

# 2020 UPDATE PHILADELPHIA TRAIL PLAN



*Image Source: Philadelphia Inquirer*





Cobbs Creek Connector A

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Schuylkill River Swing Bridge Construction | SRDC



# THE YEAR IN TRAILS

## 2020 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 2020 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, 2018 and 2019. This report features the progress made in 2019 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.

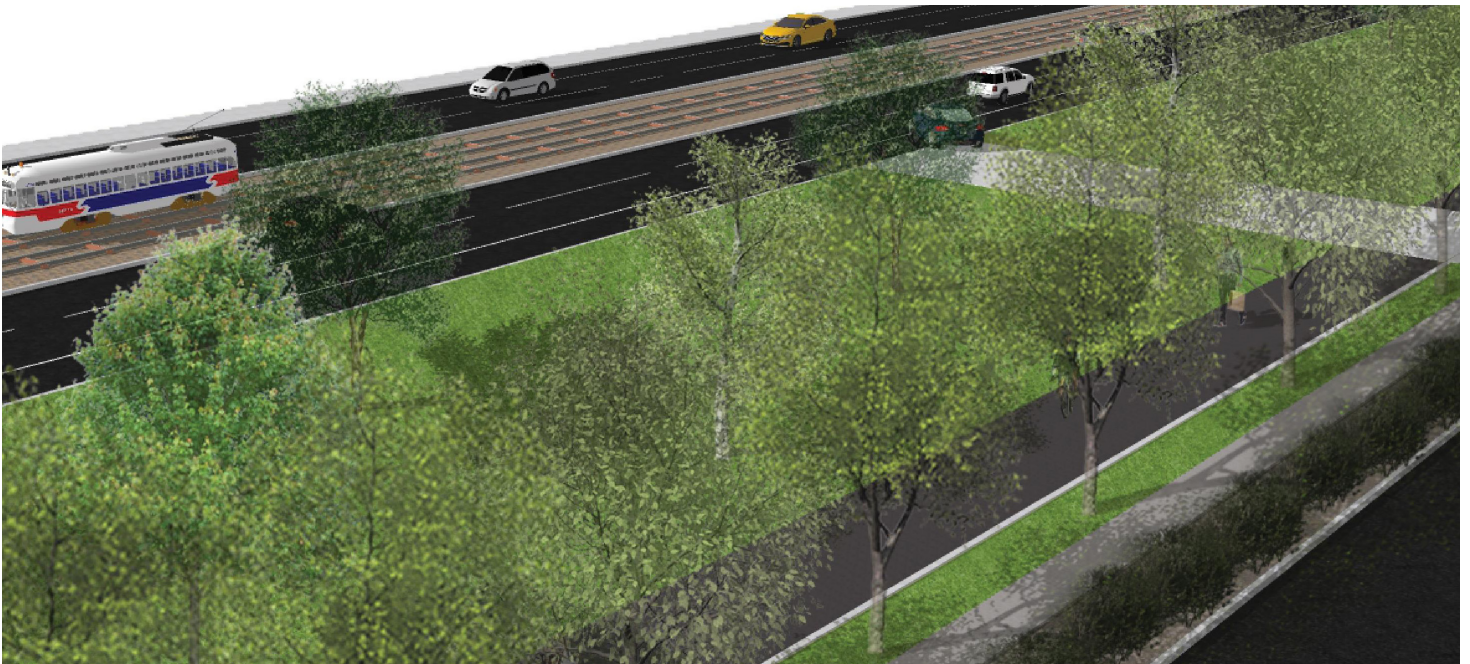
The 2020 Update contains a revised priority ranking for proposed trail projects citywide. All of these elements are intended to promote the advancement of the Philadelphia trail network as it relates to the Philadelphia2035: Citywide Vision.

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.

