

PHILADELPHIA TRAIL PLAN 2014 UPDATE





Poquessing Creek Trail - Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

- 1. YEAR IN TRAILS**
- 2. PRIORITIES & PROJECTS**
- 3. PHILADELPHIA TRAIL COMMITTEE**
- 4. NEXT STEPS**



Cover Photo - Manayunk Bridge

THE YEAR IN TRAILS

2014 Trail Plan Update Purpose

The Philadelphia Trail Master Plan was adopted by the Planning Commission in June of 2013. This Philadelphia Trail Master Plan Progress Report reflects the work in the past year of the Philadelphia Trail Committee and our non-profit trail development partners towards expanding the Philadelphia trail network.

The Trail Master Plan is a recommendation of *Philadelphia2035*, Philadelphia's Comprehensive Plan, in the Renew section under **Goal 6.1 Watershed Parks and Trails: complete, expand, and connect watershed parks and trails in the City and the region**

The Trail Master Plan process began in the spring of 2011 as a joint effort of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Transportation & Utilities. Due to limited funding for trail and park projects, the City recognized the need for prioritizing proposed trail projects to serve Philadelphians citywide and best use available planning, design, and construction funding.

The goals of the Philadelphia trail network are fourfold: Connectivity, Safety, Encouragement, and Open Space.

The purpose of the City trail planning process is to ensure that proposed trail development projects in Philadelphia meet the goals of the trail network. The 2013 Plan quantifies and inventories existing trail facilities, identifies the alignment, demand, and City priority for proposed trail projects, and clarifies the process of trail development and construction in Philadelphia.

The Plan includes a detailed analysis of proposed projects citywide and a priority ranking for each proposed project. This report updates the priority analysis to reflect changes in projects in the last year. In addition, this report includes information on high impact trail projects, details on Philadelphia Trail Committee actions, a listing of funding retained for Philadelphia trails in the last year, and next steps for the Trail Committee.



Excerpt from:
Philadelphia2035
Citywide Vision

Goal 6.1:

Complete, expand, and connect watershed parks and trails in the City and the region.

Objective 6.1.1:

Create a citywide trails master plan to coordinate the planning and construction of trail systems within Philadelphia.

Objective 6.1.3:

