schuylkill River Restoration Fund
- PECO
- Private donations and the support of Schuylkill Center members.



Project Benefits



For Nature

Protects environmentally important wetlands.

Preserves the habitat of Winddance Pond.

Moves floodwaters through the landscape without contaminating vulnerable headwater streams.

Planting 830 native trees and shrubs that will be suited to the landscape and will benefit local wildlife.



For our neighborhood

Reduce ponding of floodwaters on Port Royal Avenue.

Reduce contamination from pollution carried by floodwaters.

Improve trails and access to Winddance Pond.

Clean up trash along road and leading to the first order stream.



Project Milestones



2025 and Winter 2026

Project Design
Engineering
Project Management Planning
Volunteer Leader Training

Project Design and Funding



Spring - Summer

April 2026 - June 2026

Construction begins in April
Volunteer Community Cleanup: March 28
Volunteer work sessions continue through spring and summer
Earthwork phase of the project should conclude in July



Fall

Volunteer and Contractor work:

Tree Planting

Deer Protection

Invasive Removal

September 2026 - November 2026





What neighbors can expect

Volunteers cleaning up trash along the road on March 28

Temporary traffic disruptions as equipment and supplies are moved onto the property on select days between April and July.

Tree planting in September

Contractors working at the Schuylkill Center between April and July.

Volunteers working on site between Spring through the Fall.

Improved drainage and reduced flooding around the road.



Get Involved





Volunteer

Community Cleanup: March 28

Restoration Workdays: January - November

Volunteer Leadership Program: Taking applications now.





Become a member

Membership offers unique access, experiences,
and benefits to bring your family closer to nature





Subscribe

Subscribe to our newsletter to stay up to date with the latest news and updates from the Schuylkill Center.

Visit schuylkillcenter.org/subscribe to sign up for our newsletter.





Questions?

Contact erin@schuylkillcenter.org if you have any questions or concerns about this project.



Thank You!



