

2019 UPDATE

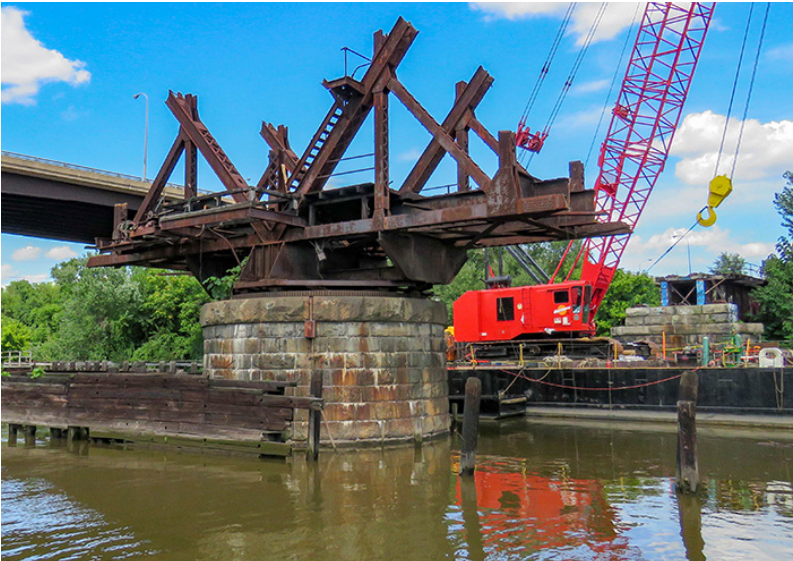
# PHILADELPHIA TRAIL PLAN





Schuylkill River Swing Bridge Rendering | SRDC

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Schuylkill River Swing Bridge Construction | SRDC

# THE YEAR IN TRAILS

## 2019 TRAIL PLAN UPDATE PURPOSE

The Philadelphia Trail Master Plan is a recommendation of Philadelphia2035, the City's Comprehensive Plan. This recommendation is listed 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 (PCPC) and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR), in collaboration with the Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (OTIS).

The 2019 Philadelphia Trail Plan Update builds on the Philadelphia Trail Master Plan adopted by the PCPC in 2013 and its subsequent annual updates in 2014, 2015, 2017 and 2018. This report features the progress made in 2018 by the Philadelphia Trail Committee and non-profit development partners towards expanding the Philadelphia trail network, including the secured funding, project advancement, and next steps.

The 2019 Update contains a revised priority ranking for proposed trail projects citywide. All of these elements are intended to promote the advancement of the Philadelphia trail network as it relates to the Philadelphia2035: Citywide Vision.

Due to limited funding for trail and park projects, the City recognized the need for prioritizing proposed trail projects to serve Philadelphians citywide and to best use available planning, design, and construction funding.

The Trail Master Plan outlines four overarching goals of the Philadelphia trail network: connectivity, safety, encouragement of physical activity, and open space. The purpose of the City trail planning process is to ensure that proposed trail development projects in Philadelphia meet these goals. As the status of the trail network is constantly changing, the annual update offers the opportunity to document and reevaluate these priorities from year to year in order to provide Philadelphians with a connected and comprehensive system of trails.

### *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 implementation, including design, construction, permitting, and project review. The Committee meets biannually and makes decisions on funding priorities for each major trail funding program with the goal of presenting one voice on trail priorities within the City of Philadelphia.