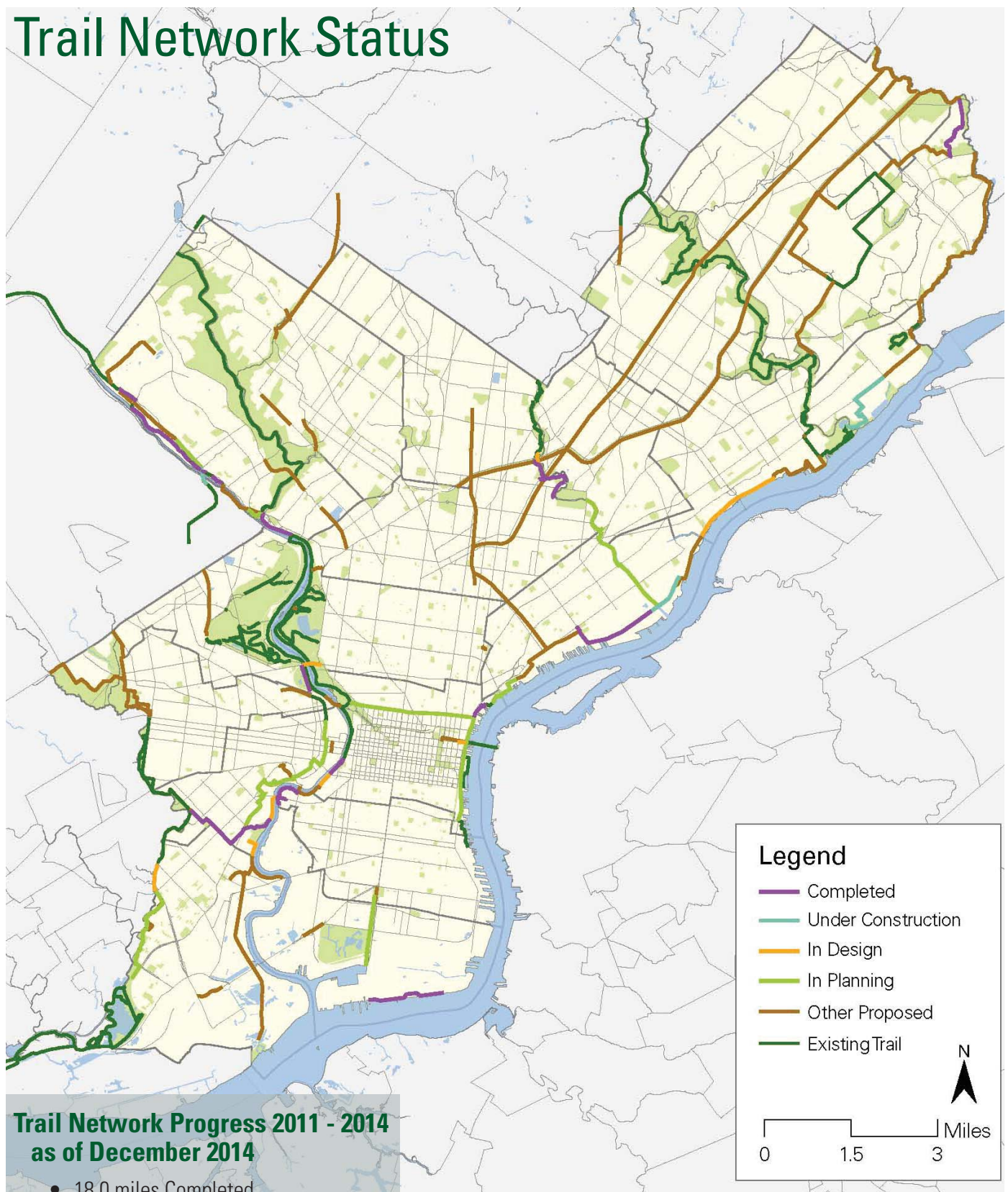
Create a trail corridor network that connects parks, neighborhoods, and trails citywide.



Port Richmond Trail - Delaware River City Corporation



Trail Network Status



Trail Network Progress 2013 - 2014

The map and table in this section reflect the updated status of Philadelphia trails since the completion of the 2013 plan. The map reflects the status of trail projects citywide, including several trail projects that are now complete or are in final design. These segments are no longer included in the priority analysis, since they have reached or are nearing completion.

The 2014 Proposed Trail Network includes seven trail projects new to the plan. Two of these projects are imminent for construction in late 2014 - the Girard Avenue Sidepath and the Race Street North Sidepath. The remaining new projects are recommended in planning documents or received funding for further study in 2014. The digital version of the Philadelphia Trail Master Plan will include a page-long inventory sheet on these proposed trails by the end of the year.

The 2014 Proposed Trail Network deleted two proposed trails from the network list. The PHL Waterfront Trail does not fit into the adjacent PHL International Airport Capacity Enhancement Project without extensive environmental and legislative action. The North Delaware Greenway B: Orthodox to Old Frankford Creek is duplicative of the North Delaware Avenue Extension Project.

There were more than 18 miles of trail completed between the beginning of the planning process in 2011 and the end of 2014. Notable completed projects include the Schuylkill Boardwalk, the Poquessing Creek Trail, and the Benjamin Rush State Park trails.

There are more than 4 miles of trail currently under construction, including a major regional trail link, the Manayunk Bridge Trail, which connects Manayunk to Lower Merion. The Baxter Trail, a segment of the North Delaware Trail, links Pleasant Hill Park to Pennypack on the Delaware Park.

Nearly 4 miles of trail are in design, including portions of the North Delaware Trail, Schuylkill River Trail, and trails within two Philadelphia Parks & Recreation watershed parks.

