

BARTRAM'S GARDEN CAMPUS MASTERPLAN UPCOMING PROJECTS

Together with neighbors and partners, we're establishing new community-driven, world-class opportunities for learning, creating, and sharing at Bartram's Garden.

These new spaces are not just structures. These projects will create more inviting, more sustainable ways to connect with the land, the river, and each other. Our masterplan will transform how Bartram's Garden welcomes learners of all ages and strengthen this public park against climate change and increased local development.



▲ Ecosystems Education Center & Freshwater Mussel Hatchery with Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

A new trail-front complex will create the Garden's first dedicated classroom spaces along with the world's first production-scale hatchery for native freshwater mussels.*

Here's an amazing mussel fact: each adult mussel can filter up to 20 gallons of water per day, live for up to 100 years, and help create a nutrient-rich riverbed to prevent erosion and support healthy conditions for other plants and animals. Thanks to regulations, scientific research, and dedicated residents, rivers like the Schuylkill and the Delaware are now healthy enough to support a range of plants and animals, including native mussels — but only large-scale intervention like the new hatchery will fully restore the natural ecosystem. The hatchery's freshwater mussels will be placed in local streams, wetlands, and waterways.

The adjacent education center will provide hands-on, year-round opportunities for intergenerational learning, making, and sharing thanks to trail-accessible amenities, a welcoming exhibit space, a commercial-grade teaching kitchen, and flexible indoor and outdoor classroom spaces.

Rendering courtesy of WRT Designs.

**Not the kinds of mussels we eat!*



Rendering courtesy of DIGSAU.



▲ FloatLab with Mural Arts Philadelphia

Designed by J. Meejin Yoon and Höweler + Yoon Architecture, FloatLab will be a one-of-a-kind floating classroom and art space on the Tidal Schuylkill River.

Located parallel to the natural tidal wetlands and historic Lenni Lenape sites, FloatLab's dramatic, ADA-compliant sloped platform allows visitors to engage with the river at eye level. Techniques from architectural design and marine engineering inform a system of ballast chambers below the ring-shaped walking surface, allowing FloatLab to remain consistently level with the water even as the tide moves in and out.

As a lens by which to explore the river, the higher portion of FloatLab's loop can accommodate a full classroom visit or an arts audience, while the sloping ramp invites visitors to connect with the river on their own terms, whether collecting water samples, taking a plein air painting class, or simply contemplating a living, tidal river that has sustained thousands of years of human and animal life. On FloatLab, this storied river is never out of reach.

Rendering courtesy of Höweler + Yoon Architecture and Brick Visual with Urban Engineers.

▼ Field Station & Welcome Center

Repurposing previously developed land near the Garden's public dock and community boathouse, this new riverfront facility will serve as a hub for climate resilience, youth workforce development, and riverfront recreation.

New propagation facilities, greenhouses, and seed storage will strengthen the Garden's botanical diversity throughout our 50 acres, with a focus on improving the landscape's resilience to climate change through plant research and testing, as well as increased capacity to support neighborhood greening throughout Southwest Philadelphia. A new home for our historic archive will complement these research and growing spaces, leveraging our botanical heritage against 21st-century learnings and ecosystems-focused youth workforce development.

Accessible via the Bartram's Mile Trail, the project will also include visitor amenities like a welcome space, restrooms, and seating.

Rendering courtesy of DIGSAU.



◀ The NESTT led by Woodland Academy and Greater Philadelphia Health Action

The NESTT, a nature-focused center for early learning for 200 students, will use Bartram's Garden as its wider classroom. Families and caregivers will also benefit from comprehensive education, support, and coaching.

The project is led by Woodland Academy, a STAR 4 early childhood education center and afterschool program located in Southwest Philadelphia. Woodland Academy was founded in 1990 by Greater Philadelphia Health Action (GPHA), in recognition of the fact that quality early childhood education and family support are crucial determinants of long-term health and well-being. Regionally, GPHA provides comprehensive medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and child development services for over 86,000 patients annually with 16 locations throughout Philadelphia.