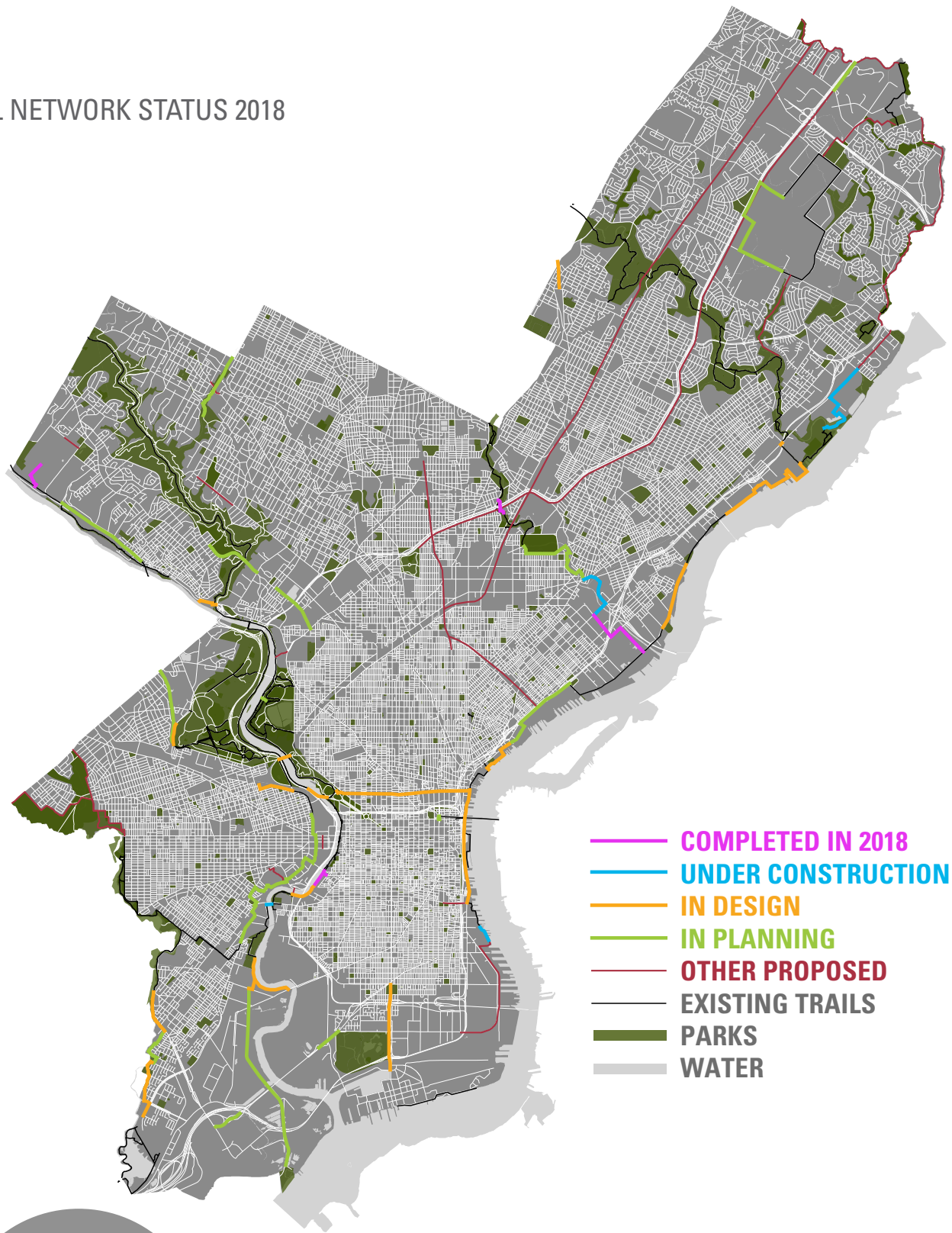


Baxter Trail | Riverfront North Partnership



Frankford Creek Greenway Phase 1 | PCPC

# TRAIL NETWORK STATUS 2018



- COMPLETED IN 2018
- UNDER CONSTRUCTION
- IN DESIGN
- IN PLANNING
- OTHER PROPOSED
- EXISTING TRAILS
- PARKS
- WATER

2011-2018  
Completed  
**28.6**  
miles

**2.3**  
miles  
2018  
Completed

**Under  
Construction**

**3.1**  
miles

**In  
Design**  
**15.3**  
miles

**In  
Planning**  
**19.8**  
miles

# TRAIL NETWORK PROGRESS IN 2018

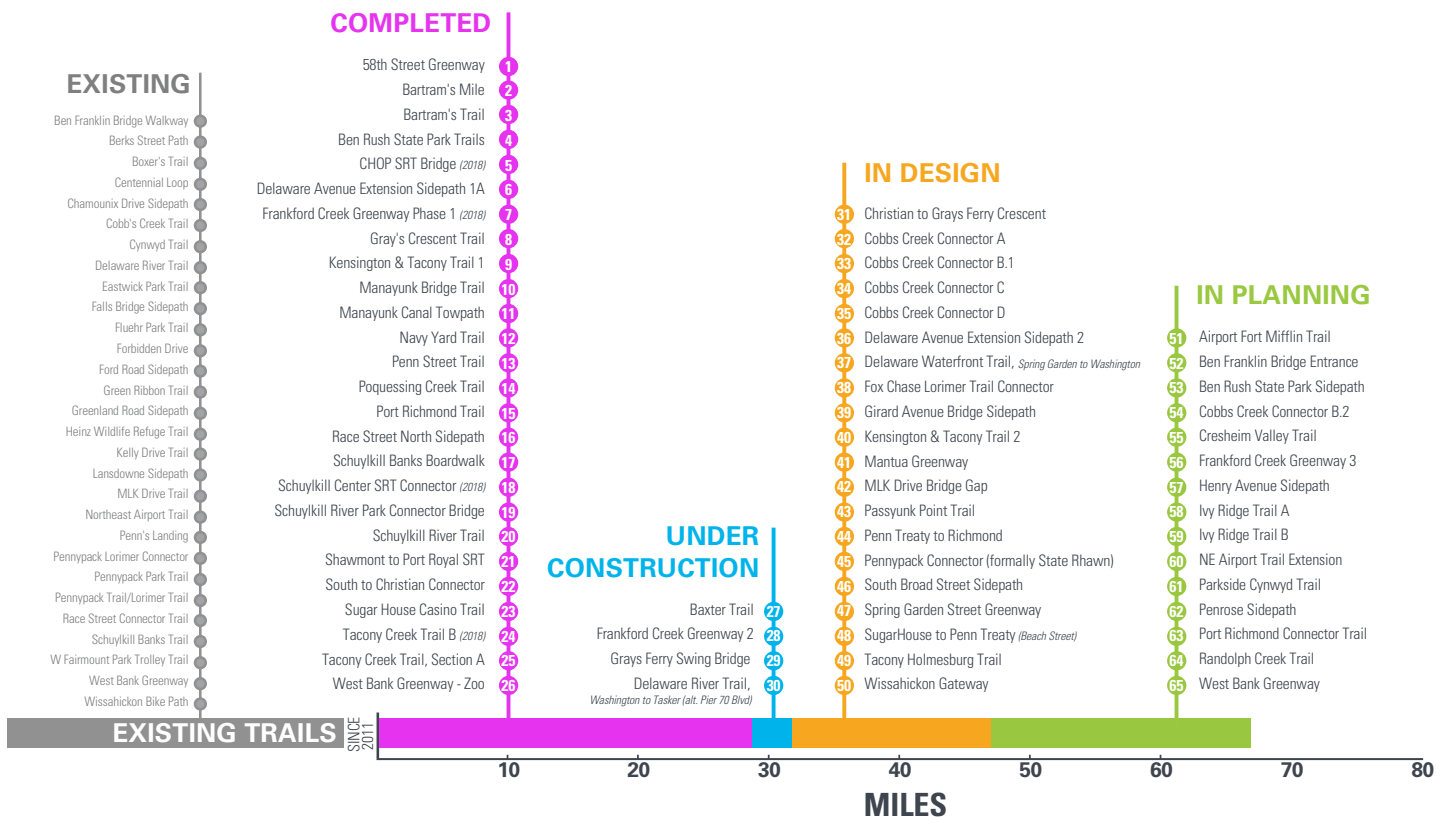
This section reflects the updated status of Philadelphia trails since the 2018 Plan update. The map details the status of trail projects citywide, including several projects that are now complete. These segments are no longer included in the priority analysis, since they have reached completion.

There were five name changes for trail segments. The Delaware River Trail that has been included in previous plan updates was separated into two different segments: Washington to Spring Garden and Pier 68-70, and another piece of this Trail was included: the Port Extension segment. Two new segments were included in this prioritization: the Parkside Sidepath and the Washington Ave Connector.

There were more than 28 miles of trail completed between the beginning of the planning process in 2011 and the end of 2018. After many years of planning and design, construction on five trail segments were completed in 2018, including Frankford Creek Greenway 1, Tacony Creek Trail B, Schuylkill Center SRT Connector, CHOP SRT Bridge, and the South to Christian segment of the Schuylkill River Trail.

There are more than 3 miles of trail currently under construction, including a major link along the North Delaware Trail, known as the Baxter Trail, which will connect from Pennypack on the Delaware to Pleasant Hill Park. The Cobbs Creek Connector A, and the Sugarhouse to Penn Treaty and Pier 68-70 segments of the Delaware River Trail are all expected to be completed in 2019, while construction on the Frankford Creek Greenway Phase 2 and Grays Ferry Swing Bridge broke ground in 2018.

Over 15 miles of trail are in preliminary or final design, including the Mantua Greenway, K & T Trail Phase 2, Fox Chase Lorimer Trail, and the Spring Garden Street Greenway. An additional 20 miles of trail remain in the planning phase.



## FUNDING SECURED IN 2018

The City of Philadelphia and trail development partners secured nearly \$20 million in federal, state, and local funding for construction, design, and planning studies for trail projects in 2018.

Sources include the William Penn Foundation/Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Regional Trails Program, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, Transportation Alternatives—Set Aside Program, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the United States Department of Transportation. City of Philadelphia Capital Budget Funds continued to support construction of new trails in FY2019.

Many trail projects in Philadelphia receive funding from multiple programs, which reflects the leveraging opportunities for public and private funding across multiple sources.

