



# Overbrook Urban Environmental Education Center

Overbrook, Philadelphia, PA

## Site Description

This former quarry in the 6100 block of Lancaster Avenue in Philadelphia has transformed into one of the first Urban Environmental Education centers developed along a commercial corridor thanks, in part, to an EPA targeted brownfield assessment.



Pictures courtesy OEEC

## About the Project

The center now provides an urban oasis complete with native plantings, outdoor biology labs and green architecture. The project included a bio-retention basin, an urban garden consisting of native plants and green roofing. The center is also a living laboratory for measuring environmental indicators, such as the impact of road salt on water quality and specific applications of beneficial remediation. In 2006, The Overbrook Environmental Education Center was selected for a stormwater best management practices award at the Academy of Natural Sciences.

***"There's no way to learn about the environment without being in the environment,"*** said Jerome Shabazz, an Overbrook parent and executive Director of JASTECH Development Services, the company that developed the center.

## Community Benefit



The Overbrook Environmental Education Center (OEEC) is a community based center dedicated to Environmental Education, Conservation, Public Health and Personal Enrichment. The mission of the OEEC is to remove barriers from the public's full appreciation of our region's technological and environmental resources. This center promotes public education, and participation in sustainable technological and environmental projects. The OEEC identifies creative and exciting ways to develop environmentally friendly behaviors that reduces pollution and contamination of our waterways, land and air.

The center provides programs for students throughout the region. There is an Overbrook Art Center, movement classes, Philadelphia Orchard Project Partnership, Lead Program, and summer programs are offered for children. The OEEC is in walking distance from where students walk to school and home. It is also uniquely

**Year Awarded: 2004**

**Grant Types: TBA**

**Former Uses: Quarry**

**Current Uses: Environmental Education Center**

located in the Schuylkill River Watershed, and is a tributary to the Delaware River and Delaware Estuary. This 45,000 square foot, former brownfields site is approximately 1.5 miles from Concourse Lake, located within Fairmount Park, and is approximately 3 miles from the Schuylkill River. Since opening, Overbrook Environmental Education Center has dramatically improved the lives of community members and the environment.

### Contacts For Further Information:

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