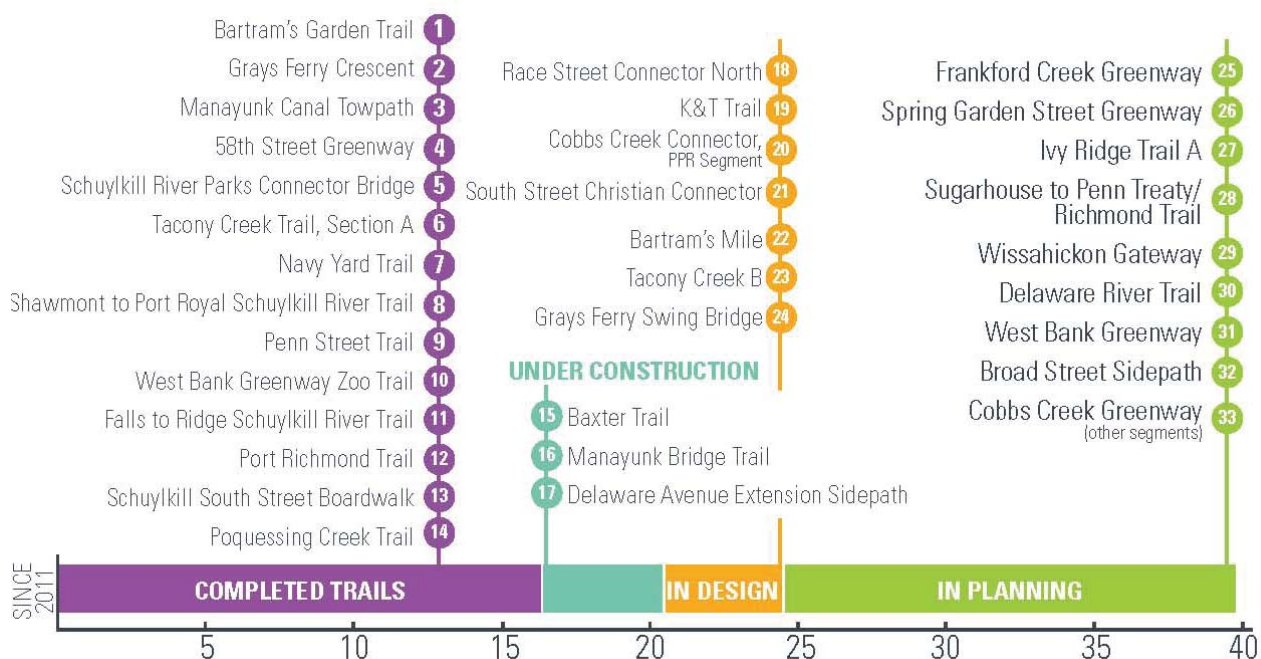
2014 Proposed Network Changes

Added to Plan

- Girard Avenue Bridge Sidepath
- Passyunk Point Trail
- Race Street North Sidepath
- Mantua Greenway
- Hagys Mill Sidepath
- Randolph Creek Trail
- Woodlands Cemetery Bikeway

Deleted from Plan

- PHL Waterfront Trail
- North Delaware Greenway A



Funding Secured in 2013-2014

The City of Philadelphia and trail development partners secured more than \$6 million in state, federal, and local funding for construction, design, and planning studies for trail projects in 2013 and 2014. This funding will help to complete the trail network and move forward more than a dozen projects. The Trail Master Plan Annual Update will present annual totals thus forth for comparison purposes.

Sources include the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the PA Commonwealth Financing Agency Multimodal Fund, and the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, among others. Several private sources contributed to trail network planning and construction, such as the William Penn Foundation through DVRPC. In addition, the City of Philadelphia capital budget and the PennDOT FY15 Transportation Improvement Program have funding programmed for out years for trail design and construction projects. Many trail projects are listed under multiple programs in the table below, which reflects the leveraging opportunities for public and private funding across multiple sources.

Philadelphia Trail Network Funding Sources, 2013-2014

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Community Conservation Partnerships Program ('13 & '14)

Cobbs Creek Connector
Grays Ferry Swing Bridge
Passyunk Point Trail
Frankford Creek Greenway
Schuylkill River Trail Christian to Grays Crescent
Mantua Greenway

PA Department of Community and Economic Development Recreation, Trails, and Greenway Program (2013)

Baxter Trail
Schuylkill River Trail South to Christian

PA Commonwealth Financing Agency Multimodal Fund (2014)

Schuylkill Avenue Pedestrian Bridge

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Transportation and Community Development Initiative (2014)

