

# Philadelphia CLEAN & GREEN

RESIDENT RESOURCE GUIDE





## Welcome to the Philadelphia Clean & Green Resident Resource Guide!

The purpose of this guide is to make it easier for individuals and community leaders to implement greening in their neighborhoods and advance their community goals. The following pages compile information about existing programs and resources within the city relating to three different scales: Home, Neighborhood, and City-wide. You can also find project examples demonstrating how to combine multiple resources to realize public space in your community.

The guide is a part of the Resilient Communities Stormwater Initiative (RCSI), funded by the William Penn Foundation and in collaboration with the organizational partners listed below. RCSI seeks to amplify investment in green infrastructure to enhance the quality of life in historically underserved neighborhoods and promote environmental justice. The guide is in response to requests made during a series of community roundtable discussions about community-led greening held in the fall and winter of 2022/2023.

We would like to thank all the resource providers that verified the information and supported the creation of this guide. And a special thanks to community partners and organizations that helped to organize the community greening roundtables and provide feedback on greening infrastructure in their communities.

- Point Breeze Community Network Plus
- Residents Organized for Advocacy and Direction
- Global Thinking Initiatives
- Empowered CDC
- Nicetown-Tioga Improvement Team

This document was designed and created with information compiled by Hinge Collective. We do not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the information. This guide is intended as a living document and will receive regular updates. If anything needs to be updated or corrected, please contact [info@hinge-collective.com](mailto:info@hinge-collective.com).

Guide developed by: 

RCSI organizational partners:



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Front cover images, clockwise from top, courtesy of Philadelphia Water Department, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Friends of FDR, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation



Image courtesy of Neighborhood Gardens Trust

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**Home**

## IMPROVE YOUR YARD, CAPTURE STORMWATER, AND REDUCE POLLUTION



### RAIN CHECK

Philadelphia Water Department (PWD),  
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)  
Contact: RainCheck@pennhort.org  
Rosemary Howard, rhoward@pennhort.org  
P: (215) 988-8767  
<https://www.pwdraincheck.org/en/>

*Who is eligible: homeowners*

Are you interested in replacing an empty front yard with a garden? Need to fix a cracked rear patio? Trying to save water to use on your parched potted plants? Rain Check can provide funding for these home improvement projects and more. Through Rain Check, you can save money, improve your landscaping and help protect Philadelphia's rivers and streams. By participating in the program you will join more than 5,000 Philadelphia residents who have installed stormwater management tools on their properties to stop pollution from entering our waterways.

Flowers in rain gardens, new permeable paver patios and rain barrels can all spruce up a property, but these tools do more than look nice. Each of these landscaping amenities plays an important role in capturing stormwater that would otherwise contribute to sewer overflows that hurt Philly's rivers. The Rain Check program offers the following options.

### Get a free Rain Barrel

A rain barrel is a storage container connected to a downspout that captures stormwater runoff from the roof. You can use the stored water for your non-edible plants or outdoor cleaning. Reduce your water consumption and manage stormwater runoff at the same time!

**Materials:** Rain Check uses clean, re-purposed 55-gallon food-grade plastic barrels, which means they have been used in the past to carry food items or other non-toxic materials. All Rain Check rain barrels are blue.

**Dimensions:** Each rain barrel is approximately 22.5" diameter and 36.5" in height. The barrels "bow out" in the middle to a diameter of about 24". Exact dimensions may vary.

**Installation:** Rain Check provides a full professional installation including spigots, gaskets, winter cap, and a downspout diverter.



All images courtesy of Philadelphia Water Department

**Mosquitoes:** The rain barrels have a sealed top. No need to worry about mosquitoes!

**Overflow:** Once the barrel is full, excess water will flow down your downspout, so there is no concern about the rain barrel overflowing onto your patio or walkway.

### Install a Downspout Planter

Downspout planters are decorative landscaped planters connected to a downspout that captures stormwater runoff from your roof. They are specially designed to absorb and filter stormwater before it enters the sewer system. The downspout planters are filled with a base layer of gravel to allow for drainage, a stormwater-friendly soil mix, and native perennial vegetation that comes back every spring.



Participant cost: \$100. This includes the installation of the planter with complimentary plants.

**Dimensions:** Metal downspout planters are approximately 2'W x 2'H x 4'L and have an approximate storage volume of 78 gallons of water.

**Materials:** The planters are constructed from galvanized metal tubs. Inside the planter there is a false bottom which provides more water storage below and enough soil for plants to thrive above.

**Plants:** All planters come with complementary, low maintenance plants. The plants are perennials that are native, adaptive, and drought-tolerant. These plants will come back every spring and have deep, extensive root systems which allow them to absorb and filter stormwater runoff. Please note that plants are complementary and specific plant selections are not guaranteed.

**Drainage:** Each planter is pre-fabricated with two drains - an overflow drain and an underdrain. These drains allow the planter to capture the right amount of water without spilling over the sides or getting too soggy. Downspout planters can drain to one of three places: 1) directly back into sewer pipe, 2) into a nearby area drain, or 3) into a pervious surface area down slope of the planter, such as a lawn or garden.

**Install Location:** Downspout planters are very heavy when saturated so all installations must be at ground-level. Rain Check cannot install a planter on a deck or porch.



## Create a Rain Garden

Rain gardens are shallow, planted depressions that absorb water from your roof, allowing it to drain directly into the soil. Typically, a downspout from your home is disconnected from the sewer system and diverted into the rain garden, preventing hundreds of gallons per year from entering the City's sewer system. Rain gardens are a cost effective way to manage stormwater runoff and can be a beautiful addition to your existing landscape design.



Participant cost: Rain Check will contribute \$16 per square foot towards your rain garden up to a maximum of \$1,500. At an average price of \$17-\$25 per square foot, this contribution often covers a very large percentage of the project.

**Preliminary testing:** The contractor will perform an infiltration test to determine how much water your soil can hold. In general, soils in Philadelphia are well-suited for rain gardens.

**Design:** Expert contractors will work with you to create a design that is appealing and unique to your property.

**Siting the rain garden:** Rain gardens must be planted in an area that is at least 10 feet from a below-ground basements and crawlspaces.

**Dimensions and Materials:** Rain gardens are excavated to a depth of 6" to 12". Then, the garden is filled with a stormwater-friendly mix of soil, sand, and compost.

**Plants:** Rain Check rain gardens are typically planted with native, drought-tolerant perennial species. These species do the best job of absorbing and filtering stormwater and are very low maintenance, all while creating wonderful habitats for butterflies and birds.

## Install Permeable Pavers

Permeable pavers are specially designed pavers, stones, or bricks that allow water to soak into the ground below. Removing impervious surfaces like concrete or asphalt and replacing it with permeable pavers reduces stormwater runoff and can make a big visual improvement to your property. There are a variety of colors and styles available, allowing you to renovate your patio or driveway and manage stormwater at the same time!



Rain Check will contribute \$15 per square foot for permeable pavers, up to a maximum of \$1,500. Participant cost: Removing concrete/asphalt and installing permeable pavers normally costs about \$30 to \$50 per square foot.

**Design:** Permeable pavers come in a wide variety of sizes, colors, and patterns. A Rain Check contractor will show you different samples to determine the best fit for your property.

**Before the project:** The contractor will call the PA One Call (aka: "Call Before You Dig") hotline to ensure that no underground utilities will be disturbed during the project.

### Siting the project:

- All masonry projects must be on your property. Rain Check will not install permeable pavers on public sidewalks or any other area that lies in the public right-of-way.
- All permeable paver projects adjacent to homes require a thick rubber liner. However, if your home already has signs of water or moisture, Rain Check may not recommend permeable pavers.
- In general, the Rain Check program will only install permeable pavers in place of an existing hard surface.



## PLANT AND CARE FOR TREES

### Get a Free Yard Tree



#### TREE PHILLY

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Fairmount Park Conservancy  
Contact: [info@treephilly.org](mailto:info@treephilly.org)  
P: (215) 683-0217  
<https://treephilly.org/>

*Who is eligible: Property owners in Philadelphia*

Each spring (April to May) and fall (October to November), TreePhilly works with community groups across the city to host yard tree giveaway events. Check the website to find an updated list of community partners. Giveaway info for spring events goes up in March, and info for fall events in August. Reach out to the community partner in your neighborhood to register for a tree approximately one month to two weeks prior to the giveaway event. After registering, you can pick it up at the giveaway event. TreePhilly provides free yard tree delivery and planting for Philadelphia residents with limited mobility. Yard trees provided through this program must be planted in the ground on private property in Philadelphia.

### Get a Free Street Tree



#### PHS TREE TENDERS

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)  
Contact: [trees@pennhort.org](mailto:trees@pennhort.org)  
P: (215) 988-1698, (215) 988-8795  
<https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-programs/get-a-tree>

*Who is eligible: Property owners in Philadelphia, community organizations, schools*

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) Tree Tender groups plant trees along streets each spring and fall. Apply for a tree and make your block greener and healthier. PHS will work with you in handling tree permits, cutting sidewalk pits, and getting the tree to your neighborhood. Then you and your neighbors can rally together to plant and care for it.

- Before applying, see if your neighborhood is a priority for tree planting due to low numbers of trees, high average temperatures, and/or environmental justice concerns. Funding for tree plantings is limited; however, PHS prioritizes funding in neighborhoods that are most in need of growing their tree canopy.
- Contact your local PHS Tree Tenders group to work on the application process. This must be an active PHS Tree Tenders group with at least one member who has attended the Organizing Tree Planting Training.
- Property owners may receive up to 3 free trees (and sidewalk cuts) per planting season. Exceptions may be granted at public (non-city) properties like schools, churches, and non-profits, or in PHS mapped high-priority areas. Property owners may pay for additional trees at \$125 per tree, or \$300 per tree + sidewalk cut.
- Priority for street trees is for residential and non-city, publicly accessible properties; Investor owned/for-profit owners generally will have lower priority, although exceptions may be made in PHS mapped high-priority areas for tree planting.
- Additional priority for street tree planting may be given to properties and blocks with wider streets/sidewalks and no utilities, where there are planting sites that are suitable for medium to large maturing trees.

### Request Street Tree Maintenance



#### STREET TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Street Tree Contract Management Office  
Contact: [StreetTree.Info@phila.gov](mailto:StreetTree.Info@phila.gov)  
P: (215) 685-4363 or (215) 685-4362  
[tinyurl.com/street-tree-maintenance](http://tinyurl.com/street-tree-maintenance)

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Street trees grow in the sidewalk along the street. Philadelphia Parks & Recreation prunes mature street trees and removes dead and hazardous street trees as needed. They also take care of trees in neighborhood parks, recreation centers, and playgrounds owned by the City of Philadelphia. They do not remove living, healthy trees, and they cannot work on private property.



Image courtesy of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

## PLANT A GARDEN

### Get an Affordable or Free Garden



#### PHILADELPHIA YARDENS

(West + Southwest Philadelphia)  
Contact: Christopher Flounders, [info@yardens.life](mailto:info@yardens.life)  
<https://yardens.life/>

*Who is eligible: Residents of West and Southwest Philadelphia*

Philadelphia Yardens increases access to healthy food, builds community around food security and gardening, and rebuilds urban soils. They convert residential grass yards and ornamental spaces to beautiful food-productive gardens that support the urban ecosystem. Their services are rendered on a 'Pay-What-You-Can' sliding scale. No prospective clients will be turned down due to an inability to pay.

