



## Upper Merion Township Community Center

Viridian was an integral part of the multi-disciplinary team that transformed Upper Merion Township's aging skating rink into a vital and thriving multi-generational Community Center. The project clearly demonstrates that with the right design vision and the ability to carry it out, one *can* make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

We collaborated with our civil engineers to achieve a graceful vehicular and pedestrian entrance sequence. It delivers a model green design retrofit within existing constraints including sharp grade changes and rigid vehicular access. Stormwater is managed on-site through bioswales and the 200 car porous parking lot. We maximized environmental benefits by employing a native plant palette. The site includes mini-meadows, trees and shrubs to support our pollinators while providing year-round beauty.

Our collaborative stakeholder planning process revealed a strong desire for an outdoor space the

seniors could call their own. We responded by creating a sheltered terrace nestled into the existing hillside. The special Senior's Terrace provides not only carefully designed garden plantings, but also places for seniors to add their own plants. Planters and terracing at varying levels suit all mobility ranges.

The site reconnects visitors to the neighborhood and the riparian corridor via community trails and walking paths.

**Location:** King of Prussia, Pennsylvania  
**Client:** Upper Merion Township  
**Size:** 6 acres  
**Cost:** \$2 million total project cost  
**Status:** Completed 2016