



# GAY STREET RAIN GARDEN

## CHALLENGE

WHEN IMPROVEMENTS WERE BEING MADE TO GAY STREET IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS, AN AESTHETICALLY-PLEASING AND LOW MAINTENANCE STORMWATER SOLUTION WAS NEEDED.

## SERVICES

- Sustainable Design
- Storm Sewer Design
- Public Involvement.
- Lighting Design
- Signing and Pavement Marking
- Maintenance of Traffic

## AWARDS



2007 PROJECT OF THE YEAR  
American Public Works Association  
(APWA) Ohio

2009 OUTSTANDING  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD  
American Council of Engineering  
Companies (ACEC)

## GAY STREET RAIN GARDEN

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The improvements to Gay Street from Front Street to Cleveland Avenue in downtown Columbus, Ohio, converted the operation of Gay Street from one-way to

two-way traffic flow and added aesthetic improvements studied by the city's Downtown Development Office.

ms engineers designed an urban rain garden into the drainage system, which channels and filters stormwater runoff to irrigate streetscape plantings. This cuts down on the need for maintenance crews to use city water for landscape irrigation. For the city of Columbus it was the first rain garden developed for a public works project.

The drainage system consists of a new 36-inch storm sewer to facilitate future sewer separation. The design of the storm sewer was complicated by a narrow right-of-way, the presence of many existing utilities, and regulatory space requirements between sewers and existing waterlines.

Overall, the aesthetic improvements included roadway bump-outs and treed median areas, limited drainage improvements, decorative crosswalk treatments, ADA compliant curb ramps with limited sidewalk work and street lighting.

The \$7 million construction project was designed in nine months, and had an accelerated design schedule review process with additional coordination by the city. The phasing strategy for the remaining sections of the project was developed considering project costs, future available funding, maintenance of traffic during construction and independent utility.