

**FW: Church Lane Garden and Storm Water Management**

Paul Fugazzotto

**Sent:** Thursday, November 17, 2016 3:55 PM**To:** WATERINFO**From:** Chris Nicholson**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 12:33 PM**To:** Gemela McClendon <Gemela.McClendon@Phila.gov>**Subject:** Church Lane Garden and Storm Water Management

Dear Gemela McClendon,

Our Garden started in 1978 after the site was cleared in anticipation of the Belfield By-pass. The By-pass was opposed by many neighborhood groups as it would have brought a six lane highway through the middle of Germantown. We had a yearly lease from the Redevelopment Authority; but each year the City said that they needed to sell the property for "Development". We had no money and started a Garden Fund. In 1990, with help from The Neighborhood Gardens Association, (now the Neighborhood Gardens Trust) we were able to purchase the land with the title belonging to NGA. About 27 individuals or families have participated each year in Garden activities and we now have an active program that produces hundreds of pounds of produce including donations that we make to the "City Harvest" program. Over the years NGT and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, helped us establish a sitting garden and they have provided a shed, tools, wheel barrows, top soil, water line, plants, advice, encouragement, and in 2015 a complete rebuilding of the Garden with raised beds on three terraces to reduce erosion. Each year the gardeners pay a small fee which is used for tools, water, hoses, lawn mowers, weed whackers and other equipment. We keep the fees low so that anyone in the Community can participate if interested. Gardeners take responsibility for maintaining the Garden as well as their assigned plot. Many of the improvements to the Garden have mitigated storm water run-off so we do not think it is appropriate for us to pay a monthly fee for Run-off.

Thanks for your interest and help

Chris Nicholson, Garden Coordinator

cc Goldie Wright, City Harvest Director at Church Lane  
Jenny Greenberg, NGT