

# ENGAGE. IMPROVE. GROW.

A Community Transforming Its Watershed.





**“Now that I’m here and know why we’re doing these things, I continue to come back and try to do more.”**

Aliyah Patterson, 11th grader at Central High School

## **ENGAGING A COMMUNITY.**

The mission of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) Watershed Partnership is to improve the health and vitality of the TTF watershed by engaging our communities in education, stewardship, restoration, and advocacy.

Aliyah Patterson is one of TTF’s most enthusiastic and consistent volunteers. She has worked tirelessly at a variety of our watershed events including tree and mussel surveying, riparian buffer and tree planting, and cleanups.

Her energetic young leadership and interest in clean water and a healthy environment bring an exciting spark to our events. And with every event she attends, Aliyah’s environmental passion grows.

“Before, I didn’t really care about things like this, but being here I’m seeing things I didn’t know were in Philadelphia. I didn’t know that there was this park, which is beautiful.”

In addition to being the youngest member of our Watershed Heroes class and a TTF Watershed Milestones award recipient, Aliyah worked closely with TTF as a 2013 WorkReady® summer intern.

# IMPROVING THE WATERSHED.

TTF works closely with key stakeholders including the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD), Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR), the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), Cheltenham Township and School District, Abington School District, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) and others to support green infrastructure and stream restoration initiatives.

We're proud to serve as the connector between key stakeholders and the watershed community, sharing information and hands-on education to assist with adoption of these measures.

## Tacony Creek Park

Working with PPR, PWD, and the Scattergood Foundation, we raise awareness of watershed issues and encourage park use. We reinforce the ongoing restoration of Tacony Creek Park by engaging people in fun and educational park activities from cleanups and plantings to nature and bird walks. Around the park, we work with volunteers to mark storm drains to prevent pollution from reaching the creek. These activities encourage residents not to litter.

**"I've lived here for 30 years, but only recently found out that the park is open to the public. I come here to walk in the woods and get away from the urban noise."**

Susan Couvreur, Resident



This year, hundreds participated in the first Healthy Trails 5k Run/Walk and "Celebrate Your Park" block parties. These signature events allowed TTF to introduce the community to its restored park and gave us insight into the activities and improvements community members want to see.

## Restoration Projects

We work to improve the health of our creeks, which are negatively impacted by stormwater runoff. With the help of volunteers, we've created beautiful rain gardens and riparian buffers, which absorb and filter rainwater and provide wildlife habitat.

### Abington Junior High School

**Spring '13:** Dedication of a 16,000 square foot creekside buffer and interpretive sign along the creek headwaters where we planted a riparian buffer the previous fall.

### Olney Recreation Center

Installation of a rain garden and development of community stewardship at the Olney Recreation Center near Tacony Creek Park in Philadelphia.

## Mussel Surveying

Mussel Surveying is a popular educational way to get into creeks. Freshwater mussels filter pollution, cleaning our waterways and playing an important role in natural ecosystems. Working with PDE and volunteers, we collect data so that scientists can help mussels make a comeback. The last complete survey was completed about 100 years ago... So it's time to survey again!



# GROWING AS A WHOLE.

## Programming

TTF reached 2000 watershed stewards through a variety of programs. Through attendance at community events and meetings as well as our own plantings, clean-ups, and educational activities, we connected residents and stakeholders to their creeks.

Highlights include:

- TTF significantly expanded its efforts in Tacony Creek Park, hosting regular clean-ups and nature activities.
- In collaboration with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, TTF led a series of volunteer mussel surveying events across the watershed, completing 3 miles of surveying!
- Through Clean Water Partners, a program for businesses to learn how to reduce water pollution, TTF worked with partners including Cheltenham Township, PDE, and PWD to provide workshops and recognize businesses for understanding that “clean water is good for business.”
- Working with student and business volunteers, we completed marking all of the storm drains in Jenkintown Borough. The people of this 1 square mile community can’t miss the medallions that remind them that drains lead directly to creeks!

## Awards

- Non-Profit of the Year by Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
- *City of Arborly Love* Certificate of Recognition from TreePilly

## Communications

By utilizing social media sites including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, we have established an online presence, broadened our promotional reach, created organizational awareness, and built a contact list of over 3,000 people. Our use of these media tools has been very productive, resulting in increased turnout of volunteers and attendees at our events. Use of these tools has also enabled us to support partners to share event promotion.



“Volunteering at plantings not only teaches me how to properly plant, but also helps me understand the job of a riparian buffer – which is to cleanse the stormwater before it reaches the creek.”

Amanda Bustamante, TTF Intern/Arcadia University

# Recognizing a Year of Watershed Growth at **WATERSHED MILESTONES AWARD CEREMONY & RECEPTION**

TTF presented our successful second annual Watershed Milestones Award Ceremony & Reception on May 22. Hosted by the Philadelphia Water Department's Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, this event brought together watershed leaders from across our region to celebrate all of our accomplishments.

Guests networked while enjoying refreshments and exploring the Interpretive Center's terrific educational exhibits. We honored some fantastic watershed stewards. We also met our fundraising goal for the event! These dollars support our many valuable watershed education and restoration initiatives.

The program included inspiring remarks from Executive Director Julie Slavet and Philadelphia Water Commissioner Howard Neukrug.



## Honorees

### Friend of the TTF Watershed

Abington School District

Roots to Re-Entry, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council

### TTF Watershed Educator

Dottie Baumgarten, Sustainable Choices

Denise Eiler

### TTF Watershed Youth Champion

Aliyah Patterson

### TTF Watershed Municipal Leader

Cheltenham Township

### TTF Watershed Private Sector Award

Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia

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Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center  
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Philadelphia Math + Science Coalition  
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The Juniata Golf Foundation  
The Kintock Group  
The Philadelphia Orchard Project  
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## Public Partners

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Abington Township  
Cheltenham Township  
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Jenkintown Borough  
Philadelphia City Planning Commission  
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation  
Philadelphia Streets Department  
Philadelphia Water Department  
Rockledge Borough  
SEPTA  
Springfield Township  
Pennsylvania Department of  
Environmental Protection  
United States Forest Service

## Foundations

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McLean Contributionship  
The Claneil Foundation  
The Martin Foundation



# SUPPORT & REVENUE 2012 - 2013

## REVENUE AND GAINS

Contributions	\$12,470
Grants	\$28,622
Municipal Dues	\$83,000
Program Fees	\$150,000
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$274,092</b>

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