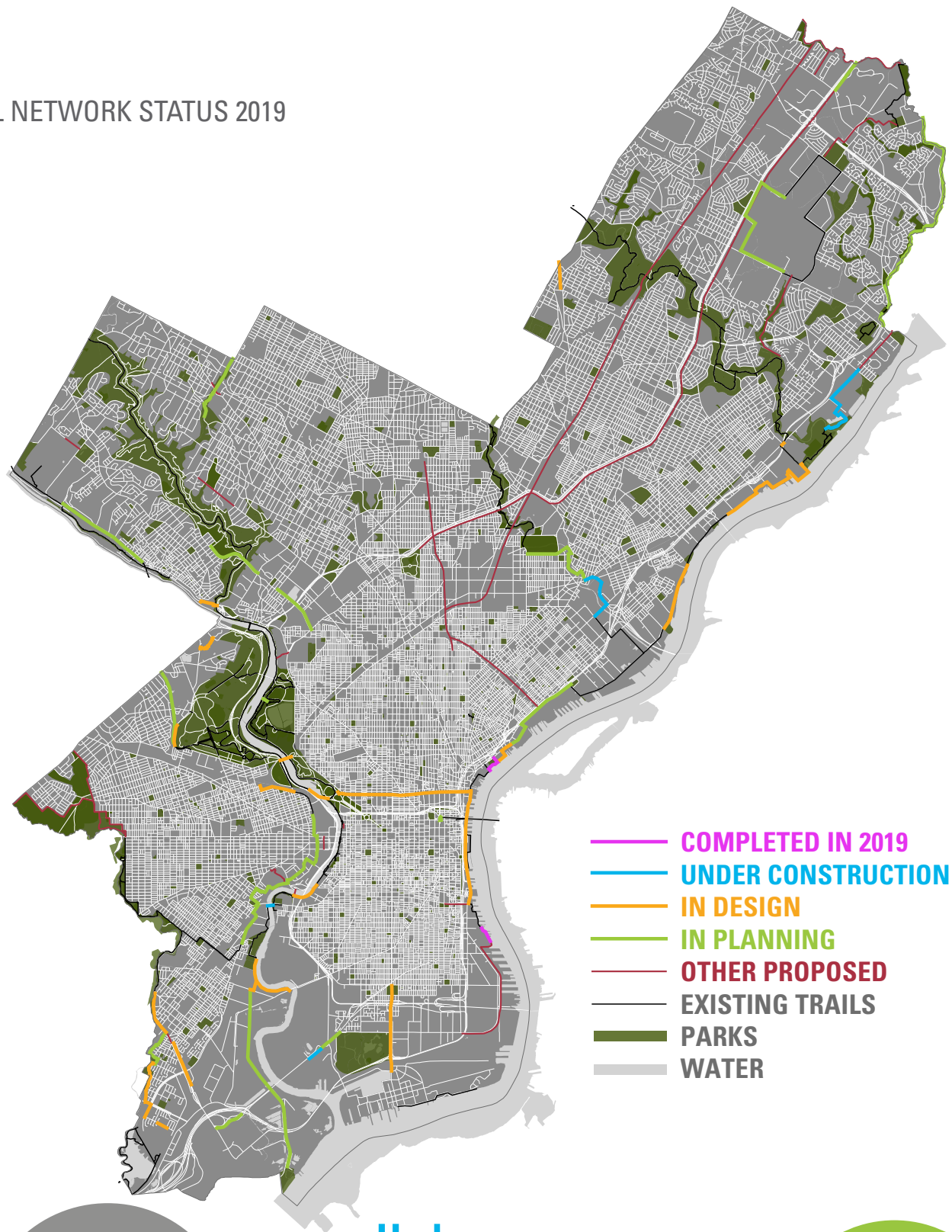
### *Philadelphia Trail Committee*

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.



