



The Recommendations of the Riverfront Plan acknowledge an early assessment of the desires of Whitmarsh and Conshohocken, through a review of past plans, and a list of opportunities and constraints discovered through the plan process.

The early assessment revealed the following shared interests:

- Whitmarsh and Conshohocken both would like a passive recreation trail, for leisurely use and with trail signage suggesting as much, along the actual river
- A civic gathering space, artwork, and new concessions along the waterfront are desired
- New signage for visiting back and forth to the river, including the Borough's historic and cultural resources, are greatly desired
- Improvements to existing parking and clarification of shared parking is much needed
- Installation and improvement of safety and emergency response elements are critically important
- Improvements to Spring Mill County Park are desired
- Boat launches staged at various locations, including revised usage of the Borough's Riverwalk at Millennium ramp, are hoped for
- Potential license agreements and trail improvements in the PECO utility easement could present Township residents with non-road access to the trail system

## Opportunities and Constraints

The Opportunities and Constraints discovered through the plan process reveal greater opportunity for positive change than actual constraints. And, despite the condition of the Study Area prompting the development of the plan itself, the riverfront still possesses room enough to meet the goals of each community.

## Constraints

- Access to the riverfront is limited in part because of private property ownership but also lack of signage promoting riverfront access points;
- Trail planning has not yet accounted for trail user needs:
  - Lack of dedicated restroom facilities, parking and rest areas
  - Signage is uncoordinated between municipalities and other agencies
  - Street crossings are in need of upgrading
  - Lack of lighting and dedicated emergency facilities; police-rescue station and/or emergency call boxes
  - Trail edges lack consistent management and interesting landscaping
- Steep slopes in Conshohocken limit walking tourism and casual exploration from the riverfront
- Traffic is congested near existing train stations, in part because Oak Street and Washington Street do not allow logical flow of vehicles
- Lack of artwork and facilities dedicated to the history of the riverfront limits the connection the community has with its own identity and past
- Lack of event space limits the community's ability to celebrate its riverfront and/or community milestones
- Limited recreation opportunities discourage off-week interaction with the riverfront, and cannot possibly meet the needs or desires of residents
- Parking is awkward and in some cases off limits for visitors
- Zoning districts are in need of alignment; some density differences exist.

## Opportunities

- Both municipalities have passed zoning and subdivision and land development ordinance regulations to ensure the public has access to the riverfront
- Both municipalities are home to parcels of land perfectly situated for the development of trailhead facilities to offer restrooms, parking and rest areas to trail users
- Both municipalities encourage redevelopment of their underutilized industrial lands through cooperative planning and analysis and supporting zoning and subdivision and land development ordinance regulations
- Both municipalities have studied aspects of the riverfront importance before, after and during community request to do so; i.e. train station studies, parking studies, open space planning, revitalization plans, etc.
- Each train station in the Study Area has been reviewed for the potential to upgrade existing shelters, ticketing buildings and parking

- Each municipality has a populace uniformly concerned for the future of the riverfront and committed to providing input for its improvement
- Each municipality is experiencing residential development pressure in the Study Area suggesting new residents will increase the demand for public services, recreation, shopping and entertainment
- Each municipality has acknowledged a greater need to connect their residents to the history of the riverfront
- Each municipality has a track record of attracting and retaining substantial business interest in the riverfront; recruiting and securing grant funds for community improvement projects; and, for implementing projects meant to improve the quality of life for their residents

