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BERNARD BRUNWASSER
Commissioner

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Celebrate the Improvements to Cliveden Park

Philadelphia- Councilwomen Marian Tasco, Sate Representative John Myers, and mayoral candidate Al Taubenberg, will participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating improvements to Cliveden Park on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at noon in Cliveden Park located at 6401 Germantown Avenue. Friends of Cliveden Park along with The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, The Philadelphia Water Department and the Department of Recreation have come together for this important undertaking.

Cliveden Park has been redesigned as part of a stormwater management demonstration project. The objective of the project is to capture water from the surrounding streets and use the capacity of the natural land in the park to filter and infiltrate as much stormwater as possible before returning it to the combined sewer system.

"PWD is excited about this project because it represents a great collaboration among city departments, local nonprofits, and neighborhood groups to work on an innovative stormwater management project that also creates a new public amenity. This kind of project unites the infrastructure goals of PWD with community improvements, and we look forward to more partnership initiatives to improve our water resources." remarked Water Commissioner Bernard Brunwasser.

Stormwater is piped into the park, where it collects in a series of new step pools separated by new stone walls. During rain, water spills over each stone wall on its journey down to the existing wetland area before it is slowly released back into the sewer system. The system will provide stormwater volume removal by evaporating water from the ground into the air and infiltration. This will reduce the flow rate to the combined sewer system during the small, frequent storms that cause the majority of combined sewer overflows. The project also enhances the existing wetland and creates a new amenity for the park community.

The Cliveden Park improvements were funded primarily through Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program. Additional funding was provided by Bank of America, the Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources TreeVitalize program.

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