Two installation options are available:

1) **The In-Ground Philly Yarden:** This solution works best for folks who have a sizable yard (at least 50 sq ft) and for sites with soil suitable for food growth. The conversion process takes upwards of 1 year (to analyze, design, and install).

2) **The Container Philly Yarden:** If your space is not suited to an In-Ground Philly Yarden consider a container garden. The installation process is much quicker. Philadelphia Yardens often works with block captains or other neighborhood leaders to install containers in bulk on a given street.

### Get Free Compost + Mulch



#### FAIRMOUNT PARK ORGANIC RECYCLING CENTER

The City of Philadelphia  
P: (215) 685-0108  
[tinyurl.com/FairmountPark-RecyclingCenter](http://tinyurl.com/FairmountPark-RecyclingCenter)  
Hours + Location  
3850 Ford Rd, Phila., PA 19131  
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Sat: 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
Closed Sun.

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

City residents can get up to 30 gallons of free organic materials per year. Residents who want more than 30 gallons can buy the extra material. Available items include screened leaf compost, mulch, wood chips and other organic materials.



Images courtesy of Philadelphia Yardens



Image courtesy of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

### Get Your Soil Tested for Lead



#### LEAD SOIL SAMPLING IN THE PHILADELPHIA REGION

Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET)  
University of Pennsylvania  
Program Contact: Adrian Wood, [adrian.wood@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:adrian.wood@penmedicine.upenn.edu)  
P: (215) 898-6221  
<https://ceet.upenn.edu/leadsoilmap/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Citizen scientists can submit soil samples for lead testing to CEET. This program is doing a systematic assessment of soil lead in Philadelphia. Visit the program website for more information about how to collect and submit a sample, and to see test results on the map.



#### SOIL TESTING

Penn State Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory  
Contact: [aaslab@psu.edu](mailto:aaslab@psu.edu)  
P: 814-863-0841  
<https://agsci.psu.edu/aasl/soil-testing>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Soil tests for lead and other contaminants are available to assist farmers, gardeners, municipalities and others to develop environmentally sound soil management programs.

### Minimize Exposure to Soil Contaminants



#### GROWING SAFELY IN PHILADELPHIA'S URBAN SOIL (PUBLICATION)

Philadelphia Food Policy Advisory Council, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation  
Contact: [fpac@phila.gov](mailto:fpac@phila.gov)  
[tinyurl.com/growsafephilasoil](http://tinyurl.com/growsafephilasoil)

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Urban gardening produces healthy and low-cost food for residents. This guide provides best practices for growing food safely in urban soil.

## REDUCE HOUSEHOLD LITTER AND WASTE

### Pick up a Free Recycle Bin



#### RECYCLE BIN PICK-UP LOCATIONS

The City of Philadelphia  
<https://www.phila.gov/services/trash-recycling-city-upkeep/get-a-recycling-bin/>

*Who is eligible: Philadelphia residents.*

Residential households can pick up a recycling bin at one of the City's six sanitation convenience centers. Only one bin will be provided per visit. Each residential address can receive two bins per year. Only Philadelphia residents are eligible for a City-provided recycling bin. Bring a government-issued photo ID with you to prove your residency. If your ID does not have your current address, you should also bring a lease or utility bill.

#### Sanitation Convenience Centers

Port Richmond	3901 Delaware Ave	215-685-1358
West Philadelphia	5100 Grays Ave	215-685-2600
Strawberry Mansion	2601 W. Glenwood Ave	215-685-3955
Southwest Philadelphia	3303 S. 63rd St.	215-685-4290
Northwest Philadelphia	Domino Lane & Umbria St	215-685-2502
Northeast Philadelphia	State Rd. & Ashburner St.	215-685-8072

### Decline Leaflets Left at the Door



#### CIRCULAR FREE PROPERTY PROGRAM

Philadelphia Streets Department  
 Contact: [vending@phila.gov](mailto:vending@phila.gov)  
 P: (215) 686-2414.  
[tinyurl.com/circularfreephilly](http://tinyurl.com/circularfreephilly)

*Who is eligible: property owners and their agents in Philadelphia*

If you don't want circulars or other ads left on your property, you can register your property with the Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I). After you register, you will get a circular-free property decal. Once you put up the decal, you can report businesses that leave circulars on your property. L&I fines violators.



### Dispose of Hazardous Household Waste and Difficult to Recycle Items



#### TRASH, RECYCLING AND CITY UPKEEP

The City of Philadelphia  
[tinyurl.com/philahazardouswaste](http://tinyurl.com/philahazardouswaste)

*Who is eligible: Residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. To attend a waste collection event, you must pre-register. Businesses must get rid of materials through a private service.*

Hazardous waste can harm people, pets, and the environment. These kinds of materials may be toxic, corrosive, flammable and/or reactive.

You can find options for donating or recycling hazardous household waste by using the city's online recycling and donation finder tool. From yard waste to old cell phones and batteries, you can use this interactive map to define search criteria to find donation and recycling centers throughout the city.

Or, you can get rid of it at seasonal waste collection events throughout Philadelphia. Check the website for a calendar of collection events.

Only certain kinds of hazardous waste are accepted at collection events, including:

Acids	Herbicide	Pet collars and spray
Antifreeze	Insecticide	Pool and photo chemicals
Auto and lead-acid batteries	Kerosene	Rodenticide
Auto body repair products	Latex and water-based paints	Roofing tar
Brake fluid	Lead products	Solder
Chemical fertilizer	Lithium and NiCad batteries	Solvents
Degreasers	Mothballs	Spray paints
Drain and septic tank cleaners	Motor oil	Stain removers
Fluorescent light bulbs	Oil-based paints	Tile and oven cleaner
Fuel	Pesticide	Transmission fluid
Fungicide		Varnish
Gasoline		
Glue		



**Neighborhood**



Images courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy

## GET INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

### Become a Block Captain



**PHILADELPHIA MORE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE (PMBC)**  
The City of Philadelphia  
Contact: Dawn Woods, dawn.woods@phila.gov  
P: (215) 685-3971  
tinyurl.com/BecomeABlockCaptain

*Who is eligible: any resident can be a block captain*

Block captains work to make their block safe and beautiful. For example, they may:

- Sweep walks and gutters.
- Plant flowers and/or new street trees
- Help neighbors paint and renovate.
- Organize block parties and/or block cleanups
- Remind neighbors of trash and recycling collection days and guidelines.

Find out if you already have a block captain by calling PMBC. If you would like to become a block captain, you can:

- 1) Call PMBC to request a clean block petition, or fill it out online
- 2) Collect signatures. Circulate the petition among your neighbors to elect a block captain. You need 51% of the residents on your block to sign the petition. You can only collect one adult signature per household.
- 3) Mail your completed petition back to PMBC.
- 4) A clean block officer will contact you to help you get started.

### Join Your Neighborhood Park Friends Group



**PARK FRIENDS GROUP DIRECTORY**  
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR)  
Contact: PPRstewardship@phila.gov  
P: (215) 683-3679  
tinyurl.com/parkfriendsdirectory

*Who is eligible: anyone*

View the list of all the Philadelphia Park Friends groups. If you don't see your park listed, you can contact Philadelphia Parks & Recreation's Friends group director.

### Start a Neighborhood Park Friends Group



**PARK FRIENDS GROUP TOOLKIT**  
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR)  
Contact: PPRstewardship@phila.gov  
P: (215) 683-3640.  
<https://www.phila.gov/media/20200129153259/Park-Friends-Toolkit-2020.pdf>

*Who is eligible: anyone*

No group at your local park? Learn how to start one by checking out the Park Friends Group Toolkit and contacting the Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Stewardship office.

## Become a Tree Tender



### PHS TREE TENDERS

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)

Contact: [trees@pennhort.org](mailto:trees@pennhort.org).

P: (215) 988-1698

<https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-programs/get-involved>

*Who is eligible: residents in Philadelphia, Bucks, or Chester Counties*

PHS Tree Tenders is at the forefront of the urban tree movement across the country. PHS works to train hundreds of new Tree Tenders every year. Tree Tenders go on to form groups in their neighborhoods that transform the health and well-being of their communities by rallying neighbors to plant and care for trees. See how you can get involved in planting trees in your neighborhood today. How to Become a PHS Tree Tender:

- STEP 1:** Take a PHS Tree Tenders Basic Training Class, a series of classes.
- STEP 2:** Find a local Tree Tenders group in your neighborhood to join. Use the online map to begin your search.
- STEP 3:** Don't see a group in your neighborhood? Start a new Tree Tenders group! You only need three Tree Tenders graduates to make a group. The rest can be volunteers.
- STEP 4:** Get planting! PHS does two (2) plantings per year for groups to take part in: one in April and one in November.

Connect with your local Tree Tender group and make your neighborhood healthier and safer by planting and caring for trees in your community. Find areas in Philadelphia that are in high need of increased tree canopy to help plan your tree planting events. <https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-programs/for-current-tree-tenders>

## Have a Voice in Development Projects



### REGISTERED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS (RCOS)

The City of Philadelphia

Contact: [rco@phila.gov](mailto:rco@phila.gov)

P: (215) 683-4646

[tinyurl.com/philaRCO](https://tinyurl.com/philaRCO)

Registered Community Organizations are community groups that are concerned with the physical development of their community. Find your local RCO and find out how to be involved or receive updates.

RCOs:

- Get advance notice of projects that will be reviewed by the Zoning Board of Adjustment or the Civic Design Review Committee.
- Organize and conduct public meetings where community members can comment on planned developments in their neighborhood.
- Get notified by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission whenever a Zoning variance or special exception is requested. Development requiring Civic Design Review is proposed.

To see a Map of all RCO's in Philadelphia, visit: <https://openmaps.phila.gov/>



Images courtesy of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society



Image courtesy of Milton Lindsay



## KEEP YOUR BLOCK CLEAN

### Get Help with Block Clean-Ups



#### PHILADELPHIA MORE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE

The City of Philadelphia  
Program Contact: Dawn Woods, dawn.woods@phila.gov  
P: (215) 685-3971  
<https://www.phila.gov/programs/philadelphia-more-beautiful-committee/>

*Who is eligible: Philadelphia Block Captains, and Philadelphia residents*

The Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC) works with registered block captains to keep City blocks clean and green. Participating blocks have three organized cleanups in the summer months. PMBC provides an array of assistance, including:

- Promoting and organizing clean-up events.
- Providing block captains with cleaning tools such as trash bags and street brooms
- Supporting and celebrating volunteer block captains.
- Providing block captain ID cards and PMBC block captain guidelines.
- Attending block meetings to discuss community or block projects.
- Providing information about clean-up schedules, including Streets Dept. special collection days, sanitation rules and regulations, sanitation convenience centers, yard waste and leaf recycling, and household hazardous waste events

#### Contact a clean block officer

The program enlists a team of Clean Block Officers who connect residents and block captains with Streets Department resources, and the assistance outlined above. Clean block officers are assigned to neighborhoods based on Philadelphia Police Department districts. Use your police district number to identify your clean block officer below.

