



Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Growing Beautiful, Resilient Communities Through Horticulture

Keith Green, Vice President of Healthy Neighborhoods, PHS



**We have a superpower to make
the world healthier and more
prosperous, connected, beautiful,
culturally inclusive, and equitable.**

What is it?

Creating change takes more than good ideas and advocacy.



Healthy Neighborhoods

PHS Impact Priority Programs that Make Neighborhoods Healthy and Vibrant



Community
Gardens



Tree Programs



Transforming
Vacant Lots



Workforce
Development



Gardening is a part
of our culture in
Philly and at PHS



Community Gardens

- PHS Community Gardens Program works at an unprecedented scale to support community gardening and urban agriculture in Philadelphia. The program has expanded to include over 200 community gardens and grow sites in its network, touching every city council district and representing thousands of constituents and growers.
- Offers gardening workshops throughout the year taught by local leaders in the gardening community.
- With our partners at [Neighborhood Gardens Trust](#), we work with community gardens to protect open spaces.



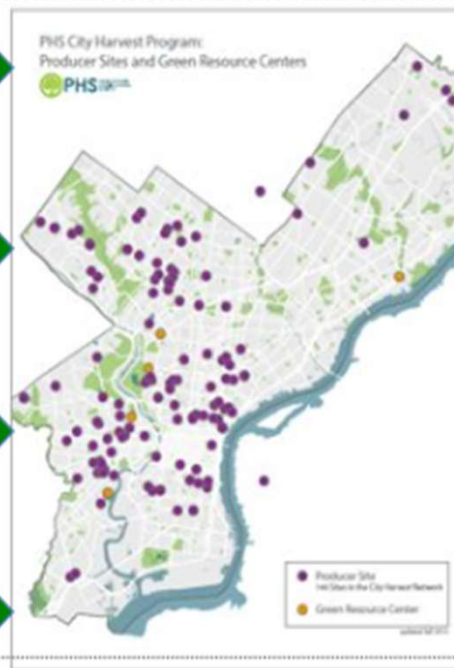


Seedlings

Supplies

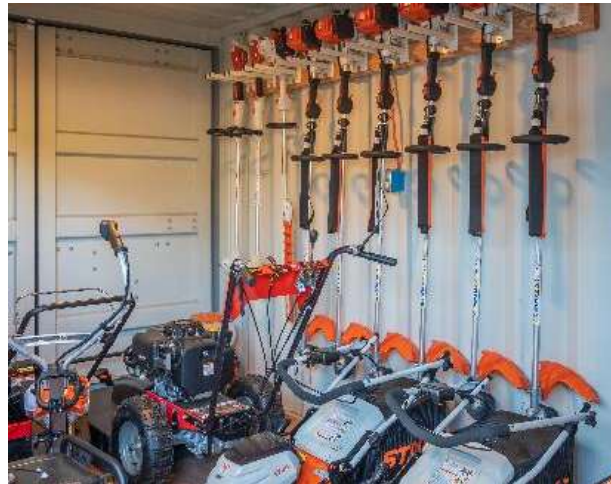
Training

Research



Leveraging the Power of Community Gardeners





PHS McLean Urban Agriculture Tool Library

- 600 Tools In-Stock
- Access to Grower Materials
- Space for social connection, networking, and knowledge sharing between different gardens



Leveraging the Power of Community Gardens

- Community and cooperative gardens are assets to our cities
- 500,000 lbs. of food circulate in Philadelphia from 120 gardens
- Nearly \$1M in produce & 4M servings of vegetables



A Community-Driven Greening Plan for Nicetown and Tioga

Developed through a community-led process with over 400 residents, this plan reflects local priorities and aspirations. Led by PHS, Nicetown CDC, and Tioga United, the plan focuses on:

- Reducing trash and litter
- Increasing access to healthy food
- Reducing crime
- Creating job opportunities



A Community-Driven Greening Plan for Nicetown and Tioga

As identified by the plan's own "Green Team," the plan focused on these strategies over the three years (2022 - 2025):

- Clean and green all eligible vacant lots
- Train and place neighborhoods residents in green jobs
- Restore neighborhood tree canopy
- Mobilize neighbors and businesses to increase access to fresh food
- Support residents to garden and beautify their blocks

Nicetown and Tioga Tree Tenders

A newly formed Tree Tender Group for Nicetown and Tioga



Through Three Years of the Plan



412 TREES



1,000,000
SQUARE
FEET OF
VACANT
LAND



\$42K IN
EQUIPMENT
UPGRADES



197
PARTICIPANT
S IN THE
CURB
APPEAL
CHALLENGE



56 NEW
RAISED
BEDS AT 7
COMMUNIT
Y GROW
SITES



3135 DAILY
JOBS
CREATED
THROUGH
SDWP



41 RESIDENTS
PARTICIPATED
IN GREEN JOB
TRAININGS



Philadelphia only has 20% tree canopy coverage and as little as 2.5% in some neighborhoods -- 30% is a healthy goal.

