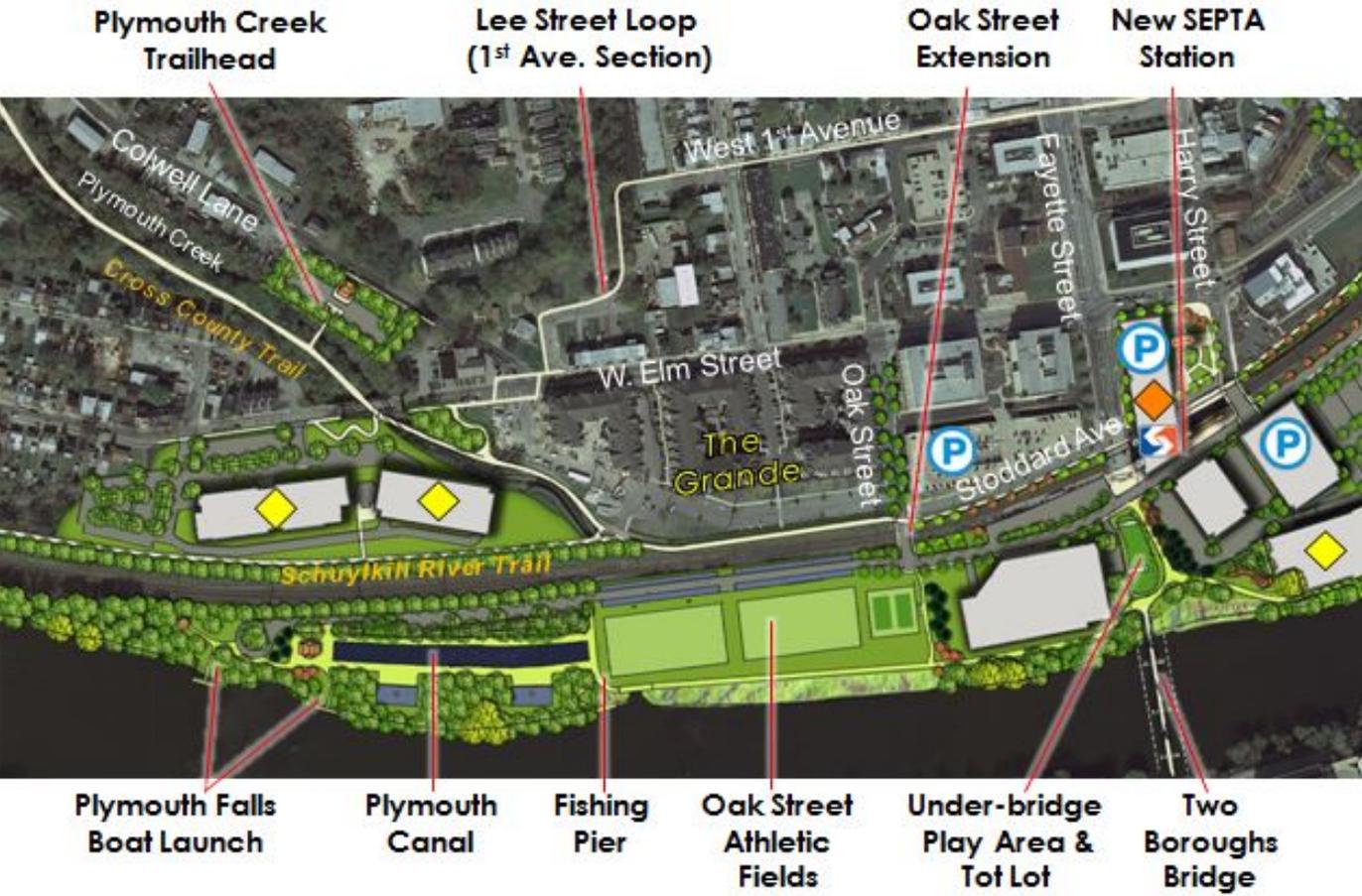




Goal 1: Improve Access to Our Riverfront

The following recommendations identify new street patterns and traffic calming, sidewalk improvements, street crossings, and parking scenarios.



Land Use Recommendations

Objective 1.1: Establish the Plymouth Falls Boat Launch

Located at the high point of Conshohocken’s riverfront, this boat launch consists of two floating docks and a portage path between them. Kayakers and canoeists can choose to put into the river above or below the rapids between docks. Small landing areas of grass allow river users to stage their boats, meet to discuss trips and catch their breath. Signage celebrates the history of the riverfront, informs paddlers of river’s features and directs them to safe landings in either direction.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of property or easements to establish access, in absence of Washington Avenue extension, design and secure approvals for boat ramps and docks, establish landing areas, install ramps and docks. Grants are available.

Objective 1.2: Extend Oak Street

Establish a new extension of Oak Street, from its terminus at Stoddard Avenue, in Conshohocken, to cross the Schuylkill River Trail and the existing rail lines. Both vehicular and pedestrian access to the lands along the river, as well as the train station—which continues to be studied for redesign—will be improved.

ACTION PLAN: secure approvals and crossing agreements from Schuylkill River Heritage Area and SEPTA. Design, engineer and install Oak Street extension with sidewalks, rail crossing safety, lighting, and trail and street directional signage.

Objective 1.3: Establish Oak Street River Link

From the new terminus of Oak Street, on the southwest side of the rail lines, to the river’s edge a pedestrian link will improve access to the river. An ADA-compliant trail with simple signage will guide users to and from the river.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of a trail easement, development of access trail to the river, install signage. Grants are available.

