



COBBS CREEK OUTDOORS & MORE

Community Spotlight

Jovian Patterson : Original American Foundation



As a child growing up in the southwest neighborhood of Kingsessing, Jovian Patterson loved science and learning about different plants and animals. His mom and grandma encouraged eating lots of fruits and vegetables, and he recalls how he savored the naturalness of fresh raw veggies. As an adult, Jovian witnessed his block undergo a metamorphosis. Housing was being torn down and more and more land was being lost to the city and would-be developers. Tracing his family history, Jovian learned that his ancestors had been farmers and businessmen. This knowledge gave him the idea to return to his roots and use farming as a tool to protect the now vacant land in his neighborhood.



Jovian and his childhood friend, Robert Haley started growing collard greens to distribute to neighbors. His passion would develop into a full community garden project, hosting volunteers, leading workshops, teaching neighbors how to build raised beds, and planting trees under the name "Original American Foundation." Initially self-taught and later trained through Penn State extension's Master Gardener Program, Jovian believes in the importance of giving back to the people and ensuring that community members of all ages have access to learning how to grow their own food. He describes what it is like to eat vegetables you grew yourself: "You feel so good when you start tasting that stuff. The first time I tasted a tomato that we grew, I was like never again. The stuff in the grocery store is so different. This is what this food is supposed to taste like."

Equally important to growing healthy food is the goal of resisting gentrification. So far, Jovian and Robert's organization, Original American Foundation, has been able to acquire 6 of the 22 parcels they steward through the land bank. Jovian has dreams of expanding the project and continuing to create positive green spaces." He also plans to continue doing workshops and sharing his knowledge throughout West/Southwest Philly to inspire others to start their own projects. Neighbors are encouraged to reach out if they want to connect and learn more.

"It can be done. You can help prevent land from being developed. Anti-gentrification. You can heal yourself, live longer, fight diseases, you can turn it into a profit. So many opportunities."



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Summary of Little Nature Playgrounds Project

Clean Air Council is again partnering with community stakeholders, Tiny WPA, Amber Art and Design, and Parks and Recreation to create Little Nature Playgrounds at Cobbs Creek Park entrances. Years of community concerns and advocacy surrounding road safety and barriers to park access have inspired this project. Fun family friendly entrances will include both an asphalt mural, a little playground, and park maps to draw residents into the park at safe crossing locations. The goal of this project is to provide learning, wellness, and play spaces that connect residents to the physical, social, and mental health benefits of green space.

LEARN MORE AND
REGISTER FOR THE
UPCOMING COMMUNITY
DESIGN WORKSHOPS
HERE



In 2025 Cobbs Creek Park received four installations: new Little Nature Playgrounds will expand on the existing colorful artwork and playful learning stations and incorporate ideas and inspiration from neighbors. Four community design workshops provide opportunities for residents to inform the future design and locations of the new project over the first four months of 2026. Check out Cobbs Creek Watershed Coalition's facebook or instagram to stay up to date with these! The project team also created a short survey to learn what neighbors would like to see in the design and location of the future installations. Do you have questions or do you want to get involved? Email Trails@cleanair.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrating
through **ARTS & THE CULTURE**

MLK DAY

*The Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center
& CCCEEC, Incorporated present a*

Talent Showcase & Competition

Saturday February 7, 2026
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Doors open at 10:30 AM)

Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center
700 Cobbs Creek Parkway (63rd & Catherine Sts.)
Philadelphia, PA. 19143

If you have a talent—singing, dancing, drawing, painting, playing an instrument, spoken word or SLAM poetry, etc.—please consider sharing your gift as we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the culture

CASH PRIZES
1ST PRIZE \$200 | 2ND PRIZE \$150 | 3RD PRIZE \$100

Local Vendors & Refreshments
Red, Black & Green Attire Optional

SLOTS ARE LIMITED. ALL AGES ARE WELCOME.
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026
PLEASE CALL 215-685-1900 or stop by CCCEC to request a registration form.

COBBS CREEK COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

the **Little Nature Playgrounds** project
Community Design Workshop

Register here!

Questions? Email: Trails@cleanair.org

Join us! February 24th | 4pm - 6pm
Paschalville Library

Clean Air Council and community partners are leading a project to create inviting entrances to **Cobbs Creek Park**. We hope to design spaces that welcome families with colorful murals and miniature nature-based playgrounds. Come share your ideas! Community members are invited to an upcoming workshop to help determine the project's design. Children of all ages encouraged to attend.

How far can you hop?

TAKE THE SURVEY!

www.cleanair.org/little-nature-playgrounds/

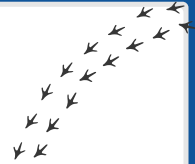
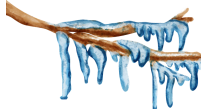


Keep updated on Cobbs Creek events by following the Cobbs Creek Watershed Coalition on Facebook and Instagram



COBBS CREEK BINGO

Can you find bingo in Cobbs Creek Park?

 ANIMAL TRACKS	 RED BERRIES	 SQUIRREL	 PINECONE
 OLD NEST	 ICYCLE	 BIRD CALL	 GREEN TREE
 ACORN	 DOG IN A COAT	 DRY LEAVES	 PINE NEEDLES
 ROCK	 SOUNDS OF WIND	 TREE STUMP	 FEATHER



WINTER FUN FOR KIDS!