Clean block officers are available on the following days and times:  
Monday to Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (November through February)  
Tuesday to Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (March through October)

Police district	Clean block officer	Phone number
1, 3	John Landers	(215) 685-3972
2, 5, 7, 8, 15	Joseph Miranda	(215) 685-3981
6, 9, 16	Perry Sellers	(215) 685-3982
12	Chrishon Adams	(215) 685-3989
14	Darryl Thompson	(215) 685-3986
17	Sheree Anderson	(215) 685-3973
18	Paul Moore	(215) 685-3993
19	Robyn Matthews	(215) 685-3992
22	Tiffany Richardson	(215) 685-3975
24, 35	Diana Oliveras	(215) 685-3980
25	Sandra Miranda	(215) 685-3985
26	Maribel Guzman	(215) 685-3991
39	Kevin Fisher	(215) 685-3988

### Borrow Equipment for Community Clean-ups



#### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (CPP)

Community Life Improvement Programs (CLIP), The City of Philadelphia  
P: (215) 685-9558  
<https://www.phila.gov/programs/community-partnership-program/>

*Who is eligible: residents, community groups, businesses*

The Community Partnership Program loans tools and supplies to volunteers engaged in cleaning and maintaining their neighborhoods. Supplies include rakes, brooms, shovels, trash bags, etc. After the clean up is over, CCP personnel are also available to coordinate and pick up bagged trash. This program operates year round.

### Get Help with Organized Clean-ups



#### COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (CSP)

Community Life Improvement Programs (CLIP), The City of Philadelphia  
P: (215) 685-3071  
<https://www.phila.gov/programs/community-service-program/>

*Who is eligible: You must have at least 3-4 volunteers from your community in order to request CSP help*

The Community Service Program provides non-violent offenders (ages 18 and up) an opportunity to work with residents, businesses, and community organizations to clean up neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia. Requests for assistance can be made by calling or filling out an online request form.

CSP projects include:

- Cleaning city facilities.
- Cleaning underpasses.
- Sweeping streets.
- Helping community organizations with more people power for cleanups.

### Report a Dead Animal in a Street



#### DEAD ANIMAL REPORT FORM

City of Philadelphia Streets Department  
P: 311  
[tinyurl.com/philanimalremoval](https://tinyurl.com/philanimalremoval)

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

The Department of Streets can remove a dead animal from the street. Fill out the form at the above link or report it to 311 on the phone or with the app. The Department of Streets will not remove a dead animal from private property, including sidewalks.

## Get Trash Cans for Your Block



### PHILACAN

The City of Philadelphia  
Contact: philacan@phila.gov  
P: (215) 686-5462  
<https://www.phila.gov/programs/philacan-pilot-program/>

*Who is eligible: Before you can get a Philacan, 75% of households on your block will need to approve your block's participation. Households can agree that their blocks should participate, even if they don't want to request their own Philacan.*

Many residents don't have space to store household trash between weekly trash pickups. These are typically households without outside storage, driveways, or garbage disposals. The Philacan program offers a solution. Philacan gives residents extra capacity by providing City-owned cans they can store in front of their homes.

The program also helps to reduce debris and litter, keep rodents away and make our neighborhoods clean and safe.

### Trash Can Features:

- 35-gallon capacity
- Wheels for ease of movement
- Lids to prevent litter and rodents
- Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) technology for tracking lost cans
- Program participants can use the trash cans for free, however, they remain City property.

Once you have a Philacan, you must:

- Set the can out on your regular trash day.
- Keep the can clean of markings and graffiti.
- Secure the can to your property, if possible. The Department of Streets will not replace lost, stolen, or damaged cans.
- Use trash bags.
- Make sure trash doesn't spill out of the can.
- Follow all trash rules and regulations.
- Only use City-issued trash cans to store trash in front of your property.

Call (215) 686-5462 to let Streets know if:

- Your can is missing.
- You are moving. Each can is assigned to a specific address, so you won't be able to take the can with you.
- You may be removed from the program if you violate the rules or regulations.

## Get Reimbursed for Rounding Up Illegally Dumped Tires



### TIRE ROUNDUP PROGRAM

Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC)  
Contact: tireroundup@phila.gov  
P: (215) 685-3981  
<https://www.phila.gov/programs/tire-round-up-program/>

*Who is eligible: PMBC-organized block clubs, recycling groups, park friends groups, community/civic groups, neighborhood advisory committees, town watch organizations, and other organized groups.*

The Tire Round-up Program is a partnership between the City, block captains, and community groups. Each summer, registered groups collect and drop off illegally discarded tires to earn funds for neighborhood beautification projects. PMBC reimburses 50 cents per illegally discarded tire brought to a drop-off site. The drop-off limit is 1,000 tires per group.

### To Register:

- 1) Identify a Tire Round-up coordinator within your group.
- 2) Call PMBC at (215) 685-3981 to request an agreement form.
- 4) Fill out and email the form to tireroundup@phila.gov to register.
- 5) PMBC will notify you if you can participate

## Report Illegal Dumping



### 311

P: 911, 311  
<https://tinyurl.com/reportillegaldumping>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

It is illegal to dump garbage in public spaces or on private property. Report illegal dumping whenever you see it. A violation may be issued if appropriate and the dumper can be identified. Trash dumped on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. If you see illegal dumping in the act, call 911. Do not confront anyone you see dumping trash. You can report illegal dumping after the fact by calling 311.



Images courtesy of the City of Philadelphia

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation - The Stewardship Office  
Contact: Elisa Ruse-Esposito, Elisa.Ruse-Esposito@phila.gov  
(215) 683-3640

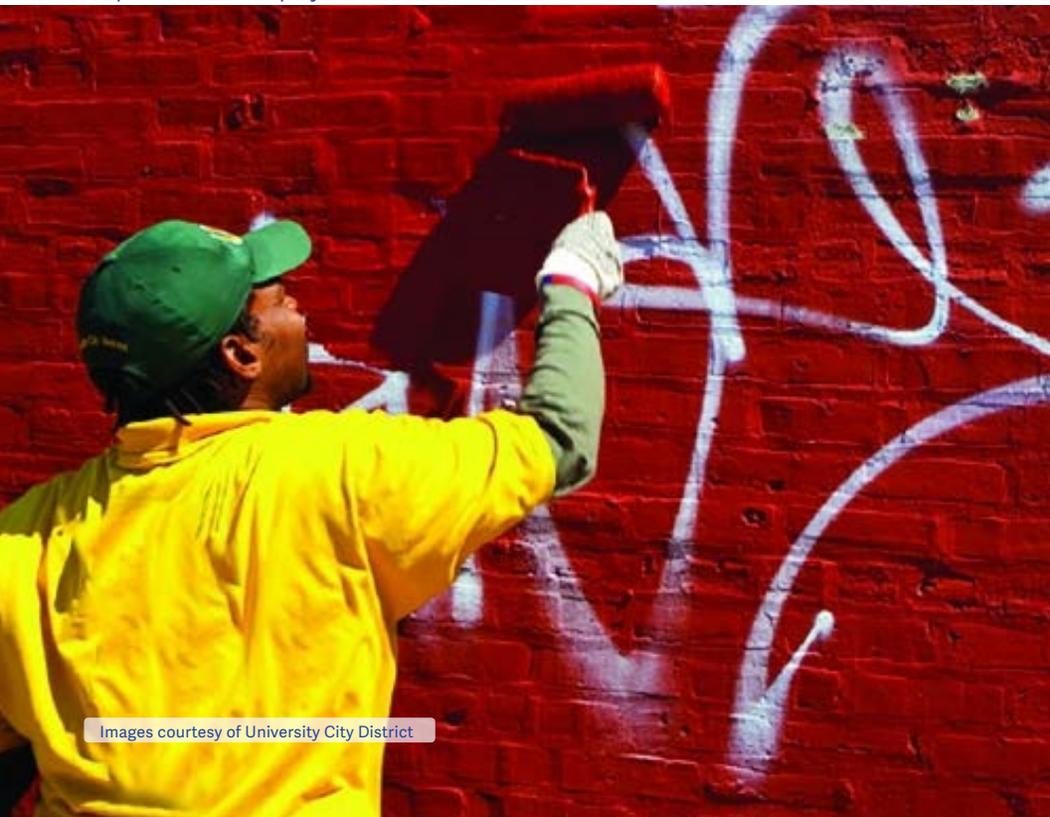
<https://loveyourpark.org/park-friends-network>

Who is eligible: Anyone

The Park Friends Network (PFN) is made up of 130 community-run park friends groups who help to steward Philadelphia's public parks. These community groups register with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation annually and work together to make our parks vibrant, inviting, and active public spaces that strengthen our communities. Park friends groups organize clean-ups and volunteer workdays, plan community events, help to raise funds for improvements, and advocate for Philadelphia's public park system.

Visit <https://loveyourpark.org/resources> for a list of friends group resources, including:

- Park Friends Network Toolkit
- Park Friends Network Calendar
- Park Friends Network Facebook Group
- Park Friends Network Value Statement
- Sample Friends Group Bylaws



Images courtesy of University City District

## Request Graffiti Removal



### GRAFFITI ABATEMENT TEAM

Community Life Improvement Programs (CLIP), The City of Philadelphia  
P: 311  
[www.phila.gov/clip](http://www.phila.gov/clip)

*Who is eligible: Free service to residents and businesses in Philadelphia*

The Community Life Improvement Program (CLIP) helps Philadelphians make the City a nicer place to live. The Graffiti Abatement Team (GAT) is the lead agency responsible for eradicating and containing the spread of graffiti vandalism. The program has developed into a rapid response unit that can address most graffiti removal requests within 3-4 business days (weather permitting). CLIP has removed graffiti from over 1 million properties and street fixtures in Philadelphia.

#### REPORTING TIPS:

- Provide the exact address and zip code of the graffiti.
- Indicate what kind of property was tagged and where the graffiti is located.
- Specify the preferred removal method (paint or power wash).
- Be proactive—report graffiti as soon as it appears in your neighborhood.



### GRAFFITI REMOVAL PROGRAM

University City District (UCD)  
Contact: [ucd@universitycity.org](mailto:ucd@universitycity.org)  
P: 215-243-0555 x236  
<https://www.universitycity.org/graffiti-removal>

*Who is eligible: public spaces within the University City service area*

If you live in University City, you can contact UCD crews to remove graffiti from public spaces throughout the district, using a combination of detergents and pressure washing. Their crews remove approximately 10,000 unsightly graffiti tags every year. They strive to complete all removal requests within 48 hours, weather permitting.



Images courtesy of the City of Philadelphia



## PROMOTE NEW GREENING INITIATIVES

### Promote Stormwater Grants & Credits for Non-Residential Property Owners



#### STORMWATER CREDITS

Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)  
Contact: PWD.StormwaterCredits@phila.gov  
P: 215-685-6070  
<https://water.phila.gov/stormwater/incentives/credits/>

*What properties are eligible: non-residential, condominium, and multi-family residential (more than 4 unit) properties*

The purpose of the Stormwater Credits Program is to provide non-residential, condominium, and multi-family residential customers the opportunity to reduce their monthly stormwater charge and to provide a financial and environmental incentive for customers to build, or keep, stormwater-friendly practices on-site. Stormwater credits lower a property owner's monthly stormwater bill. Sites that have open green space or currently manage stormwater may be qualified for stormwater credits.