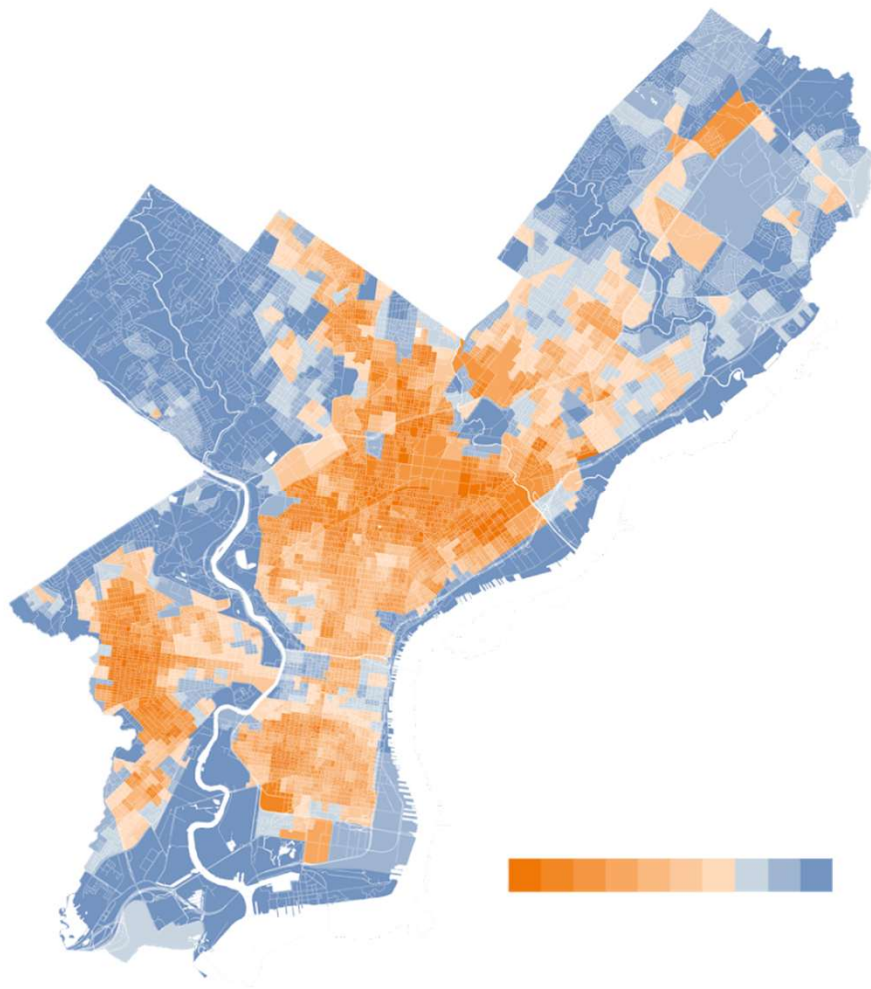
PHS is committed to increasing the canopy, especially in neighborhoods with few trees and high average temperatures.



