

II. Review of Previous Plans

Summary: the following documents were reviewed for their relevance to The Riverfront Plan, a joint study of the shared riverfront of Whitemarsh Township and Conshohocken Borough, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Each municipality has, over the years, analyzed various aspects of its community use and enjoyment of the Schuylkill River.

Whitemarsh Township

Whitemarsh Township Open Space Plan 1996 (per Audit 2006 Open Space Plan)

Whitemarsh Township Comprehensive Plan 2003

- **Economic Development and Commerce Objective #2:** Establish a dialogue with the Borough of Conshohocken concerning the riverfront industrial area and its redevelopment
- **Economic Development and Commerce Objective #3:** Encourage the redevelopment of vacant industrial sites with development that is compatible with surrounding uses
- **Transportation Objective #1:** Coordinate with SEPTA and the County to improve the existing transit service
- **Transportation Objective #3:** Work to implement the Montgomery County/DVRPC Bicycle Mobility Program
- **Transportation Objective #4:** Implement the pedestrian trails and sidewalk connections detailed in Chapters 8 and 10 (of the 2006 Open Space Plan)
- **Natural and Historic Resources Objective #6:** Revise the parking standards in the Zoning Ordinance to promote shared parking and parking held in reserve to limit impervious surface coverage in parking lots
- **Open Space and Recreation Objective # 1(3):** Develop a passive recreational facility on the Schuylkill River at the county's Spring Mill Park
- **Open Space and Recreation Objective #3:** Ensure all major residential developments have convenient and safe access to open space areas
- **Open Space and Recreation Objective #6:** Promote linked greenways through the use of riparian corridors, woodlands and designated open space areas
- **Open Space and Recreation Objective # 8 & 9:** Pursue funding strategies to increase the townships open space fund & Adopt the Mandatory Land Dedication or Fee-in-Lieu... to ensure that new parkland is created or existing recreation need receive funding as part of the land development process
- **Housing Objective #4:** Allow a variety of housing types, such as multifamily, townhouse, and live/work units in the riverfront development area

2006 Roadway Analysis & Transportation CIP

Improvements: Install North Lane and Hector Street East Bound right-turn lane, through lanes and modify traffic signal at intersection.

Whitemarsh Township Open Space Plan 2006

- **Township-Wide Policy 1(5):** Pursue any and all zoning changes that will promote the retention of open space;
- **Township-Wide Policy 2:** Provide a comprehensive network of on- and off-street trails throughout the Township linking residents to recreational, commercial and natural resources;
- **Township-Wide Policy 2(2):** Wherever and whenever the opportunity arises, establish feeder trails to link residents to the Township's major trails;
- **Township-Wide Policy 6:** Put in place the appropriate capital and financing infrastructure to support the Township's long-term open space plans;
- **Riverfront Open Space District Priority Action (1):** Approve the Schuylkill Redevelopment District intended to control future development along the river;
- **Riverfront Open Space District Priority Action (3):** In cooperation with Montgomery County, pursue acquisition of the scrap yard property that links the two parts of the County-owned Spring Mill Park;
- **Riverfront Open Space District Priority Action (4):** Create a natural buffer, with a walking trail or promenade, along the river between Conshohocken Borough and Spring Mill Park;
- **Riverfront Open Space District Priority Action (5):** Create access for non-motorized boats in the Spring Mill Park vicinity of the river;
- **Riverfront Open Space District Priority Action (6):** Pursue opportunities as they arise to preserve and restore the natural ecology of the riverfront.

Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2007

- **Goal 1: Site Specific Recommendation #7:** Partner with Montgomery County to master plan and improve Spring Mill Park-This would also include developing a strategy to acquire adjacent 200 Center Street parcel (scrap yard) for parking and access area;
- **Goal 1: Special Use Facilities #1:** Create a high-quality facility for the Community Arts Center;
- **Goal 1: Special Use Facilities #2:** Develop a soccer complex;
- **Goal 1: Special Use Facilities #4:** Develop facilities for current and emerging user needs;
- **Goal 1: Special Use Facilities #5:** Enhance access to the Schuylkill River;
- **Goal 1: Protection of Natural Areas:** Provide trails and greenways to connect natural area, community destinations, and parks and provide for long distance recreation activities;
- **Goal 2:Objective 5–Recreation Opportunities:** Create facilities such as pathways, indoor recreation, the riverfront and scenic natural areas to entice people to participate.

