

## **EPA Honors Local Watershed Partnership for Environmental Achievement**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) honored the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) with a prestigious Mid-Atlantic Region Environmental Achievement Award. TTF, a local environmental organization serving parts of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties, was one of six nonprofit and volunteer organizations from the region recognized by the EPA with this annual award at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Mid-Atlantic Environmental Achievement Awards recognize businesses, state and local governments, non-profit organizations, and volunteers making extraordinary contributions to improving the environment in the Mid-Atlantic region, which includes Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. According to EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin, "The award recipients have demonstrated their commitment to improving the environment in innovative, sustainable, measurable and replicable ways."

The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF), which acts as the crucial link connecting residents, businesses and government as neighbors as watershed stewards, was honored for its extraordinary contributions toward watershed improvement. Through educational programming, community outreach, networking services, and project coordination, TTF facilitates, supports, and initiates efforts to restore the health of the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford watershed, and to mobilize its communities as watershed stewards.

Since its founding in 2000, TTF has grown from a volunteer partnership into an incorporated nonprofit with four full-time staff members. With only this small staff, TTF has succeeded in inspiring motivating thousands of watershed stewards. Over the last several years, TTF has restored over 20,000 square feet of developed land to native habitat and installed over 230 rain barrels, keeping approximately 16,500 gallons of rainwater out of our overloaded sewer systems each time it rains. TTF has also worked with municipal partners in restoring over 13,000 linear feet of stream to native habitat.

TTF's Executive Director, Sarah RobbGrieco says, "We are so thrilled that the EPA has recognized our work with local volunteers and partners as we strive to improve the health of our creek and strengthen our communities. It's a big step on our path to becoming a national model for watershed revitalization."

For more information on the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, please contact Sarah RobbGrieco at 215.208.1613 or [sarah@ttfwatershed.org](mailto:sarah@ttfwatershed.org) or visit [www.ttfwatershed.org](http://www.ttfwatershed.org). For more information on the Environmental Achievement Awards, please visit [www.epa.gov/region03/EnvironmentalAwards](http://www.epa.gov/region03/EnvironmentalAwards).

### **PHOTO CAPTION:**

**Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership staff and Board President accept award from the U.S. EPA.**

*From left to right: Shawn Garvin, EPA Regional Administrator; Ashley Schmid, TTF Outreach Coordinator; Sarah RobbGrieco, TTF Executive Director; Katie Donnelly, TTF Associate Director; Lesley Saliga, TTF Model Neighborhood Liaison; Gerald Kaufman, TTF Board President*