### *2018 Philadelphia Trail Funding Sources & Awards*

#### **City of Philadelphia Capital Budget (FY 2019)**

Delaware River Trail  
Schuylkill River Trail

#### **PA DCED Greenways, Trails, & Recreation Program**

Schuylkill River Trail, Schuylkill Banks

#### **PA DEP Coastal Zone Management**

Schuylkill River Trail, Christian to Grays Ferry Crescent

#### **PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships**

Schuylkill River Trail, Schuylkill Banks  
Wissahickon Gateway  
Schuylkill River Trail, Christian to Grays Ferry Crescent

#### **PennDOT - Multimodal Transportation Fund**

Parkside Sidepath

#### **Transportation Alternatives – Set Aside**

Manayunk Bridge Trail  
South Broad Street Sidepath

#### **William Penn Foundation/DVRPC Regional Trails**

Wissahickon Gateway  
Pennypack Trail Connector  
Manayunk Bridge Trail

#### **US Department of Transportation, BUILD**

Schuylkill River Trail, Christian to Grays Ferry Crescent



Cable Bridge Rendering for Schuylkill River Trail | SRDC

## PROJECT ADVANCEMENT

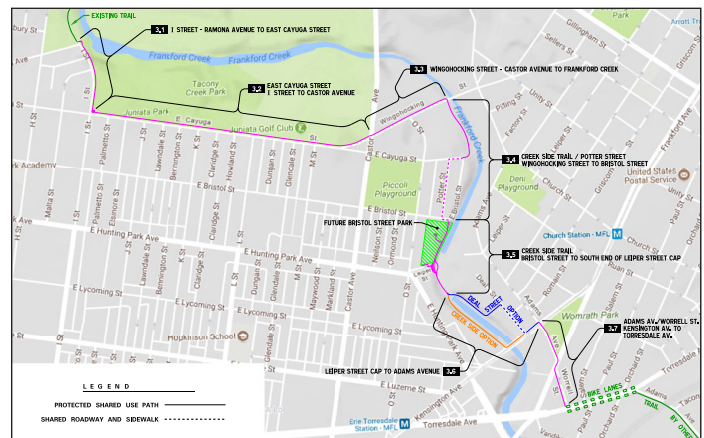
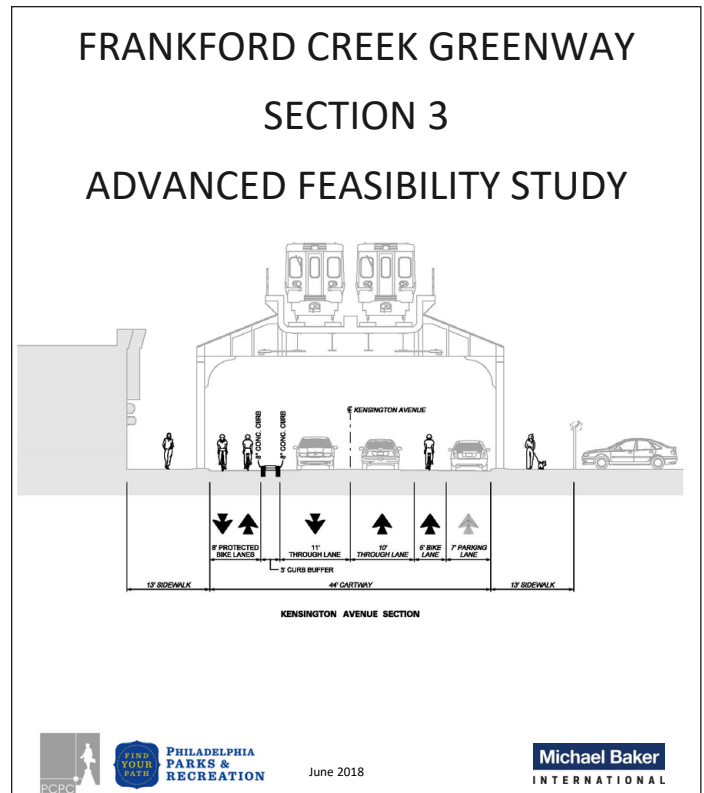
During 2018, the City of Philadelphia continued its efforts to study and design trail alignments previously identified in the Trail Master Plan.

A consultant team led by PCPC completed the Advanced Feasibility Study for the third phase of the Frankford Creek Greenway. Using funds provided through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, this study is working on filling the gaps between the Tacony Creek Trail and the Delaware River Trail. This study is available on PCPC's website — [Frankford Creek Greenway Section 3 Advanced Feasibility Study](#).

