

The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) is a small non profit organization located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that serves a 29 square mile watershed that includes neighborhoods in North, Northeast, and Northwest Philadelphia and Abington, Cheltenham, Jenkintown, Rockledge, and Springfield in Montgomery County. In this case, TTF is named after the geographic area in which it is located. The organization was started in 2000, when the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) launched the organization in order to foster a collaborative atmosphere among neighboring communities and municipalities with the goal of maintaining cleaner water upstream of Philadelphia. The partnership helped to develop the **TTF Integrated Watershed Management Plan**, a guide to transforming the creek into a positive community space while addressing the mandated requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and the federal Stormwater Permit Program (MS4). In 2005, with PWD's help, TTF became an independent nonprofit and in 2007 hired its first Executive Director.

A watershed is all of the land that drains rainwater into a particular body of water. When rainwater hits the ground, it carries trash, chemicals, oil, sediment, and other materials over land, down into storm drains, and directly into creeks and rivers. This creates unsafe conditions for recreation, wildlife, and drinking water.

TTF's mission is to enhance the health and vitality of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Creek and watershed by initiating and supporting efforts to restore the watershed's health and inspire citizens and a variety of groups to action through community outreach, networking, educational programs, and projects.

TTF has convened a Trash Task Force that includes city agencies such as The Philadelphia Water Department, The Philadelphia Streets Department, The Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, SEPTA, PennDot, and neighborhood and non-profit entities to help resolve the trash issue in Tacony Creek and the park. This initiative is “watershed wide” but is focusing on two pilot areas, one in Tacony Creek Park and one in Montgomery County, to initiate several activities.

The Monitoring subcommittee measures trash conditions in order to understand the problem, focusing on quantity of trash, location, and composition of trash deposits in the park. The Prevention committee works to reduce the trash load with physical prevention measures including but not limited to fencing, litter traps, and surveillance. They identify what methods are cost effective and provide opportunities to educate the public about litter issues. The Education and Outreach Committee seeks to educate the public about litter’s pollution impact on our waterways, focusing on changing Philadelphia’s “culture” of trash and address trash as an environmental justice problem in communities. This group prioritizes clean ups based on monitoring and to use the pilot locations as a means to monitor the impact and appearance of focused cleaning on people’s littering behavior.

In summer of 2013, TTF will be seeking to engage a local university to assist with the monitoring component of the project while focusing on communications and gaining an understanding of trash prevention responsibilities , activities and resources of the various city and state agencies . In addition, PWD is working with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation on the restoration of Tacony Creek as a component of its Green City, Clean Waters Plan. Trash in the creek and park is a huge obstacle in gaining public stewardship and use of this multi-million dollar investment.

The Trash Task Force accomplished three short term tasks during the summer of 2013 with the help of eight interns from the Mayor's Internship Program through the City of Philadelphia. These eight individuals were divided into three smaller groups to maximize work output for the benefit of the Trash Task Force. The methodologies and experiences of these groups are summarized briefly in this paper.

The first small group developed a resource guide as to the tasks and activities of city and state agencies in current trash prevention and illegal dumping enforcement. The Trash Task Force will use this information to determine what is working, what needs to be changed, and where TTF's limited resources be focused. This info will feed into the larger planning initiative around litter prevention strategies for the park and Philadelphia as a whole. Nana Boakye and Sylwia Lic reported that they learned about city agencies that they had not been familiar with in the past, and learned about the function of agencies that they had heard of. They were able to determine which city agencies deal with litter, and discovered that litter has a far-reaching impact in Philadelphia and is an issue that many agencies have a level of jurisdiction over. In compiling the database, they were surprised to learn that even the police must respond to the litter issue. Sylwia noted that, "I understood it in theory, but seeing the list, and actually seeing the pictures, the videos, and experiencing it in person definitely put it into perspective."

Nana and Sylwia compiled information from agencies and then called them for confirmation of what they do and for more information. They gathered information from Police Districts in the park, the Streets Department, including related programs such as Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, UnLitter Us, the SWEEPS program, the tire roundup program, sanitation convenience centers, Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee, which is in charge of the 'Clean

Block Officers', and located block captains for the 15th and 25th districts. They also spoke with Philly311 and CLIP (Community Life Improvement Program).