Island Avenue Sidepath Improvement Project Rendering

## TRAIL NETWORK STATUS 2019



2011-2019  
Completed  
**29.2**  
miles

**Under Construction**  
**3.3**  
miles  
**Completed in 2019**  
**0.6**  
miles

In  
Design  
**17.4**  
miles

In  
Planning  
**24.7**  
miles



## TRAIL NETWORK PROGRESS IN 2019

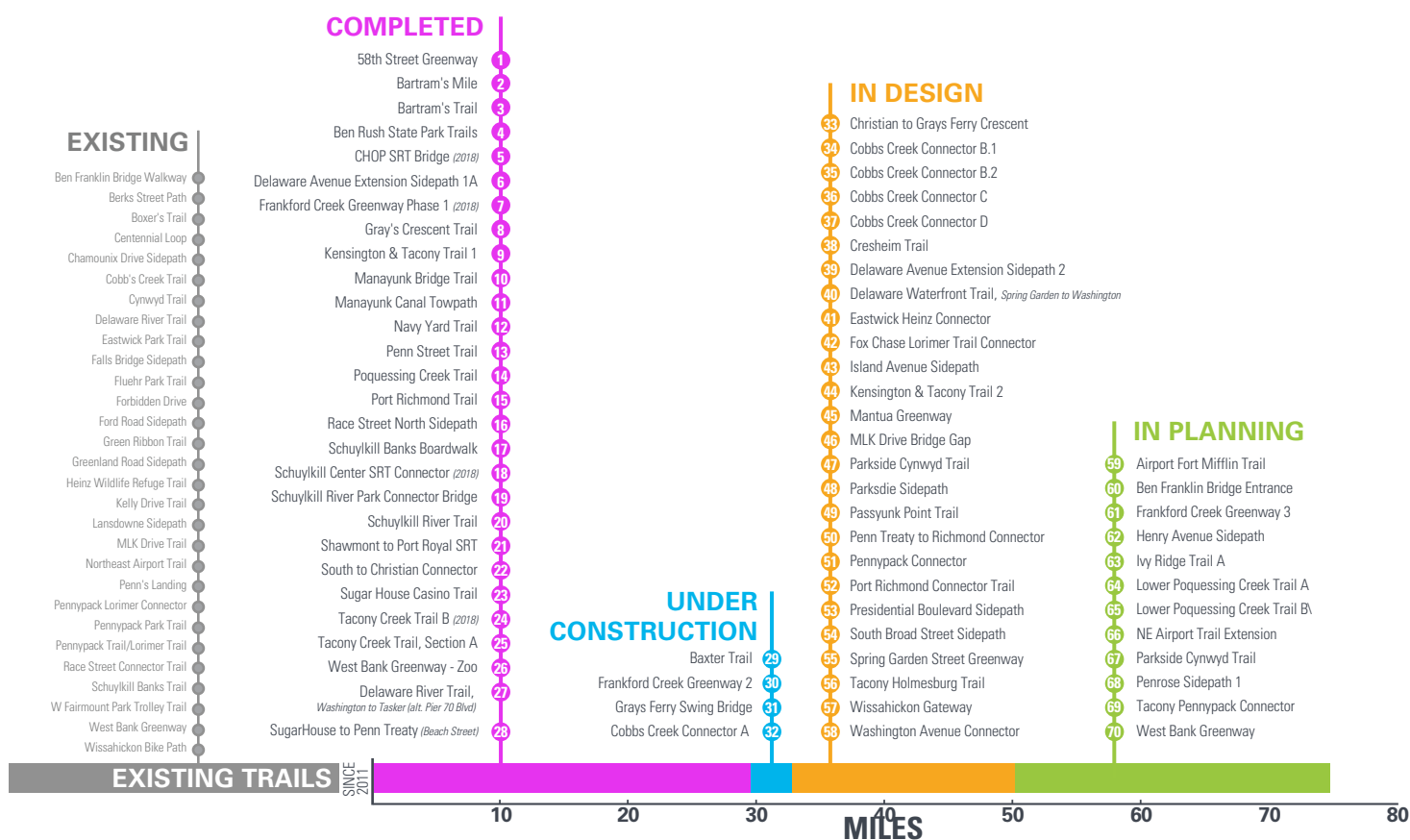
This section reflects the updated status of Philadelphia trails as of December 31, 2019. The map details the status of trail projects citywide, including several projects that are now complete. These segments are no longer included in the priority analysis, since they have reached completion.