Objective 1.4: Establish Conshohocken Train Station River Link

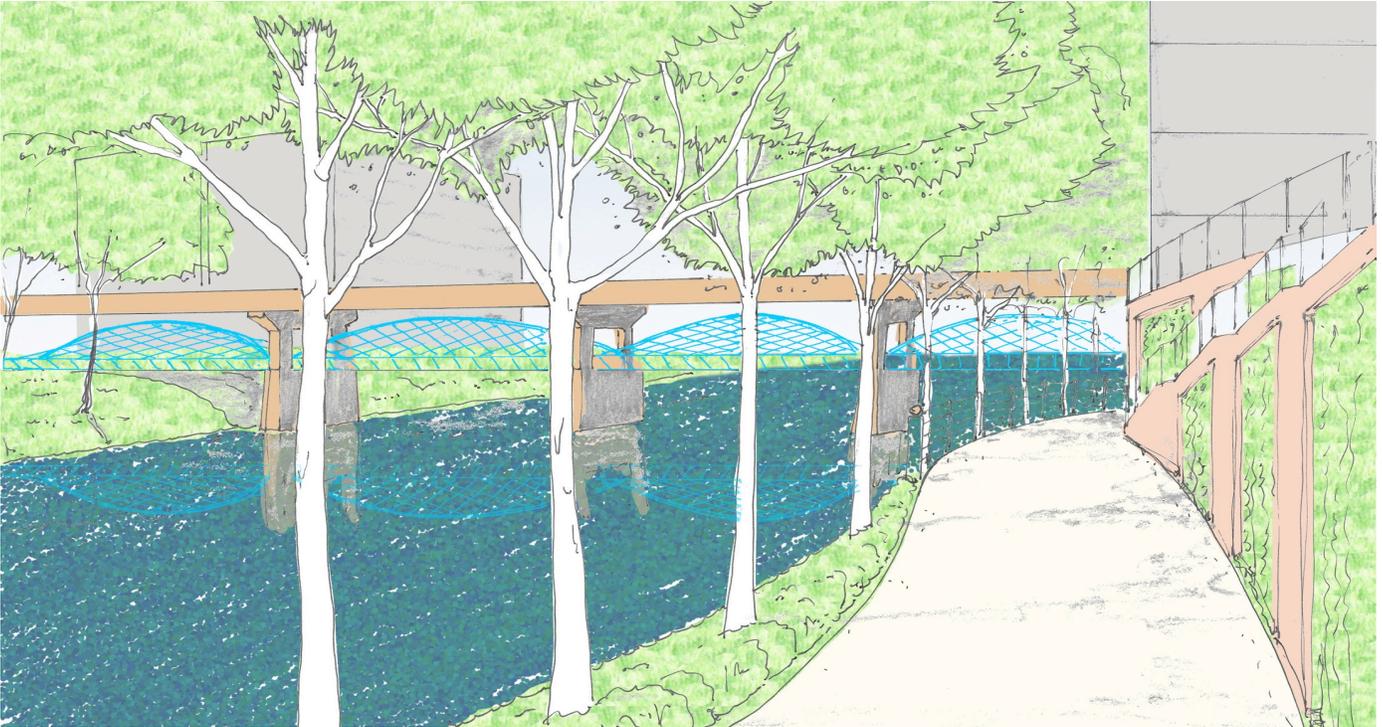
Under Fayette Street Bridge there exists underutilized property, south of the rail lines and sheltered from the weather, with potential for unfettered access to the river. A river access link will be established from the edge of Washington Street to the river’s edge. An ADA compliant trail with simple signage will guide users to and from the river.

ACTION PLAN: acquire trail easement, development of access trail to the river, install signage. Grants are available.

Objective 1.5: Create the Two Boroughs Bridge

Suspended under Fayette Street Bridge, a new pedestrian bridge will link Conshohocken Borough with West Conshohocken Borough. A unique and exciting experience will begin from ground level ramp entrances, on either side of the Schuylkill River, and carry pedestrians to their destination free of road side stress.

ACTION PLAN: conduct engineering feasibility study for suspended bridge, design, engineer and secure approvals for bridge, construct bridge, secure access or trail easement to ramp approach if appropriate. Grants may be available.



View of Two Borough Bridge (suspended from Fayette Street Bridge)

Objective 1.6: Establish bridge sheltered play area and tot lot

For use by residents, visitors and passengers with children, a play area will exist under the shelter of the Fayette Street Bridge with both common playground equipment as well as sculptural forms for unstructured play.

ACTION PLAN: secure use agreements, design, engineer, and construct area.

Objective 1.7: Extend Washington Street

From the rail line terminus of Lee Street Loop, Washington Street should begin its journey westward. A distance less than 500 feet remains to connect it to double lane portions of itself. Access to existing and proposed residential and non-residential uses would be greatly improved as would the experience of walking in through the flats of the community's riverfront.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of private property, design; engineering, and construction of cartway, sidewalks, signage and enhancements.

Design Standards Recommendations

Objective 1.8: Introduce streetscape enhancements along Oak Street

To enhance the appeal of an extended Oak Street additional trees should be placed, where possible, along the east side of Oak Street.

ACTION PLAN: design, engineer, and install new sidewalks and curb landing

Objective 1.9: Install sidewalks along Harry Street

From Elm Street to Washington Street, new sidewalks should be installed for safe and secure access to the Stoddard Avenue and Washington Street rail crossing.

ACTION PLAN: design, engineer, and install new sidewalks curb landing

Objective 1.10: Introduce streetscape enhancements along Washington Street

To enhance the appeal of an existing and proposed extended Washington Street, trees, landscaping and lighting should adorn the rail line side of Washington Street with sidewalks, trees, lighting and benches improving the opposite side.

ACTION PLAN: secure agreements with rail; design, engineer, and install enhancements.

Goal 2: Connect Our Trails

The following recommendations establish connections between existing trails, upgrade trail facilities and amenities and unify wayfinding and safety standards throughout the riverfront study area.

Land Use Recommendations

Objective 2.1: Establish the Schuylkill Riverfront Park and Walking Path

Routinely called the “Walking Path” this trail is meant to be used for leisurely walks and enjoyment of the river and adjacent land uses and amenities. It has been hoped, according to previous plans and regulatory decisions of Whitemarsh and Conshohocken, that this path would not be used for intensive bicycling or vigorous exercise. It will be for those enjoying a slower pace along the river.

Guaranteed by the ordinances and development agreements of each municipality, the path should be placed not higher from the river than 100 feet from the river’s edge. Existing business owners and developers have attempted to comply, but without uniform design or promotion. With a new Riverfront Park proposed, the path will be incorporated exciting new park features and become a major link between areas of recreation, art, music, food, trains, and business.

ACTION PLAN: coordinate with existing landowners; establish use agreements or easements; plan, design and bid. Some grant funds available.

Objective 2.2: Establish the Lee Street Loop

The Lee Street Loop will be a new walking, running and bicycling loop to connect Schuylkill River Trail users with main street Conshohocken and provide a new connection to the Cross County Trail. When complete, it will be a nearly 3-mile loop. The route taken uses a gentler slope and will even allow a greater number of commuters to walk or bicycle to each train station.

From a point of beginning, in Whitemarsh Township, the “Lee Street Loop” will travel north, from the Schuylkill River Trail, along Lee Street, to Spring Mill Avenue, heading west across Fayette Street to West 1st Avenue, to the end of the street, then south along a new switchback ramp to Colwell Lane. Users can then continue the loop by travelling east on the Schuylkill River Trail.

ACTION PLAN: painted bike lanes, street crossings, signage, switchback ramp

Objective 2.3: Install primary and secondary trailheads

A trailhead is simply a dedicated location for beginning one’s trail journey. It should include parking as well as stationary and portable maps of the trail. If the trail is heavily used, restrooms, rest areas and other park amenities are also recommended. A well-designed trailhead promotes the trail experience as well as the community’s other important assets.

Conshohocken and Whitemarsh residents and visitors have access to one of the most heavily used trail systems in the region (of the four trail systems along the river, in Conshohocken and Whitemarsh, the Schuylkill River Trail has nearly 1,600 daily users). Yet no specific trailhead exists for any portion of the system.

Primary Trailheads

Three primary trailheads are recommended for the study area. They are considered primary because they offer parking for large volume trail use, a variety of mapping & signage, restrooms, and rest areas. While they are located specifically to balance the study area, they also service segments of external trail systems suspected to have few if any trailhead amenities.

The Trailhead at Spring Mill

This trailhead would be located at the terminus of Center Street in the village of Spring Mill. With careful design, this trailhead could be celebrated as an exemplary trailhead with parking, restrooms, a rest area and playground for a very large population of users. Additionally, it is immediately adjacent the Schuylkill River Trail and would require no road crossing by pedestrians or cyclists.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of private property required, development of trailhead. Grant funds are available

The Trailhead at Colwell Road (aka Colwell Lane)

For improved use of the Cross County Trail and the Schuylkill River Trail this trailhead would offer parking, restrooms and a pedestrian bridge over the Plymouth Creek.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of private property, development of trailhead. Grant funds are available

Monument to Industry

Cherry Street begins at the edge of the Schuylkill River. This location offers the opportunity to install trailhead visitor drop off and a rest area for The Walking Path. It is also an ideal location for an artistic monument celebrating the riverfront history and especially its users. On street parking is available.