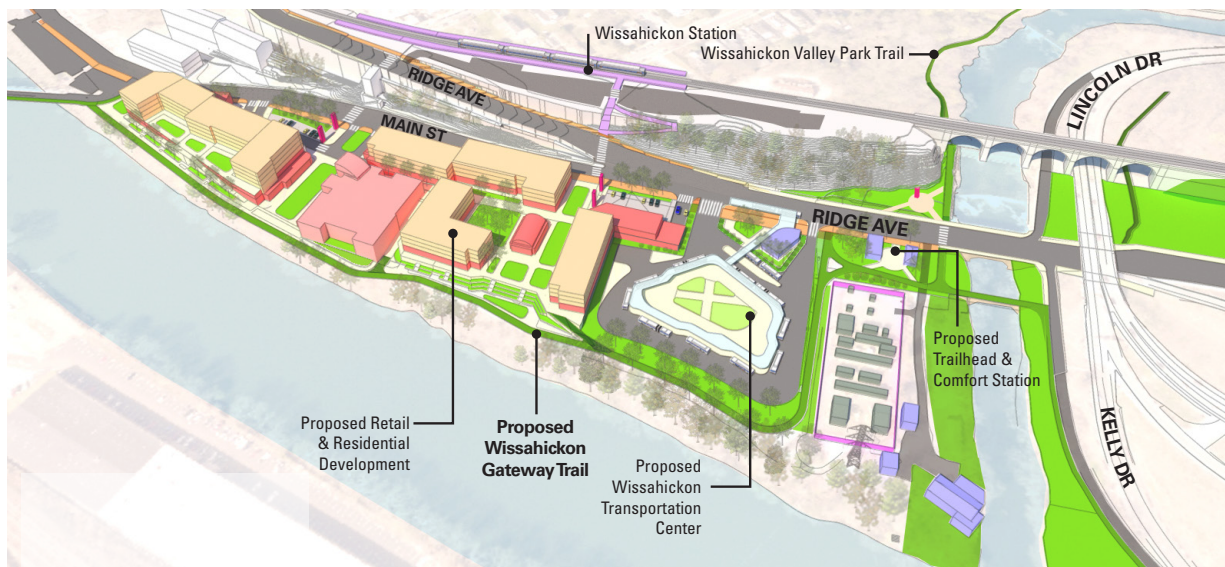
During 2018, PCPC continued the advancement of the design of the Mantua Greenway. The proposed greenway will follow Mantua Avenue and Parrish Street from the Spring Garden Bridge at 31st Street to the 40th Street Bridge. On-street bicycle connections along 40th Street to Fairmount Park will provide a connection to the recently constructed Centennial Commons on Parkside Avenue.

In 2018, shared-use path applications for the Cobbs Creek Connector Trail D, Delaware River Trail, Washington to Spring Garden, and Mantua Greenway were approved by PCPC enabling designs to move forward on these three projects.

Additional planning for the Wissahickon Gateway segment was included in the Wissahickon Gateway TCDI study, which charted a path forward for overcoming barriers to development and transportation expansion as it imagines the gateway as a new neighborhood center for Northwest Philadelphia, focused on expanded public transportation and trail access. This study is available on PCPC's website — [Wissahickon Gateway Plan](#).



