



RENEW > Historic Preservation



*Philadelphia2035
Citywide Vision*

Goal 8.1:

Support sensitive development that preserves and enhances Philadelphia’s multifaceted past.

Goal 8.2:

Expand tourism programs to highlight Philadelphia’s cultural and historic heritage and increase spending on heritage tourism.

Historic Resources and Heritage Tourism

When a plan places a high value on historic preservation, it allows the City to guide new development in a way that respects and enhances historic resources. This layering of development over time creates a sense of place that helps define Philadelphia and shapes the experiences shared by all. Philadelphia has a rich history reflected in its many buildings, neighborhoods, and cultures. The *Citywide Vision* puts forth recommendations to recognize and protect the historic and cultural sites and invest in their future.

West Park has a large number of historic sites that already have been designated as historic. West Fairmount Park, East Parkside, and Overbrook Farms are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many of the mansions and buildings in the Park, such as the Please Touch Museum, and parts of East Parkside appear on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The 63rd Street corridor of Overbrook Farms is a Neighborhood Conservation District. However, several important sites still need official recognition, including the Wynnefield, the Japanese House and Garden, and Inglis House.

West Park also has a strong cultural history that needs to be honored and celebrated. Negro League baseball and the Philadelphia Stars were big attractions in the early part of the 20th century. Environmental conservation, including the creation of Fairmount Park, has a long history. The tradition of tourism in Fairmount Park, starting with the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, continues today.

Recommendations

- 76. Locally designate the Wynnefield neighborhood.
 - > Implementing Agencies: PHC, PCPC | CW Objective: 8.1.1
- 77. Locally designate the Japanese House and Gardens and the Inglis House historic.
 - > Implementing Agencies: PHC, PCPC | CW Objective: 8.1.7
- 78. Find an appropriate reuse for the vacant Dimmer Beeber Middle School in Wynnefield.
 - > Implementing Agencies: SDP | CW Objective: 8.1.3
- 79. Ensure that future development of the Centennial District does not compromise the Belmont Plateau and Mann Center viewsheds to the Center City skyline.
 - > Implementing Agencies: PPR | CW Objective: 8.1.6
- 80. Create historic district tours in Parkside and Overbrook Farms historic districts.
 - > Implementing Agencies: Nonprofits, PHC, Local Civic Organizations | CW Objective: 8.2.1
- 81. Create unified signage and streetscape treatment for the Centennial District to promote tourist movement and identity.
 - > Implementing Agencies: PPR, Streets, PennDOT | CW Objective: 8.2.1
- 82. Increase programming to use West Fairmount Park for large events to promote awareness of the significant resources contained within.
 - > Implementing Agencies: PPR | CW Objective: 8.2.1
- 83. Create a memorial baseball field for the Philadelphia Stars near the original location at Belmont and Parkside Avenues.
 - > Implementing Agencies: PPR | CW Objective: 8.2.1



Japanese House and Garden



Old Cathedral Cemetery

Historic Resources

- National Register Historic District
- National Historic Landmark
- Local Register Historic District
- Locally Designated Building
- Recommended Local District
- Pending Local District
- Neighborhood Conservation District



Wynnefield Neighborhood:

Wynnefield, named for William Penn's physician, Thomas Wynne, began when he settled in the area in 1689. Most of the neighborhood was developed in the early 20th century as an enclave for Jewish immigrants from Russia, Germany and Eastern Europe and the large, stone houses were designed by various Philadelphia architects, including Horace Trumbauer, Clarence Schermerhorn, and Abraham Levy. By the 1960s, Wynnefield became a predominantly middle-class, African-American community.