A second small group, Wen Chen and Max Jones, worked on assembling a contact list of pertinent community groups and agencies in the neighborhoods surrounding four new gateways to Tacony Creek Park that were constructed by Philadelphia Parks and Recreation last year. TTF has recently moved to a new office in the Frankford neighborhood, and is working with the PPR to assist in establishing a network of "Friends" groups for the park. This community resource database will help both departments determine existing channels for community engagement in this area of the city. We seek to enhance current efforts for trash prevention and quality of life improvements and eventually conduct focus groups to learn more about the community's perception of trash and related issues, focusing on providing assistance and resources to help neighborhoods reduce street trash. The Trash Task Force will use the information developed for the TTF Watershed as a model for trash prevention programs in our city's other watersheds that face these issues, such as Pennypack, Poquessing, and Cobbs.

To begin, the pair researched community-based organizations (CBOs), faith-based organizations, schools, and hospitals near the Tacony Creek Park/Juniata Park area. After developing a list of potential partners, they divided the list and systematically called them. Using a script, they told the organizations about the TTF Watershed Partnership and some of the issues it focuses on. They reached out to them as partners, asking if they could collect their contact information for future events and collaborations. However, community outreach can't be done only over the phone or at a desk. They attended the Northeast Equal Partners In Change (EPIC) Stakeholders group to network with concerned citizens and representatives from different CBOs. EPIC is a community group created by Department of Human Services that meets once every

month to discuss issues important to the neighborhood and highlight important programs, initiatives, and groups. There are ten EPIC stakeholders groups throughout Philadelphia, but given Tacony Creek Park's location, Northeast was the appropriate meeting to attend.

After much calling and networking, the Mayor's Interns were able to get a couple of articles written in a local paper in northeast Philly about TTF's summer block parties. This ultimately helped to boost attendance at the four block parties, each held at a different entrance to the park.

The community resource directory was created using the contacts and information gained from neighborhood research, systematic calling, and face-to-face networking. TTF can utilize, expand, and periodically update this list going forward. It will prove useful to the TTF and the Trash Task Force.

A third small group, Emmaline Imbriglia, Jennifer Reibsane, Phylicia Lane, and Sydney Shuster wrote a draft grant application for a Bandalong Trash Trap or similar trash collection mechanism. The impetus for this project is the rampant litter and illegal dumping into the Tacony Creek. The Philadelphia Water Department spends large amounts of money cleaning and filtering this water, which eventually becomes Philadelphia's drinking water. Alix Howard of TTF and Valessa Souter-Kline of PWD educated the group on these issues, as measures to solve them. With Alix and Valessa's guidance, the sub-group researched Bandalong Litter Traps, a floating litter collection device that creates "clean" waterways. After learning about this device, the small group was responsible for finding and writing a grant to obtain one for the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed.

Finding and writing a grant for the Bandalong Litter Trap was a very educational experience, as none of the members had experience writing one. First, to learn more about the

grant-writing process, the group went to the Central Library of the Free Library of Philadelphia, where they met with an employee of the Government Publications Department. They learned which resources to use when searching for a grant, key words and terms to look for when researching grants, as well as the steps to writing a grant. Although they had trouble finding a current grant that would explicitly meet PWD's purpose, they composed a draft for use in a future application. Valessa outlined the components of the grant to be written, which the group split up and worked on separately. The draft is inspired by a proposal written by the Anacostia River Bandalong Model in Washington, D.C., and combines our written components into a final document. When Valessa finds a grant that fits TTF's needs for a Bandalong Litter Trap, she will tailor pieces of our draft to fit the requirements of that specific grant.

Overall, writing this grant was a very valuable experience, as the group learned many new skills. This group now possesses the knowledge necessary to research and draft grants, a necessary skill for those interested working in government, or non- profit agencies. They now have a greater understanding of Philadelphia watersheds and the issues that affect them, as well as programs and organizations that work to aid our water systems.

The Mayor's Interns supported other TTF initiatives this summer including a summer block party series at each of the 4 new PPR gateways. The block parties were organized to increase awareness about the park, its new trails, and TTF as a force for positive change. They handed out pretzels and water ice, gave nature tours, video taped interviews with citizens, and made buttons for children. These parties also proved instrumental in further networking for TTF and building connections in the community.

The Mayor's Interns provided TTF and the Trash Task Force with a head start on strengthening relationships in a new neighborhood and helped to secure a wealth of information

that will support the work of the Trash Task Force in the coming years. Overall the summer was made more productive because of their efforts.