Whitemarsh Township Greenway Plan 2007

- **General:** work with adjacent township to connect the greenway, trails and sidewalks;
- **Land Protection/Property Acquisition:**
 - Adopt an Official Map;
 - Obtain conservation easements;
 - Pursue grant funding;
- **Land Use Management:**
 - Prepare an annual budget for greenway and trail development, management, operation and maintenance;
 - Create a historic resource overlay zoning district to protect and preserve historic structures and resources;
 - Create a Transfer of Development Rights program;
- **Land Stewardship:**
 - Pursue grant funding from Department of Environmental Protection for stream bank restoration projects, including the establishment of riparian buffer areas, removal of invasive vegetation species, and tree planting along stream banks;
 - Perform streambank restoration projects along Township waterways;
 - Develop Township and County trails as recommended by the Township Trail Master Plan and the County;
- **Trail Recommendations:**
 - Pursue grant funding for the development of trail facilities, pathways, sidewalks, and bike lanes as recommended in the Township Open Space and Trails plans;
 - Create a recreational greenway along the Schuylkill River;
- **Miquon/Riverfront District Conservation and Recreation Greenway:**
 - Establish multi-use greenway through direct acquisition of conservation easements and land with environmental assessments conducted prior with specific properties taking priority—200 Center Street, East 33 Property, Ashford Farms and PECO transmission line.

Whitemarsh Township Pedestrian & Bicycle Network Plan 2009

Recommended network: provide a multi-use trail, bike lanes and sidewalk links from all neighborhoods in the Township to all schools, parks and recreational facilities, commercial areas, and other common destinations, with bicycle parking, transit carrying systems, and traffic, safety and way-finding signage and techniques.

2011 Riverfront Open Space Plan

● **Trail Related:**

- 1) Develop a multi-use trail along the river
- 2) Design the RDD trail for leisurely use (different from the Schuylkill River Trail)
- 3) Develop a focal point at Spring Mill
- 4) Create trail crossings of R6 tracks
- 5) Address safety issues

● **Amenities:**

- 1) Provide a restroom facility
- 2) Install River-Related Art
- 3) Consider the installation of a water screen
- 4) Install overlooks
- 5) Provide a civic gather space

● **Water Use:**

- 1) Install boat launches
- 2) Initiate water tours
- 3) Install fishing piers

● **Public Safety:**

- 1) Provide locations for water drafting for fire-fighting
- 2) Provide security lighting
- 3) Provide security-posts with emergency phones
- 4) Design for emergency vehicles

● **Environmental Concern:**

- 1) Alert potential developers of environmental concerns

● **Circulation:**

- 1) Extend Washington Street
- 2) Explore potential river crossing

● **Signage:**

- 1) Provide way-finding signage
- 2) Install interpretive stations/signage

● **Landscaping:**

- 1) Creation/restoration of riparian buffer landscaping
- 2) Restore habitat on 'East 33'
- 3) Provide beautification and landscape enhancements

● **Service Uses:**

- 1) Provide additional public parking
- 2) Provide opportunities for bike and/or boat facilities

Conshohocken Borough

Historic Resource Survey 1989

Conshohocken Revitalization Plan: *A Community at the Crossroads*, 2002

(priority given its update: “The Community Revisited” see below)

Parking Management Study 2004

Schuylkill Riverfront Linkages Study 2005/2015

- Signage and Wayfinding at [key] locations
- Railroad Crossings at Harry, Ash, and Cherry Streets
- Destination Amenities: dog park, boathouses, concessions, promenade, picnic areas, small plazas, lighting underneath Fayette Street Bridge

Park and Recreation Plan 2007

- **Goal:** Provide recreational open space amenities to meet the current and future needs of Borough as noted in the Open Space Plan and Comprehensive Plan—as the borough grows it is important to monitor current and future trends in recreation to ensure that the Borough is able to plan for and meet future recreational needs and ensure that the Borough continues to provide athletic fields, courts, dog runs, and other active recreation areas by planning new and expanding or upgrading existing park and recreational areas;
- **Goal:** Provide accessible parks to residents throughout the Borough—create safe, pedestrian-focused linkages to parks for accessibility, undertake urban greening activities throughout the Borough and provide sidewalk and trail access to recreation facilities and parks (Montgomery County Goal 15);
- **Goal:** Upgrade existing facilities and issue accessibility and accommodation to active recreation—design parks, playing fields and open spaces to be as accessible as possible for as many users as possible.
- **Goal:** Provide facilities that meet the Borough’s needs within the limited land available, as noted in the Montgomery County Open Space, Natural Features and Cultural Resources Plan—purchasing land, if possible, in growth areas for future use as a park.

Vision for the Conshohocken Train Station 2007/2009

Analysis, graphic design and cost projections for a new parking garage adjacent Outbound Station and to include 307 parking spaces with ground level coffee and retail at Stoddard Avenue and Elm Street.