How do you see Bartram's Garden?

The Garden is many things to many people. It's a home for horticulture, the first nationally landmarked landscape, and the oldest surviving botanic garden in North America. It is Sankofa Community Farm, an ancient riverfront, a conversation on food sovereignty, a nationally recognized youth workforce development program, and a place of untold histories.

At its core, it is a public park spanning nearly 50 acres in the Kingsessing neighborhood of Southwest Philadelphia, offering learning, healing, and joy for more than 100,000 visitors annually.

We're amplifying a shared vision for the Garden's future.

Bartram's Garden is partnering with local leaders to establish community-driven, world-class opportunities for learning, creating, and sharing throughout this legendary landscape. These plans draw upon many partnerships and even more voices.

We know major change is coming to our Southwest Philadelphia neighborhood: new developments are bringing more than \$500 million in external investment to this area, and climate change exerts a disproportionate impact on our community's health and safety.

Our plans will ensure that this backyard riverfront stays welcoming for everyone, especially neighbors who call Southwest home. By creating new spaces to amplify and sustain award-winning programmatic and ecological initiatives, we will transform the way Bartram's Garden welcomes visitors, neighbors, and learners of all ages, all year round. Together, we will strengthen environmental resilience, champion a new generation of leaders and teachers, learn from the history of this land, and inspire lifelong connections to nature and each other.



BARTRAM'S GARDEN

Bartram's Garden is a place and an aspirational vision for the future, where:

- Public spaces are centers of welcome, respite, and celebration.
- Nature and the environment are accessible and inviting to everyone.
- People decide what happens in their own communities.
- Historic places seek to repair our fraught legacies.

Our mission is to create equitable relationships among people and nature through immersive, community-driven experiences that activate the Bartram legacy, Garden, and House, on land and on the Schuylkill River, in Southwest Philadelphia.



JOIN US

Bartram's Garden has a vision for the future.
Will you be part of it?

Contact us or visit our website to learn more and get involved:
development@bartramsgarden.org
bartramsgarden.org/plans

Select naming opportunities and sponsorship benefits are available.

5400 LINDBERGH BLVD.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19143
(215) 729-5281

BARTRAMSGARDEN.ORG

MAP: John Collins and Patty West
ILLUSTRATIONS: Marian Bailey
LAYOUT: Concentric Strategy



BARTRAM'S GARDEN CAMPUS MASTERPLAN





BARTRAM'S GARDEN CAMPUS MASTERPLAN

- ★ Upcoming Projects
- Completed Projects
- Neighborhood Economic Development

Schuylkill River Trail: Christian Street to Gray's Ferry Crescent
led by City of Philadelphia & Schuylkill River Development Corporation

Schuylkill Crossing Swing Bridge
led by City of Philadelphia & Schuylkill River Development Corporation

Lower Schuylkill Biotech Campus (North Site)
led by Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation

Bellwether District
led by Hilco Redevelopment Partners

Public Dock Expansion
2021 • \$1 million

Restored Roofs for Historic Barn & Welcome Center
2024 • \$200,000

Restored Historic Bartram House & Ann Bartram Carr Garden
2016 • \$2.7 million

New Eastwick Pavilion
2017 • \$500,000

Lower Schuylkill Biotech Campus (South Site)
led by Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation

★ **FloatLab**
with Mural Arts Philadelphia

★ **Field Station & Welcome Center**

Bartram's Mile Trail & 56th Street–61st Street Trail Extension
2017 & 2021 • \$12 million
led by Schuylkill River Development Corporation

★ **Ecosystems Education Center & Freshwater Mussel Hatchery**
with Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

★ **The NESTT**
led by Woodland Academy & Greater Philadelphia Health Action

Restored Picnic Pavilion
2023 • \$125,000

Trolley Maintenance Facility
led by SEPTA

Bartram Village Redevelopment
led by Philadelphia Housing Authority

- KEY**
- ◆ Welcome Center
 - Ⓟ Parking
 - Road for Cars
 - - - Bike Path / Paved Trail