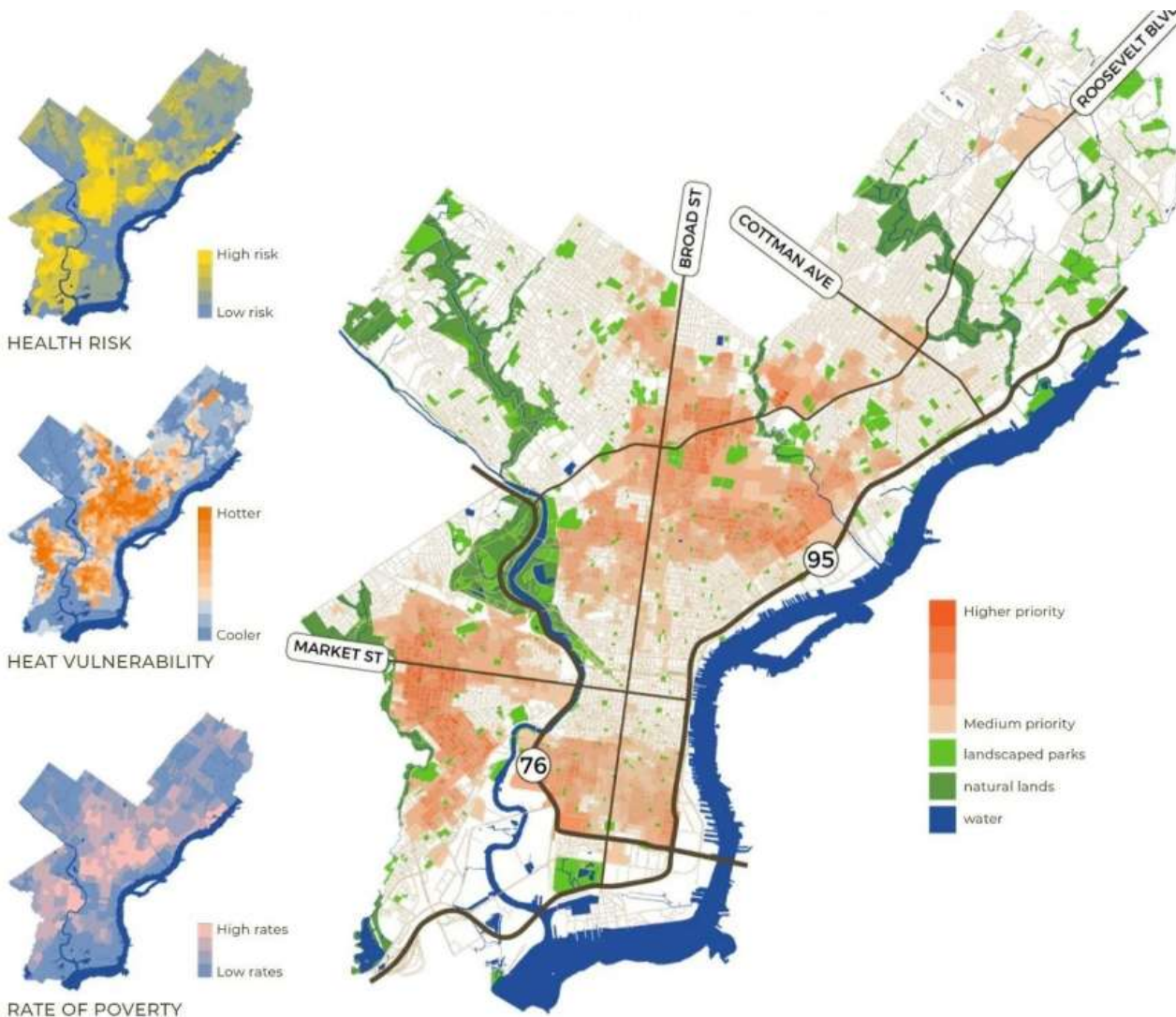


**PHS works to increase
tree canopy by
planting thousands of
trees in the region
through its programs**





**There is a 22-degree
difference between the
hottest and coolest parts of
Philadelphia**



When we looked for trends...

There are fewer trees in underserved predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods

There are fewer trees where there is higher rates of poverty

And we established our priorities.

Photo Credits: Sahar Coston-Hardy

The Branches of the Trees Program

PHS's Tree Tenders program works with volunteer-based community groups to plant trees.



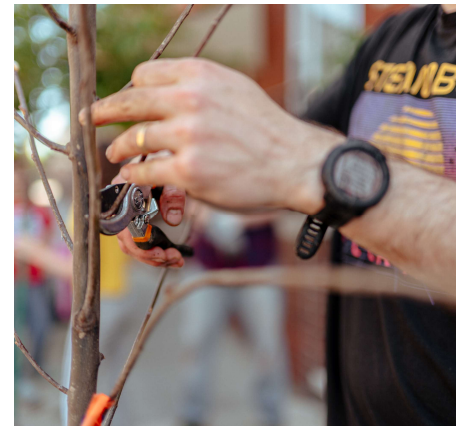
**Tree Tender
Education**



**Tree
Distributions**



Tree Checkers



**Pruning Clubs
& Maintenance**



Tree Tenders

- Training 6,500+ volunteers to plant and take care of trees throughout the region
- Semi-annual trainings
- Bilingual training in Spanish
- We planted at least 2,000 street trees per year in the Philadelphia region (Spring and Fall)



12,000
LandCare lots



PHILADELPHIA LANDCARE

STABILIZATION PROCESS



**Major trash, debris,
and weed removal**



**Site grading,
amendment,
seeding**



**Fence
installation**



Tree planting



Philadelphia LandCare



PHS

+



City of
Philadelphia



Our Impact



PHS Workforce Development

Receive Paid Training and Learn New Skills



Horticulture



**Landscape
Maintenance**



**Leadership
Training**



**OSHA 10
Certificate**





Workforce Development Impact

- Over the past five years, **80% of participants completed the program.**
- Of those who graduated, **90% have been placed in jobs with PHS's network of employment partners, most of whom are minority-owned local businesses.**





Same Day Work and Pay Program





Workforce Development

Same Day Work and Pay

PHS SDWP network created the following opportunities in some of the least resources zip codes and police districts with high rates of gun violence in FY26 + FY27.

Fiscal Year	Events	Single Day Jobs
FY27 (July-October 26)	75	900
FY26	349	4000





thank you

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