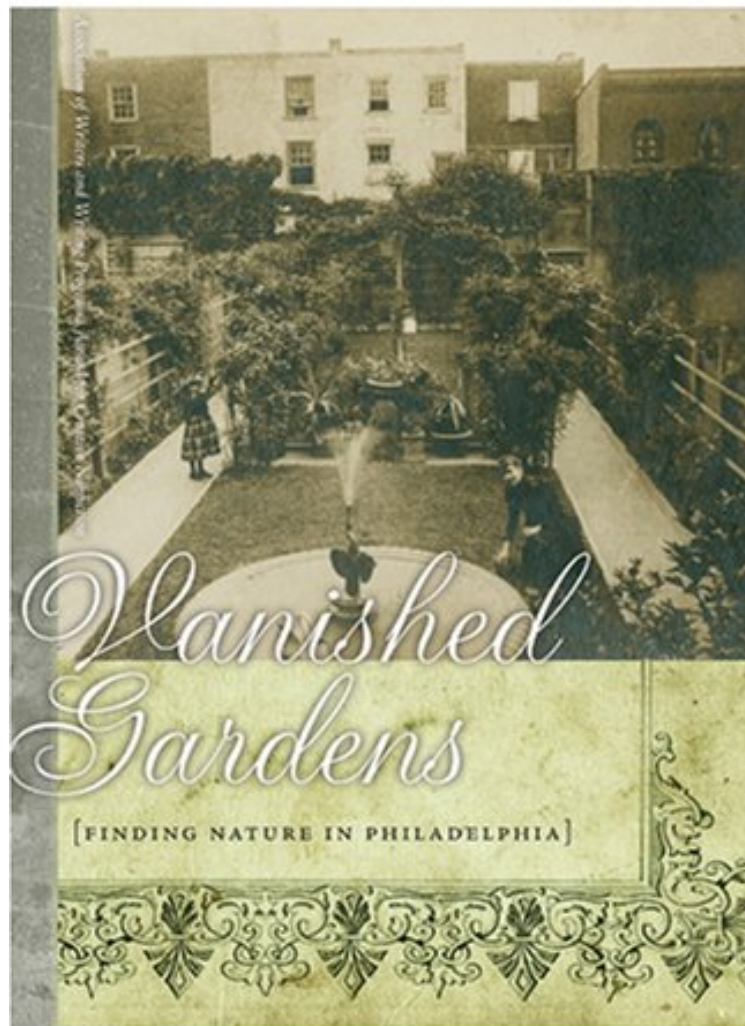


[Download] Vanished Gardens: Finding Nature in Philadelphia (Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award for Creative Nonfiction)

## Vanished Gardens: Finding Nature in Philadelphia (Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award for Creative Nonfiction)

Sharon White

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Sharon White : Vanished Gardens: Finding Nature in Philadelphia (Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award for Creative Nonfiction) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vanished Gardens: Finding Nature in Philadelphia (Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award for Creative Nonfiction):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent pick for any gardening library  
By Midwest Book Review  
While VANISHED GARDENS would be a likely pick for Pennsylvania libraries in general, it offers stories, histories of people and plants, and surveys of wider-ranging issues making it a powerful consideration of an urban area's evolving gardens. From the gardens of a colonial botanist to a large 18th century farmer's diary to modern times, VANISHED GARDENS is an excellent pick for any gardening library.

New to living and gardening in Philadelphia, Sharon White begins a journey through the landscape of the city, past and present, in *Vanished Gardens*. In prose now as precise and considered as the paths in a parterre, now as flowing and lyrical as an Olmsted vista, White explores the city as a part of its ecosystem and animates the lives of individual gardeners and naturalists working in the area around her home. In one section of the book, White tours the gardens of colonial botanist John Bartram; his wife, Ann; and their son, writer and naturalist William. Other chapters focus on Deborah Logan, who kept a record of her life on a large farm in the late eighteenth century, and Mary Gibson Henry, twentieth-century botanist, plant collector, and namesake of the lily *Hymenocallis henryae*. Throughout White weaves passages from diaries, letters, and memoirs from significant Philadelphia gardeners into her own striking prose, transforming each place she examines into a palimpsest of the underlying earth and the human landscapes layered over it. White gives a surprising portrait of the resilience and richness of the natural world in Philadelphia and of the ways that gardening can connect nature to urban space. She shows that although gardens may vanish forever, the meaning and solace inherent in the act of gardening is always waiting to be discovered anew.

"*Vanished Gardens*, like the gardens of Philadelphia it plots so brilliantly in its pages, presents itself as both highly formal and completely natural in its composition and its fruition. It is a book that saturates space, horizontal and vertical, and exhausts time. As with all excellent gardens everywhere, everywhere one looks one is delighted, surprised, awed, and restored. And as with all excellent writing about landscape, *Vanished Gardens* transforms the world before our eyes so that the reader, held in its thrall, begins to see to see." --Michael Martone, author of *Racing in Place*  
About the Author  
Sharon White is the author of *Field Notes: A Geography of Mourning* and *Bone House* and is a lecturer in English at Temple University. She lives and gardens in Philadelphia and Brownsville, Vermont.