Fox Chase Lorimer Trail
Schuylkill River Trail Bartrams Fort Mifflin
Parkside Cynwyd Trail

PA Department of Environmental Protection Coastal Zone Management Program (2014)

Schuylkill River Trail Passyunk Point
Green Street Trail Connectors
Cobbs Creek Connector

PA Department of Transportation, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) (2014)

Frankford Creek Greenway

Delaware Valley Regional Planning/William Penn Foundation Regional Trails Program (2013)

Manayunk Bridge Trail
North Delaware Trail
Cobbs Creek Trail

City of Philadelphia Capital Budget (Fiscal Year 2013)

Tacony Creek Trail
Frankford Creek Greenway
Schuylkill Banks
Bartram's Mile
Manayunk Bridge Trail

PRIORITIES & PROJECTS

2014 Updated Priority Ranking

As part of the 2014 update, the planning team updated the priority scoring for each project which changed in status. The scoring and priority rank changed for many projects due to additional funding, change in property ownership, new partnership opportunities, and other factors. Because the scoring of many projects was amended and completed projects were removed from the analysis, the priority project list reflects the updated breakdown of priorities.

The updated priorities by project type are shown to the right. The proposed projects are organized into the following project types –

- Watershed Park
- Delaware River Trail
- Schuylkill River Trail
- Sidepath/Roadway Adjacent
- Miscellaneous

Several major projects have progressed to a higher priority rank due to additional project funding, advancement in trail studies or design, property acquisition, and other factors.

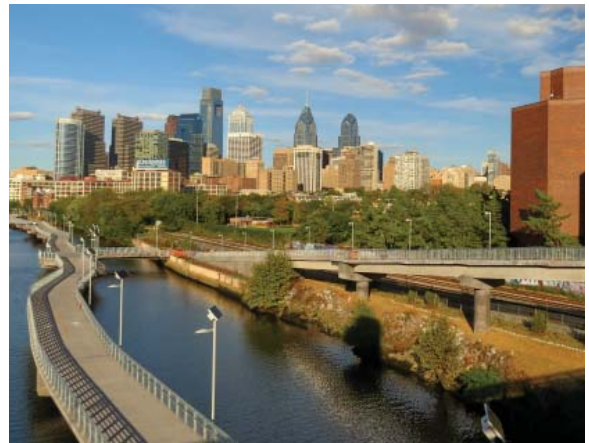
Case Studies - Proposed Trail Advancement

Bartram's Mile is a Philadelphia Parks & Recreation project supported by the William Penn Foundation and other funding sources to build the Schuylkill River Trail adjacent to Bartram's Garden in Southwest Philadelphia. This year, the project advanced from conceptual to preliminary design and funding is secured to begin construction.

The Schuylkill Avenue Pedestrian Bridge is a Children's Hospital of Philadelphia project that will connect the new CHOP Schuylkill Avenue complex to the Schuylkill River Trail south of South Street. The project is in the planning phase and recently received funding from the Commonwealth Financing Agency PennDOT Multimodal Fund for construction.

The State & Rhawn Sidepath is a connector for the Pennypack Trail at the intersection of State Road and Rhawn Street in northeast Philadelphia. The intersection along the highly trafficked State Road is a gap in the 11-mile Pennypack Trail and connects directly to the entrance to Pennypack on the Delaware Park on the Delaware River. The City of Philadelphia led a conceptual design project in 2014 and is seeking additional funding for final design and construction.

The Girard Avenue Bridge Sidepath is a roadway-adjacent connection between East and West Fairmount Park. The project is supported by the Fairmount Park Conservancy's *The New Fairmount Park* plan (2014). The sidepath will connect from Sedgeley Road and 33rd Street to 34th Street and Girard using the south side sidewalk along the bridge and 34th Street. Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Streets Department



Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk -Schuylkill River Development Corporation