ACTION PLAN: design, engineer, and grade for new vehicle turnaround and placement of monument.

Secondary Trailheads

Three secondary trailheads are recommended to offer simple staging of cars or bicycles along the Schuylkill River Trail and to access the PECO right of way between Sherry Lake and Spring Mill County Park.

Quaker Quick Trail

Located at the Quaker Chemical offices, at the intersection of Sandy Street and East Elm Street, this trailhead could offer improved landscaping and simple signage at a new entrance of the trail. No parking would be allowed, just simple pedestrian use.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of trail easement, with potential for conservation easement, installation of safety bollards, and signage.

Elm Street Square

Using the existing parking lot of the Elm Street Square office building, located at 375 East Elm Street (with additional access via Cherry Street and Popular Street), this trailhead could offer a landscaped entrance with simple signage as well as lighting and an emergency call center. Current trail planning suggests access to major trails should not be limited to street intersections, but also where pedestrians tend to pause and gather for wayfinding.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of trail easement, use agreement, design and construction of trail opening and park bench area, signage, lighting and call box. Grants are available.

PECO Park and Walk

With an entrance immediately across the Hector Street-Spring Mill parking lot, dedicated pervious parking will be available to users of the Schuylkill River Trail or the proposed boardwalk through the PECO right-of-way to Spring Mill County Park, especially during business hours (currently posted as unavailable for park and trail users) in the Spring Mill parking lot.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of acreage or access and use agreement, development of trailhead parking, establish street crossing and signage. Grants are available.

Objective 2.4: Design and install the boardwalk at Spring Mill Park

A boardwalk, beginning at the entrance of the Spring Mill parking lot on Hector Street, will work its way south through wetlands and woodlands to the proposed trailhead at Spring Mill. It will descend almost 800 feet from its beginning with users enjoying nature viewing opportunities and an overlook station with interpretive signage for the existing habitat. The boardwalk design will meet ADA standards to ensure individuals who are differently-abled can enjoy the habitat as well. Materials to be used will meet the most current green and sustainable design specifications.

ACTION PLAN: secure trail or access and use easements or agreements from Montgomery County as well as PECO, design and install boardwalk. Grants are available.

Design Standards Recommendations

Objective 2.5: Improve safety features: crossings, lighting and emergency stations

For improved visibility and physical safety of trail users, each street crossing for the Schuylkill River Trail, the Walking Path and in specific locations of the Lee Street Loop should be improved to consistent design standards throughout the Study Area. New lighting along the Schuylkill River Trail and in key locations for the Cross County Trail and Spring Mill County Park and proposed Lee Street Loop will improve safety and unify design features of the trail system in the Study Area. Emergency Stations will offer non-cellular device contact with local police, fire and emergency services.

ACTION PLAN: conduct a study of emergency station placement, design, engineer, and bid street crossing, permitting included. Some grant funds available.

Objective 2.6: Improve trailside landscaping

The Schuylkill River Trail and the Cross County Trail will have thousands of trail users and visitors per month for the foreseeable few years. To offer a more pleasant experience through the Study Area, and potentially offer residents and trail users the opportunity to adopt-a-mile, the trailside will be designed and landscaped using a variety of low maintenance native plant species and select ornamental plants meant to offer seasonal color. Additionally, plant selections will address safety concerns for plant height and visibility.

ACTION PLAN: conduct plant study of existing trail systems, prepare base map, schematic design and construction planning of landscaping of trail segments.

Goal 3: Make Our Riverfront a Destination

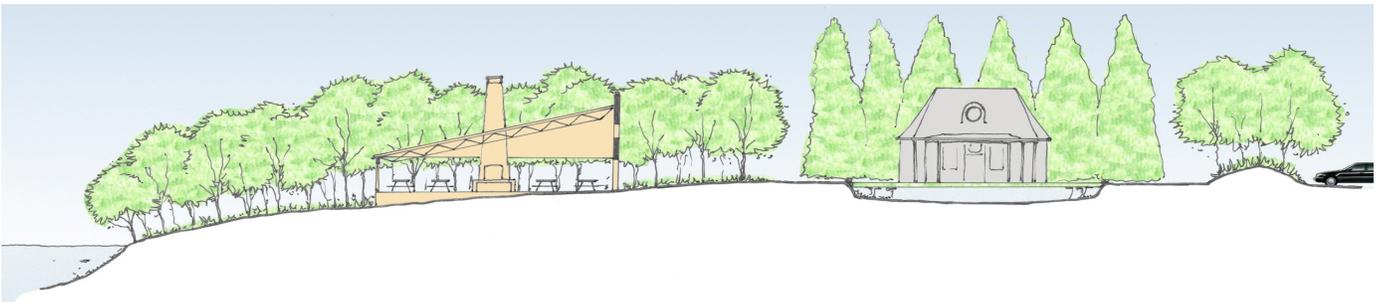
The following recommendations encourage each municipality to work closely with each other and the business community to create a more vibrant riverfront.

Land Use Recommendations

Objective 3.1: Establish Canal History Center and Park

At the western boundary of the Study Area and along the river, a linear water park, in the design of a typical industrial-era canal, will offer seasonal passive and active recreation, with ample areas to sit and enjoy spring and summer remote control boating and youth fishing events followed by wintertime ice skating and festivals. A Canal History Center will offer static, video and graphic celebration of the riverfront's historical usage, sheltered gathering areas for tours, and public restrooms. Two additional pavilions will sit by the water's edge available for picnics and gatherings.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of private property, design, and engineering of park elements including access road with tree-lined parking. Grant funds are available.



The canal restoration, Canal History Museum, and Pavilions provide a link to the historic riverfront and important recreation opportunities

Objective 3.2: Establish Oak Street Athletic Fields

Active recreation uses located between the river and rail lines, and at the terminus of Oak Street, could include two regulation soccer fields, or multi-use fields, end to end, and two tennis courts, depending on demand analysis. Solar panel covered parking will shade vehicles and generate energy to offset evening lighting. The Schuylkill River Walking Path will be accessible via the newly created Oak Street River Link and offer river's edge walks and riverbank fishing.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of private property, design and engineering of parking, ball fields and paths. Conduct recreation demand analysis. Grant funds are available.



The Oak Street Athletic Fields meet active recreation needs and provide space for special events and festivals

Objective 3.3: Create Two Boroughs Bridge

Suspended under the Fayette Street Bridge a pedestrian bridge will link the boroughs of Conshohocken and West Conshohocken. Within artistic-sculptural design, pedestrians will move freely between ADA-accessible ramps and approaches, and enjoy long vistas of the river upstream and downstream.

ACTION PLAN: complete engineering feasibility study, establish joint municipal agreements with state agencies, and secure financial support. Establish authority and special area districts such as Transit Revitalization Investment Districts and secure support funding.



