Mosaic adds to Green Infrastructure

The Mosaic Community Land Trust, which owns two community gardens on Chestnut Street, is hosting a new community garden at Charlotte and Walnut streets based on a sustainable agricultural system called “permaculture.”

The garden will be planted later this month by Feed the Burbs, a Norristown company founded to promote landscapes that rely on natural processes to thrive — and require minimal maintenance. Volunteers are welcome to participate.

Among the plants planned are fruit trees; edible flowers like eastern redbud, hawthorne, and roses; berries like currants and blackberries; and nut trees and shrubs. Plants will be arranged to attract birds and pollinators and to maximize the capture of rainwater. Grass will be replaced with clover as groundcover.

The garden is designed to enhance the neighborhood and help promote community pride, said Judy Memberg of Genesis Housing, which is funding the project with a $20,000 grant from National Penn Bank.

Community gardens are a vital element to “green infrastructure”, which a growing number of communities are using nationwide to absorb stormwater where it falls to prevent flooding and water pollution.