Intern Bios:

PHYLICIA LANE: Phylicia is 22 years old and a recent graduate at East Stroudsburg Uni. of PA, where she earned a B.S. in Public Health conc. Health Services Administration. Phylicia grew up in the Philadelphia Area and is currently interning at the Department of Human Services, where she am writing a data analysis about Substance Abuse Disorder Mothers and Substance Exposed Children. By the way, SHE IS A ROLLERCOSTER FANATIC! Phylicia believes that you can never become too comfortable with life, because there is always room for improvement. This is why Phylicia decided to attend grad school next spring for her Master's in Public Health (MPH)! Her overall career goal is to become a healthcare administrator at a renowned children's hospital, and eventually be promoted to a hospital administrator!

JENNIFER REIBSANE: Jen grew up in the small town of Robesonia in the suburbs of Reading, PA. She came to Philly to attend University of the Sciences and major in Microbiology. At USciences she will be a senior in the fall and is President of the Microbiology Club and a teaching laboratory assistant. Outside of school, she volunteers at Health Center 3 and works for a private cardiology practice. After she graduates, she plans to attend Jefferson University for a Masters in Public Health. This summer, Jen interned in the Department of Public Health in the Public Health Laboratories where she tested city pool water samples and food and milk samples from the free lunch program. When Jen isn't busy with school, work, or volunteering, she likes to play golf!

E. MAXWELL JONES: Max, an International Affairs major with a concentration in Human Rights and Social Justice, is preparing to enter his junior year at Lafayette College in Easton, PA. After completing his four years, he plans to go to graduate school in DC for Latin American and Hemispheric Studies. Having interned with the Neighborhood Liaison Program over the summer, he hopes the skills he's developed in community organizing and outreach will one day aid him in the Peace Corps. A Central Jersey native, he loves Philadelphia, but loathes its sports teams.

EMMALINE IMBRIGLIA: A Swarthmore, PA native her whole life, "Emma" is familiar with the City of Brotherly Love and all that it has to offer. After leaving home for Boston College where she studied Sociology and Human Development, she decided four years was enough. Emma returned to Philly, and is about to enter her second year in the Master's of Social Work (MSW) program at UPenn's School of Social Policy and Practice. Her ultimate goal is to be a counselor in a Philadelphia elementary school, and, obviously, live in Swarthmore. This summer, Emma interned at the Mayor's Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity, where she evaluated the Fatherhood Initiative Program. In her free time, Emma likes to watch trashy cop

shows (NCIS, Criminal Minds, you name it) and play with her Labrador retriever puppy, Mac.

SYLWIA LIC: Sylwia is an upcoming senior at Temple University studying Strategic Communications. She has lived in Philadelphia ever since she immigrated here from Poland when six years old, and is a proud citizen of the United States. Sylwia likes to learn at least the basics of everything there is to know, such as how the government operates, so she applied to become a Mayor's Intern. She was placed in the Office of Emergency Management. Her role in the TTF project was to work on the City Agency Directory.

Nana Boakye: Nana was born in New Jersey and raised in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania. He considers himself a Philadelphia native, despite being a diehard New York sports fan. He attended Upper Darby High School and later Drexel University, where he graduated with a degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation, with an interest in government, he was granted an opportunity to learn more with the Procurement Department. Nana was able to see how this department acts as a materials management agency for Philadelphia; by trying to acquire materials at the lowest price. His goal is to attend business school at the UPENN so that he can obtain the proper business acumen to have his own consulting firm dealing in corporate finance. In Nana's spare time he enjoys playing basketball, reading, and watching films.

SYDNEY SHUSTER: Syd is a Philly local who decided that she needed a change, and so is entering her final year at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, where she studies Health, Science, Society and Policy, Sociology, and English. At Brandeis she is also a Counselor and Coordinator for the University's Student Sexuality Information Services and hopes to continue volunteering or working with sex education in the future. Her dream would be to work in the Public Health field on programs, prevention, and care. To do that, Syd is taking her GREs and applying to Grad Schools in Philly. This summer, she worked for the Department of Public Health, Human Resources Office on hiring multilingual candidates for hard-to-fill positions. She will miss her office mates. When not studying, educating, or working, Syd plays video games, takes long city walks, and reads contemporary literature. She is always **happy** to recommend a good read!

WEN CHEN: Originally from China, this is Wen's first time in Philadelphia. Wen graduated from Changchun University of Science and Technology after majoring in Business Administration. She recently obtained her Master's in Political Management at George Washington University in D.C. This summer, she interned with the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, supporting their data management systems. Within the group project, Wen worked with the Community Resources sub-group, and volunteered at multiple TTF block parties. Wen was unanimously voted the group's "Best Dressed" member.