Greening Plan for Nicetown and Tioga

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

PHS, Nicetown CDC, and Tioga United worked with community members and organizations to create the Love Where You Live greening plan for Nicetown and Tioga neighborhoods of Philadelphia. This plan will guide PHS, partners, and community members to deliver this work over the next 3 years and beyond.

“Working with PHS brings hope that we can learn how to improve, beautify, and sustain our own communities.” – Majeedah Rashid, Nicetown CDC

Neighborhood Priorities*

1. Reduce Trash and Litter
2. Increase Access to Fresh Healthy Food
3. Reduce Crime
4. Increase Job Opportunities

Greening Strategies*

1. Clean and Green All Eligible Vacant Lots
2. Train and Place Neighborhood Residents in Green Jobs
3. Restore Neighborhood Tree Canopy
4. Mobilize Neighbors and Businesses to Increase Access to Fresh Food
5. Support Residents to Garden and Beautify their Blocks

*As identified by the community.

Framework for Action

PHS will prioritize the following in all the strategies mentioned above:

Engage and involve the community
Invest in the community by hiring local people and contractors
Uplift neighborhood champions

Planning by the Numbers

Nearly 400 residents reached during the planning process
45 residents volunteering during planting and greening day
19 residents leading the steering committee
122 local participants attending PHS Planning Charettes
Projects Completed as of December 2021

- 70 new vacant parcels were added to the Philadelphia LandCare Program and Community LandCare Program
- Tioga United community members were trained and hired to mulch, water, and weed newly installed pollinator gardens
- Nicetown CDC launched as a partner organization for PHS Same Day Work and Pay Program, and 300 unique job opportunities were created for residents in 2021
- 2 local residents were hired as tree ambassadors, 3 trees were planted, and a free Tree Tenders class was created for residents

We did not want to wait until the plan was fully complete for us to start our work! Here are some examples of what we did during 2021.

- Supported Furtick Farms community garden to start up, as well as expanded support for Tioga Hope Garden and Park
- 35 Fall container gardening kits were given to residents in Nicetown and Tioga
- 750 native perennials, shrubs, and small trees were planted in 3 different locations: Rowan Walkway, Tioga United, and Tioga Hope Garden and Park

Budget

Plan implementation is estimated to cost $5 million dollars from September 2022 – September 2025, with about $1M in estimated annual sustaining costs October 2025 and beyond.

9/2022 – 9/2025 Total: $5MM

- Impact Infrastructure ($750,000)
- Clean and Green Vacant Lots ($1,540,000)
- Train and Place Residents in Green Jobs ($1,300,000)
- Restore Tree Canopy ($390,000)
- Increase Access to Fresh Food ($465,000)
- Support Residents to Garden their Blocks ($230,000)
- Evaluation ($390,000)

“We deserve better. We deserve to have a high quality of life in our community in which we feel safe, healthy, and happy. We deserve to breathe... We ask you, just as we have been asking ourselves, what can you do to play your part?” – Extract from Welcome Letter from the Green Team Steering Committee

JOIN US! Please contact PHS-info@pennhort.org or 215.988.8800 to:
- Donate to make this plan a reality
- Volunteer
- Request a tree for your home or business
- Share your priorities for gardening to improve health in Nicetown and Tioga
- Be connected to job and training opportunities

PHS believes in the power of horticulture to make positive social and environmental change. As a community, we invest our time, passion, money, and gardens in our cause. For almost 200 years, PHS has used horticulture as the foundation of advancing the health and well-being of the Greater Philadelphia region. Our organization oversees an extensive portfolio of activities to advance four impact priorities.

PHS Impact Priorities:
- Create healthy living environments
- Increase access to fresh food
- Expand economic opportunity
- Build meaningful social connections

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