

**Cobbs Creek Park Restoration  
 Fairmount Park  
 Philadelphia, PA**

**Project Description:**

Local children living in the Cobbs Creek neighborhood have been deprived of a quality place to play for years. The existing Cobbs Creek Park

included two basketball courts, six tennis courts, a volleyball court, and some play equipment, all of which had deteriorated and lacked basic safety measures.

Nearly 15,000 children under the age of 19 live in this area, so the need for improvements was great.

The Fairmount Park Commission wanted to restore the park back to the active and attractive facility that it had once been for all generations in the neighborhood.

In 2002, DCNR awarded a \$275,000 development grant to the Commission that was matched by local capital funding. Improvements to the play area included repairing the equipment and expanding it to include new pieces designed for younger children.

The basketball courts were resurfaced and given new uprights, backboards, and hoops. Three of the tennis



**Quote:** Stephanie Craighead, Director of Planning, Preservation, Development and Facilities, Fairmount Park Commission

“My greatest joy is watching and listening to the small children run, laugh and play in the beautifully renovated play area. They really enjoy having a safe haven in which to spend time.”

courts were resurfaced and given new fencing, while the other three were demolished due to frequent flooding. Removing the hard pavement was done to help ease the impact of flooding in the area. The volleyball court was also resurfaced and given a new net. The area surrounding the courts was reseeded so that the environmental impact was reduced. Less runoff will result in less erosion. An infiltration berm was also

put in along the southern and western border to limit runoff heading towards the creek. The park is now fully ADA accessible as well.

This project has increased the quality of life for the residents of the neighborhood as well as lessened the flooding and negative impact on Cobbs Creek.

“We now have day cares and day camp coming to use and enjoy the improvements,” said Stephanie Craighead of the Fairmount Park Commission.

The site is located next to the Cobbs Creek Environmental Education Center, which runs programs for all ages, who also benefit from this project. Neighborhood children now enjoy being outdoors in a top-notch park instead of an unsightly outdoor experience.



**Amount of Keystone funding awarded, year and matching sources:**

2002: \$275,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund  
 Matching Funds - \$275,000 Fairmount Park Commission