



BARTRAM'S GARDEN

Field Notes: 2025 Annual Report

As I reflect on 2025 at Bartram's Garden, I am reminded that a public garden thrives because people choose to care for it together. Last fall, we completed 'Tending Common Ground' (2025-2033), our new strategic plan, shaped by thoughtful input from staff, board members, visitors, and neighbors. This shared vision centers on strengthening community ties, sustainability, and resilience, including how we respond to a changing climate.

As one planning participant stated, "There's no one voice: it's about what the land can teach us, and what people who have cared for this land for generations can teach us, about what it's going to be like to keep each other safe and be in good relationship with the ecosystem."

Together, we have built a place where curiosity, joy, and community leadership flourish. Sustaining the quality of programming and engagement that our community cherishes calls for focus, partnership, and continued investment. Every day, the enthusiasm and commitment of our staff, volunteers, and Southwest Philadelphia neighbors remind me how much there is to celebrate. Their energy and dedication make it clear that the year ahead holds even more possibility.

I am grateful for the many ways you show up for the Garden and help ensure this landscape remains a place of inspiration, healing, and learning for all. If you would like to get involved, I invite you to come experience it for yourself, put your feet on the land, and notice what it stirs in you.



Maitreyi Roy, Executive Director



Experiencing the Garden in New Ways

- Released new audio-description tours specifically designed for blind or low-vision visitors, created in collaboration with local accessibility advocate Charmaine Parrish and poet and audio-describer Beth Feldman Brandt.
- Unveiled a new nature-centered playspace in partnership with KABOOM! and TinyWPA.
- Hosted Back to My Roots in the Bartram House, a mixed-media exhibition inspired by the Garden's landscape and ecosystem by Southwest Philadelphia artist Terrence Gore.

Honoring 10 Years of River Programming

- Welcomed more than 2,700 visitors for weekly free public boating and fishing instruction and recreation on the Schuylkill River.
- Released River Tales, an online archive featuring stories of neighbors' relationships with the Delaware River Watershed in their own words and voices.
- Celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Garden's river programming, made possible by more than 400 dedicated volunteers over 10 incredible years.



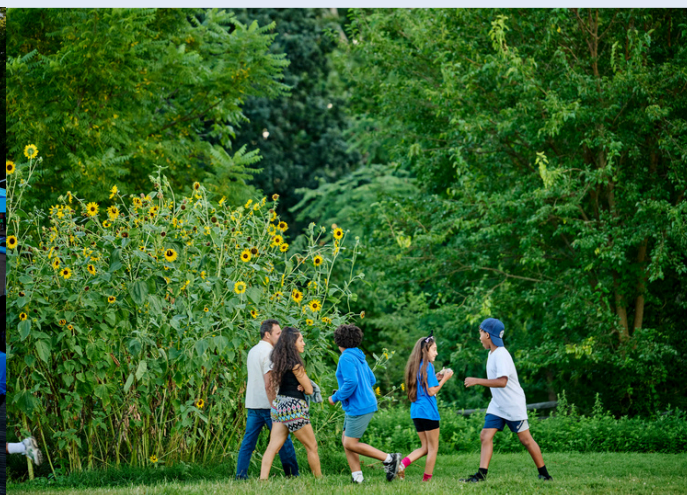
Headshot of Maitreyi Roy (KD Morris Photography)
Playspace Construction (Albert Yee Photography)
Painted Bunting (Victoria Sindlinger)

Adapting Together for a Resilient Future

- With OLIN Studio and a team of advisors, began developing a Long-Range Landscape Plan to guide care of these 50 acres over the coming decades.
- Grew and shared 15,000 pounds of fresh, chemical-free produce with neighbors, including okra, black-eyed peas, turnip greens, and hot peppers.
- Planted and maintained more than 200 trees in Southwest Philadelphia.

Learning in the Landscape

- Hosted more than 5,400 student visits, offering free or low-cost hands-on lessons for K-8 schoolchildren
- Employed 44 local high school students who gained hands-on experience growing food and caring for trees while working alongside Garden staff.



Seeds We're Planting Together

Our new strategic plan, *Tending Common Ground*, charts a bold community-rooted vision for the years ahead, grounded in three core goals:

Goal 1: Shared Joy, Shared Responsibility

Goal 2: Values-Driven Human Ecosystem

Goal 3: Abundance and Constraints in Harmony

See for yourself at bartramsgarden.org/strategic-plan



BARTRAM'S GARDEN
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**JOHN BARTRAM
ASSOCIATION
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With support from our generous network of donors, members, and sponsors, Bartram's Garden successfully completed the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

A full list of our staff, Board, and the Southwest Philadelphia Community Leadership Team can be found at bartramsgarden.org