For credits associated with voluntary stormwater management program retrofits, the Stormwater Grants Program can be used for design and construction funding, and property owners can use Stormwater Connect to find the right vendor for their retrofit project at: <https://water.phila.gov/stormwater/connect/>



#### STORMWATER GRANTS

Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)  
Contact: PWD.StormwaterCredits@phila.gov  
P: 215-685-6070  
<https://water.phila.gov/stormwater/incentives/grants/>

*Who is eligible: non-residential property owners*

The Philadelphia Water Department offers incentives to non-residential property owners, project managers, and developers to keep and increase stormwater management on their property for lower costs.

Stormwater Grants can pay for the design and construction of stormwater retrofit projects on non-residential properties in Philadelphia. Stormwater retrofit projects provide an opportunity to add new landscaping, fix drainage problems, and improve the appearance of a property. After a project is complete, the property owner qualifies for lower stormwater charges on their monthly bill through the Stormwater Credits Program.

These stormwater retrofit projects are a cost-effective way for the Philadelphia Water Department to reduce stormwater pollution in Philadelphia's creeks and rivers. PWD partners with the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation to award millions in stormwater grants every year. The Stormwater Grants Application Guide is a critical resource for learning more about how to apply for a Stormwater Grant.

### Plant an Orchard



#### PHILADELPHIA ORCHARD PROJECT

Contact: Co-Executive Director Phil Forsyth, [phil@phillyorchards.org](mailto:phil@phillyorchards.org)  
P: 215-724-1247.  
<https://www.phillyorchards.org/>

*Who is eligible: community-based groups and volunteers*

The Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP) is a nonprofit organization that plants and supports community orchards in the city of Philadelphia. POP works with community based groups and volunteers to plan and plant orchards filled with useful and edible plants in formerly vacant lots, community gardens, schoolyards, and other spaces, primarily in low-wealth neighborhoods where people have limited access to fresh fruit.

Every Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP) orchard is planted in collaboration with a community partner group. POP provides orchard design assistance, plant materials, help with event organizing, and training in orchard care. The community partner is responsible for all ongoing care of the orchard as well as distribution of the harvest.

Community groups interested in collaborating on an orchard should first submit a POP Community Partner Application. This is followed by an evaluation and site visit conducted



Image courtesy of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

## Plant an Orchard



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Community groups interested in collaborating on an orchard should first submit a POP Community Partner Application. This is followed by an evaluation and site visit conducted by POP staff. The primary criteria for selection as a community partner are: access to land, capacity of the group to care for an orchard, safety and suitability of the site itself, and plans for distribution of the harvest. POP generally requires that applicants hold long-term legal site access to the land (via ownership or a long-term lease). In recognition of systemic inequity and racially discriminatory practices that have impacted the ability of certain populations to access land or capital, exceptions to this policy may be made.

Upon selection, POP will help guide the community partner through preparations for a planting. Costs of planting the orchard are shared between POP and its partners on a sliding scale.

NOTE: Because of high demand for POP's services, the orchard partner selection process is increasingly competitive. The process of evaluation, selection, and planting preparation generally takes at least 9 months and is outlined in the POP Partner Checklist. Applications for fall plantings are due by January 15th and spring plantings by July 1st.

Interested groups should complete the application via the POP Community Partner Application form. This form can be downloaded at <https://www.phillyorchards.org/orchards> or requested via email to [info@phillyorchards.org](mailto:info@phillyorchards.org).



Images courtesy of Philadelphia Orchard Project



Image courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy

### Plant Trees in Sensitive Water Protection Zones



#### TREEVITALIZE WATERSHED GRANTS

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)

Program Contact: Tim Ifill, [tifill@pennhort.org](mailto:tifill@pennhort.org)

P: (215) 988-8898

<https://phsonline.org/programs/tree-programs/get-a-tree#treevitalize>

*Who is eligible: Anyone with a good project on permanently protected land can apply, such as non-profit organizations, municipalities, schools, and community organizations. If your organization is not a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit you can partner with a registered nonprofit or your local government to apply.*

This grant program focuses on planting trees along streams, neighboring upland areas, and natural stormwater basins. The result is thousands of trees planted in sensitive water protection zones, improving water quality and reduces flooding.

Applicants must have at least one representative complete the PHS Tree Tenders training or equivalent education or training to be eligible. Private landowners can apply through a registered non-profit or local government if they are willing to sign a 20-year agreement promising to leave the plantings undisturbed and allow maintenance of the plantings.

### Host an Intern or Hire Staff for Your Greening Project



#### POWERCORPSPHL

Contact: [info@powercorpsphl.org](mailto:info@powercorpsphl.org)

For Fellows: Gentris Jointe at [gjointe@educationworks.org](mailto:gjointe@educationworks.org).

For Alumni: Devin Hamilton at [dhamilton@educationworks.org](mailto:dhamilton@educationworks.org)

<https://powercorpsphl.org/>

*Who is eligible: Organizations and/or businesses interested in hosting a fellow or hiring alumni.*

PowerCorpsPHL is a 4 to 24-month, paid workforce development and AmeriCorps program designed to connect young adults to living wage jobs in energy, infrastructure and construction, and community-based positions that do good for communities.

#### Hosting a Fellow

PowerCorpsPHL helps young adults gain career-specific experience by placing them with organizations that align to their career goals and interests. Host sites gain a young leader 20-30 hours per week to support their work and an opportunity to coach a young person in their career field. PowerCorpsPHL will provide up to a 75% wage subsidy, transportation, workplace support, and professional development training. PowerCorpsPHL Fellows bring enthusiasm, a hunger to learn, and a young professional's insight and perspective.

#### Hiring Alumni

After 4 months of work-readiness training and an additional 6-18 months of career-specific training, PowerCorpsPHL alumni are ready to apply their talents in the workplace. Participants achieve a diverse knowledge base in land care, green infrastructure, building maintenance, community engagement, teamwork, and leadership. A person-centered approach to training and development prepares members for career pathways that align with your business goals.



Image courtesy of PowerCorpsPHL



Image courtesy of Mike Reali

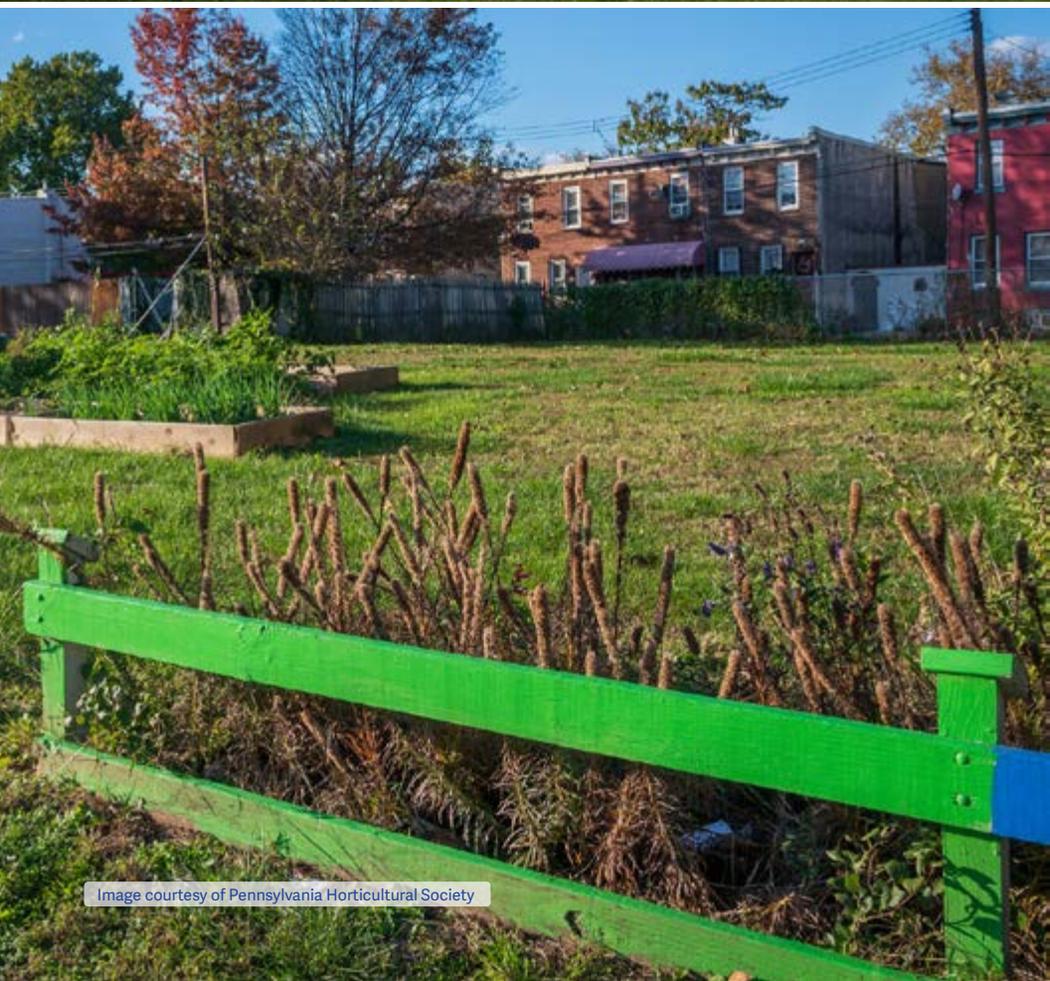


Image courtesy of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

## Transform a Vacant Lot into Open Green Space



### PHS PHILADELPHIA LANDCARE

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)

Contact: [info@pennhort.org](mailto:info@pennhort.org)

P: 215.988.8800

<https://phsonline.org/programs/transforming-vacant-land>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

The PHS Philadelphia LandCare program cleans, greens, and stabilizes vacant lots to help return them to productive use. Since its start, more than 800 properties are now used for housing, commercial properties, and green spaces.

The PHS LandCare program holds two primary initiatives.

- The “Clean and Green” program targets vacant parcels in neighborhoods without open or green spaces. PHS then hires city-based landscape contractors, who clean and mow the lots twice per month from April through October.
- The Community LandCare initiative works with 18 community organizations to hire local residents to do landscape maintenance on vacant lots in their neighborhoods.

PHS chooses new sites by working with community members. Philadelphia LandCare has worked with local organizations, the Division of Housing and Community Development in Philadelphia, and other city agencies.

How to Recommend a Site for PHS Philadelphia LandCare:

1. Work with others in your community to identify a few vacant lots on or near your block by noting the addresses and possibly even taking a photo.
2. Let PHS know about the lot(s) to be cleaned and greened
3. PHS will work with you to contact your local district City Council representative and request PHS to work on those lots.



### COMMUNITY GARDENS, OPEN SPACE + RECREATIONAL AREAS

Philadelphia Housing + Community Development Corporation (PHDC)

Contact: [land@phdc.phila.gov](mailto:land@phdc.phila.gov)

P: (215) 448-3000

[tinyurl.com/PHDCgardensopenspace](http://tinyurl.com/PHDCgardensopenspace)

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

The City of Philadelphia and PHDC have a strong commitment to community gardening and urban agriculture. In the last five years, PHDC has done a lot of work in community gardening and urban agriculture. There is more work to do, but PHDC is committed!