Schuylkill Park Connector Bridge -Schuylkill River Development Corporation



Navy Yard Trail

Proposed Trail Priority Status, 2014 Update

Watershed Park			
2014 Priority	2013 Priority	Page Number 2013 Plan	Trail
1	1	18	Tacony Creek Trail B
2	4	21	Frankford Creek Greenway B
3	2	19	Frankford Creek Greenway A
8	7	24	Poquessing Creek Trail Extension A
4	6	23	Cobbs Creek Extension B
6	5	22	Cobbs Creek Connector
7	9	26	Cobbs Creek Extension A
9	8	25	Lower Poquessing Creek Trail A
5	X		Randolph Creek Trail
10	10	27	Poquessing Creek Trail Extension B
11	11	28	Lower Poquessing Creek Trail B
Schuylkill River Trail			
2014 Priority	2013 Priority	Page	Trail
1	1	29	South Street Christian Trail
2	5	33	Bartram's North
3	3	31	Bartram's South
4	2	30	Wissahickon Gateway
5	4	32	Schuylkill Crossing at Gray's Ferry
6	X		Passyunk Point Trail
7	7	35	Christian to Grays Crescent Trail
8	6	34	Bartram South Rail Connector
9	8	36	Airport Fort Mifflin Trail
Delaware River Trail			
2014 Priority	2013 Priority	Page	Trail
1	1	37	Delaware Avenue Extension Sidepath
2	3	39	Baxter Trail
3	2	38	Kensington & Tacony Trail
4	4	40	Penn Treaty Richmond Connector Trail
5	5	41	Port Richmond Connector Trail
6	6	42	Delaware Waterfront Trail
7	8	44	North Delaware Greenway Gap B
Sidepath/Roadway Adjacent			
2014 Priority	2013 Priority	Page	Trail
1	1	46	MLK Bridge Sidepath
2	X		Race Street North Sidepath
3	2	47	State Rhawn Sidepath
4	8	53	Lincoln Drive Sidepath
5	X		Girard Avenue Bridge Sidepath
6	10	55	Florist Street Sidepath
7	5	50	Ben Franklin Bridge Entrance Sidepath
8	9	54	State Road Sidepath
9	11	56	Hunting Park Drive Sidepath
10	7	52	Broad Street Sidepath
11	12	57	34th Street Bridge Sidepath
12	6	51	Ben Rush State Park Sidepath
13	4	49	West Bank Greenway
14	X		Mantua Greenway
15	13	58	Roosevelt Blvd Sidepath
16	14	59	Penrose Avenue/Platt Bridge Sidepath
17	3	48	Spring Garden Street Greenway
18	15	60	Germantown Avenue Sidepath
19	16	61	Wissahickon Avenue Sidepath
20	17	62	Henry Avenue Sidepath
21	18	63	31st Street Sidepath
22	X		Hagys Mill Sidepath
23	19	64	Northeast Airport Trail Extension

Miscellaneous			
2014 Priority	2013 Priority	Page	Trail
1	7	71	Schuylkill Avenue Pedestrian Bridge
2	6	70	SCEE SRT Connector
3	2	66	Ivy Ridge Trail A
4	5	69	Parkside City Line Trail
5	3	67	Pencoyd Trail
6	14	78	Fox Chase Lorimer Trail
7	12	76	Poquessing Southampton Trail
8	4	68	Cresheim Valley Trail
9	X		Woodlands Cemetery Bikeway
10	10	74	Ivy Ridge Trail B
11	13	77	Pennypack Airport Connector
12	8	72	Lehigh Viaduct Trail
13	15	79	Pennypack Poquessing Connector
14	16	80	Northeast Airport Poquessing Connector
15	17	81	Tacony Pennypack Connector
16	9	73	Tacony Sedgely Trail
17	11	75	Fern Rock American Trail
Under Construction			
2014 Priority	2013 Priority	Page	Trail
	3	37	Delaware Avenue Extension Sidepath
	21	65	Manayunk Bridge Trail
	9	39	Baxter Trail
Note - Delaware Avenue Extension Sidepath is shown twice to denote the phased developed. Phase 1 is under construction and Phase 2 and 3 are in design.			