Objective 3.4: Create Ash Street “upper level” elevated plaza

Restaurants and boutique retail will look out over the river from elevated over-parking plazas. Special events and outside dining will enjoy seasonal art displays and music with select plantings and seating helping to define use areas. The Schuylkill River Park Walking Path will approach and pass the plazas with opportunities to engage these shared spaces via ADA-accessible ramps.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of expanded use and trail easements, shared management agreements, design and engineering, establish Business Improvement District. Revisions to municipal ordinances may be required.



Ash Street Elevated Plaza overlooking existing parking. This creates space for restaurants above the flood plain.

Objective 3.5: Install Ash Street cantilevered overlook

At the river’s edge terminus of Ash Street, and within view of Spring Mill Avenue, a platform style overlook will cantilever above the river offering long distance views of the river and spectator enjoyment of boating and potential water events.

ACTION PLAN: feasibility studies required, engineering, and cost analyses; funding strategies needed.

Objective 3.6: Create Millennium Meadow

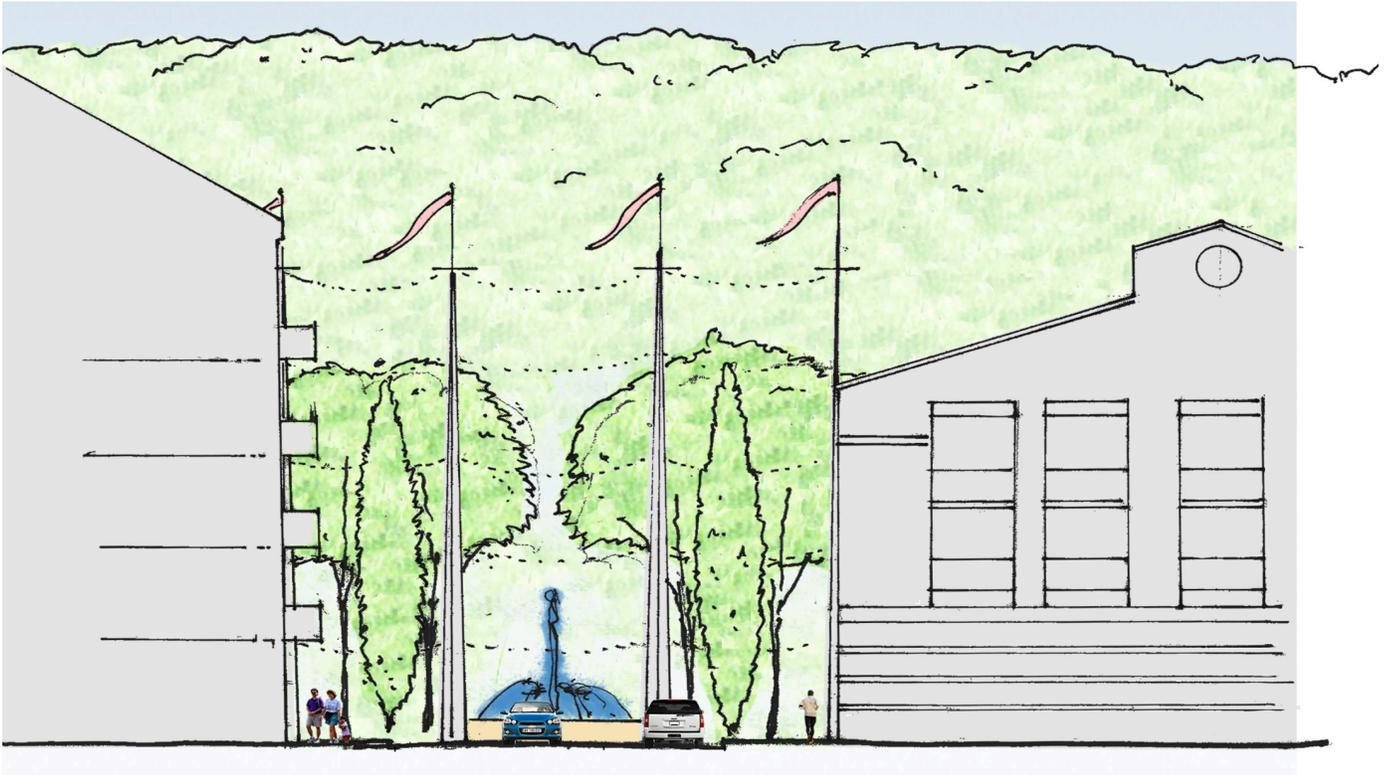
Tucked behind the existing Millennium offices, open field and meadow river viewing will be available to users of the Walking Path with a dual use circular ramp offering pedestrians access to an elevated plaza or kayakers access to the river. Vehicular Turnaround/Drop-off will be located at the river’s terminus of Poplar Street.

ACTION PLAN: use and trail easements, design and engineering of plaza and river ramp, design and engineering of vehicular turnaround. Establishment of Business Improvement District with shared use, management, and financing agreements.

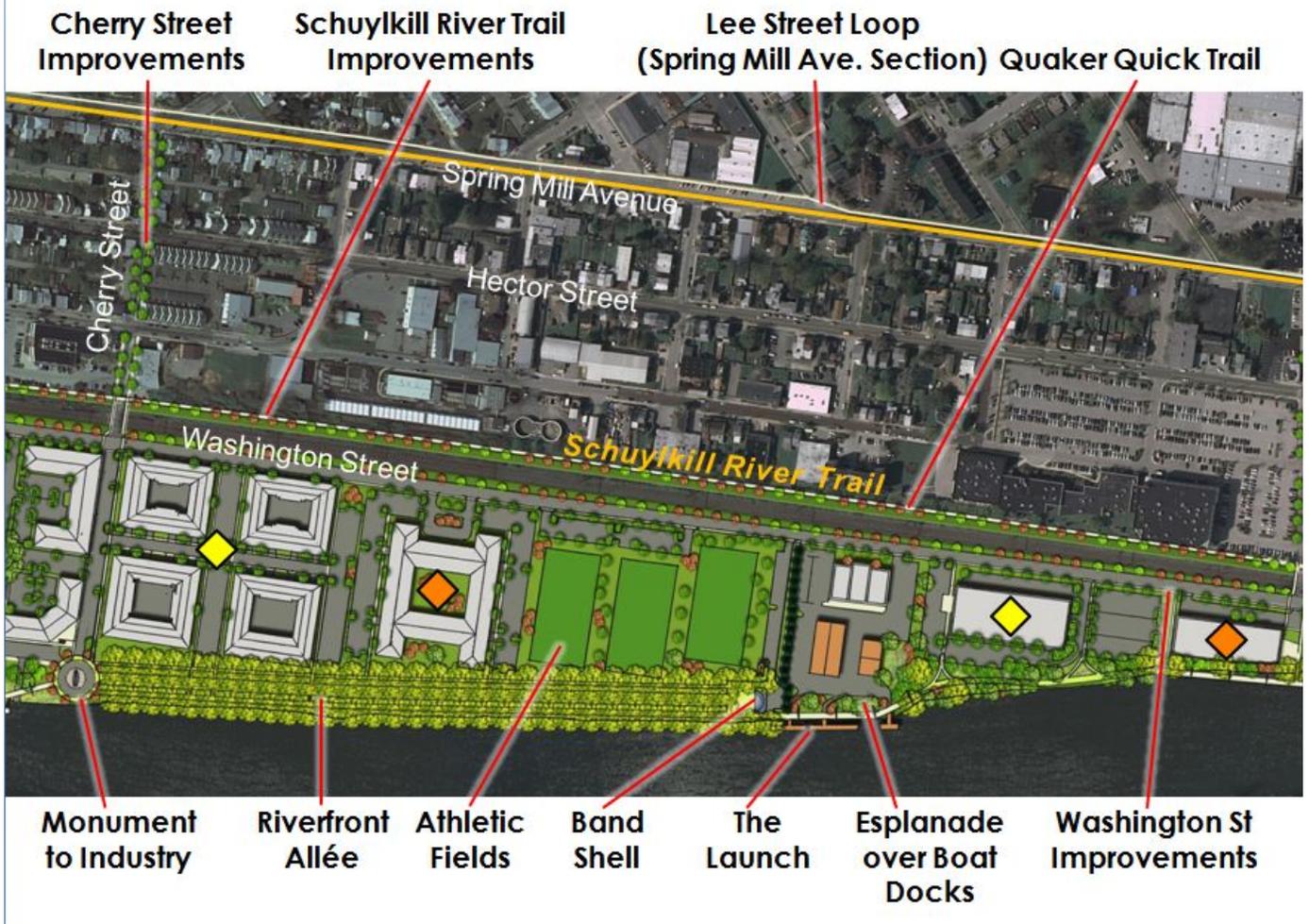
Objective 3.7: Install Poplar Street Riverfront banners and fountain