If you are interested in turning a vacant lot in your neighborhood into a community garden, use PHDC’s property map to see if it is available. If you are already gardening on a lot but don’t have an agreement to do so, PHDC may be able to formalize your garden.

If you would like to submit an application for a lot or lots find out if you’re eligible to purchase them here: [tinyurl.com/PHDCPropertyCheck](http://tinyurl.com/PHDCPropertyCheck)

## PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN GREEN SPACE

### Help Maintain Stormwater Infrastructure



#### SOAK IT UP ADOPTION

Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)  
Contact: Dan Schupsky, Daniel.Schupsky@phila.gov  
P: (215) 685-6300, 267.585-4092  
<https://water.phila.gov/adoption/>

*Who is eligible: civic and non-profit community groups*

Soak It Up Adoption is an innovative grant program through the Philadelphia Water Department, Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), and Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) used to beautify and engage residents around green stormwater infrastructure. Soak It Up Adoption grants are available for civic and nonprofit community groups to maintain the beauty and functionality of green infrastructure in your neighborhood.

Adoption partners receive grant money based on how many sites they adopt and their chosen methods of engagement.

### Protect Your Community Garden From Future Development



#### GARDEN PRESERVATION RESOURCES

Neighborhood Gardens Trust (NGT)  
Contact: Marlana Moore, mmoore@pennhort.org  
P: 215.988.1630  
<https://www.ngtrust.org/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

By working with the gardeners, community groups and the City to secure ownership or long-term leases, Neighborhood Gardens Trust protects land access for community-managed open spaces.

When NGT determines that a community garden is a good fit for preservation, they work with the gardeners to acquire or lease the land. Land assembly for garden preservation can be complicated and can take more than a year, especially if there are multiple properties with different land owners.

#### PRESERVATION CRITERIA

When gardens apply for preservation, NGT assesses the readiness of community gardeners to manage and maintain the open space for productive, long-term use.

When determining whether a community garden is a good fit for NGT, it considers a variety of factors including:

- Length of time the garden has been active (minimum of 3 growing seasons)
- Number and experience level of the gardeners
- Physical condition of the garden
- Garden uses (i.e. growing vegetables, orchard, flower garden, social space etc.)
- Demonstrated capacity of the gardeners to maintain the space



Image courtesy of Philadelphia Water Department



Image courtesy of Neighborhood Gardens Trust

### Access Legal Resources for Developing Green Space



#### GROUNDING IN PHILLY

The Garden Justice Legal Initiative, Public Interest Law Center  
Contact: [ejintake@pubintl.org](mailto:ejintake@pubintl.org)  
P: 215-627-7100 ext. 252  
<https://groundedinphilly.org/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Discover how to start a community garden, urban farm, or open space on vacant land in your neighborhood. Learn how to gain legal access to land, and connect with growers and activists across the City. Whether you hope to start a garden, preserve existing green space, or participate as a volunteer at a garden in your area, Grounded in Philly can help.

Grounded in Philly, a project of The Garden Justice Legal Initiative from the Public Interest Law Center, is a tool to help communities turn vacant land into community-controlled green spaces, gardens and gathering places. By using public data sources, residents will be able to determine who owns a lot and whether it has debt or is about to be developed. Grounded in Philly fosters connection, promotes advocacy, and helps equip people to take action in their own neighborhoods.



Get started by looking at one of Grounded in Philly's publications, "Vacant Land 215 Toolkit"



Image courtesy of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

### Access Gardening Support



#### COMMUNITY GARDENS PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)  
Contact: Justin Trezza  
P: 215.988.8800  
[tinyurl.com/PHScommunitygardens](https://tinyurl.com/PHScommunitygardens)

*Who is eligible: community gardeners*

PHS' Community Gardens Program supports a network of over 170 community gardens and grow sites through educational workshops, supplying gardening materials and resources, seedlings, access to the PHS tool library, technical assistance, volunteer assistance, and infrastructure improvements for your community garden.

Additionally, they work with gardens at every stage—whether it's just getting started or long-established—to offer support services tailored to your garden and create specialized approaches to set and achieve attainable garden goals.



#### GARDEN TENDER SERIES

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)  
Contact: [communitygardens@pennhort.org](mailto:communitygardens@pennhort.org)  
P: 215.988.8800  
<https://phsonline.org/events/garden-tenders-spring-2022>

*Who is eligible: community gardeners*

Garden Tenders is traditionally a space for community members interested in starting community gardens. Over five weeks, PHS covers topics like COVID-19 safety in community gardens, basic horticulture, assessing and finding resources in your neighborhood, garden maintenance, and so much more. This workshop has a limited capacity, and is free of cost.



Image courtesy of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

## Access Gardening Support (cont.)



### FARM PHILLY

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation + Fairmount Park Conservancy

Contact: [farmphilly@phila.gov](mailto:farmphilly@phila.gov)

P: (215) 683-3583

<https://myphillypark.org/what-we-do/programs/farm-philly/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Farm Philly works with partners who lease or use park land for agriculture projects with a public benefit. Farm Philly supports over 60 urban agriculture projects on Philadelphia Parks & Recreation land including orchards, vegetable and fruit production, youth education gardens, inter-generational gardens, community gardens, and market farms. Farm Philly seeks to uplift the importance of urban agriculture and support its expansion across Philadelphia by providing growers:

- Access to land.
- Compost, mulch, and wood chips.
- Supplies and outreach materials.
- Workshops and training.
- Technical support.
- Information on grants.

## Get Low Cost Greenhouse Space



### COMMUNITY PROPAGATION PROGRAM

Farm Philly/Philadelphia Parks & Recreation + Fairmount Park Conservancy

Contact: [farmphilly@phila.gov](mailto:farmphilly@phila.gov)

P: (215) 683-3679

<https://www.phila.gov/programs/farmphilly/propagation/>

*Who is eligible: Philadelphia residents, community gardens, non-profit organizations and businesses*

The Community Propagation Program rents greenhouse space to the public. More than 100 residents and organizations participate in the program. Members grow over 100,000 seedlings each year. This is the only public greenhouse space in the city. Every February through June, the program:

- Allows people to grow seedlings of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and herbs indoors.
- Provides a resource for people who do not have access to a greenhouse or indoor growing facility.
- Serves as a communal and collaborative space for growers of diverse backgrounds.

Participants can rent up to three 8' by 3' tables. Growers receive access to: potting benches, unlimited potting soil, daily watering and general oversight. The greenhouse is located at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center in West Fairmount Park. The address is 100 N. Horticultural Drive.



Images courtesy of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

## Grow and Share Produce with Your Community



### COMMUNITY GARDENS PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)  
Contact: Justin Trezza  
P: 215.988.8800  
[tinyurl.com/PHScommunitygardens](http://tinyurl.com/PHScommunitygardens)

*Who is eligible: Urban farmers and gardeners*

PHS' Community Gardens Program offers seeds, seedlings, supplies and technical assistance for participating urban farm and community gardens seeking to grow and share produce with their communities. Through the City Harvest Initiative, participants can access free technical workshops on organic pest control, pre- and post-harvest handling, season extension and more. Participants are expected to donate a portion of their produce to local soup kitchens, food cupboards, or their community, as well as complete cooperative hours at PHS' Green Resource Centers.

Gardens and grow sites participating in the program have access to organically grown seedlings, as well as other inputs to grow successfully and donate. Once grown, these gardens donate produce to their communities of choice.

## Get Help From a Master Gardener



### PENN STATE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE

Penn State Extension  
Contact: [philadelphiang@psu.edu](mailto:philadelphiang@psu.edu)  
P: 267-314-8711 or 215-471-2200 option 7  
[tinyurl.com/psumastergardenerhotline](http://tinyurl.com/psumastergardenerhotline)

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Master Gardener Hotline is a free service for residents of Philadelphia. Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Philadelphia are ready to answer questions pertaining to the appropriate selection of vegetables, ornamental plants, pesticides, soil, plant identification, pruning, compost, mulch, insect control, plant diseases and more.

To reach a Master Gardener, please email the details of your issues or question, as well as several high-quality photos, if applicable. You can also call the Penn State Extension Office at 267-314-8711 or 215-471-2200 option 7 to leave a voicemail message for the Master Gardener Hotline with your name, contact, and details of your issue.

## Get Your Plant Disease Diagnosed



### PLANT PATHOLOGY SERVICES

Penn State Extension  
Contact: [PlantClinic@psu.edu](mailto:PlantClinic@psu.edu)  
P: 814-865-2204  
<https://plantpath.psu.edu/about/facilities/plant-disease-clinic>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

The Plant Disease Clinic is part of the Department of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology at Penn State, and provides clinical diagnoses of plant diseases for approximately 2,000 samples submitted annually by Pennsylvania agricultural producers, urban gardeners, and homeowners.

The Plant Disease Clinic only accepts samples from Pennsylvania. If you are located outside of Pennsylvania, you can visit the National Plant Diagnostic Network website to find a diagnostic lab in your state.

#### Digital sample submissions

Photos can accompany a physical sample being sent to the clinic or submitted independently without a physical sample. To submit a digital sample, download and complete the Specimen Information Form. Save the completed form as a new file. Email the completed form along with several photos of your plant problem to [PlantClinic@psu.edu](mailto:PlantClinic@psu.edu). Please provide photos of the site and in-focus, close-ups of the plant part(s) affected.

#### Dropping off a sample at the Lab

There is no drop-off bin outside of the building. Samples can be delivered to the Plant Disease Clinic in 220 Buckhout Lab between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for holidays.



Image courtesy of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

## Become a Master Watershed Steward



### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY MASTER WATERSHED STEWARD PROGRAM

Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program  
Contact: AskaMWS@psu.edu, Philadelphia Office: PhiladelphiaExt@psu.edu  
P: 215-471-2200  
tinyurl.com/PSUwatershedstewardphila

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

The Penn State Master Watershed Steward program was established to strengthen local capacity for management and protection of watersheds, streams, and rivers, by educating and empowering volunteers across the commonwealth. This program provides extensive training in watershed management to volunteers who, in return, educate the community about watershed stewardship based on university research and recommendations.

### Who are Master Watershed Stewards?

Master Watershed Stewards work with the community to improve the health of our streams, rivers and other natural resources. They are volunteers trained to become citizen scientists. They educate the public about water and perform “boots on the ground” projects to help improve water quality in Philadelphia.

Master Watershed Stewards volunteer to protect the environment, by:

- Organizing educational events, workshops, and community walk
- Planting trees and native plants and restoring waterways
- Managing invasive plants
- Marking storm drains
- Hosting stream and trash clean-ups
- Working towards clean waters and environmental justice

### What is required of a Master Watershed Steward?

To participate, you need a keen interest in the environment, a willingness to learn and a strong desire to make a difference in the community. You must complete a minimum of 40 hours of training and 50 hours of service. In subsequent years, you can maintain your steward status by giving at least 20 additional volunteer hours and attending at least 8 hours of update training annually. Whether you are a teacher, a construction worker, a homemaker, or retired, you can become a Master Watershed Steward!