Frankford Creek Greenway Section 3 Study | PCPC



Wissahickon Gateway TCDI Study | PCPC

# PRIORITY STATUS UPDATE

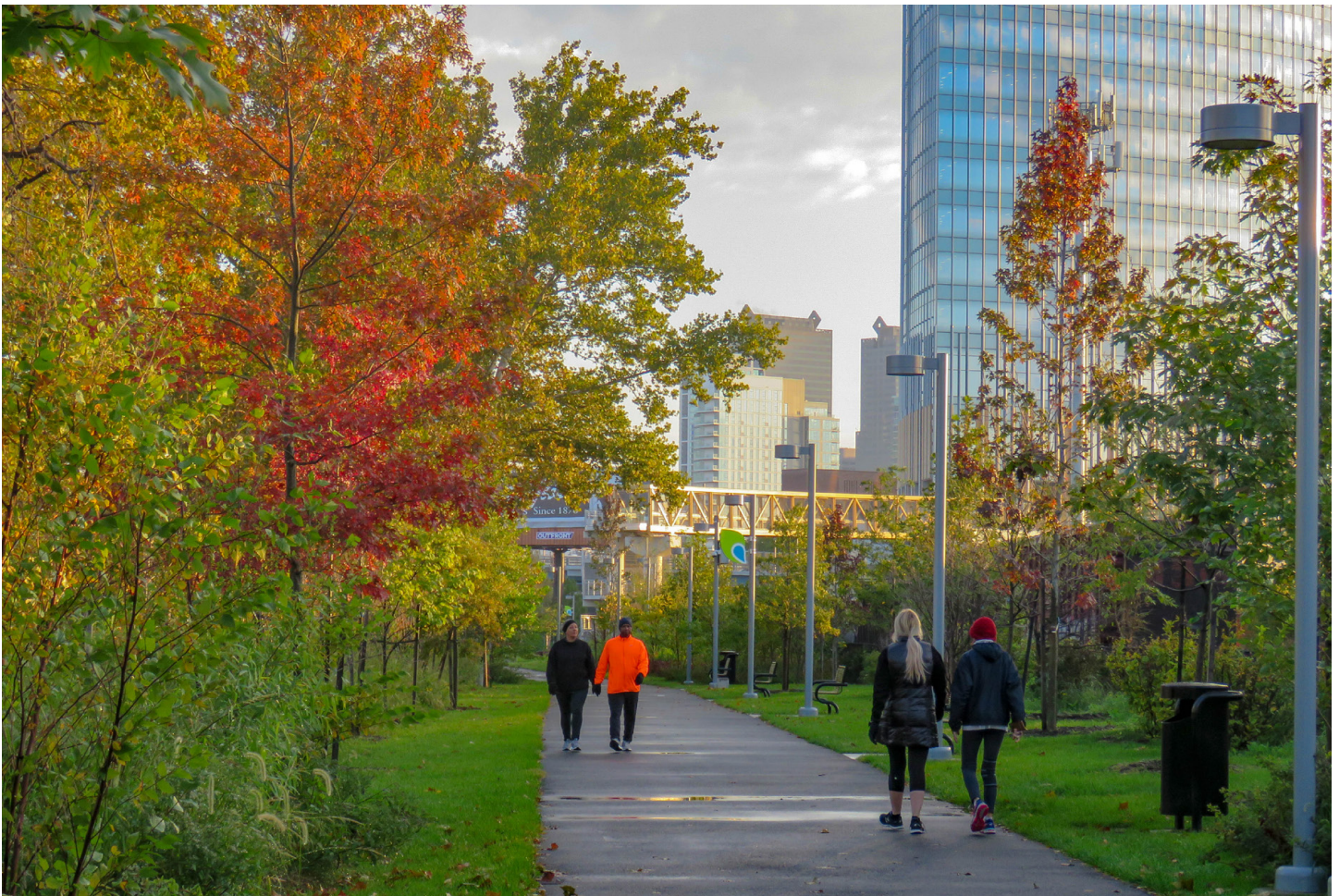
## UPDATED PRIORITY RANKING

As part of the 2019 update, the Trail Committee updated the priority scoring for each project. The scoring and priority rank changed for many projects due to additional funding, change in property ownership, new partnership opportunities, updated Census data, and other factors. The scoring of many projects was amended and completed projects were removed from the analysis, resulting in the updated priority list.

The updated priorities by project type are shown on the following page. 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.



South to Christian along the Schuylkill River Trail | SRDC



# PROPOSED TRAIL PRIORITY STATUS – ANNUAL UPDATE

<b>Tier 1 Projects</b>
<b>Tier 2 Projects</b>
<b>Tier 3 Projects</b>
<b>New projects in 2019</b>

See Methodology Paper in 2013 Trail Plan Appendix for Criteria and Scoring of Tiers

Note: Rank is within Location Category only, not overall

<b>Watershed Parks</b>		
<b>Proposed Trail</b>	<b>RANK 2019</b>	<b>RANK 2018</b>
Frankford Creek Greenway, Phase 2	1	1
Cobbs Creek Connector B.1	2	3
Tacony Creek Trail B	3	4
Cobbs Creek Connector A	4	5
Cobbs Creek Connector D	5	6
Frankford Creek Greenway, Phase 3	6	7
Cobbs Creek Connector C	7	8
Cobbs Creek Connector B.2	8	9
Cobbs Creek Morris Park Connector B	9	10
Poquessing A	10	11
Cobbs Creek Morris Park Connector A	11	12
Randolph Creek Trail	12	13
Lower Poquessing Creek Trail A	13	14
Poquessing B	14	15
Lower Poquessing Creek Trail B	15	16

<b>Schuylkill River Trail</b>		
<b>Proposed Trail</b>	<b>RANK 2019</b>	<b>RANK 2018</b>
Grays Ferry Swing Bridge	1	2
Bartram's South	2	3
Christian to Grays Crescent	3	4
Wissahickon Gateway	4	5
Passyunk Point Trail	5	6
Airport Fort Mifflin Trail	6	7

<b>Delaware River Trail</b>		
<b>Proposed Trail</b>	<b>RANK 2019</b>	<b>RANK 2018</b>
Delaware Waterfront Trail, <i>Washington to Spring Garden</i>	1	2
Delaware Avenue Extension 2	2	1
Kensington & Tacony Trail 2	3	3
Baxter Trail	4	4
Delaware River Trail, <i>Pier 68</i>	5	2
Penn Treaty Richmond Connector	6	5
Port Richmond Connector Trail	7	6
Tacony Holmesburg Trail	8	7
Delaware River Trail Port Extension	9	

