



Summary of Community Orchard Roles

This document is intended to clarify the relative roles of POP, orchard site partners, and those serving as Lead Orchard Volunteers (or Orchard Committee members).

Orchard Partners

POP plants and supports orchards in collaboration with a diverse range of 'Orchard Partners', community-based organizations throughout Philadelphia that manage and maintain their orchard spaces. In most cases, these Orchard Partners have direct control over their orchard spaces, whether through ownership, long-term or renewable lease, or other means. Orchard Partners include both 'Community Orchard Partners' and 'Supported Orchard Partners'. Community Orchard Partners are those that completed POP's normal partnership application process and received POP's assistance in design and planting of their orchard space. Supported Orchard Partners include both orchard sites that existed prior to POP's support and some orchard spaces that were planted outside of POP's normal partnership process.

Expected Role of Orchard Partners:

- Ongoing, regular orchard maintenance, including weeding, watering as needed, pest and disease monitoring and management, and other general upkeep;
- Harvest and distribution of orchard produce within the community in a manner that expands access to fresh foods;
- Report regularly to POP on the status, challenges, needs, and successes of the orchard and participate in POP's annual orchard partner survey;
- As needed, attend POP educational opportunities on the orchard care and maintenance;
- Maintain an active roster of volunteers for orchard events;
- In shared work days and events, collaborate with POP on creating a positive experience for volunteers on scheduled work days, including helping supervise activities, providing snacks and beverages, planning any additional activities;
- Explain and promote the orchard space to the surrounding community;
- Include POP on any relevant signage and publicity;
- Alert POP promptly about any important changes in staff, capacity, land access, or other significant developments that might affect ongoing stewardship of the orchard.



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Philadelphia Orchard Project

POP's primary role is to support our Orchard Partners in caring for the orchard plantings at their site. For most Community Orchard Partners, POP provides assistance with orchard design, sourcing of plants and other materials, and supervision of planting and installation. After initial plantings are complete, ongoing support services include providing access to orchard educational materials and training opportunities, consulting services and periodic site visits, and assistance with volunteer recruitment as needed. All services are offered on a sliding scale of need.

Expected Role of POP:

- Design orchard plantings in collaboration with the community partner;
- Acquire and deliver the plants and other materials indicated in the orchard design;
- Assist in organizing planting dates and supervising planting and installation of orchard materials;
- Provide ongoing expertise regarding the care and maintenance of the orchard installation through on or off site consulting;
- Provide opportunities for Community Partners and volunteers to receive training on best practices in the ecological care and maintenance of orchard plantings, including the POPCORE training course, POPHarvestEd workshops, and other educational opportunities;
- Develop orchard educational materials to aid Community Partners in their efforts, including orchard and plant signage, POP TIPS on the PHOG email list and POP's blog; POP's seasonal orchard care guide, pruning guide, pest & disease identification guide, and weed identification guide; orchard harvest tracking sheet; and a variety of website resources including downloadable lesson plans and plant info sheets;
- In most cases, POP aims to provide ongoing direct staff support to each partner site on a quarterly/seasonal basis; for purposes of providing training opportunities for volunteers, POP assists with monthly work days at a few designated sites;
- As needed, POP can assist with recruitment of Orchard Committee Volunteers/Liaisons to provide additional ongoing assistance to Orchard Partners in care of their spaces (see below);
- If needed, POP can sometimes provide assistance with harvest and distribution of excess orchard produce through our POPHarvest gleaning program;
- POP conducts an annual partner survey to gather data on the successes and challenges of our orchard partners and provides participating sites with a requested orchard tool or other item as a thank you for participation.



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Lead Orchard Volunteers/Orchard Committee Volunteers

More highly trained volunteers (members of POP's Orchard Committee assigned Lead Volunteers to help support specific Community Partner orchards on an ongoing basis). This group includes those recruited and trained to serve as dedicated, knowledgeable orchard volunteers that can expand the impact of POP's limited staff by providing direct support to Orchard Partners.

Expected Role of Lead Orchard Volunteers:

- Provide direct support to Orchard Partners according to capacity. Support may include site visits, assistance with ongoing orchard work days, and volunteer recruitment and supervision;
- Grow knowledge base of orchard care through ongoing experience supporting a specific orchard; through attendance of POP educational opportunities and resources; and via additional research with guidance of POP staff;
- Serve to increase communication between Orchard Partners and POP staff through regular reporting of challenges, needs, and successes;
- Where possible, participate via monthly work days or site visits with their assigned orchard;
- Lead Orchard Volunteers may receive the following to support and encourage their efforts: discounted/free attendance of POP educational opportunities; free or discounted plants from POP's nursery, free POP educational materials and t-shirt;
- In 2020, POP is piloting a program in partnership with a few partner orchards to provide Lead Orchard Volunteers with a small stipend to support their efforts.