

PUBLIC SPACE IMPROVEMENT RESOURCE GUIDE

RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITIES WORKING TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SPACE IN PHILADELPHIA

If you are a community member or group looking to make your neighborhood cleaner, greener, more beautiful, more sustainable, and more connected, here are some tools and partners that might be helpful.

CLEAN

- **SWEEP** - SWEEP enforces sanitation code violations
- **Community Life Improvement Program - CLIP** consists of several programs dedicated to improving the appearance of neighborhoods:
 - **Vacant Lot Program | Programs and initiatives | City of Philadelphia** - Promoting clean neighborhoods by enforcing the City's property maintenance codes through inspections and cleanups.
 - **Report Graffiti**
 - **Community Partnership Program** - Provides tools and supplies to volunteers who want to clean and maintain their neighborhoods.
 - **Community Service Program** - Providing a structured program for non-violent offenders (age 18 and up) mandated to complete community service hours.
- **PHL Taking Care of Business Clean Corridors Program** - funds community-based nonprofits to sweep sidewalks and remove litter within neighborhood commercial corridors.
- **Love Your Park** - supports communities in activating Philly's neighborhood parks and watershed natural areas, with a special focus on inviting Philadelphians to get involved by volunteering. Annual events in the spring and fall!

GREEN

- **Farm Philly Philadelphia Urban Agriculture and Farming** -
 - **Resources - Farm Philly** - A comprehensive list of resources related to the following topics: pathways to land, compost, mulch, wood chips, water and water testing, fruit trees, yard trees, and street trees, greenhouse space, farmer's markets, soil testing and safety, gardening resources, advocacy resources
 - **Community Agriculture Project Application - Farm Philly** - This Community Agriculture Project Application is explicitly for residents who want to start a Community Garden, Farm, or Food Forest on parkland within Philadelphia Parks and Recreation's inventory (i.e., parkland).

- **Join a Community Garden - Community Gardens Network**
- **LAND - MAKING PHILADELPHIA BETTER BLOCK BY BLOCK** - HDC oversees the management of much of the vacant land in the public inventory. Working through the Land Bank it manages the strategic acquisition of privately owned, tax-delinquent vacant properties. Its acquisition and disposition strategies seek to advance City goals and strengthen Philadelphia's neighborhoods. To review the land activities of PHDC, the Philadelphia Land Bank and Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, please visit our **Land Management Dashboard**.
- **Tree Philly** – Get a free yard tree

CONNECTED

- **Complete Streets** - Complete Streets are safe, comfortable, and convenient. They are designed and operated to ensure safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders, regardless of age and physical ability.
 - **Apply to install a parklet**
 - **Apply to install a plaza**
 - **Apply to install a bike corral**
 - **Suggest a location for an Indego bike station**
- **Feet First Philly - Pedestrian Advocacy Guide** — This guide highlights pedestrian safety resources, and how to access them, primarily through the City of Philadelphia.
- **StreetBoxPHL | Small Spaces • Great Places** - StreetBoxPHL works with community partners to build low cost safety and place making projects within the Right of Way (ROW).
- **Permanent Parklet Process** - Parklets extend the sidewalk, take back space from vehicles, and provide additional public space to pedestrians. This guide outline's the City's process to apply for a permanent parklet.
- **Reporting Unpermitted Sidewalk Closures** - Sidewalks across the city are regularly closed for various reasons, including construction projects and utility work. Reporting illegally closed sidewalks is one way to help protect pedestrians. Use our infographic to report illegally closed sidewalks in the city.
 - **Reporting Sidewalk Closures**

BEAUTIFUL

- **Creative PHL** - supports free cultural programming; creates opportunities for local artists and creative organizations; connects Philadelphians to quality arts experiences; and preserves the City's public art assets
- **Mural Arts Philadelphia** - Apply for a mural
 - The public mural application allows Philadelphia community members to propose a mural theme or idea.
 - Interested artists – visit <https://www.muralarts.org/for-artists/>
- **Asphalt Art Process – Feet First Philly** - Asphalt Art includes different types of murals on roadways such as artistic crosswalks, sidewalk murals, and artistic treatments in no parking/standing zones near intersections. This infographic is a summary of the process that several groups have used to gain approval for asphalt art projects.