One-Way Avenue Study 2010

Conshohocken Revitalization Plan: *The Community Revisited*, 2011

- **Economic Development**
 - Explore avenues for branding, marketing and celebrating the assets of Conshohocken

- Increase and diversify the Borough's retail supply
- Enhance the viability of the Borough's existing commercial entities through business assistance initiatives
- Ensure that Fayette Street remains a viable pedestrian-oriented commercial corridor with ample foot traffic
- Strengthen the identity of Conshohocken's downtown through aesthetic improvements
- **Housing and Neighborhood**
 - Make green and open space a priority, continue exploring opportunities to add green space and other types of communal open space throughout Conshohocken
 - Develop a master plan for the waterfront that protects this resource, particularly as the Borough continues to address future development of, and connections to and from, this unique asset
- **Transportation and Infrastructure Goals**
 - Improve connections and mobility options for all forms of travel throughout Conshohocken, for pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and drivers
 - Continue investigating ways in which to relieve congestion and improve parking supply
 - Evaluate and enhance the condition of neighborhood infrastructure with a long-term plan

Conshohocken Open Space Plan 2013

- **Develop a waterfront plan along the Schuylkill River**
- **Develop a Schuylkill River Greenway System along the Borough's riverfront**
 - Build the Schuylkill Riverbank Path
 - Build connections between the greenway/riverbank path and borough destinations
 - Restore the riparian buffer along the riverfront
 - Build a cultural and historic park along the Old Schuylkill Canal
- **Provide riverfront amenities for river recreational activities/integrate riverfront with river life**
 - Install Pedestrian Amenities Along the Riverfront
 - Build an Additional Public Access Boat Launch Along the Riverfront
 - Create Secured Boat Storage along the Schuylkill Riverfront
 - Develop a Boathouse along the Schuylkill Riverfront
- **Improve Access and Mobility Conditions for Bicyclists and Pedestrians Along the Matsonford Bridge**
 - Integrate the Matsonford Bridge with the riverfront and trail systems
 - Improve pathway conditions and amenities along the Matsonford Bridge
- **Study the Feasibility for Riverfront Access West of the Matsonford Bridge**
- **Support the Development of the Cross-Country Trail and Access Linkages**

- Review and comment on the county’s plans for developing the Cross-County Trail (CCT)
- Construct bicycle-compatible connections from the Cross-County Trail to adjacent neighborhoods and destinations
- Construct trail parking adjacent to Ardmore Tire Co.
- **Improve streetscapes and pedestrian conditions throughout the Borough**
 - Improve streetscapes in the vicinity of [key] parks
 - Repair and maintain the streetscaping elements along Hector Street
 - Incorporate street trees and neighborhood greening at various locations
 - Enhance Borough gateways
 - Implement traffic calming measures at various locations throughout the Borough
 - Install sidewalks (where missing) at various locations
- **Design and implement signage systems for waterfront wayfinding**
- **Develop a Natural Resource Protection Ordinance**
- **Investigate potential for strengthening historic preservation**
 - Encourage preservation of existing historic structures and properties within the Borough
 - Investigate the creation of a Historic Architectural Review Board
 - Create an oral history of the Borough
- **Initiate volunteer efforts within the Borough**
 - Initiate a Garden Club in the Borough
 - Form a “Friends of Conshohocken Borough”
- **Complete a Park and Recreation Needs Assessment—to determine the need for additional or improved facilities within the Borough**
- **Develop Site Master Plans for the Borough’s Parks—to identify, upgrade and formalize potential uses for the [key] parks.**
- **Encourage bicycling and walking through physical improvements and other techniques**
 - Install bicycle rack, benches, and other amenities in designated locations
 - Create incentives through zoning or other public and private financial techniques for supporting and encouraging bicycling and walking throughout the Borough
 - Plan and design a borough-wide pedestrian oriented directional signage and wayfinding system
 - Plan and create a borough-wide bicycle map
 - Develop additional pedestrian and parking access to the Schuylkill River
- **Link open space areas throughout the Borough—formalize a Walking Trail along the existing stormwater drainage basin to link 2nd Avenue Meadow and Haines and Salvati Memorial Park**

Conshohocken Borough Comprehensive Plan 2015

- **Goal:** Enhance public access to and along the Schuylkill river and provide opportunities to appreciate and preserve its unique natural resources and recreational amenities:
 - 10.1) Develop a master plan for the riverfront,
 - 10.2) Develop a Schuylkill River Greenway system,
 - 10.3) Provide riverfront amenities and recreational opportunities along the riverfront,
 - 10.4) Create easily accessible, public open spaces along the Schuylkill River,
 - 10.5) Partner with the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area to have access to new funding and marketing opportunities,
- **Goal:** Provide recreational amenities and open space amenities that will meet the current and future needs of Borough residents and visitors:
 - 10.1) Develop Parks and Recreation Master Plan and needs assessment,
 - 10.2) Support bicycle-related improvements,
 - 10.3) Improve streetscape and pedestrian conditions throughout the Borough
 - 10.6) Ensure pedestrian connections between the riverfront, downtown and residential areas.
- **Goal:** Maintain and enhance high quality, cost effective community services to attract and retain a diverse population while ensuring long-term financial stability:
 - 11.1) Improve overall public safety and create a safe, comfortable and pedestrian-oriented community.
 - 11.4) Develop a 5-year Capital Improvement Program to prioritize and coordinate essential capital and infrastructure-related projects

5 Year Infrastructure Management Plan Map 2015

State and Local Roads paved, and other yearly improvements identified

Conshohocken Revitalization Alliance: “Conshy at the Crossroads” Facebook

Ongoing dialogue regarding improving the community III.