SMITHKLINE BEECHAM
CLINICAL LABORATORIES
Corporate Headquarters

Concept
SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories Corporate Headquarters in Upper Providence Township received a 1996 Outstanding Land Development Award. The award highlights the integration of a corporate land use with existing environmental characteristics. The corporate headquarters building, parking, and circulation areas were carefully planned to fit within the natural features on the site. Many natural areas were preserved. The integrity of wetlands and drainage areas were maintained while the buildings were blended with landscape plantings. Naturalistic landscaping techniques were used to incorporate functional features such as drainage swales and stormwater basins. Wildflower meadows, wetlands, and woody old fields were balanced with mown lawns and ornamental plantings.

Landscape
SmithKline worked with planning professionals to create a site plan that satisfied the needs of its growing business while striving to respect the existing character of the rural community and natural environment. The wildflower areas were designed for specific locations within the landscape, with wildflower seed mixes designed to fit either wet or dry soil conditions. Native trees; evergreens; and shrubs, such as red maple, river birch, eastern red cedar, and winterberry, were used to reflect the natural character of old fields gradually succeding into woodland plant communities. Wherever possible, groupings of existing trees were retained in parking areas and along the property perimeter. An apple orchard also was planted to reflect the rural landscape. A pedestrian bridge offers a fresh viewpoint for the naturalized drainage area while linking the employee parking area to the corporate offices. Overall, SmithKline's corporate headquarters exhibits an outstanding example of sensitive land development.
Project Name
SMITHKLINE CLINICAL LABORATORIES CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

Location
Route 29 and Black Rock Road
Upper Providence Township
Montgomery County, PA

Project Data
Land Use: Office Use
Tract Size: 29.54 acres
Building Area: 150,000 gross floor area

Key Features
Wildflower meadows
Blend of ornamental and natural planting areas
Naturalized plantings in stormwater basin
Naturalized drainage channel design with pedestrian bridge
Naturalized perimeter plantings

Owner/Developer
SmithKline Beecham Clinical Laboratories
1201 South Collegeville Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

Construction Manager
Barclay White
22 Cassett Avenue
Berwyn, PA 19312

Engineer/Landscape Architect
Pennoni Associates
1600 Callowhill Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Architect
The Hillier Group
1 South Penn Square
Philadelphia, PA 19107

The MCPC Approach
The Montgomery County Planning Commission's Land Development Competition is an annual program dedicated to recognizing excellence in site planning and design, throughout Montgomery County. It honors the developers, consultants, and municipalities responsible for shaping the places that add to Montgomery County's high level of livability and attractiveness.