Green Machine Kick-Off 2013
2012 Green Machine

In 2012 the Green Machine worked to revitalize:

- Jefferson Square Park *(Alumni)*
- Starr Garden *(Alumni)*
- Pretzel Park *(Alumni)*
- Lutheran Settlement House *(Alumni)*
- Pennypack park
- Clark Park
Jefferson Square

Before

After
Starr Garden

Before

After
Lutheran Settlement House

Before

After
Pretzel Park

Before

After

PHS
Pennypack Park

Before

After
Clark Park

Before

After
2013 Projects

PPR
• Norris Square
• Rainbow de Colores Handball Court
• Hawthorne Park
• Kahn Park
• Barkan Park
• Upper Roxborough Reservoir

Other
• Cynwyd Heritage Trail (*Lower Merion Twp.*)
• Emerald Park (*EKNA*)
• Concert Garden (*NGA*)
Site Locations
Community Integrated Design

- Community site survey of the geographic, environmental, and social factors of the site
- Community design charette and plant palette presentation
- Final design and plant selection consensus
- Implementation of the project
Site Survey (April-May)

**Pennypack Park**

**Objective:** In this exercise we want to determine what your garden bed goes through at any given time so that we can better select plants. *Not weather related*

*For example:* Are there a lot of dogs that use the bathroom in your garden? If the answer is yes then that could be discussed as a *weakness* that garden bed has.

The garden beds can be viewed from the street. This can be discussed as a *strength* if you are interested in people having the ability to see the garden bed as they walk by.

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<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
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Community Design Charrette (June-July)
Final Design (August)

Jefferson Square Corner Bed Design

Abelia 'Rose Creek'
- Plant 4 ft. apart/
- 1 ft. from border

Echinacea 'Kim's Kneehigh'
- Plant 1.5 ft. apart/
- 9 in. from border

Cockspur 'Creme Brulee'
- Plant 2 feet apart/
- 1 ft. from border

Liriope muscari 'Big Blue'
- Plant 2 ft. apart/
- 1 ft. from border
Implementation (Sept.-Oct.)
Setting Goals for the Program

- What do parks groups want to get out of the program?
- What does the Green Machine Coordinator want to get out of the program?
Workshops

Workshops are important opportunities to learn gardening techniques and gain hands on experiences to implement those techniques in your garden. This year’s workshops will include:

- Best Pruning Practices March 23rd at Jefferson Sq.
- Sheet Mulching May 4th at Starr Garden
- Herb Plant Care and Use June at Lutheran Settlement House
- Final Topic TBD July at Pretzel Park

(All workshops are mandatory as part of the program. Please make all efforts to attend)
Sheet Mulching

Watch this great video
Why are PH and Soil Tests Important

Many people who claim to not have a green thumb are probably suffering, among other things, from a lack of soil biodiversity. By conducting a soil test, you can:

• Find out the PH and determine the correct plant for the space
• Learn what nutrients your soil is lacking in and how to amend
• Learn of any occurrence of harmful chemicals (both naturally occurring and present from soil disruption)
Soil PH for Plants

Plants that thrive in Acidic soil

- Azaleas
- Rhododendrons
- Blueberries
- Hydrangeas
- Many types of evergreens

Plants that need alkaline soil

- Most vegetables,
- Fruits
- Many perennials
DIY Soil Test

To do this test you will need four mason jars, baking soda, vinegar, and a mixture of soil samples from all over your garden bed.

Step 1: Put your mixture of soil samples in two of the jars.

Step 2: In a third jar, mix 1 tablespoon baking soda with two tablespoons filtered water. Pour this mixture into one of the jars containing soil. If the concoction fizzes, you have acidic (Low PH) soil.

Step 3: In the fourth jar, pour in two tablespoons of vinegar. Mix the vinegar into the second jar filled with soil. If the liquid fizzes, then you have alkaline (high PH) soil.

Note: This is not as exact as using a testing kit. PH testing kits can be purchased at local stores. If both jars fizz, then you may have two different sections of dirt from your garden, or if the fizzing is very weak, your PH may be pretty close to the middle.
Why Use Native Plants

• Native plants are better equipped to survive in the local geographical and environmental conditions without needing much outside care
• Native plants ensure biodiversity and compliance with local eco-system
• One of the most important aspects of planting is right plant, right place, which native plants usually satisfy
• It is a requirement of many PPR sites to use natives *(their list can be found on their website by searching for Native Plant Guide)*
Communication Systems

• All important updates, work dates and other notices will be sent through email (emails frequency will not exceed 1 mass email per week, although frequent individual email contact may be required during certain parts of the project)

• Please sign up to be invited to our Green Machine Facebook group to share pictures, updates and events

• Please send any news, articles or ideas to Green Machine coordinator for use on PHS Blog
Master Workday Calendar

• Please send Green Machine Coordinator any existing dates for Friends Group Workdays

• Our goal from April-Aug is to have:
  • One Workshop per month
  • One park work day per month for site prep (these dates can be on weekends or evenings)
  • A larger community workday in September or October for implementation
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Chanticleer Field Trip

Each year we take our groups on a trip to Chanticleer to gain inspiration for the project. When will our trip be?
Ending

At the end of this program you will be left with:

• A maintenance plan with instructions, articles and all program materials for maintaining and expanding your planting

• A sense of pride, ownership and great knowledge of your garden

• A beautiful, vibrant and sustainable park and garden