

## Mollie Dodd Anderson Library at George School

Location: Newtown, Pennsylvania

Project Cost: \$10 Million

Client: George School

Site Cost: Waterway restoration \$80 thousand, Site work \$470 thousand

Size: 3 acres

Status: Construction completed 2009



*Native Purple Love Grass and Andropogon restore the intermittent waterway.*

In the spring of 2007, after completing a year long arboretum master plan with Viridian Landscape Studio, George School made a change to its mission statement vowing to preserve and enhance the campus in an environmentally responsible, educationally sound and aesthetically pleasing way. Serving as an anchor for the south end of the campus, the Mollie Dodd Anderson Library is George School's pilot project and put into practice the three guiding principles of the Arboretum Master Plan – Stewardship, Site Improvement & Education. Viridian worked with the campus building committee to design the site as a sanctuary and native arboretum devoted to creating sustainable habitat & managing all onsite stormwater.

The Gold Level Leed Certified project celebrates the water cycle. The construction of six raingardens, makes possible the collection of all site and building runoff allowing water to infiltrate and recharge groundwater supplies. In addition, it feeds a re-established intermittent waterway, helping to restore the larger ecosystem of the Neshaminy Valley. Using native plants and local materials, the site design promotes a diversity of habitats – wetlands, woodland and meadows – in order to reconnect students and faculty to the natural elements of the campus.



*Three western terraces, a small eastern terrace and entrance walk are set into a woodland garden overlooking a series of rain gardens. The large library reading room has a green roof.*



*Southern facade swathed in native meadow grasses.*



*North west facing terrace & woodlands on a late fall afternoon.*



*Raingardens adorned with Great Blue Lobelia frame the front entrance walk.*