



PHS Public Gardens & Landscapes Giving Circle

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS: Summer 2024 - Spring 2025

Established in 2020, the Public Gardens and Landscapes Giving Circle was created with a goal of engaging individuals interested in making philanthropic investments to strengthen our existing work and help shape our long-term vision for PHS public green spaces. The over 20 sites funded and operated by PHS or managed in partnership with other organizations provide us with great opportunities to leverage the power of horticulture to inspire and educate residents and visitors to the City of Philadelphia. Your continued support of the Public Gardens and Landscapes Giving Circle helps us improve and expand our work and its regional impact.

Sites Funded and Operated by PHS

There are over ten locations where PHS Public Gardens and Landscapes team members have exclusive domain and responsibility for design and upkeep. This includes Meadowbrook Farm, Logan Square, the grounds around the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Azalea Garden, and the Rodin Museum grounds. Other sites include JFK Boulevard Greenway; Eastern State Penitentiary, the 26th Street Gateway in South Philadelphia, and two Pop-Up Gardens (South Street & Manyunk).



The dynamic horticulture of Meadowbrook Farm attracted more than 2,800 guests during the six months between July and December 2024. This year, the gardens opened to visitors on April 12 with cool season annuals and bulbs, dynamic planters and emerging perennials, which will be followed by summer annuals, tropical foliage and successive perennial blooms throughout the season. To highlight the plants and garden designs, PHS installed new educational signage that provides important contemporary and historical context for visitors.

Meadowbrook Farm in the fall



PHS-planted daffodils brighten Logan Square

The signage includes designer statements, garden markers with QR codes for additional information, and historical style markers that details the rich history of Meadowbrook Farm. In 2025, exciting upgrades to key facilities and adjacent outdoor areas at Meadowbrook Farm will bring further improvements for visitors. At Logan Square, PHS planted 35,000 bulbs in fall of 2024. They included varieties of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus, and others that added to approximately 65,000 previously-planted bulbs to create a stunning display of early color this spring. A comprehensive

assessment of trees and their future care was completed by an arborist consultant in summer 2024 for Logan Square, the Azalea Garden, and the grounds of the Rodin Museum. The comprehensive assessment has been crucial for planning purposes and helped PHS apply for grants from the Commonwealth of PA this past winter for significant horticultural renovations across all PHS Parkway garden sites. Decisions on the grants are expected at the end of the year.

PHS FEE-FOR-SERVICE AND OTHER GARDENS

PHS enjoys strong partnerships with cultural institutions, corporations, and municipal entities with a shared commitment to providing dynamic public green spaces. The spaces we maintain collaboratively advance our mission of leveraging horticulture for public benefit. Many of these spaces have fee-for-service arrangements with PHS.



Penrose traffic circle bloomed for the first time this spring

An exciting addition to our roster of landscapes came recently when the Sports Complex Special Services District asked PHS to design and install the landscape of the new Penrose Traffic Circle in South Philadelphia. This site now provides horticultural beauty for thousands of people daily along a busy thoroughfare. This spring, the circle stunned passersby as it emerged covered in blooms from 4,000 bulbs planted by PHS in fall 2024. PHS will continue to add the landscape with future plantings and maintaining it using sustainable, environmentally friendly practices.

This year, PHS also added Philadelphia Zoo to its expanding roster of gardens and landscapes. PHS began working with the Zoo to reimagine and design four high-profile locations on its campus. PHS also began working with the Independence National Historical Park under a three-year agreement to be the horticultural provider for the Bicentennial Bell Garden at 3rd and Walnut Streets

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2025, PHS will ramp up its work to develop a new visionary plan for PHS Public Gardens and Landscapes. Through a comprehensive process that will include community and stakeholder engagement and extensive analysis, PHS is developing a visionary plan for our existing network, as well as expansion to include new sites and new partners. Master planning will also include current and future usage of Meadowbrook Farm. As a PHS Public Gardens and Landscape Giving Circle member, your input will be valuable to our planning process. Stay tuned for engagement opportunities later this year.