High Priority
Medium Priority
Low Priority

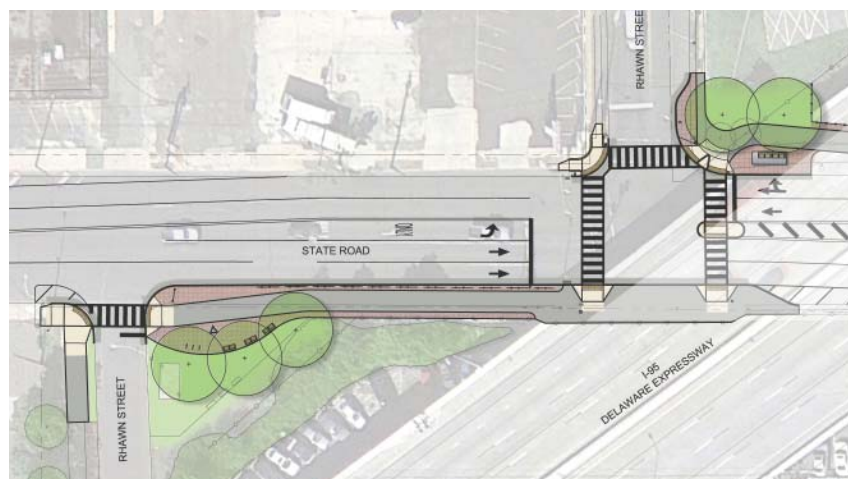
partnered on the design of the project, which includes an 8-10 foot paved sidepath and upgraded ramps. The project is scheduled for construction and is funded by Automated Red Light Camera (ARLE) funds for pedestrian safety projects.

The Race Street North Sidepath is a connection between Old City at Race Street and 2nd Street and the Delaware River waterfront at the Race Street Pier. The project is managed and funded by the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation. The sidepath will improve the pedestrian and bicycle connection to and from Delaware Avenue and waterfront amenities and runs along the north side of Race Street, crossing an I-95 on-ramp. This enhanced connection is particularly important for cyclists, as there are limited two way connections between the waterfront and Old City. The project is fully funded and approved and construction is scheduled for 2015.

When completed, the Frankford Creek Greenway will connect the North Delaware Trail to the Tacony Creek Trail and Montgomery County. The Frankford Creek Greenway Feasibility Study was completed in 2014, funded by DVRPC and the William Penn Foundation, and managed jointly by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Planning Commission. The project progressed in 2014 and recieved a total of \$1.4 million for phase one of the project, from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for final design and the PA Department of Transportation Transportation Alternatives Program for construction.



Implementation Schedule, Frankford Creek Greenway Feasibility Study (2014), Michael Baker



