

# Site 5: Gorgas Run

## Site Information

A tributary of Wissahickon Creek, Gorgas Run is located approximately 3.1 miles above the confluence of Wissahickon Creek with the Schuylkill River, and to the southwest of the creek’s mainstem.



## Problems, Opportunities & Constraints

Siltation, low dissolved oxygen levels, presence of oil and grease, presence of pathogens, water/flow variability and habitat alteration are problems identified along Gorgas Run. This site presents an opportunity for restoring natural stream channel characteristics and function. Rock used in past restoration work that focused on infrastructure protection could be reused in restoring the stream channel. In addition, there is open space east of Gorgas Run to create wetland habitat and attenuate and treat stormwater runoff, as well as swales that could be naturalized and retrofitted for stormwater treatment. However, the steep slopes and confinement valley may act as constraints to both restoring the stream channel and creating wetland habitat.

Major Problems	Opportunities	Constraints
Siltation Low dissolved oxygen levels Oil and grease Pathogens Water/Flow variability Habitat alteration	Restore natural stream channel characteristics and function Create wetland habitat Attenuate and treat stormwater runoff	Need to retrofit past restoration implemented for infrastructure protection The land adjacent to the creek has steep slopes and the creek is confined by the valley wall

## Alternatives

Alternative	Overview
1: No action	Under without project conditions, severe erosion, excessive sedimentation, and poor habitat conditions will persist.
2: Full stream restoration with additional treatments	Alternative #2 would include natural stream restoration measures along the full extent of the site, thereby alleviating bank erosion, improving aquatic habitat, increasing filtration, and naturalizing portions of the stream corridor and three contributing swales. A wetland would be constructed at the head of the channel.
3: Local stream restoration & bank stabilization with additional treatments	Alternative #3 includes stabilization of sections of the channel that are experiencing the most severe bank erosion to improve aquatic and riparian habitat. As in Alternative #2, stabilization and naturalization of three swales and wetland construction is included.
4: Wetland creation	Alternative #4 would focus solely on the creation of the large forested wetland (same wetland as in Alternatives #2 and #3) to reduce upstream-most sediment inputs to the channel, provide filtration of runoff, and locally suppress invasive species.