There were five new trail segments included in this prioritization: the Cherry to Arch Schuylkill River Trail (SRT) Connector, Presidential Boulevard Sidepath, Eastwick Heinz Connector, Penrose Avenue Sidepath 2, and the Island Avenue Sidepath, which is one part of the Island Avenue Improvement Project.

There were more than 29 miles of trail completed between the beginning of the planning process in 2011 and the end of 2019. After many years of planning and design, construction on two trail segments were completed in 2019, including the Pier 78 Connector and Sugar House to Penn Treaty Park, both on the Delaware 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. Also in 2019, construction continued on the Cobbs Creek Connector A (completed in January 2020), the Grays Ferry Swing Bridge over the Schuylkill River, and the Frankford Creek Greenway Phase 2, a project associated with PennDOT's reconstruction of I-95.

Over 17 miles of trail are in preliminary or final design, including the Mantua Greenway, K & T Trail Phase 2, Fox Chase Lorimer Trail, Washington Avenue Connector, and the Spring Garden Street Greenway. An additional 24 miles of trail remain in the planning phase.





## FUNDING SECURED IN 2019

The City of Philadelphia and trail development partners secured over \$10 million in federal, state, and local funding for construction, design, and planning studies for trail projects in 2019.

Sources include the William Penn Foundation/Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Regional Trails Program, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. City of Philadelphia Capital Budget Funds continued to support construction of new trails in FY2020.

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



Cable Bridge Rendering for Schuylkill River Trail | SRDC

### ***2019 Philadelphia Trail Funding Sources & Awards***

#### **City of Philadelphia Capital Budget (FY 2020)**

Delaware River Trail  
Schuylkill River Trail

#### **Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality**

Schuylkill River Trail, Christian to Grays Ferry Crescent

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

Delaware River Trail, Beach Street Trail  
Lower Poquessing Creek Trail  
MLK Drive Trail

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

Delaware River Trail, Beach St Trail  
Trolley Trail  
Lower Poquessing Creek Trail  
Schuylkill River Trail, Christian to Grays Ferry Crescent

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

Presidential Boulevard Sidepath  
Delaware River Trail, Washington to Spring Garden  
Schuylkill River Trail, Christian to Grays Ferry Crescent

#### **Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program**

Schuylkill River Trail, Christian to Grays Ferry Crescent

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

Cobbs Creek Trail, A  
Parkside Cynwyd Trail  
Trolley Trail  
Lower Poquessing Creek Trail

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

Schuylkill River Trail, Christian to Grays Ferry Crescent



## PROJECT ADVANCEMENT

During 2019, the City of Philadelphia continued its efforts to study and design trail alignments previously identified in the Trail Master Plan.

The City of Philadelphia has federal funding to make transportation improvements along Island Avenue between Elmwood Avenue and Suffolk Avenue to reduce congestion and improve safety for all modes of transportation. A consultant team led by the Street Department gathered public input and furthered designs for the [Island Avenue Improvement Project](#). As part of this project, a shared-use path trail was presented to the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and will be provided for pedestrians and cyclists.

Following a public participation effort in 2018, the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) continued design efforts for the [Washington Avenue Connector project](#). DRWC's plans for the corridor will include a new, protected multi-use trail for pedestrians and bicyclists from Delaware Avenue to 4th Street.