<b>Sidepaths</b>		
<b>Proposed Trail</b>	<b>RANK 2019</b>	<b>RANK 2018</b>
MLK Drive Bridge Gap	1	1
Pennypack Connector	2	2
Spring Garden Street Greenway	3	3
Mantua Greenway	4	4
South Broad Street Sidepath	5	6
Girard Avenue Bridge Sidepath	6	5
Parkside Sidepath	7	
Ben Franklin Bridge Entrance	8	7
Henry Avenue Sidepath	9	8
West Bank Greenway	10	9
State Road Sidepath	11	10
Roosevelt Blvd Sidepath	12	11
Washington Ave Connector	13	
34th Street Bridge Sidepath	14	12
Wissahickon Avenue Sidepath	15	13
Hunting Park Sidepath	16	14
NE Airport Trail Extension	17	15
Germantown Ave Sidepath	18	17
Ben Rush State Park Sidepath	19	16
Penrose Sidepath	20	18
31st Street Sidepath	21	19
Hagys Mill Sidepath	22	20

<b>Miscellaneous Locations</b>		
<b>Proposed Trail</b>	<b>RANK 2019</b>	<b>RANK 2018</b>
Fox Chase Lorimer Trail Connector	1	1
Parkside Cynwyd Trail	2	3
Cresheim Trail	3	4
Lehigh Viaduct Trail	4	6
Ivy Ridge Trail A	5	7
Tacony Pennypack Connector	6	8
Woodlands Cemetery Bikeway	7	9
Pennypack Poquessing Connector	8	10
Pennypack Airport Connector	9	11
Fern Rock American Trail	10	12
Ivy Ridge Trail B	11	13
Poquessing Southampton Trail	12	14
Tacony Sedgely Trail	13	15
Airport Poquessing Connector	14	16

## EXISTING TRAIL REHABILITATION PRIORITIZATION

As we have worked to expand Philadelphia’s trail network, it is important to ensure that the existing trails are well preserved and remain accessible for all users. In the 2017 update, existing trails older than ten years old were evaluated in order to create a prioritization for trail rehabilitation. While regular maintenance can increase the longevity of a trail, older trails will eventually require more intensive rehabilitation or reconstruction.

Due to the limited funding available for rebuilding trails, the City recognized the need to create a priority listing for rehabilitation of existing trails, similar to the priority listing created for proposed trails. Many of the factors used in the proposed trail prioritization, such as those related to proximity and connectivity, were carried over to the rehabilitation prioritization as they are still relevant indicators. In addition, new factors were incorporated that specifically relate to the status of existing trails, including overall condition, age, and grant program eligibility.

Overall, 26 factors were incorporated into the prioritization, with the following criteria weighted double to reflect City priorities:

- **Daily Volume**
- **Equity Indicators**
- **Part of the Circuit**
- **Condition**

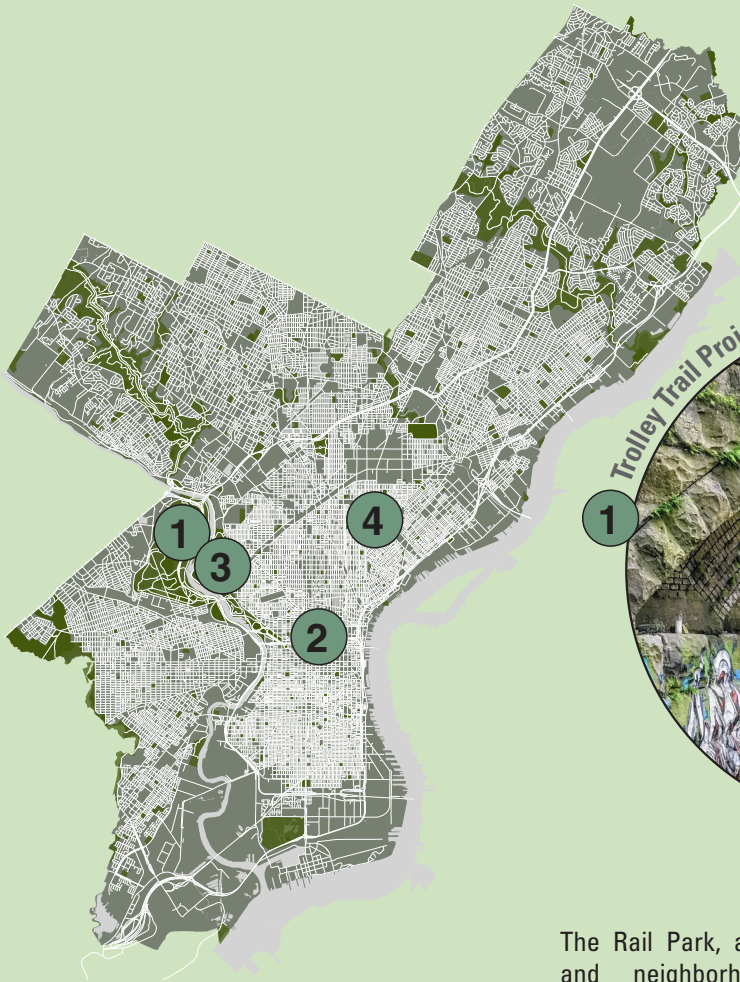
The table right shows the priority listing by tiers for the rehabilitation of existing trails.

