

Planning, Preservation & Property Management

2014 Highlights

- The Italian Fountain, Rittenhouse Square and the restoration of the Saylor's Grove Guardbox all received a historic preservation award from the Preservation Alliance in 2014. The Rittenhouse Square project went on to win a state preservation award in Harrisburg.



Saylor Grove Guardbox

- Happy Hollow Recreation Center was recognized as one of the oldest recreational facilities in Philadelphia and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



HAPPY HOLLOW PLAYGROUND
Playfield and Recreation Building

Happy Hollow, 1913



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- Working with the community and a host of partners, including the Queen Village Neighbors Association, the Friends of Weccacoe Playground, Mother Bethel AME Church, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Fairmount Park Conservancy, we conducted an extensive archeological investigation of Weccacoe Playground and the Mother Bethel Burying Ground (1810-1864). We learned that the playground was incorporated over one of the oldest surviving and significant African American cemeteries in Philadelphia, with an estimated 5,000 burials.



Archeologists used ground-penetrating radar to study Weccacoe Playground

- The Ryerss Museum and Library hosted its first ever vintage baseball game featuring the Athletic Base Ball Club of Philadelphia vs. the Mohican Base Ball Club of Kennett Square.



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