At the river's terminus of Poplar Street, and within view of Spring Mill Avenue, vertical flags and banners will blow in the river valley wind attracting residents and visitors to the river. A fountain within the vehicular turnaround will offer acoustic and visual relief from a busy workday or a meeting destination for friends.

ACTION PLAN: engineering and cost analysis; possible use of municipal fees-in-lieu-of.



The banners, lights, and fountains at the terminus of Poplar Street link with the residential neighborhoods



Objective 3.8: Install Boathouse suspended boardwalk

The Schuylkill River Walking Path will float above the ramps and docks of the existing Conshohocken Boathouse and offer pedestrians special views of team practice and potential boat races.

ACTION PLAN: engineering and cost analyses needed. Limited grant funds may be available.

Objective 3.9: *Install Monument to Industry*

Located at the river terminus of Cherry Street, *the Monument to Industry* celebrates, through its artistic design and informational signage, the history of the riverfront's industrial past. The height of the monument will capture the awe of visitors, offer a significant visual aid to wayfinding along the Walking Path and from far up the length of Cherry Street, and double as secondary trailhead with vehicular turnaround and drop-off, and sculptural seating options. To ensure enjoyment by visitors of all ages, an exciting kinetic video screen could capture the movements of visitors and Walking Path users.

ACTION PLAN: design, engineer, and grade for new vehicle turnaround and placement of monument.

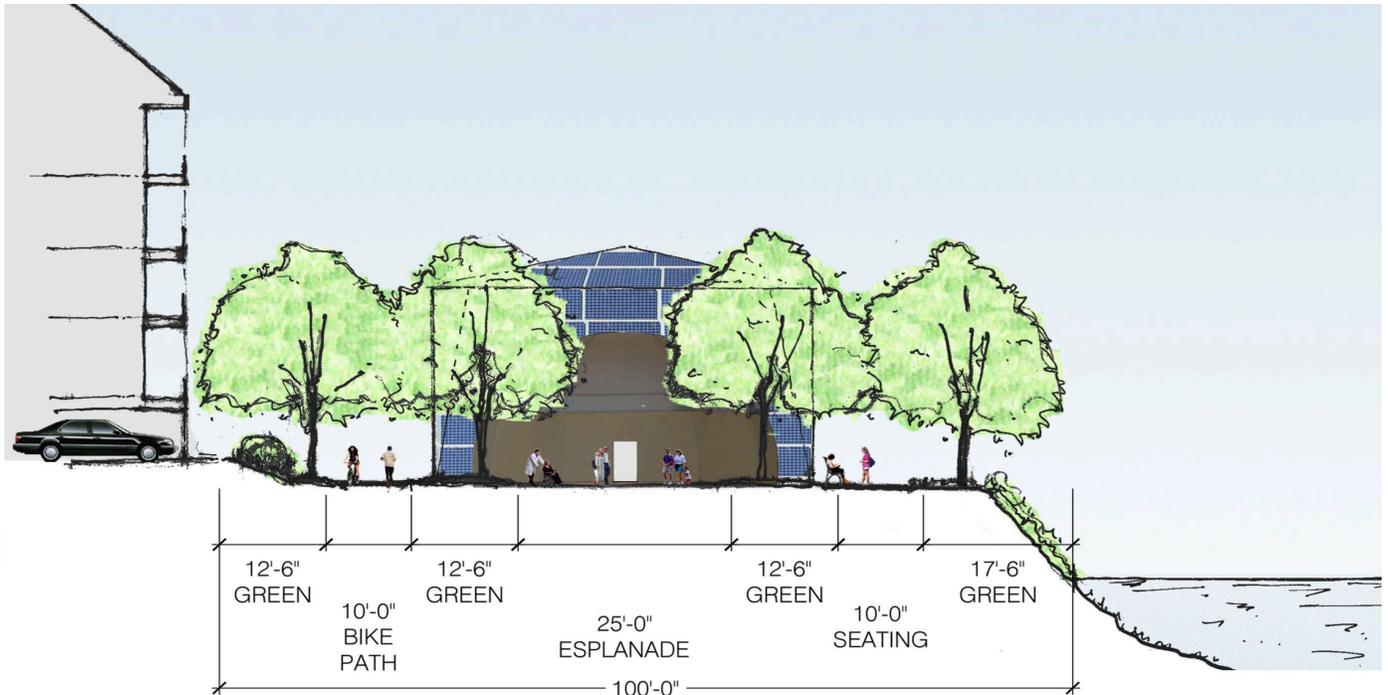


The Monument to Industry is an interactive video display that creates an important focal point at the terminus of the River Allée

Objective 3.10: Create Schuylkill River Allée

Reminiscent of the great parks of the world, an allée of Sycamore trees will be created along the edge of the Schuylkill River. From Cherry Street, heading toward Spring Mill, Walking Path users will stroll along a pathway 2,000 feet in length and 30 feet wide, enjoying views of the river, shade from the Sycamores, and rows of seasonal art and farmers market stands. At the eastern end of the allée sits a performing arts band shell with stage front space for spectators.

ACTION PLAN: acquisition of trail easements, design and planting of allée, user agreements between municipalities, farmers market, and artist community.



The River Allée includes a wide esplanade that will function as a space for craft fairs, farmers markets, municipal festivals, etc.

Objective 3.11: Install band shell

A band shell for performing arts, such as small musical bands, storytellers, and poets will sit at the eastern end of an allée of Sycamore trees. Stage front space will accommodate spectator lawn chairs and picnic blankets

ACTION PLAN: amend trail buffer use agreements or acquire easements, design, and install band shell. Some grant funds available.