Trail Name (Rehabilitation Project)	Category	2018 Tier
Ben Franklin Bridge Walkway	Sidepaths	1
Kelly Drive Trail	Schuylkill River Trail	1
MLK Drive Trail	Watershed Parks	1
Pennypack Park Trail	Watershed Parks	1
Schuylkill Banks Trail	Schuylkill River Trail	1
Cobb’s Creek Trail	Watershed Parks	2
Falls Bridge Sidepath	Sidepaths	2
Forbidden Drive	Watershed Parks	2
Lansdowne Sidepath	Sidepaths	2
Tacony Creek Trail (upper)	Watershed Parks	2
Wissahickon Bike Path	Watershed Parks	2
Chamounix Drive Sidepath	Sidepaths	3
Delaware River Trail	Delaware River Trail	3
Fluehr Park Trail	Misc.	3
Ford Road Sidepath	Sidepaths	3
Greenland Drive Sidepath	Sidepaths	3
Northeast Airport Trail	Misc.	3



Martin Luther King Drive Trail | PCPC

# TRAIL DEVELOPMENTS NOT INCLUDED IN TRAIL MASTER PLAN



As the City continues to improve and build Philadelphia's trail network, it is important to take note of other recreational and alternative trail assets being completed by private or non-profit partnerships. While these trails might not be owned or maintained by the City, they are an integral part to many communities and provide additional recreation and health benefits to local and regional users.

In 2014, the Fairmount Park Conservancy released a plan for a five-mile soft-surface loop trail through the woods of West Fairmount Park that followed the pathway of the scenic trolley that was in service in the early 20th century. Construction began in 2018 and is expected to be complete by 2020. *Source: Melissa Romero*

Trolley Trail Project, Phase 1



The Rail Park, Phase 1



The Rail Park, a multi-phased public park and neighborhood connector, opened Phase One (a ¼-mile elevated section in the Callowhill neighborhood), in Summer 2018. The park's future vision has both elevated and subgrade recreational amenities spanning several neighborhoods.

Gurney Street Trail



In an effort to address long standing and serious quality of life issues along the Conrail Railroad cut, HACE installed a one-block asphalt paved path along Gurney Street in 2018. Additional efforts in the future include the release of a conceptual plan for further transportation and access investments targeted along the Lehigh Viaduct.

Discovery Center Trail



The Discovery Center opened in 2018 and includes a ¾-mile trail that lines the water of a repurposed water reservoir in the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood. The trail is soft-surface and will foster bird and plant appreciation.

# NEXT STEPS

The Philadelphia Trail Committee identified several issues to explore in greater depth in the coming years. 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 PA Multimodal Transportation Funds, the next round of the William Penn Regional Trail Fund, and other programs.

The committee will look to update Census data in 2020 and also added additional existing trails into the rehabilitation prioritization process, as several major facilities are in need of state of good repair in the coming years and the committee looks forward to seeing the impact of this effort.

The Trail Committee will continue to build upon its previous efforts to collaborate on the funding of both the design and construction of additional trail segments. With the expected opening of a number of new trail segments in 2019, the committee will work with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to expand its program to measure trail use through regular trail counts.

Finally, the Committee will work to better communicate existing Philadelphia trail network assets to the public by pursuing not only a Trail Network Map but to also update the interactive web-based map that was first published in 2017.



Aerial Rendering of Proposed Sidepath along Delaware Avenue | DRWC



Rendering of Proposed Sidepath along Delaware Avenue | DRWC

The updated version of the complete Philadelphia Trail Master Plan can be found on the PCPC website at:

[www.phila.gov/CityPlanning/plans/Pages/TrailsMasterPlan.aspx](http://www.phila.gov/CityPlanning/plans/Pages/TrailsMasterPlan.aspx)

### *Credits*

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David Kanthor, Transportation Planner  
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Jessica Hammond, GIS Specialist

#### **Philadelphia Trail Committee**

Department of Public Health  
Office of Sustainability  
Office of Transportation, Infrastructure  
and Sustainability  
Philadelphia Parks & Recreation  
Philadelphia City Planning Commission

Philadelphia Industrial Development  
Corporation  
Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority  
Philadelphia Water Department  
Streets Department



Benjamin Franklin Bridge Trail | PCPC

