

SMITH MEMORIAL

Brickhouse Environmental provided professional wastewater consulting services at the Smith Memorial, a free children's playhouse and playground located within Philadelphia's Fairmount Park. The 6.5 acre playground includes equipment for children 10 and under with a Tot-Lot for kids 5 and under. A highlight of the playground is the 39-foot long Ann Newman Giant Wooden Slide. Opened in 1899, the playhouse and playground have undergone recent renovations thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers and donors.

As the playground renovations continued, it was discovered that the 100-year old septic system consisted of nothing more than a piped discharge of sewage into the woods below the playground. Brickhouse Environmental was brought in to upgrade the sanitary disposal facilities and bring them into compliance with State and City regulations. Because the nearest public sewer line was a half mile from the playhouse, it was necessary to come up with an on-lot solution that didn't conflict with the existing playground equipment or future parking and play areas. A Brickhouse Environmental soil scientist evaluated several wooded areas on the property and was able to delineate a broad gently sloping area with sandy, well-drained soil suitable for a new sewage disposal field.



Brickhouse Environmental completed test pit evaluations and percolation testing in cooperation with the Philadelphia Health Department. The system design provided for two new septic tanks, a dosing tank and valve box. The effluent is then pumped to two, in-ground seepage beds.

Because the playground is used year-round, and because the septic system problem came as a surprise, it was imperative that the work be completed in a timely manner. Brickhouse Environmental worked with the Health Department to allow temporary pump and haul of the effluent while the disposal fields were being installed. Through the use of directional boring to install the force line, and conveyors to place the stone aggregate, minimal tree removal was necessary. With proper maintenance, the new septic system can serve the Smith Memorial playground for another 100 years.



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