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Phipps Employee Receives Healthcare Garden Design Certificate
Jason Wirick learns how to make gardens that are healing spaces.

Pittsburgh, Pa. —Jason Wirick, the director of facilities and sustainability at [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#), has received his certification in Healthcare Garden Design. *The certification is significant because Wirick learned how to design gardens with verifiable health benefits and will help to improve Phipps' exhibits as well as gardens throughout Pittsburgh. In addition, the training will be instrumental in advancing the services of Studio Phipps, which Wirick currently oversees.*

Studio Phipps is a sustainable design group that offers commercial clients a unique perspective in identifying opportunities to integrate natural and built environments and finding workable solutions to sustainability challenges. “The extra training will certainly help Studio Phipps give clients new ideas on ways to design sustainable gardens that can also create healing and restorative spaces,” says Wirick. Having collaborated with several healthcare centers around the city such as UPMC East and Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Wirick will bring fresh knowledge to the drawing board to help more healthcare centers design gardens as healing settings that will aid in patient recovery. As more hospitals look to green spaces as a way to improve patient experience and their facilities, Studio Phipps will continue to offer the latest advancements and research.

Wirick attended an eight-day seminar at Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School of the Chicago Botanic Garden, at [Chicago Botanic Garden](#) in order to receive the certificate. A variety of professionals – from landscape designers and healthcare professionals, to occupational, recreational, and horticultural therapists also attended. According to the website, the multidisciplinary program introduces the latest research in healthcare garden design, demonstrating the benefits of healthcare gardens while providing participants with the expertise, knowledge, and tools to effectively design, manage, and evaluate such gardens. These garden environments of care maximize the effectiveness of clinical treatments for illness and disabilities, and create passive garden experiences that significantly reduce staff stress and absenteeism, improve patient health, increase client satisfaction, and strengthen the bottom line.

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About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

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