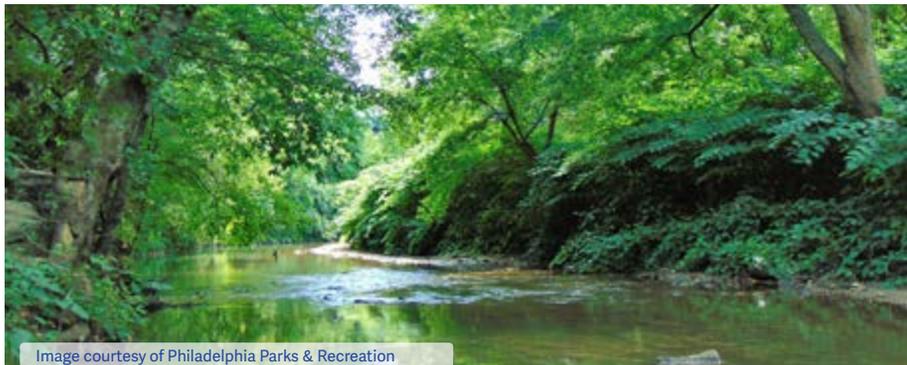


Image courtesy of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

## Become a Master Gardener



### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PROGRAM

Penn State Extension Master Gardener Program  
Contact: Jessica Schweiger, jes6956@psu.edu  
P: 267-773-6371  
tinyurl.com/PSUmastergardenerPhila

*Who is eligible: Philadelphia residents, 18 years of age or older*

PennState Extension Philadelphia Master Gardeners volunteer in all neighborhoods on a range of gardening and environmental projects and programs. They specialize in edible gardens, pollinator habitats, soil health, indoor plants, integrated pest management, youth gardens and more.

### Who are Master Gardeners?

The Philadelphia Master Gardener volunteer program supports the outreach mission of PennState Extension by utilizing unbiased research-based information to educate the public and our communities on best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship. They volunteer their time at community gardens, parks, clean-ups, tree plantings, and public events.

After completing training, Master Gardeners help serve the gardening public by answering questions, speaking to groups, writing gardening articles, working with youth, gardening in the demonstration gardens, participating in a range of citizen science research programs, and in many other ways.

If you would like to request a Philadelphia Master Gardener to speak at an event or need horticultural help, email PhiladelphiaMG@psu.edu.

### Become a Master Gardener

Online classes are held weekly October through April. Participants who enroll in the Master Gardener Program receive the award-winning PennExtension Master Gardener Manual. Classes are taught by a combination of Extension Educators and local experts. Along with the virtual (online) classes, trainees are also expected to attend monthly hands-on workshops, and to join in with volunteering projects.

Typical class topics include botany, entomology, plant pathology and ID, soil Science and health, diagnosis, vegetable and ornamental gardens, native plants, urban gardening, gardening with youth, fruits & nuts, pruning, herbaceous and woody ornamentals, and landscape design.

Master Gardener trainees are required to complete 50 hours of approved volunteer activity within the first year after training. In subsequent years, Master Gardeners must complete 20 hours of approved volunteer activity and 10 hours of continuing education training every year after graduation to maintain their Master Gardener status.

Contact the county Extension office in your area for an updated schedule of classes and program cost. Scholarships may be available through your local Extension office. Trainees must apply for the program in their county of residence. Contact your county Master Gardener program with any questions.

## Access a Specialty Gardening Library



### PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MCLEAN LIBRARY + ONLINE RESOURCE CENTER

Contact: [mcleanlibrary@pennhort.org](mailto:mcleanlibrary@pennhort.org)  
P: (215) 988-8782  
[tinyurl.com/PHSMcLeanLibrary](http://tinyurl.com/PHSMcLeanLibrary)  
In-person hours: Mon - Fri, by appt

*Who is eligible: Anyone can access the online and in-person library. PHS members can borrow books.*

The PHS McLean Library offers general and specialty gardening information and historical collections. Visitors can find resources on a range of horticultural topics. By becoming a PHS member you can borrow books. Borrowing of eBooks is now available to the gardening public through a library consortium. Make an appointment to visit the library in person at: <https://pennhort.libanswers.com/>



## GET CREATIVE

## Mark Storm Drains with Watershed Medallions to Deter Harmful Dumping into our Rivers + Streams



### STORM DRAIN MARKING PROGRAM

Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)  
Contact: Chesa Blom, [fblom@delawareestuary.org](mailto:fblom@delawareestuary.org)  
P: (302) 655-4900 x117  
<https://markingapp.philadelphiawater.org/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

There are approximately 72,000 stormwater inlets on neighborhood streets across the City of Philadelphia. Because these inlets drain into sewers and the streams and rivers that make up the city's seven watersheds, PWD educates residents about keeping them free of litter, pet waste, and harmful chemicals.

Each featuring the local watershed's name and aquatic wildlife native to our city, storm drain markers serve as helpful reminders, letting people know that our streets and sewers connect to our waterways.

Residents can register for a free storm drain marking kit online, to install 15 markers near your home, school, or neighborhood park. Please submit requests at least 14 business days prior to your event and arrange pickup with a local watershed organization.



## Storm Drain Marking



Image courtesy of Philadelphia Water Department

## SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### Join a Creative Coalition to Combat Trash



#### PHILADELPHIA TRASH ACADEMY

Contact: Shari Hersch, shari.hersch@muralarts.org,  
trashacademy@muralarts.org  
P: (215) 685-3971  
<https://www.trashacademy.org/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Trash Academy positions participants as designers and leaders of its creative interventions. Through mentoring participants become public speakers, facilitators, environmental advocates and social practice artists by leading teach-ins, games and performances at neighborhood and city-wide events. Trash Academy invigorates public spaces and shifts attitudes in some of the city's most litter-strewn neighborhoods. Trash Academy uses arts-based social practice to pursue the following goals:

- Deepen people's perspectives by complicating the issue of trash.
- Use games, participatory research, and other fun, interactive points of entry.
- Design creative interventions to shift attitudes and prompt collective action around environmental justice.
- Develop member leadership skills through public speaking, presenting, game facilitation, and knowledge sharing.
- Build grassroots solutions to the issue of trash.

Trash Academy Leaders are paid for public engagements.

Projects include: Drywall + Dumping, Clean Philadelphia NOW, Covid-19 + Climate Change, BYOBag Billboard + Plastic Bag Campaign, Plastic Bag Jeopardy, Trashmobiles, Public Education Posters, Dirty Dancer and Trash Trouble.



Image courtesy of Trash Academy

### Report a Vacant Lot



#### CITY OF PHILADELPHIA VACANT LOT PROGRAM

Community Life Improvement Programs (CLIP), The City of Philadelphia  
P: 311  
<https://www.phila.gov/programs/vacant-lot-program/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

The City's Property Maintenance and Vacant Lot Programs address nuisance properties and the resulting overgrowth, trash and debris. These programs promote clean neighborhoods by enforcing the City's property maintenance codes. Before any punitive action is initiated by the City, the owner is issued a warning that the property needs to be maintained. If the warning fails to compel the owner to maintain their property, City abatement crews have the authority to clean those properties and bill the owner for the clean up cost.

### Report an Environmental Justice Concern



#### THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

P: (215) 685-7489  
<https://www.phila.gov/services/mental-physical-health/report-a-health-or-safety-concern/report-an-environmental-justice-concern/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

In Philadelphia, low-income residents and communities of color have experienced a disproportionate burden of adverse environmental and health impacts. The environmental justice movement seeks to involve communities in the issues and decisions that affect their environment. If you believe there is an environmental or health hazard in your community, you can report it for investigation by the Department of Public Health.



**City**

## ENJOY + PROTECT PHILLY'S WATERSHED PARKS

### Get Involved with Regional Watershed Parks

Philadelphia's watershed parks are protected areas of land that drain rainfall and snowmelt into streams and rivers. By preserving and maintaining the parks, you can help to protect our waterways and keep our drinking water clean. And they offer great green spaces and trails to explore. Visit, enjoy, and find out how you can be involved. See Philadelphia's watershed parks on the map below. For volunteer opportunities, contact the organizations listed on the following pages.



- 1 Cobbs Creek Park
- 2 East Fairmount Park
- 3 FDR Park
- 4 Pennypack Park
- 5 Poquessing Creek Park
- 6 Tacony Creek Park
- 7 West Fairmount Park
- 8 Wissahickon Valley Park

### Help Protect the Wissahickon



#### FRIENDS OF THE WISSAHICKON (FOW)

Contact: Shawn Green, [green@fow.org](mailto:green@fow.org).

P: 215-247-0417 x351

<https://fow.org/volunteering/>

Friends of the Wissahickon relies on volunteers to help conserve the beauty of Wissahickon Valley Park and to keep it a place that everyone can enjoy. There are many ways to get involved in the park, but the best place to start is by coming to one of the regular volunteer service days. FOW works on a variety of projects in different locations throughout the Wissahickon, so you're likely to find something that appeals to you.

Volunteer days are educational and provide a much needed service to the park, with an added benefit of introducing you to a lot of wonderful, like-minded park stewards. Registration is recommended for all service days, as it helps FOW to plan, and makes it easy to communicate with you in case weather cancels the work. Always plan to wear long pants, sturdy footwear, sun protection, and bring a refillable water bottle with you.

FOW always welcomes groups to volunteer in the park. Wednesdays are reserved for school groups that would like to come out and work. If you are a corporate group, please consider becoming a Corporate Sponsor of FOW. This not only supports the conservation of the Wissahickon, but allows FOW to plan a workday for your company. You can connect with a FOW staff person to set up a Corporate Stewardship Day for your business here, <https://fow.org/volunteering/corporate-groups/>



Image courtesy of Friends of the Wissahickon

## Help Protect the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed



### TOOKANY/TOKANY-FRANKFORD WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP, INC.

Contact: [info@ttfwatershed.org](mailto:info@ttfwatershed.org)

P: (215) 744-1853

<https://ttfwatershed.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/>

The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Creek watershed is located in southeast Pennsylvania, both within and just outside the city of Philadelphia. It is one of Philadelphia's five main watersheds, whose rainwater flows into the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Creek (it's name changes three times as it moves southward), and eventually meets the Delaware River just south of the Betsy Ross Bridge.

From the headwaters in Montgomery County – to neighborhoods in North, Northeast, and Northwest Philadelphia – The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Creek Watershed Partnership, Inc. (TTFWP) empowers constituents to take care of and improve the impaired waterways through hands-on education, stewardship, restoration, and advocacy.

In Philadelphia, TTFWP focus on Tacony Creek Park, collaborating with neighbors to discover this historic urban watershed park through mural, oral history, photography, and music projects; improvement programs such as plantings and cleanups, and activities including regular health, nature, and history walks, and block parties.

TTFWP educates people about how green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) uses plants and soil to soak up and clean rainwater where it falls, before it enters our creeks. Their GSI project list is growing everyday, but so far they've planted thousands of native trees, shrubs, and flowers along creeks and installed rain gardens at over 25 schools, parks, places of worship, and even backyards in order to make our creeks healthier.