SUSTAINABLE

- **Soak it Up Adoption** - Soak It Up Adoption provides grants to civic groups to help maintain the beauty and functionality of green stormwater infrastructure.
- **Rain Check** - Through Rain Check, you can save money, improve your landscaping and help protect Philadelphia's rivers and streams. Examples of **stormwater tools**.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Clean Air Council - Public Space Enhancement Mini-Grant – Feet First Philly**
- **Community Resilience and Environmental Justice Fund – Call for Applicants**
 - Philadelphia's Office of Sustainability, with support of the Philadelphia Environmental Justice Advisory Commission and William Penn Foundation, is launching the Community Resilience & Environmental Justice Fund. This Fund will support community groups working to ensure that all Philadelphia residents have a livable community, free of environmental toxins and hazards.
- AARP – may have various funding opportunities, an example below:
 - The **AARP Community Challenge** provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. In 2024, the AARP Community Challenge will be accepting applications for three different grant opportunities, each described in the link in the "Grant Opportunities" section.

- **America Walks – Community Change Grants**

- The Community Change Grants program supports the growing network of advocates, organizations, and agencies working to advance walkability. Grants are awarded to innovative, engaging, and inclusive programs and projects that create change and opportunity for walking and movement at the community level.

- **Bread and Roses Fund**

- Bread & Roses Community Fund is the leading funder of grassroots organizing for racial, social, and economic justice in the Philadelphia region

- **KABOOM - Community-Built Playspaces**

- Plan, design, and build a new community playground, Multi-Sport Court, or Adventure Course by working with KABOOM! and our partners.
- **Grants - KABOOM! Playground and Playspace Grants for Communities**

Local foundations may have funding opportunities available – check websites for up-to-date individual information.

- Allen Hilles Fund: <https://hillesfund.org/apply/>
- Claniel Foundation: <https://claneil.org/what-we-fund/community-fund>
- Merck Family Fund: <https://www.merckff.org/>
- Philadelphia Foundation: <https://www.philafound.org/nonprofits/available-grants/>
- Philanthropy Network Food Funders: <https://philanthropynetwork.org/food-funders>
- Pierce Foundation: <https://piercefoundation.org/>
- Regional Foundation: <https://www.regionalfoundation.org/>
- William Penn Foundation: <https://www.williampenfoundation.org>

ALLIES

- WeWalk PHL- We Walk PHL is a free walking group that meets several times per week at various public parks. See current season's schedule here - **We Walk PHL – Fairmount Park Conservancy**
 - We Walk Facebook Group - **We Walk PHL | Facebook**
 - If you are interested in partnering with Fairmount Park Conservancy to start a We Walk group, please reach out to Nicole Seahorn Hameen at nhameen@myphillypark.org.
- **Parks Friends Network - Philadelphia Parks & Recreation | City of Philadelphia**
 - Example - **Tacony Creek Park Keepers** - TCP Keepers is a registered **Philadelphia Parks and Recreation** Friends Group, supported by the **Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership**.

- **Tookany/Tacony Creek Watershed** – dedicated to connecting watershed residents to their creeks – variety of programs and events listed:
 - **Events - TTF Watershed**
 - Walk with Me (Tacony Creek Park) - **Walk with Me in Tacony Creek Park**
 - Run with Me (Tacony Creek Park) - **Run with Me - TTF Watershed**
- **Friends of the Wissahickon** - The Friends of the Wissahickon, official park partner of Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, conserves and improves the 1800-acre Wissahickon Valley Park
- **Cobbs Creek Ambassadors** - clean and care for Cobbs Creek Park and strive to cultivate community pride and stewards of our green spaces.
- **Clean Air Council – Feet First Philly** - Feet First Philly is a volunteer group sponsored by Clean Air Council that advocates to improve the pedestrian environment, protect the rights of pedestrians, and encourage walking as a mode of transportation and for exercise and recreation.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION ADDED AS A RESOURCE TO THIS LIST, CONTACT SHANNON.DRYDEN@PHILA.GOV

