



Phil-A-Bag with trash in your Community!
Within 5-10 minutes to improve Philadelphia's watershed!
Philadelphia, PA
PhilabagNP@gmail.com

PhilaBag 2025 Impact Report

Strengthening Communities · Protecting Our Watershed · Empowering Philadelphia

Message from the President

Shannon Stones, M.EdL, President

As we close out 2025, I am deeply proud of the growth, resilience, and impact PhilaBag has achieved since our founding. What began as a small community initiative has evolved into a movement—one committed to cleaner neighborhoods, healthier waterways, and empowered residents who understand that environmental stewardship starts at home.

This year, we expanded our education programs, deepened community partnerships, and mobilized residents across Philadelphia to take ownership of their blocks, storm drains, and shared public spaces. Together, we worked to reduce pollution, strengthen civic engagement, and equip youth with the knowledge and tools needed to become leaders in environmental sustainability.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our board members, volunteers, partners, and the many community members who rolled up their sleeves—sometimes literally—to make our city cleaner and stronger. Your dedication is the foundation of our success, and your commitment inspires me every day.

PhilaBag remains grounded in one belief: when communities are given the resources, education, and support they need, they rise. Thank you for standing with us as we continue our mission to build a healthier, more equitable Philadelphia—one watershed, one block, and one neighbor at a time.

— **Shannon Stones, M.EdL**
President, PhilaBag

Organizational Overview



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Organization Name: PhilaBag

Type: 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

Focus Areas: Environmental Education • Watershed Protection • Community Engagement • Environmental Justice

Location: Philadelphia, PA

PhilaBag is dedicated to educating communities about Philadelphia's watershed, reducing pollution, and empowering residents—especially youth—to take active roles in environmental stewardship and pollution prevention.

Mission Statement

PhilaBag addresses pollution in the Philadelphia watershed through environmental education, hands-on cleanup initiatives, and community action. Our mission is to build a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable environment for all Philadelphians.

Understanding the Watershed

A **watershed** is the area of land that collects rainfall and runoff and directs it into local streams, rivers, and reservoirs.

In Philadelphia, what enters the watershed directly impacts the water that families drink, cook with, and use daily.

Why Watershed Protection Matters

- **Salt Pollution (Winter Hazards)**
Road salt increases sodium chloride levels in waterways, straining reservoirs and filtration systems.
- **Seasonal & Stormwater Pollution**
Trash, debris, oils, and chemicals flow into storm drains, clog sewer systems, and pollute waterways.
- **Community Impact**
Polluted watersheds contribute to flooding, infrastructure strain, and long-term environmental decline.



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PhilaBag's work directly addresses these challenges through education, action, and environmental leadership development.

2025 Initiatives & Impact

1. Environmental Education

- Delivered watershed, stormwater, and pollution education in schools, community centers, libraries, and youth programs.
- Developed kid-friendly and adult-focused materials on environmental responsibility and urban water health.
- Introduced hands-on demonstrations showing how everyday actions affect stormwater systems.

2. Social Awareness & Advocacy

- Hosted community conversations centered on climate resilience, environmental justice, and pollution reduction.
- Provided real-world updates on watershed issues using accessible language and community-based engagement.
- Strengthened awareness around how waterways and neighborhood cleanliness affect public health.

3. Cleaning Tools Distribution

- Distributed brooms, rakes, gloves, PhilaBags, trash bags, and cleanup kits to high-need neighborhoods.
- Supported block captains, residents, and youth groups in maintaining cleaner public spaces.
- Helped prevent storm drain blockages; reducing flooding and protecting local ecosystems.

4. Collaboration & Partnerships



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- Worked with schools, nonprofits, city departments, and local leaders to amplify collective impact.
- Shared educational resources and created cross-organizational programs aligned with watershed protection.
- Strengthened citywide environmental networks.

5. Volunteer Mobilization

- Engaged dozens of volunteers in cleanup events, storm drain monitoring, and youth mentorship.
- Offered internship opportunities that build leadership and environmental literacy.
- Empowered youth with real-world environmental experience and civic responsibility.

2025 Events & Community Activations

Mantua Cleanup Challenge

(August 23, 2025)

In partnership with We Embrace Fatherhood

- Activated residents in large-scale street and storm drain cleaning.
- Improved stormwater flow and reduced neighborhood debris.

Community Clean Up Day

(October 5, 2025)

Block by Block Philly vs. Clean Up Club Chicago Citywide Challenge

- Cleaned Carroll Park with residents and volunteers.
- Removed litter, strengthened community pride, and beautified public space.

Train Tracks Clean Up Day

(October 12, 2025)

- Addressed pollution along neglected train track areas.



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- Increased awareness of how runoff affects waterways and local habitats.

STEAM Toy Drive

(December 20, 2025)

With Philadelphia Parks & Recreation + LEG Consulting Group

- Distributed STEAM toys to youth to promote science, creativity, and environmental curiosity.
 - 200+ Bikes
 - 300+ Books
 - 100+ steam toys
 - Steam educational workshops

Community Partners

PhilaBag proudly collaborates with leaders shaping a cleaner, healthier, and more engaged Philadelphia.

Local Government Partners

- **State Representative Jamie Guthrie**

Community Organizations

- **It Takes A Village Foundation (ITAV)**
- **We Embrace Fatherhood**
- **Block by Block Philly**
- **Learn Empower Grow (LEG) Consulting Group**

Corporate & Agency Partners

- **Home Depot**



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- **Philadelphia Parks & Recreation**
- **Metro Diner**

These partnerships strengthen our environmental education efforts, expand our reach, and allow us to serve more neighborhoods across the city.

2025 Goals

- Expand youth-focused watershed and pollution prevention education.
- Increase awareness around environmental justice and urban sustainability.
- Distribute more cleaning tools to underserved, high-pollution neighborhoods.
- Strengthen partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and city agencies.
- Grow volunteer and internship programs to build new environmental leaders.

Board of Directors

- **President:** Shannon Stones, M.EdL
- **Secretary:** Kaya Graves
- **Board Members:** Raymond Fearon, Nia Bailey, Shannel Collins
- **Administration:** LaTeesha Couresy

Volunteers

- Community leaders
- Youth volunteers
- Neighborhood block captains
- Local residents
- Civic-minded Philadelphians dedicated to watershed protection



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Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond

In the coming year, PhilaBag aims to deepen its presence across Philadelphia through expanded school programs, increased cleanup efforts, broader distribution of toolkits, and new environmental justice initiatives. Our goal is to empower every resident to play a part in protecting our waterways and strengthening our communities.

Thank You

PhilaBag extends its gratitude to the residents, partners, funders, educators, and volunteers who continue to invest in the future of our city. Together, we are building a cleaner, greener, and safer Philadelphia one action at a time.