There are a multitude of ways to get involved with TTFWP, from becoming a Streamkeeper (water quality monitoring) or Tacony Creek Park Keeper, to making changes at home or at a cleanup or planting. TTFW also sponsors the park friends group, TCP Keepers, which has their own website, <https://tcpkeepers.org/>

## Get Involved at FDR Park



### FRIENDS OF FDR PARK

Contact: [info@fdrpark.org](mailto:info@fdrpark.org)

<http://www.fdrparkphilly.org/>

FDR Park is South Philadelphia's largest park and one of its most important public institutions, reflecting the area's remarkable racial, cultural, and economic diversity of South Philadelphia. Whether planting trees, trash picking, painting or contributing with a specialized skill, there are many ways to help FDR Park!

Long before it became the South Philly staple it is today, the land that is now FDR Park consisted of acres upon acres of wetlands and marshes separated from "mainland" Philadelphia by Hollander Creek, which ran between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. Between the late 1700s and early 1900s, these marshes were slowly drained and filled to support agriculture and eventually residential development. It wasn't until 1913 that the Olmsted Brothers, the sons of the prominent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted of New York's famed Central Park, designed League Island Park.

The Friends of FDR Park is a community-led nonprofit organization dedicated to stewarding and advocating for FDR Park. Throughout the year, Friends of FDR hosts group and solo volunteer opportunities in collaboration with Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

They are actively working to restore FDR Park's waterways! For decades phragmites and other invasive species have overtaken FDR Park's waterways; dominating the riparian edge, crowding out native plant life, and walling off recreational use. Over the past year, park staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to remove the invasive phragmites from around the Boathouse. Once cleared, the area then needed to be replanted with native plants. They've planted a mix of aquatic vegetation (including water lilies, cattails, and pickerelweed) that will benefit FDR Park for years to come!



Images courtesy of Tookany/Tokanu-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc.



Images courtesy of Friends of FDR Park



## Help Protect the Poquessing Watershed



### FRIENDS OF POQUESSING WATERSHED (FPW)

Contact: [dremick@friendsofpoquessing.org](mailto:dremick@friendsofpoquessing.org)  
 P 215-638-0832  
<https://www.friendsofpoquessing.org/>

Friends of Poquessing Watershed is an all-volunteers organization dedicated to the conservation and beautification of the Poquessing Creek and its watershed. They work in Philadelphia, Bucks and Montgomery Counties on a variety of projects, including monthly cleanups, education projects, community events, partnership activities with other organizations, and stream monitoring.

### Monthly Cleanups

FPW organizes stream and park clean ups. Please visit their Events page for upcoming cleanups.

### Monthly Bird Walk

Every 3rd Sunday of the month at Benjamin Rush State Park, FPW hosts a morning bird walk (8:30-10:30 am). They report their findings on a regular basis to [ebird.org](http://ebird.org). Their meeting point is the first parking lot in the park. For cancellations check their Facebook page, Twitter, and emails.

### Tree Planting

FPW reforests the Poquessing watershed by converting un-forested space along the banks of Poquessing creek and its tributaries into wooded buffer zones in order to reduce runoff and erosion, improve aquatic habitat, and sequester carbon.

### The Poquessing Streamkeepers

Join the Poquessing Streamkeeper Program, a team of trained citizen scientists that regularly monitor the Poquessing Creek and its tributaries. This program is part of a regional effort to improve Philadelphia area watersheds (Wissahickon, Pennypack, Tookany, Poquessing, and Cobbs Creek).

This is a critical program, as it provides a vital window to the current condition of the Poquessing Creek and the health of the watershed. The data provided by our Streamkeepers fosters a better understanding of the watershed and areas that would benefit from restoration and/or community education efforts.

### Invasive Plant Management

FPW volunteers remove the invasive akebia, Japanese honeysuckle, kudzu, multiflora rose and other noxious or nuisance plants from the riparian zones and parks of the watershed. They plan to work together with local businesses and residents to offer fun and rewarding community stewardship events.

## Access Resources for Citizen Planners



### CITIZENS PLANNING INSTITUTE (CPI)

Contact: [cpi@phila.gov](mailto:cpi@phila.gov)  
 P: (215) 948-2075  
<https://citizensplanninginstitute.org/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone can use Citizens Planning Institute's online tools and educational resources. In order to participate in the 8-week course, you must apply and be selected.*

Citizens Planning Institute is the education and outreach arm of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, and introduces Philadelphians, who “love where they live”, to the activities of city planning, zoning and development so they can help shape and preserve their neighborhoods. CPI offers a variety of helpful resources, including:

- An eight-week course, offered every spring and fall, to a new and diverse group of thirty residents who bring new-found skills and resources back to their neighborhood organizations. The course empowers citizens to take a more effective and active role in shaping the future of their neighborhoods and of Philadelphia through a greater understanding of city planning and the steps involved in development projects. To date, over 700 participants representing over 130 different neighborhoods have completed CPI. To learn more or apply, please visit: <https://citizensplanninginstitute.org/course-overview/>
- Inspiring stories about CPI participants making positive changes in their neighborhoods. Review the catalog of stories here: <https://citizensplanninginstitute.org/citizen-planners/>
- CPI's website also has a variety of online educational tools that residents can freely use, including guides on topics ranging from how to access city-owned land, to a deep dive into zoning rules, to how to make your community group more inclusive. Their resources can be found here: <https://citizensplanninginstitute.org/resources/>
- Their Citizens Toolkit highlights 15 long-time neighborhood leaders and what challenges they faced in their neighborhoods and how they addressed them. These case studies can be accessed at: <https://citizensplanninginstitute.org/citizen-toolkits/>

## VOLUNTEER TO PROTECT AND MAINTAIN PARKS

### Participate in City-Wide Service Days



#### LOVE YOUR PARK

Fairmount Park Conservancy

Contact: Eduardo Dueñas, [eduenas@myphillypark.org](mailto:eduenas@myphillypark.org)

P: (215) 607-3487 ext 112

<https://loveyourpark.org/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone, no experience necessary.*

Twice a year, Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation organize city-wide Love Your Park cleanups, in partnership with the Park Friends Network, which is made up of more than 130 community-run volunteer groups who steward their neighborhood parks. Every May and November, Love Your Park events bring thousands of friends, neighbors, and newcomers together to clean, green, and celebrate Philly's parks!

#### Love Your Park Week

Love Your Park Week is a nine-day celebration of Philadelphia's public parks that takes place in May. There is a signature site event in collaboration with a neighborhood park to kick off the festivities, which is followed by volunteer workdays in parks across the city, plus many fun, free events that invite Philadelphians to get outside and explore the bounty of the city's park system.

#### Love Your Park Fall Service Day

Love Your Park Fall Service Day is a city-wide volunteer event that takes place on a Saturday in November. Parks across Philadelphia host volunteer events to clean up our parks after a busy summer season and prepare these public green spaces for winter – and the following spring! Volunteers plant and care for trees, rake leaves, plant flower bulbs, clean out garden beds, and more.

#### How do I sign up to volunteer?

Volunteer registration for Love Your Park Week and the Fall Service Day opens one month before each event. Sign up for the Fairmount Park Conservancy's email newsletter to get the announcement when registration opens! Once registration opens, volunteers can find an event based on location or project type, then sign up to participate as individuals, families, or a group.

Beyond keeping Philadelphia's parks clean and green, many Park Friends Groups have reclaimed their local parks as positive spaces in their neighborhoods through years of hard work, dedication, and collaboration. Learn more about how to join or start a Park Friends Group on page 21.



Images courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy

## Volunteer in Philadelphia's Natural Areas



### SECOND SATURDAYS

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Stewardship Office  
Contact: Jason Mifflin, PPRstewardship@phila.gov  
<https://loveyourpark.org/volunteer/secondsaturdays>

*Who is eligible: Anyone, no experience necessary.*

Join an open volunteer workday on the second Saturday of every month to restore Philadelphia's natural areas. Workdays rotate to a different park every month and offer hands-on experiences with ecological restoration projects around the city.

Second Saturday volunteers plant and care for trees, remove invasive plants, keep our waterways clean, and have a special opportunity to learn about the City's ongoing efforts to restore Philadelphia's natural areas. Spend time outdoors and explore and help preserve Philadelphia's natural lands!

## Join Volunteer Workdays



### INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Fairmount Park Conservancy  
Contact: Eduardo Dueñas, eduenas@myphillypark.org  
P: (215) 607-3487 ext 112  
<https://myphillypark.org/support/volunteer/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone, no experience necessary*

Join Weekly Individual Volunteer Workdays on Tuesdays and Thursdays, April through November, to help with removing invasive species, weeding, trash pick-up, trail maintenance, and more. Workdays rotate to different areas around Fairmount Park every couple of weeks. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome – no experience necessary and tools are provided!

## Organize Your Group to Volunteer for Philly Parks



### CORPORATE + COMMUNITY GROUP VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Stewardship Office  
Contact: PPRstewardship@phila.gov  
P: (215) 683-3640  
<https://loveyourpark.org/volunteer/groups>

*Who is eligible: Anyone*

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation organizes volunteer events for community groups, schools, churches, and others throughout the year! Events are organized based on availability and need. Projects focus on supporting regular park maintenance, ecological restoration, and other special projects throughout Philadelphia's unstaffed neighborhood parks and natural areas.



Images courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy

### Organize a Corporate Volunteer Day



#### COPORATE VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

Fairmount Park Conservancy  
Contact: Joe Soprani, jsoprani@myphillypark.org  
P: (215) 607-3476  
<https://myphillypark.org/support/volunteer/>

*Who is eligible: Companies looking to host a volunteer event with their team.*

Fairmount Park Conservancy’s corporate stewardship program offers unique, hands-on outdoor volunteer opportunities in Philadelphia’s public park system for corporate groups. Workdays are custom designed around your team’s interests, needs, and schedule, and they are led by a team of professional volunteer coordinators. Your team’s experience will be rewarding, engaging, and memorable. Please fill out the form at the link above to get started!



Images courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy

### Get Job Training in Urban Greening



#### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)  
Contact: Keith Green  
P: 215.988.8800  
<https://phsonline.org/programs/workforce-development-programs>

*Who is eligible: Anyone seeking employment in the horticultural and landscape industries*

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) provides training, job placement, and ongoing support throughout the year for Philadelphia residents impacted by underemployment. Our green industry workforce development programs offer paid training in the following areas:

- Basic horticulture and ecology
- Landscape maintenance & tree care
- Equipment operation and safety
- Light carpentry and masonry
- Green stormwater infrastructure (GSI)

The training also includes job readiness, conflict resolution, health education, and occupational therapy. Upon graduating, PHS provides continued case management support and job placement with partnering employers.

### Work Today, Get Paid Today



#### SAME DAY WORK AND PAY

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)  
Contact: Keith Green  
P: 215.988.8800  
[tinyurl.com/PHSsamedayworkandpay](https://tinyurl.com/PHSsamedayworkandpay)

*Who is eligible: Residents in neighborhoods with partner organizations*

In 2020, in response to the economic effects of the pandemic, PHS expanded its workforce development activities by launching the newly-named “Same Day Work and Pay” program with funding from the City of Philadelphia.