State & Rhawn Sidepath Conceptual Design, Toole Design Group

PHILADELPHIA TRAIL COMMITTEE

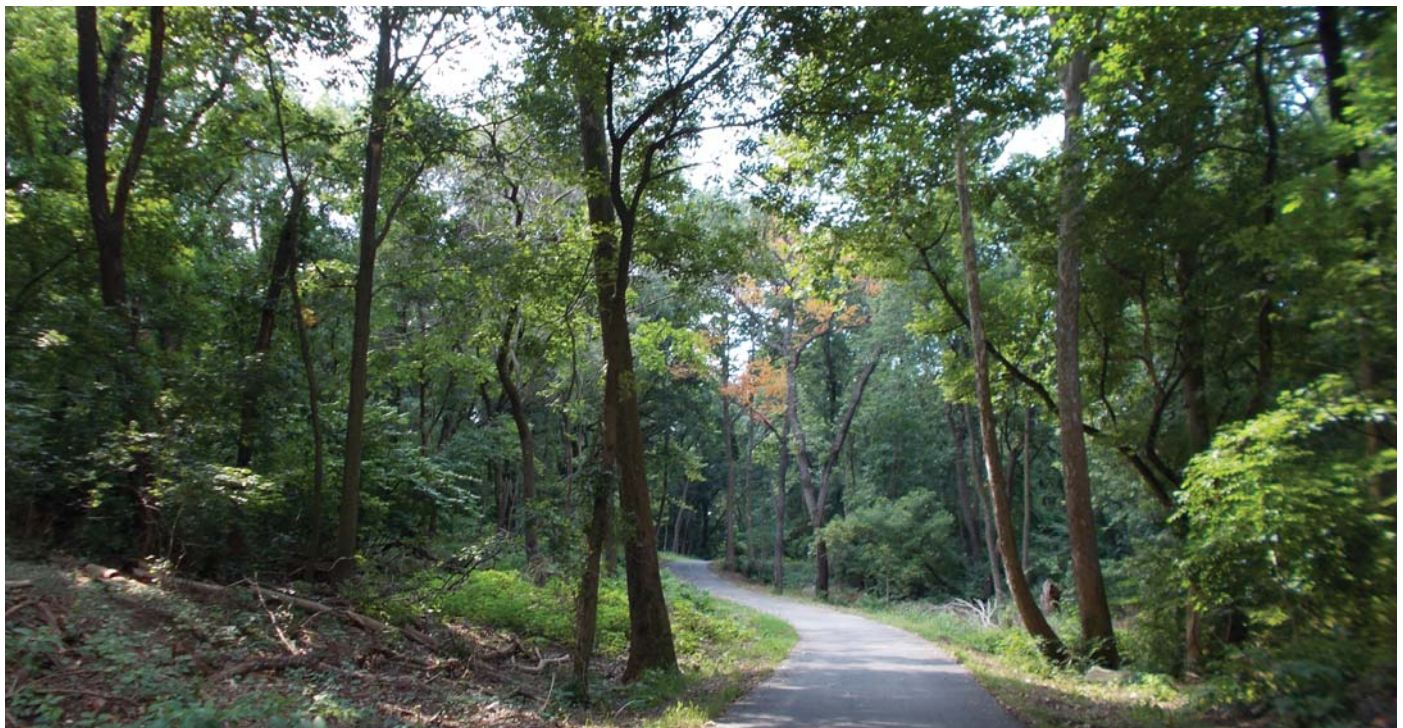
The Philadelphia Trail Committee is the implementing body of the Trail Master Plan. The Committee includes City agencies with direct roles in trail design and implementation, including design, construction, permitting, and project review. The Committee meets quarterly and makes decisions on funding priorities for each major trail funding program. The Committee communicates City priorities to the funding entities in coordination with program applications, including the DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program, PA DEP Coastal Zone Management Program, DCED Recreation, Trails, and Greenway program, and other programs.

The goal of the committee is to present one voice on trail priorities. City and funding entity representatives confirm that the presentation and discussion of trail projects and priorities in a citywide context significantly influences strategic planning for the citywide trail network.

The Committee also reviews design plans and weighs in on priority updates for proposed trails. Non-profit entities and City agency trail project managers presented several projects to the Committee and were advised to address key accessibility, design, and permitting issues in final design.

In 2014, staff organized a major outreach event for the plan, the Philadelphia Trails Update, in October of 2014 at the Academy of Natural Sciences. More than 100 attendees heard presentations from Planning Commission staff on the Trail Master Plan and priorities, Parks & Recreation staff and non-profit development entities on specific project updates, and DVRPC and East Coast Greenway staff on the regional and natural trail network context.

Tacony Creek Trail - Philadelphia Parks & Recreation



Philadelphia Trail Committee

Philadelphia City Planning Commission
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation
Mayor's Office of Transportation & Utilities
Commerce Department
Streets Department
Philadelphia Water Department
Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority
Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation
Mayor's Office of Sustainability



NEXT STEPS

The Philadelphia Trail Committee identified several issues to explore in greater depth in 2015. Staff and the committee will set funding goals and continue to develop strategies for phasing and matching trail design and construction projects as new funding sources become available, such as the fourth round of the William Penn Regional Trail Fund and other programs.

Staff will explore additional criteria for prioritization to reflect the health and economic impacts of trails. The committee will also add existing trails into the prioritization discussion, as several major facilities are in need of reconstruction in the coming years. Reconstruction of existing trails and maintenance of new facilities will also be areas of focus.

Finally, the Committee will work with and incorporate ongoing outside projects in prioritization, such as bike share station locations and on-road bicycle facilities, to reflect the potential additional trail users.

The latest meeting minutes and presentations from the Philadelphia Trail Committee, as well as the updated version of the complete Philadelphia Trail Master Plan can be found on the Philadelphia City Planning Commission website (www.phila.gov/cityplanning).

Rendering of Bartram's Mile Trail - Andropogon Associates



Philadelphia City Planning Commission
December 2014