Objective 13.2: Establish Washington Street soccer field

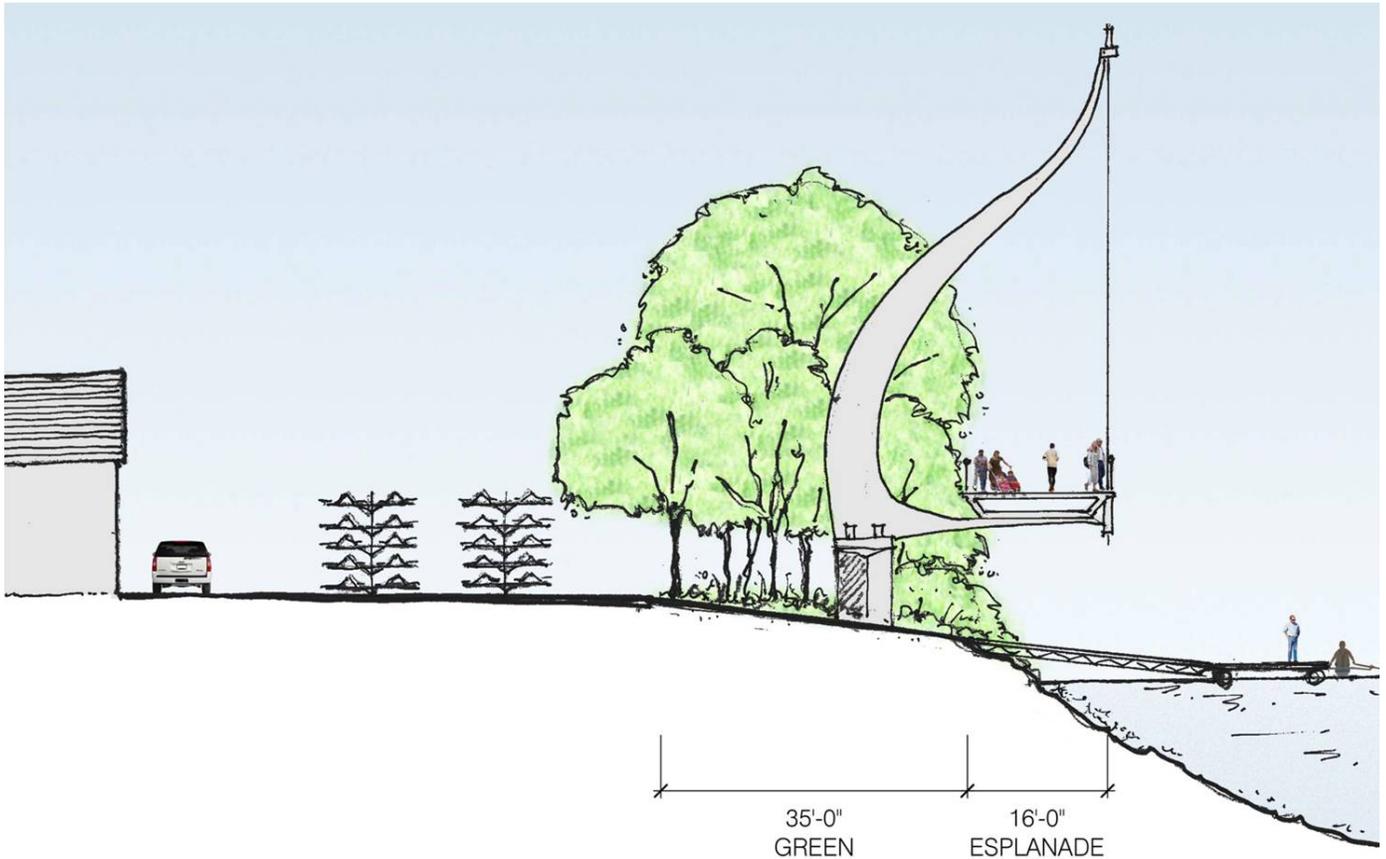
A multi-use athletic field primarily used for soccer will sit adjacent the allée of Sycamore trees, and between Washington Street and the Schuylkill River. Access and parking from Washington Street will be after-hours gated or by paid parking.

ACTION PLAN: acquire and subdivide existing private property or negotiate alternative development plan for existing undeveloped acreage. Grant funds available.

Objective 3.13: *Install suspended walking path at Rowing Center*

The Hines Rowing Center has a long tradition of accessing the Schuylkill River for team and individual boating practice. The members of the boathouse additionally are regarded as great stewards of the river. To ensure their continued unimpeded focus on their sport and to offer views of their well-maintained riverbank, the Walking Path will lift off the ground and carry pedestrians over the river's edge by way of a suspended boardwalk.

ACTION PLAN: negotiate use or trail agreements, design, engineer, and build suspended boardwalk Walking Path.



The riverfront Esplanade is suspended over the boat clubs to avoid conflicts with the valuable rowing boats



Lee Street Loop (Lee St. Section)

