



**PHS** PENNSYLVANIA  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY®

# Workforce Development



PHS connects those seeking training and employment opportunities with the horticultural and landscape industries. We provide 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 program also offers job readiness workshops that cover different topics including conflict resolution, health education, financial literacy, and occupational therapy. PHS provides continued support services and job placement with partnering employers upon graduation.

**“I see positive changes in these guys. Some of them have moved on to jobs at the Water Department, the Convention Center. I see guys saving money to buy homes. They become productive citizens, they put down roots and invest in the communities they live.”**

—Donahue Thomas, Owner of Cherry Blossoms Landscaping

## STATS

Since 2010, the PHS workforce development program has trained

**300+ People**

**90%**

of program participants completed the program

**97%**

have been placed in employment with PHS’s network of employment partners



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# Philadelphia LandCare



## STATS

PHS cleans and greens

# 13,000

vacant lots annually

Residents living near these spaces experienced a

# 40%

decrease in feelings of depression

Neighborhoods with Philadelphia LandCare saw a

# 29%

decrease in gun violence

After 1 year, on average, properties within a 1,000-foot-radius of a lot will experience a

# 4.3%

 rise in value

and a **13%** cumulative increase after **6 years**

PHS uses gardening and landscaping to clean, green, and maintain vacant lots. Known as PHS Philadelphia LandCare, our team replaces waste with grass, trees, and plants in 13,000 lots to develop green spaces in urban areas.

With support from the City of Philadelphia, PHS partners with a network of contractors and community groups to turn vacant lots into a positive public green space. These spaces create lasting benefits including decreased gun violence and improved mental health.

**“Where children tossed empty cans in a once-neglected lot, they now feel ownership of the space. They come by and say, ‘Mrs. Parker, the grass is getting kind of high.’... It’s about the best thing that could have happened.”**

— Shelia Parker, West Philadelphia resident



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# Tree Tenders Program



## STATS

There is a  
**22°**

difference between the hottest  
and coolest parts of Philadelphia

**100+**

community groups have  
planted and cared for trees  
in the Philadelphia region

**165,000**

trees planted as part of  
**777** riverside projects

**6,000+**

people trained

**25,000+**

trees have been planted since  
1991 by PHS Tree Tenders

**3,000+**

trees planted each year

Planting trees is a powerful way to enhance the health and well-being of neighborhoods. A “good” tree canopy coverage is considered to be 30% of land area — the city of Philadelphia only has 20% coverage and as little as 2.5% in some neighborhoods. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Tree Tenders program works with volunteer-based community groups to plant trees in order to increase the canopy in neighborhoods with few trees and high average temperatures. The program provides workshops in tree planting and care and volunteer group organization.

**“There is a special pride I feel as I walk the public streets and see our trees flourishing, knowing that I helped to make that happen.”**

—Francine W. Kaplan, PHS Tree Tender



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# Public Gardens and Landscapes



A commitment to improving public landscapes is essential to PHS's mission. PHS gardeners address green issues when developing and managing local parks to the rebuilding of public spaces. PHS engages residents in an ongoing effort to make the Greater Philadelphia region a healthier and more vibrant place.

For decades, PHS has been a leader in creating and managing high-quality ornamental gardens and landscapes in Philadelphia's public spaces. PHS's Public Gardens and Landscapes team maintains 80 acres of green space throughout the region, providing opportunities for people to connect outside and to enjoy beauty and tranquility in urban areas.

**"People use the public gardens in different ways, which makes them a great gateway to a deeper connection with horticulture for anybody...it's PHS's hope to both pique the interest of someone who's never gardened before, as well as to offer enjoyment and education to the accomplished gardener,"**

—Andrew Bunting, PHS VP of Horticulture

## STATS

**20** maintained public gardens, parks & landscapes

PHS designs and maintains  
**80+ Acres**  
of public gardens and landscapes throughout the Philadelphia region

**2 Gardens**  
function as full-service restaurants

Free or low-cost programs are available at

**4 Locations**  
Meadowbrook Farm, Logan Square,  
Pop Up Garden at South Street,  
and the Pop Up Garden in Manayunk



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# About PHS



Since our founding in 1827 — almost 2 centuries ago — Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s main focus has not altered.

***PHS connects people with horticulture and together we create beautiful, healthy, and sustainable communities.***

PHS believes in the power of horticulture to make positive social and environmental change. As a community, we invest our time, passion, and money into public gardens and landscapes that further our cause.

In 2019, PHS adopted Vision 2027, a new strategy that fully commits PHS to using horticulture to advance the health and well-being of the Greater Philadelphia region. PHS uses all of its activities to further 4 impact priorities: creating healthy living environments, increasing access to fresh food, expanding economic opportunity, and building meaningful social connections.

## STATS

**13,000**

vacant lots greened and maintained annually

**170+**

community gardens and urban farms supported

**3,000+**

street trees planted annually

**20**

maintained public gardens, parks & landscapes

**6,000+**

residential stormwater projects installed

**300**

returning citizens trained in horticulture and landscaping

**“Everything we do at PHS is rooted in a belief that gardening can transform ourselves and the world around us for good.”**

—Matt Rader, PHS President



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# Community Gardens



Community gardens provide increased access to fresh, healthy produce throughout the region while simultaneously strengthening social connections between neighbors. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) supports community gardens by providing resources including educational workshops, gardening supplies and materials, seedlings, access to the PHS tool library, technical assistance, volunteer assistance, and infrastructure improvements.

Community gardens have the opportunity to participate in PHS's City Harvest initiative. PHS provides City Harvest gardens with access to seedlings and other inputs to ensure a successful growing season for donations. Participating gardens donate produce to local food pantries or share the crops with their community.

Community and cooperative gardens are assets to our cities because they provide increased access to fresh produce, elevate food sovereignty especially in under resourced or disenfranchised communities, build social cohesion, and preserve and celebrate cultures.

**“Community gardens can further unite our community. I’m excited to be able to share my knowledge and experiences with the community since I come from a family of farmers. It is also an opportunity to learn more from PHS and others.”**

– Misael, Gardener at Fatima Community Garden

## STATS

**170+ Gardens**  
are in the program

PHS grows and donates  
**250,000**  
seedlings to community gardens

1 Tool Library with  
**500+ Tools**

**67%** of gardens and farms exist  
in areas of the city with  
higher-than-average poverty rates



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# The Philadelphia Flower Show



The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Flower Show showcases diverse and sustainable plant varieties, cutting-edge garden and design concepts, and stunning floral displays meant to inspire and educate attendees from around the world. The Flower Show hosts world-renowned competitions in horticulture and artistic floral arranging, gardening presentations, demonstrations, and special events.

Each year the Flower Show invites professional designers and gardeners to showcase their work. Educational exhibits are built by high school and university students, and exhibits from national plant societies can be experienced at the event. The Show also features the Hamilton Horticult, where expert and novice gardeners compete for blue ribbons and exhibit their finest plants — much as the first exhibitors did in 1829. The Flower Show has blossomed into the nation's premier horticultural event — for almost 200 years it has been inspiring, educating, and encouraging visitors to join the diverse movement of people who garden and love plants.

**“The Philadelphia Flower Show is a united community bound by the joy plants bring. We believe that gardening is for everyone, and together, we’re redefining what it means to have a green thumb.”**

— *Seth Pearsoll, VP and Creative Director,  
PHS Philadelphia Flower Show*

## STATS

**22,000**

square feet of floral and garden displays

**70+**

professional designers

**1,600**

best in class plants displayed  
in Horticult

**200+**

artistic and floral design creations



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