

## Chapter 4: Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were developed to guide the development of this Plan. They will help shape the recommendations which evolve from this process and will serve as a check for the priorities which will be developed for implementing those recommendations.

### **Goal #1:**

Develop opportunities and methods for increasing public access along the Schuylkill River.

#### *Objectives:*

- ◆ Develop a continuous multi-use riverfront trail.
- ◆ Determine recommended locations for the amenities required as part of the RDD-Riverfront Development District in the Zoning Ordinance.
- ◆ Develop a comprehensive and cohesive plan for public amenities that adequately meets the needs of current and future residents and complements those amenities available in neighboring municipalities.
- ◆ Provide design guidance for the desired public amenities.
- ◆ Determine methods for overcoming access impediments along and to the Riverfront Area.
- ◆ Create opportunities for pedestrian linkages between Riverfront amenities and existing recreational facilities within the Township.
- ◆ Focus on creating a trailhead area where the proposed Urban Greenway (included in the Township's 2007 Greenway Plan) and proposed PECO trail join with the Schuylkill River Trail.
- ◆ Investigate and secure public access easements along the Riverfront where feasible.
- ◆ Investigate and secure access easements from inland locations to Riverfront trails and amenities, where feasible.

### **Goal #2:**

Enhance and preserve the natural surroundings/environment of the Riverfront area through the use of sustainable practices and standards.

#### *Objectives:*

- ◆ Review existing development ordinance requirements to ensure that land development minimizes environmental impacts and preserves existing views and vegetation along the Riverfront Area.
- ◆ Review the riparian buffer ordinance as it applies to the Riverfront Area to ensure that the provisions adequately preserve the ecosystem along the river.
- ◆ Encourage the use of green design standards for any amenities installed along the Riverfront Area.
- ◆ Encourage the use of green design standards for any development constructed in the RDD Zoning District.

## Chapter 4: Goals and Objectives

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- ◆ Encourage the protection of the Riverfront ecosystem through the use of new and innovative ideas for storm water management facilities.
- ◆ Protect the scenic views and vistas of the Schuylkill River through partnerships with developers and land owners.
- ◆ Encourage restoration in non-amenity areas of the Riverfront area.
- ◆ Investigate and secure conservation easements along the Riverfront in areas without specific amenities.

### **Goal #3:**

Coordinate the recommendations within this Riverfront Plan with those contained in other pertinent planning documents.

#### *Objectives:*

- ◆ Recommend elimination of any proposed redundant facilities contained in Whitemarsh Township plans.
- ◆ Consider the recommendations contained in applicable plans proposed by other jurisdictions.

### **Goal #4:**

Continue to develop active recreational opportunities along the Riverfront area.

#### *Objectives:*

- ◆ Develop opportunities for water-based activities, such as kayaking, canoeing, rowing, etc.
- ◆ Create synergy between riverfront uses and other recreational uses within the Township.
- ◆ Review recreational uses along the river for compatibility and to determine if they are meeting current and future needs.

### **Goal #5:**

Encourage partnerships with those municipalities that share the Riverfront with Whitemarsh Township.

#### *Objectives:*

- ◆ Ensure that trails appropriately link with those of neighboring municipalities.
- ◆ Partner with neighboring municipalities to develop joint programs for recreation in the riverfront area
- ◆ Partner with Montgomery County, SEPTA, PECO, and other organizations to develop trails and support facilities along the Riverfront.
- ◆ Coordinate with the Borough of Conshohocken on the progress and development of their Schuylkill River Greenway (included in the Borough's 2006 Open Space Plan).