

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



PARKS FOR PEOPLE—*Philadelphia*

Putting a Park Within Walking Distance of Every Philadelphia Resident

The Trust for Public Land is a national nonprofit organization that conserves land as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places for people to enjoy.

Through our Parks for People initiative, The Trust for Public Land works in cities to ensure that everyone—in particular every child—enjoys great access to a park, playground, or open space. Building on our success in cities like New York and Los Angeles, we're launching a pilot program in Philadelphia to develop outdoor play spaces in the neighborhoods that need them most.

Parks for People—Philadelphia

One in eight Philadelphia residents does not have access to a public park or playground. To address this shortage,

The Trust for Public Land is working with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, the School District of Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Water Department to identify existing schoolyards and recreation centers for conversion into green outdoor play spaces.

To meet goals outlined in the city's Green2015 plan, the re-designed public spaces will incorporate elements such as rain gardens and plantings to improve stormwater management —while also creating opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental education, and urban gardening.

The Parks for People—Philadelphia pilot phase aims to complete ten green play spaces over three years, while also assessing the feasibility of transforming an additional 40 sites after the pilot's completion.

Designed by the Community

Community is a critical element of Parks for People–Philadelphia. Our participatory design process involves neighbors, students, and city and school staff to ensure that each newly developed site meets the needs of the community it serves. Working with local partners—such as the Mural Arts Program—we will engage students and neighbors to build local commitment to the public space and enhance long-term stewardship.

As part of the design process, community members evaluate existing conditions, prioritize future uses, and select play equipment and other amenities. All designs will include green elements such as trees and gardens—providing access to the natural world for Philadelphia’s urban residents—while also incorporating recreational elements such as athletic fields and courts to offer new opportunities for healthy play.

An Investment in Philadelphia

Resources needed to implement the ten-site pilot program total \$9 million, of which The Trust for Public Land has already secured \$6 million in public and private funding commitments. We continue to raise the private contributions needed to leverage additional public funding.

A key part of Parks for People–Philadelphia is the stewardship program, which will support a network of community and youth leaders who care about their neighborhood green spaces. A dedicated stewardship fund will also assist local organizations with maintenance, programming, and building a constituency of park volunteers.

The Trust for Public Land is committed to creating parks and playgrounds that will transform the city’s landscape and the lives of its residents. Combining green elements for stormwater management with new opportunities for outdoor recreation, these unique play spaces will help the city meet the goals outlined in its Green2015 vision.

Green Transformations

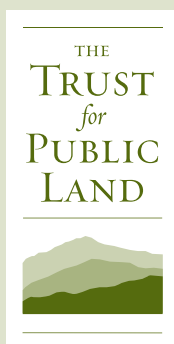
In a three-year pilot program, we will convert ten schoolyards and recreation centers into vibrant community spaces. Below, a design schematic shows a sample redesign of the schoolyard at William Dick Elementary School, one potential project site.



William Dick Elementary School



William Dick Elementary School conceptual schoolyard design



The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

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