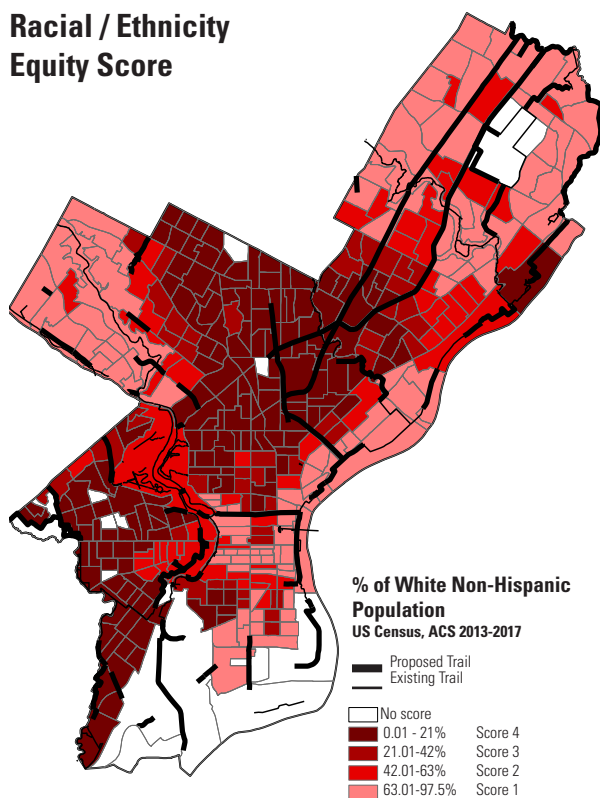
# PRIORITY STATUS UPDATE

## UPDATED PRIORITY RANKING

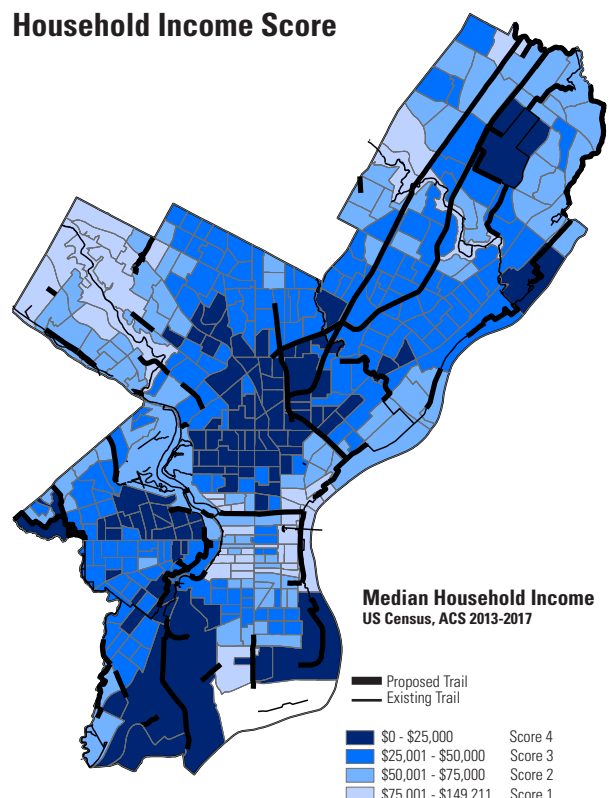
As part of the 2020 update, the Trail Committee updated the priority scoring for each project. The scoring and priority rank changed for many projects due to additional funding, change in property ownership, new partnership opportunities, updated Census data, and other factors. The scoring of many projects was amended and completed projects were removed from the analysis, resulting in the updated priority list.

In 2019, the Trail Committee updated the methodology for trail prioritization by adopting an equity metric to prioritize distribution of public investments. The City's population was analyzed by census tract for income and race/ethnicity demographics. All proposed trail segments were scored 1-4 based on quartiles for median household income and non-white residents (below). The equity metric was derived from a combination of the two scores (maximum of 8 points) and given double weight.

### Racial / Ethnicity Equity Score



### Household Income Score



Racial / Ethnicity and Income Equity Analysis Maps

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.



