Green stormwater management

Nearly 40 percent of Pottstown’s total land area is paved over for buildings, streets, and parking lots. That causes a huge amount of stormwater runoff which must be captured and cleansed before it causes flooding and pollutes the Schuylkill River.

Removing excess impervious surfaces is the least costly and most effective way to reduce runoff. Replacing asphalt with trees and water-absorbing plants captures stormwater and beautifies the borough at the same time.

One example is the Beech and Charlotte streets park, below.

1. It was an asphalt parking lot in 1997.
2. The asphalt was removed in 1998 and replaced with two feet of topsoil topped with a thin layer of pea gravel.
3. 32 red maple trees were planted.
4. The trees absorb stormwater and let it percolate into the ground.

Commentary by Tom Hylton

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