*Pedestrian Trail,
Signage to Conshohocken*

Schuylkill River Trail Improvements

*Landscape Beautification,
Street Crossing, Signage*

Suspended Walking Path

*Cantilevered-contemporary design, Steel
& Cable Construction, Lighting*

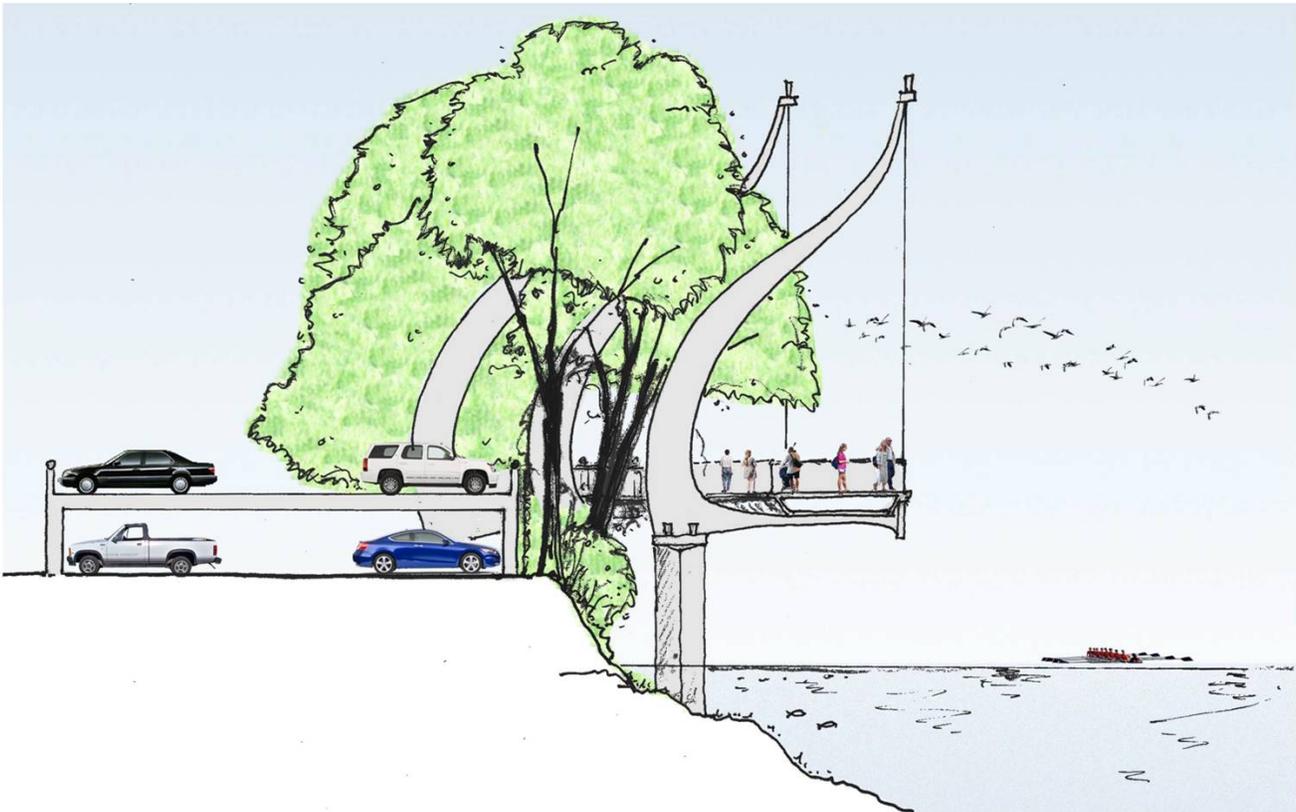
Washington Street Extension

*Streetscape Beautification, Extension
Two Lane, Signage, Sidewalks, RE-
Development of Existing Structures*

Objective 3.14: Install suspended walking path to Spring Mill Station

From the rowing center suspended boardwalk to the very end of Station Avenue, as it meets the Schuylkill River, pedestrians will walk atop the river itself and enjoy spectacular views of the bend in the river. This portion of the path will serve as yet another option for accessing or leaving the Spring Mill Station.

ACTION PLAN: negotiate use agreements with private property owners and SEPTA who lack the river frontage for a more land-based path, design, and engineer suspended boardwalk Walking Path.

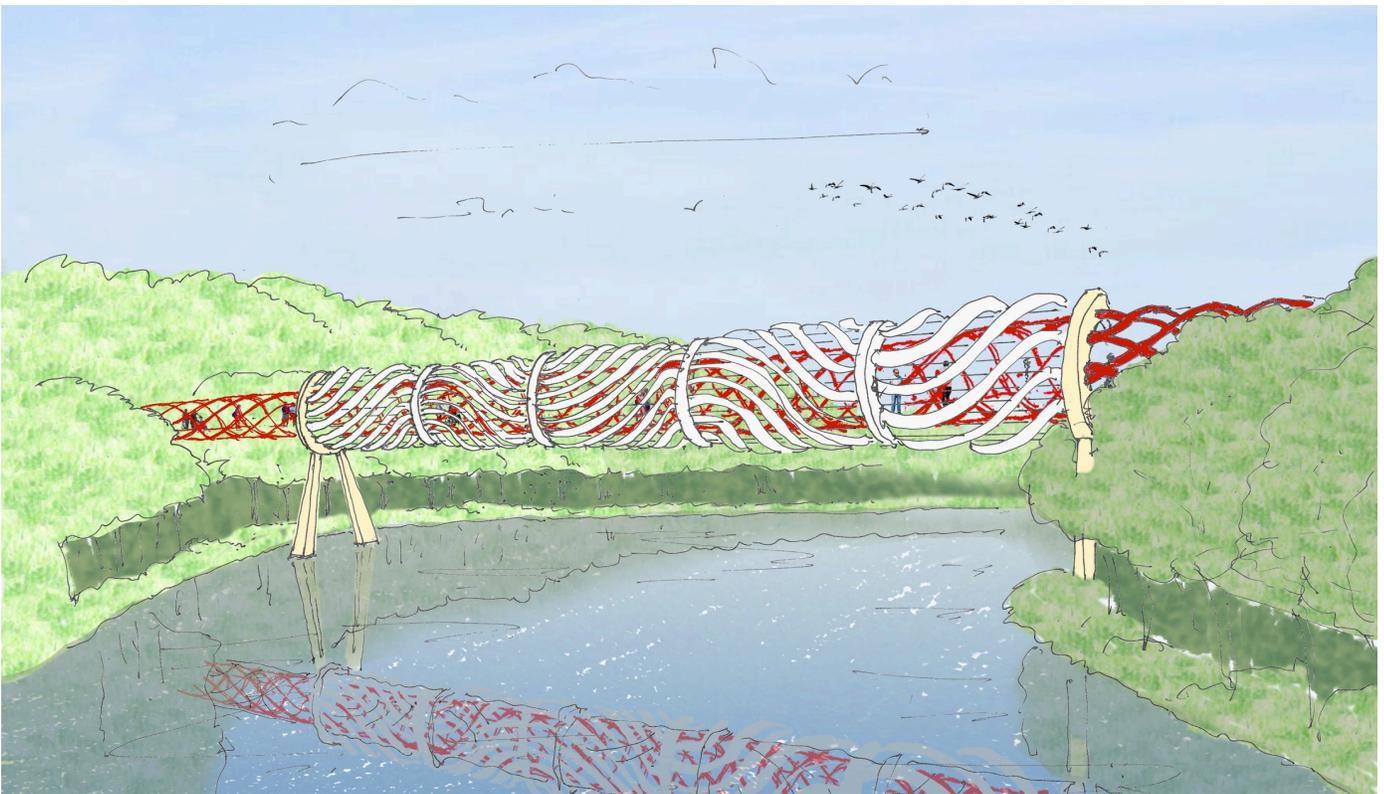


Suspending the Esplanade over river allows for a continuous link where there is insufficient room between the parking garage and the river

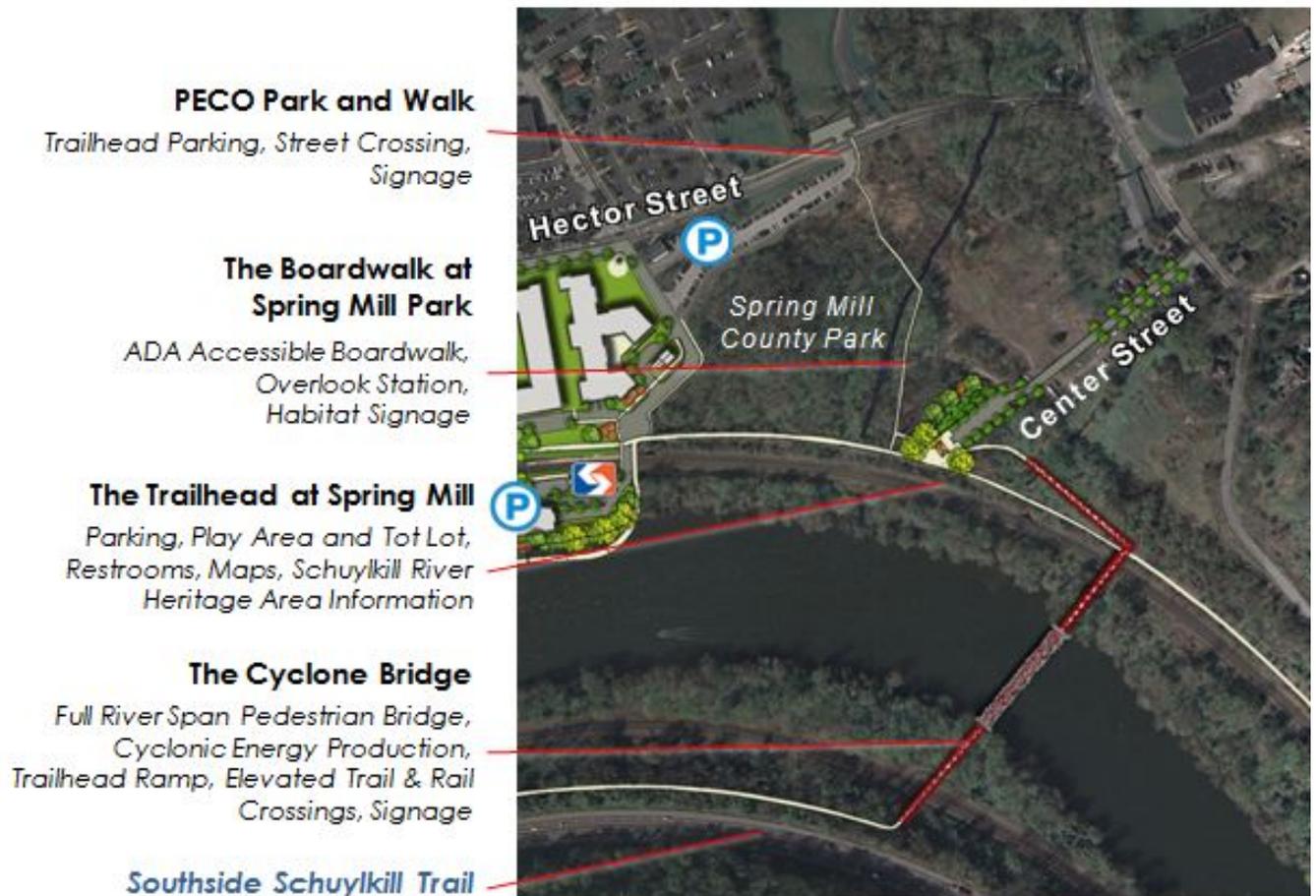
Objective 3.15: Install The Cyclone Bridge with Turbines

