

Power Corps Blazes a River Walk at Pleasant Hill Park

The residents of East Torresdale, in the far northeast part of the city, had a dilemma. They cherish and utilize the Delaware riverfront Pleasant Hill Park at Linden Avenue and the Delaware River every day by walking their dogs, exercising, fishing or simply pulling out a beach chair and enjoying the park. But not the view.

Because it seems that Mother Nature had a bad hair season, and the awesome view of the Delaware River was non-existent. Trees, bushes and brush were so overgrown that park users couldn't even see the river until they came upon the boat launch.

Enter the [PowerCorpsPHL](#) team. For two full days in October, using only hand tools like rakes, loppers and hand saws, the crew of 12 literally blazed a trail along the Delaware Riverfront at Pleasant Hill Park, giving park users a panoramic view of the water and the town of Riverton, NJ.

Their work pace was so energetic that even some retired residents came out to not only say "thank you" for the clearing project, but "Tony from Salem Harbor" brought his tree trimmer and power sheers to help the PowerCorps team finish the job.

After the riverfront was cleared, it was interesting to see what the Delaware tide washed up on shore. Several pairs of sneakers, hundreds of plastic bottles and a black and purple Coach pocketbook were found.



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PowerCorpsPHL is an innovative, new AmeriCorps program designed to address Mayor Michael A. Nutter and Governor Tom Corbett's environmental stewardship initiatives as well as the City of Philadelphia's youth workforce development and violence prevention priorities.

Partnering with Education Works and the Philadelphia Youth Network, PowerCorpsPHL will annually enroll 100 individuals, ages 18-26, in a 9-month program: 6 months of full-time service as AmeriCorps members with City departments followed by 3 months of intensive job placement support.

Over the next three years, Power Corps PHL will plant 3,000 trees, revitalize 3,000 acres of public land, educate 18,000 residents in watershed preservation and connect 300 young adults to meaningful employment, post-secondary enrollment or continued national service.



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