

Rock Mill Park, Alpharetta, GA



The Greenroof Pavilion & Greenroof Trial Gardens of Rock Mill Park enjoys great public interaction, visibility, and learning opportunities for Georgia residents and visitors. Funded in part by an EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant and material donations from many companies.

The Greenroof Pavilions many ecological and aesthetical benefits will help promote innovative “green architecture” stormwater management while sustaining a healthy human and biological community. Rock Mill Park is a showcase for storm water quality treatment and aside from the Greenroof Pavilion includes constructed wetlands, sand and biofiltration ponds, and connectivity to the popular Big Creek Greenway path system.

This was a project of heartfelt commitment for Linda Velazquez, who initially conceptualized the project, and then spent many years rallying support for and eventually designing and overseeing construction of both the Greenroof Pavilion and the greenroof Demonstration Model & Trial Gardens. Linda carefully considered the cultural significance and potential importance of the original Cherokee ownership of the site along with the City's desire to protect and highlight the southeastern Piedmont watershed area.

The 6 - 1/2" deep planted Pavilion represents the sloping topography towards Big Creek, from high to low, dry to wet conditions reflecting watershed movement from a meandering meadow-like design to a flowing river pattern. Linda selected both native and introduced species to represent an aesthetically pleasing, sustainable plant community historically found in the Piedmont forest/wetland area of the Big Creek watershed.

The four Demonstration Models at ground level include selective plants from the four zones found on top of the actual Greenroof Pavilion. Three Greenroof Trial Models will be monitored for plant types including grasses, perennials and succulents; system types; growing media; and stormwater quantity and quality.

size: 668 square feet

client: City of Alpharetta, Georgia

landscape designer: Linda S. Velazquez, Sky Gardens Design & Greenroofs.com

completion: 2007