From upstream and downstream, from the hills of Conshohocken and Whitemarsh and from West Conshohocken Borough and from Route 76, a river-spanning pedestrian bridge will spin its wind turbines in the winds of the river valley. Cylindrical in shape, the bridge will carry pedestrians from either side of the Schuylkill River, at a location lacking cross-river connections, to walking trails and trailheads. At the proposed Trailhead at Spring Mill, an ADA-accessible ramp will gradually bring bridge visitors to the elevated views of the river. Cyclonic wind turbines will generate electricity and match the movement of the river. Pedestrians will arrive at the banks of Lower Merion Township and West Conshohocken's trail system with simple at grade ADA-accessible ramping.

ACTION PLAN: feasibility analyses, coordination with state and local municipalities and agencies, partnership with utility company.



The Cyclone Bridge is a unique feature designed to create an exciting focal point and destination at the bend of the Schuylkill River



Design Standards Recommendations

Objective 3.16: Install directional signage and emergency information

At various locations throughout the community and especially throughout the riverfront area, additional directional signage is needed. As a destination riverfront, the main features or seasonal events and celebrations should be highlighted.

ACTION PLAN: uniform and coordinated design, engineering, permitting and placement. Some funding exists.

Objective 3.17: Establish seasonal lighting package for pedestrian bridges

In the fashion of metropolitan bridges and for the continued enjoyment of the unique features of the proposed pedestrian bridges, lighting packages should be changed from season to season and for special celebrations.

ACTION PLAN: feasibility analyses; possible municipal partnership

Objective 3.18: Establish a Business Improvement District (BID)

Businesses within a defined area of the riverfront, on both sides of the river, could help to fund improvement projects to meet the Goals of the Riverfront Plan. West Conshohocken Borough will have much to gain from the changes to the other side of the water meant to make the riverfront a destination. As such, West Conshohocken, Conshohocken, and Whitemarsh businesses would agree to an assessed levy to support making the capital improvements, trail and path installation, streetscape enhancements, and maintenance of the Schuylkill River Park. Local BIDs include Ardmore, King of Prussia and Abington Township.

ACTION PLAN: form a multi-municipal task force to study the formation of a BID, form non-profit organization and establish annual funding.

Objective 3.19: Establish a Transit Revitalization Investment District (TRID)

Legislative support, funding and tax relief exists for planning and implementing transit-oriented development. Here, transit agencies participate in public-private partnerships to introduce capital projects and make infrastructure improvements equally beneficial to the agency and municipality. Local TRIDs have been prepared for Lower Merion Township and Ambler Borough.

ACTION PLAN: form a multi-municipal task force to determine viability of a TRID, complete the required study needed to define TRID boundary and rationale, form management entity to oversee implementation and establish financial strategies for making improvements.

Objective 3.20: Establish Modified Riverfront Overlay District

To provide for a uniform set of development outcomes along the riverfront area in Conshohocken and Whitemarsh, zoning and subdivision and land development ordinance language could be overlaid with one additional Schuylkill River Park district. Proposed development in this district will take comfort in relief from disharmony potentially caused by different adjacent standards.

This modified overlay district could support adjustments to incentives offered to building density and massing in one municipality and inconsistent language in the other. Each existing district would receive acknowledgement of residential uses within districts and standardize the submission of proposals, especially requirements for lot area per dwelling unit.

ACTION PLAN: planning commission review of existing zoning ordinance language regarding residential density, bonuses, and inconsistency or lack thereof

Goal 4: Meet Our Recreation & Open Space Needs

Previously stated recommendations for The Riverfront Plan which incorporate outdoor recreation and open space preservation are enhanced here directly.

Objective 4.1: Prepare a Joint Municipal Park and Recreation Needs Analysis

Whitemarsh Township and Conshohocken Borough residents share the riverfront experience and additionally share their broader community recreation amenities. With the addition of nearly 1,000 residents to the riverfront area, the available parks and recreation facilities should be studied for their ability to meet the needs of the entire community.

ACTION PLAN: joint planning agreement or grant agreement. Grants available

Goal 5: Provide Opportunities for Economic Development

To expand on recommendations meant to establish the riverfront as a ‘Destination,’ Whitemarsh and Conshohocken should provide opportunities for public and private partnerships, encourage compatible economic development strategies and jointly market the events and activities scheduled for the riverfront.

Objective 5.1: Create a riverfront events and activities marketing coordinator position

For larger gatherings, concerts, seasonal festivals, tournaments and outdoor competitions, such as dog shows, a full-time position of employment should be created and the cost jointly shared by Whitemarsh and Conshohocken to promote and coordinate these events.

ACTION PLAN: conduct analysis of similar retail district and conference center coordinator positions; establish municipal cost agreement

Objective 5.2: Establish small vendor rules and procedures

For the temporary installation of farmer’s markets, arts and crafts stations, and food trucks, both municipalities should agree to standards of business behavior for the riverfront.

ACTION PLAN: prepare municipal agreement and rules and procedures

Goal 6: Incorporate Sustainable Design Initiatives

Improvements to the riverfront should be recognized as leading examples in sustainable design. Simple techniques such as porous pavement, green roofs, renewable energy, habitat restoration and materials recycling should become standard. Creative use of green practices should be encouraged and celebrated.

Objective 6.1: Create incentive program for use of green practices

Approvals of green projects should be given special circumstance reviews.

ACTION PLAN: analyze: riparian rights, ecology and programs; amend ordinances