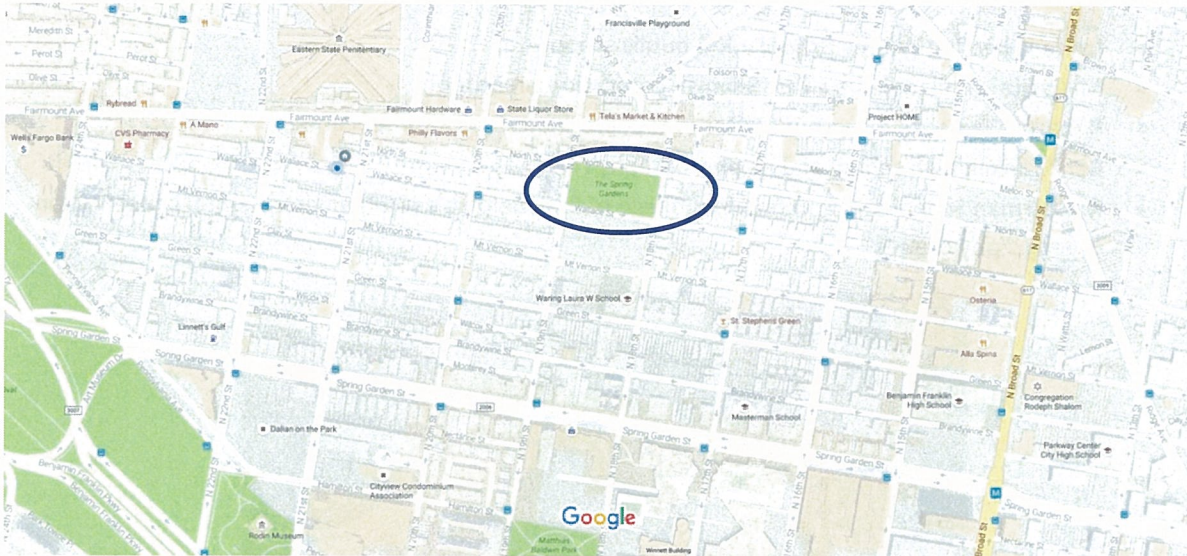


# The Spring Gardens

---

Located centrally in the Spring Garden neighborhood of Philadelphia, The Spring Gardens (TSG) occupies an entire city block and has become a vibrant hub of activity within the community.



## Some background

- Founded 1995
- 185+ gardens
- Permanence achieved 2016 – now in the PPR inventory
- Organized as 501(c)3
  - 100% volunteer
  - 15 member steering committee
  - Real work done by an assortment of committees
  - Philosophy of participatory, inclusive governance
- Wait list 2 years

## Community Involvement

### Education

The garden serves as an open air classroom and provides educational and environmental stewardship opportunities for students at all grade levels.

- Laura Wheeling Waring School – K-8 public school
- Mi Casita – Philadelphia’s first Spanish immersion preschool
- Roberto Clemente Playground after school programs and summer camps
- Ben Franklin high school and its photography class
- Masterman School and Community College of Philadelphia’s (CCP) environmental conservation & geography classes





## City Harvest

The Spring Gardens helps address local food insecurity issues by participating in the PHS City Harvest program.

- Over 1,500 pounds of fresh, organic produce each growing season
- St. Paul's – food cupboard
- St. John's – shelter and kitchen
- 300 Ministries – kitchen and food preparation instruction



## A Hub

TSG is a hub in our community. It is the venue for the community's diverse residents to come together irrespective of background, race, religion, occupation or income and join in this shared project we call The Spring Gardens.

- Pot Luck parties by and for gardeners
- Neighborhood civic association parties
- Pumpkin painting party for kids
- Outdoor performances, theatre and music
- Weddings
- Corporate outings
- Family picnics
- Much, much more





## Environmental Stewardship

TSG is philosophically an organic garden that takes environmental stewardship seriously.

- 100% permeable – garden produces no storm water runoff
- Water provided to gardeners in barrels to promote hand watering
- Large scale composting with plans to compost 100% of garden plant material
- Exploring use of cisterns to pair with future roofed structures
- Future plans include deploying solar panels