Through this program, PHS partners with community organizations to employ under- and unemployed Philadelphians to perform daily work assignments such as clearing vacant lots, cleaning street corridors, and completing other community improvement tasks. Participants receive \$100 per day, and are paid on-site where they can also connect with social services support.

## Gain Work Experience While Serving the Community



### WORKREADY

Philadelphia Youth Network  
Contact: [workreadyhelp@pyninc.org](mailto:workreadyhelp@pyninc.org)  
P: (267) 502-3900  
<https://www.pyninc.org/our-initiatives/workready/>

*Who is eligible: WorkReady is for Philadelphia residents between the ages of 12-24. Young adults who have graduated high school but are under 24 are eligible if they are disconnected from both school and work. Individual programs may have additional eligibility requirements such as age or zip code.*

### WorkReady

WorkReady programs supply skill-building opportunities and paid work experiences for 12 - 24 year-olds in Philadelphia. WorkReady offers young people the chance to work in many different career fields in order to develop the critical skills necessary to grow in an increasingly competitive economy.

WorkReady programs provide 6-8 week experiences in the Summer and throughout the school year during and after school-time hours. WorkReady includes skill-building opportunities for teens and young adults including how to apply for a job, understanding and managing money, building technological skills, developing resumes, learning about careers and industries, and much more.



### E3

Philadelphia Youth Network  
Contact: [workreadyhelp@pyninc.org](mailto:workreadyhelp@pyninc.org)  
P: (267) 502-3800  
<https://www.pyninc.org/our-initiatives/e3/>

*E3 provides year-round services to 16-24 year olds in Philadelphia, not currently connected to school or work, who are looking to take the next step in their careers.*

### E3

E3 services help young people ages 16-24 take the next step toward a career. Through comprehensive and individualized support, we connect teens and young adults to post-secondary education, paid work experience, adult mentorship, career pathway coaching, and more.

E3 participants can receive supportive services that cover the cost of transportation, supplies, housing, and childcare - all while gaining paid work experiences. The program has rolling enrollment, so interested teens and young adults can join a program at any time.

## Join a Paid Youth Art Apprenticeship



### THE GUILD

Mural Arts Philadelphia  
Contact: [restorativejustice@muralarts.org](mailto:restorativejustice@muralarts.org)  
P: (215) 685-0756  
<https://www.muralarts.org/program/restorative-justice/the-guild/>

*Who is eligible: justice-impacted individuals (Returning from Incarceration; On Probation, Parole, Open Case, Family member incarcerated), 18+ years old; must have valid ID and Social Security card or Birth Certificate.*

The Guild is a paid apprenticeship that gives justice-impacted young people the opportunity to develop marketable job skills and reconnect with their community. The Guild furthers individual development by incorporating important restorative justice concepts of healing, community, and individual restoration throughout the program. The guild offers two tracks: a Co-ed track open to any returning citizens, and the Women's Reentry Program.

Through mural making, carpentry, and other creative projects, members of The Guild are guided by artists and other skilled professionals to transform their neighborhoods and themselves. Job readiness, such as life skills, professional development, and mentorship is an essential element of the curriculum. A majority of Guild graduates find new employment or further educational opportunities following their successful completion of the program.

## Learn From a Professional Muralist While Earning Money



### MURAL ARTS SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Mural Arts Philadelphia  
Contact: [brad.carney@muralarts.org](mailto:brad.carney@muralarts.org)  
<https://www.muralarts.org/for-artists/summer-internship/>

*Who is eligible: Anyone can apply to the program*

Every year, Mural Arts Philadelphia seeks dedicated individuals for our Summer Internship Program. You will have the opportunity to work alongside a professional muralist for a paid internship. This is a great learning experience for any artist and a way to gain solid mural-making experience. Become part of the team and contribute to Philadelphia's renaissance.



Images courtesy of Steve Weinik





## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Find Green Stormwater Management Projects in Your Area



**THE BIG GREEN MAP**  
The Philadelphia Water Department  
[tinyurl.com/philawatermap](http://tinyurl.com/philawatermap)

This interactive map shows green tools created at both public and private sites and lists the thousands of individual green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) systems found at hundreds of locations across the city. Use the Big Green Map to find green tools like porous paving, stormwater tree trenches and rain gardens in your neighborhood.

### Find Special Events Happening in Philadelphia Parks



**EVENT LISTINGS**  
The City of Philadelphia  
[tinyurl.com/Phillyparkevents](http://tinyurl.com/Phillyparkevents)

Want to know what's happening around in Philadelphia's Parks & Recreation Centers? This calendar shows upcoming events throughout the city.



Images courtesy of Philadelphia Water Department

Image courtesy of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

## CASE STUDIES AT A GLANCE

### William Cramp School

#### Project Lead: The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

Contact: Abi Mlo, Stewardship and Engagement Coordinator, Trust for Public Land, [abi.mlo@tpl.org](mailto:abi.mlo@tpl.org)

Once an open, hot expanse of asphalt, the William Cramp schoolyard has been transformed into a green, vibrant, multifaceted playscape that serves not only the school, but the Fairhill community as a whole. The school principal and staff's collaborative approach and enthusiastic pursuit of neighborhood partnerships laid the groundwork for Cramp winning a spot in a School District pilot program to revamp schoolyards. In partnership with the Trust for Public Land and the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD), the goal of the pilot was to provide community green spaces in neighborhoods lacking high-quality outdoor places to play. Guided by TPL, the school undertook a student-led design process, which was then advanced and realized by a diverse cast of partners. PWD played an instrumental role in designing and funding a rain garden that diverts stormwater away from the city sewers. TPL also helped fund the project while managing the process, and hired Interpret Green to transform the students' vision into a fully realized new schoolyard.

The school now enjoys play equipment and safety surfaces, an artificial turf field and running track, a lush rain garden that retains stormwater on-site, an outdoor music room with musical instruments, a handball and half basketball court and shade trees. A science station was built so that students and teachers can monitor meteorological data and air quality. Bird-nesting boxes and other habitat improvements, equipped with nature cameras, allow the school to monitor wildlife that has been attracted to the grounds. After the initial renovation of the schoolyard, TPL initiated a collaboration with Mural Arts and the Philadelphia Orchard Project, to add murals and gardens to the new space. Meanwhile, the school's leaders and staff were instrumental partners throughout the process.

#### Project Partners:

- William Cramp School, its principal, staff, teachers and students
- School District of Philadelphia
- Trust for Public Land
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Mural Arts
- Philadelphia Orchard Project
- Philadelphia Parks & Recreation
- The Fairhill Community

#### Funding provided by:

- School District of Philadelphia
- Trust for Public Land
- Philadelphia Water Department
- City Council
- Mural Arts
- The William Penn Foundation
- The Otto Haas Charitable Trust
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- The McLean Contributionship
- Vert Charitable Trust
- and many other donors.



The William Cramp Schoolyard before renovation



Images courtesy of Jenna Stamm

## Heston Park and Rain Garden

### Project Lead: Sheila Buchanan

Contact: Sheila Buchanan, Executive Director, Hestonville Community Development Corporation, Hestonvillecdcc@gmail.com

Formerly an overgrown vacant lot, the Heston Park and Rain Garden has been a labor of love for Sheila Buchanan. A longtime Hestonville resident, Sheila has spent multiple years advocating for the lots' cleanup and transformation. Initially, she was instrumental in getting the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to adopt the city-owned lot into its LandCare program, which uses gardening and landscaping to clean, green, and maintain vacant lots. Once stabilized through LandCare, Sheila was able to make the case to local City Councilman Curtis Jones that the lot be further developed into a park with amenities to serve the neighborhood. Together they successfully advocated for the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) to adopt the lot into its Green City Clean Waters program.

In the case of the Hestonville lot, the Philadelphia Water Department installed green stormwater infrastructure that included a rain garden, which uses plants and soil to absorb rainfall, and an underground storage trench. According to PWD, the Heston Lot rain garden and storage trench soaks up and filters water from surrounding streets, equivalent to filling one SEPTA bus, 389 bathtubs, or leaving the faucet running for nearly 9.5 days!

Additional investments by the councilman's office funded new sidewalks, a new gazebo with benches and an accessible garden path. This plus PWD's commitments catalyzed further investments, including from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, who donated money for a new split rail fence, and Mural Arts, who funded a new mural showcasing the relationship between the neighborhood and the Schuylkill River.

### Project Partners:

- Sheila Buchanan and the Hestonville Association
- Hestonville Civic Association
- Councilman Curtis Jones
- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Philadelphia Department of Public Property
- Mural Arts

### Funding provided by:

- City Councilman Curtis Jones
- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
- Philadelphia Water Department
- Mural Arts



## Parkside Edge

### Project Lead: Fairmount Park Conservancy

Contact: Allison Schapker, Chief Projects Officer, Fairmount Park Conservancy,  
aschapker@myphillypark.org

In 2015, Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Conservancy and local partners embarked on the Centennial Commons project to reimagine and revitalize West Fairmount Park. As a result of close collaboration and communication with neighbors and community groups, Parkside Edge emerged as a first phase of the larger project, in order to address some of the communities' highest priorities, including improved and safer access across heavily trafficked Parkside Avenue, and more inviting spaces directly adjacent to the neighborhood where local residents could relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Parkside Edge is a linear park within a park, adjacent to Parkside Avenue. It boasts a series of outdoor "rooms" at the terminus of each cross street, furnished with benches and "porch swings" and surrounded by lush plantings, an extensive rain garden, 68 new trees and a walking path. Meanwhile the streetscape has been reconfigured to include bumpouts, bike lanes, improved sidewalks and paths, and other traffic calming elements. Neighbors have since adopted the new park, hosting community events like festivals and movie nights.

Fairmount Park Conservancy led a collaborative process not only with the community, but with a variety of city agencies, who all came together to help implement the project. Philadelphia Parks & Recreation owns and will maintain the land. Initial investments made by the William Penn Foundation and the Philadelphia Water Department funded a rain garden that diverts stormwater from the city sewers, and Philadelphia Department of Commerce and the Philadelphia Streets Department revamped the streetscape along Parkside Avenue to make it more pedestrian friendly.

Community partners were instrumental in helping the project take shape. Centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation took a lead role in the design phase, and is committed to maintaining the stormwater infrastructure through a Soak it up Adoption grant. The CDC has created a Clean & Green Team of two part-time, locally hired maintenance workers to collect trash and is hiring a program manager to oversee community events throughout the warm months, such as movie nights, cooking demonstrations, home repair workshops, and festivals.

### Project Partners:

- Fairmount Park Conservancy
- Centennial Parkside Community Development Corporation
- Parkside Association of Philadelphia
- Business Association of West Parkside
- Philadelphia Streets Department
- Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

### Funding Provided by:

- Reimagining the Civic Commons Initiative
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- Philadelphia Water Department



Image courtesy of Philadelphia Water Department



Image courtesy of Reimagining the Civic Commons

## **Welcome to the Philadelphia Clean & Green Resident Resource Guide!**

The purpose of this guide is to make it easier for individuals and community leaders to implement greening in their neighborhoods and advance their community goals. The guide compiles information about existing programs and resources within the city relating to three different scales: Home, Neighborhood, and City-wide. You can also find project examples demonstrating how to combine multiple resources to realize public space in your community.

