



BARTRAM'S GARDEN

Field Notes: 2022 Annual Report

As I think back on 2022, it seems like each day at Bartram's Garden was jammed with activity. Laughter and joy at graduations of local schools, chatter and dancing at family reunions, and lots of enthusiastic attendees at programs throughout the farm, river, and garden. Youth interns busily tended the farm, planted trees, and helped first-timers paddle the Schuylkill River. It seems that each connection to the land and water deepened and grew, creating bonds and memories for a lifetime.

I am honored to see how the Garden has grown. We've broadened our reach through programs and initiatives that brought us deeper into our Southwest Philly neighborhood and graced us with stronger connections to our residents. We've expanded staff capacity and strengthened our institutional systems with a focus on safety, equity, and transparency. And most importantly, we have seen the many ways in which these 50 acres continue to offer inspiration, healing, and joy for so many. I am eager to see how we continue to bloom with our Southwest community.



Maitreyi Roy

Maitreyi Roy, Executive Director

Greening Backyards and Reviving Neighborhood Parks

- Installed over 80 home garden beds for neighbors across Southwest Philadelphia.
- Expanded the home garden bed program to provide local organizations with on-site gardens. Among the first to receive gardens were Richard Allen Preparatory Charter School, John Bartram High School, and the Community College of Philadelphia.
- ROOTS Tree Crew distributed and planted over 125 trees for Southwest neighbors, in partnership with the Southwest Tree Tenders, Tree Philly, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.
- Organized a tree and shrub planting at Connell Park alongside volunteers from the neighborhood, in our continued effort to increase Philadelphia's tree canopy.



Fostering Community Connection to the River

- Expanded weekly free public fishing as a family favorite for some and a first-time introduction to the river for many.
- Resumed weekly free public boating on the tranquil Tidal Schuylkill River.
- Removed monocultures from the riverfront with the Denkyem River Guardians and added plant diversity to the understory.

Making Space for Celebration, Enjoyment, and Play



- Hosted monthly free summer movie nights for families and neighbors in partnership with Philadelphia Auto & Parole Inc., the Philadelphia Register of Wills, SEPTA, and Swim Pony.
 - Celebrated the arts with exhibits, performances, and workshops from DJ DuiJi13, Ms. Pumpkin and other performers from Bartram Village as well as William Way Center's "Queer Ecologies" exhibit.
- Welcomed more than 5,000 visitors for free public festivals, including Spring Fest, Juneteenth, Harvest Fest, Indigenous People's Day, Honey Fest, and Handmade Holidays.

Staying Committed to Collective Wellness

- Distributed 20,000 pounds of chemical-free, African Diasporic produce to community members.
- Held free weekend biking days in partnership with the Bicycle Coalition and weekly walking groups in partnership with WeWalkPHL.
- Jumpstarted Earth Day in collaboration with WURD Radio at a live, public roundtable where local faith leaders and farmers spoke on Black food sovereignty and the role of the environment in violence reduction.
- Hosted weekly farm stands and an end of season you-pick event at Sankofa Community Farm.



Learning and Growing Together



- Partnered with 37 local schools, libraries, childcare centers, and summer camps for hands-on lessons, field trips, and in-school activities.
 - Employed 54 local youth interns and young adult apprentices.
 - Acquired and began restoring a historic desk that once belonged to John and William Bartram.
 - Continued our organizational commitment to diversity, justice, inclusion, and equity with the development of our first Equity Action Plan.



BARTRAM'S GARDEN
5400 Lindbergh Blvd
(215) 729-5281
bartramsgarden.org

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With support from our generous network of donors, members, and sponsors, Bartram's Garden successfully completed the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

A full list of our staff, Board, and the Southwest Philadelphia Community Leadership Team can be found at bartramsgarden.org