## PROPOSED TRAIL PRIORITY STATUS – ANNUAL UPDATE

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

Watershed Parks		
Proposed Trail	RANK 2020	RANK 2019
Frankford Creek Greenway, Phase 2	1	1
Cobbs Creek Connector B.1	2	2
Cobbs Creek Connector A	3	4
Cobbs Creek Connector D	4	5
Frankford Creek Greenway, Phase 3	5	6
Cobbs Creek Connector C	6	7
Cobbs Creek Connector B.2	7	8
Cobbs Creek Morris Park Connector B	8	9
Poquessing A	9	10
Cobbs Creek Morris Park Connector A	10	11
Lower Poquessing Creek Trail A	11	13
Lower Poquessing Creek Trail B	12	15
Randolph Creek Trail	13	12
Poquessing B	14	14

Schuylkill River Trail		
Proposed Trail	RANK 2020	RANK 2019
Christian to Grays Crescent	1	3
Grays Ferry Swing Bridge	2	1
Wissahickon Gateway	3	4
Passyunk Point Trail	4	5
Airport Fort Mifflin Trail	5	6
Cherry to Arch SRT Connector	6	

Delaware River Trail		
Proposed Trail	RANK 2020	RANK 2019
Delaware Waterfront Trail, <i>Washington to Spring Garden</i>	1	1
Kensington & Tacony Trail	2	3
Delaware Avenue Extension	3	2
Baxter Trail	4	4
Penn Treaty Richmond Connector	5	6
Port Richmond Connector Trail	6	7
Tacony Holmesburg Trail	7	8
Delaware River Trail Port Extension	8	9

Sidepaths		
Proposed Trail	RANK 2020	RANK 2019
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	5
Washington Ave Connector	6	13
Island Avenue Sidepath	7	
Girard Ave Bridge Sidepath	8	6
Penrose Avenue Sidepath 2	9	
Parkside Sidepath	10	7
Benjamin Franklin Bridge Entrance	11	8
West Bank Greenway	12	10
Henry Ave Sidepath	13	9
Presidential Boulevard Sidepath	14	
State Road Sidepath	15	11
Roosevelt Blvd Sidepath	16	12
34th Street Bridge Sidepath	17	14
Hunting Park Sidepath	18	16
Wissahickon Avenue Sidepath	19	15
NE Airport Trail Extension	20	17
Germantown Ave Sidepath	21	18
Ben Rush State Park Sidepath	22	19
Penrose Avenue Sidepath 1	23	20
31st Street Sidepath	24	21
Hagys Mill Sidepath	25	22

Miscellaneous Locations		
Proposed Trail	RANK 2020	RANK 2019
Fox Chase Lorimer Trail Connector	1	1
Eastwick Heinz Connector	2	
Parkside Cynwyd Trail	3	2
Cresheim Trail	4	3
Lehigh Viaduct Trail	5	4
Ivy Ridge Trail A	6	5
Tacony Pennypack Connector	7	6
Woodlands Cemetery Bikeway	8	7
Pennypack Poquessing Connector	9	8
Pennypack Airport Connector	10	9
Fern Rock American Trail	11	10
Ivy Ridge Trail B	12	11
Poquessing Southampton Trail	13	12
Tacony Sedgely Trail	14	13
Airport Poquessing Connector	15	14



## 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**
- **Part of the Circuit**
- **Condition**
- **Equity Indicators**

Trail Name (Rehabilitation Project)	Category	2019 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
Cobbs 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



Wissahickon Bike Path

# NEXT STEPS

The Philadelphia Trail Committee identified several issues to explore in greater depth in the coming years.

Staff and the committee will review the introduction of the equity score and continue to look at national best practices for equitable trail development from peer city or county trail master plans. The Philadelphia Trail Committee supports efforts to develop trails for commuting and active recreation in communities that are interested in furthering trail projects, especially those in the City that have not received support in the past due to inequitable distribution of resources.

The committee will look to update the Decennial Census data used for prioritization and will also add existing trails into the rehabilitation prioritization process, as several major facilities are now reaching the ten-year mark and may need investments to maintain a state of good repair.

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 2020, the committee will work with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to expand its program to measure trail use through regular trail counts.

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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### Philadelphia Trail Committee

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Law Department  
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



**NOVEMBER 2020**