



COBBS CREEK OUTDOORS & MORE

Keeping It Clean

Cobbs Creek Park Ambassadors, a volunteer group that has been cleaning Cobbs Creek Park since 2018 recently shared a summary of their work for 2024 and it is impressive. It is encouraging to know that residents come together to care for our local parks and make them safer and cleaner for one another. Cobbs Creek Park Ambassadors (CCPA) grew in size in 2024 to a total of 12 ambassadors. Each ambassadors leads monthly clean up events. Last year they hosted 395 volunteers over 100 different clean up events. Clean up events include litter removal, short dumping clean ups of large items like tires and appliances and tree limb and debris removal from the walking trail. CCPA reports that they serviced 58% of the 5 mile park in 2024. In total they cleaned up 16,368 pounds of trash for the year. Their consistent cleaning efforts have greatly improved our nature resource, Cobbs Creek Park. You can join their efforts to keep our park clean by 1) doing your part to not litter 2) call 311 to report short dumping or tree issues 3) signup to volunteer with Cobbs Creek Park Ambassadors at www.cobbscreekparkambassadors.org.



(Cobbs Creek Park Ambassadors and volunteers at a clean up event)

One Question for a Neighbor

Spring is around the corner. There are great places to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. There will be plenty of fun activities to participate in. As we set our sights on springtime, this month's One Question for a Neighbor is for Ronisha, a neighbor in Southwest.

What are you looking forward to about Spring weather?

"It's time to start my sunflower seeds! I started a tradition of growing sunflowers from seeds. I grow them in pots because I don't have a yard. It takes a little bit of planning. I have to pick out what kind of sunflower I want to grow this year, get potting soil, clean out the pots. It's nice to sit outside in the spring and prep for my sunflowers. The sun, the air, the people are all nice things. If I plant 20 seeds, maybe 5 of them make it to being a full sunflower. A lot goes into flowers growing. You have to water them but not too much. They need a lot of sunlight, good air flow, protection from squirrels and cats. It takes a lot of care to be able to enjoy something so beautiful. That's why when I see people with really nice porches or yards with lots of plants, I know they worked hard to give us something beautiful to enjoy. My sunflowers are my little hobby. They aren't fancy and no one really sees them unless you walk up to the steps of my house. You don't really need a lot to enjoy "homemade" flowers. I like that there's places like Bartram's Garden and community gardens in the area but you can also figure out what works for you and start seeds at home. I am not a farmer or gardener. It's a way for me to reconnect with nature and feel like I'm creating something. So as soon as it starts warming up, I will start my sunflowers for this year. I can't wait!"

If you are interested in seed starting this spring and growing flowers, reach out to UC Green at info@ucgreen.org to learn more about seed starting resources and their flower planting projects in the Cobbs Creek Watershed neighborhoods.





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Join Audubon Mid-Atlantic and Partners for a free, guided bird walk along Cobbs Creek, Philadelphia, at the 10 acre Whitby Meadow restoration site, a beautiful community green space providing important habitat for birds and other wildlife. Binoculars will be available to borrow.

MEET US @ 9:00AM AT WHITBY AVE & COBBS CREEK PARKWAY, BY THE BLUE SIGN

The site includes some uneven ground. Sturdy boots are recommended though not required. Dress for the weather.



John Heinz
National Wildlife Refuge
at Tinicum



PHILADELPHIA
PARKS &
RECREATION



Keep updated on Cobbs Creek events by following the Cobbs Creek Watershed Coalition on Facebook and Instagram



UC GREEN TREE PLANTING

April 12th 10am @ Malcolm X Park.
Volunteer to plant street trees in our neighborhoods

COBBS CREEK PARK AMBASSADORS CLEAN UP

Cobbs Creek Park Ambassadors clean up event- Every Weekend. See website for schedule and locations
www.cobbscreekparkambassadors.org.

CELEBRATE TRAILS DAY

Hold the date for Celebrate Trails Day- Saturday April 26th from 10-2PM -2PM @ Whitby Park. Activities and fun for the whole family. Stay tuned for more details



COBBS CREEK OUTDOORS & MORE

This Black History Month let us reflect on the history of advocacy and service Black people have contributed to the preservation and care of our environment. In Philadelphia, the work to equitably invest in a healthy environment mirrors the work of urban environmental activists throughout the country from our local block captains to our neighborhood Tree Tenders, many have followed the strategies and values of Hattie Carthan. Hattie Carthan was a trailblazer in the world of environmental activism, particularly known for her work in urban greening and advocating for environmental justice in underserved communities. Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Carthan was deeply committed to improving the quality of life in her community, focusing on green spaces and sustainable urban development.



In the 1970s, Carthan became concerned about the lack of trees and green areas in her neighborhood, particularly in the predominantly Black and low-income neighborhoods of Brooklyn. At the time, many urban communities were dealing with environmental degradation, including poor air quality, limited green spaces, and a lack of resources for maintaining public parks. Carthan recognized that these environmental issues were directly linked to social and health disparities affecting her community. Determined to make a change, Hattie Carthan took action. She founded the Hattie Carthan Community Garden and started the first urban tree nursery in Brooklyn. Her goal was to combat the pollution and deforestation affecting her neighborhood by planting trees, increasing green spaces, and beautifying the area. Through her efforts, Carthan helped create an environment where residents could enjoy cleaner air, access more green spaces, and feel a greater connection to nature, despite the urban setting.

Carthan's work went beyond just planting trees. She was an advocate for environmental education, believing that communities needed to understand the importance of environmental issues to make long-lasting change. She organized community meetings, tree planting events, and workshops to teach residents, particularly youth, about the benefits of urban greening and environmental sustainability.

Her activism also highlighted the concept of environmental justice, emphasizing that low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately affected by environmental hazards like pollution and lack of green spaces. Carthan worked tirelessly to ensure that marginalized communities had access to clean air, green spaces, and resources to improve their living conditions. Hattie Carthan's legacy lives on through the many projects she started and the lasting impact of her work on urban environmentalism. She was a pioneer in showing that even in the heart of cities, communities could transform their environment through action, education, and a commitment to sustainability. Carthan's contributions continue to inspire environmental justice movements and urban greening initiatives to this day. Locally, organizations like The Black Farmers Network, Get Fresh Daily and Land Based Jaws continue to care for the land and communities in equitable and ethical ways just as Hattie Carthan modeled.