



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, April 23, 2023

POP – Beautiful Green Spaces and Healthy Food

“Imagine a Philadelphia where every community regardless of location or wealth has access to fresh, healthy fruit grown right in the neighborhood. . .

The **Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP)** is a nonprofit organization that plants and supports community orchards in the city of Philadelphia. In partnership with communities, POP envisions urban ecosystems that create beautiful green spaces, connect neighbors, provide hands-on learning experiences, and grow fresh fruit for generations to come.

Founded in 2007 by economic development pioneer Paul Glover, POP has worked with community-based groups and volunteers to **plan and plant orchards filled with useful and edible plants in neighborhoods across the city**. POP provides orchard design assistance, plant materials, and training in orchard care. Community organizations own, maintain, and harvest the orchards, expanding community-based food production. Orchards are planted in formerly vacant lots, community gardens, schoolyards, and other urban spaces, almost exclusively in low-wealth neighborhoods where people experience limited access to fresh fruit.”

“...POP is part of a growing movement across the world to develop **more sustainable, equitable, and ethical local food systems**. Philadelphia is one of the centers of this work, with some 40,000 vacant lots and the highest poverty rate among big cities in America. As the cost of energy, food, and health care rises, the low-wealth neighborhoods where POP plants are the most vulnerable to hunger and related health problems. Orchards and community vegetable gardens offer neighborhoods the most direct access to healthy food and build people’s capacity to feed their families and neighbors.”
Check it out for more information and to get involved at <https://www.phillyorchards.org/about-pop/>.

Now, on this last day of Earth Week, here are **a few questions to test your climate knowledge**. (*The Climate Reality Project*, 4/12/23)



On the very first Earth Day in April 1970, approximately ____ people took to the streets to fight for our environment.

2 million or 10 million or 20 million



The first Earth Day increased environmental awareness in America, and in December of 1970, the _____ was established.

US Environmental Protection Agency or US Department of Agriculture or US Department of the Interior



What percentage of climate scientists agree that human activity is changing our climate?

50% or 60% or 90% or 97% or more



True or false: Because it is happening on a global scale, the climate crisis impacts every country in the world equally. **True or False**

Answers: 20 million; EPA; 97%+; False