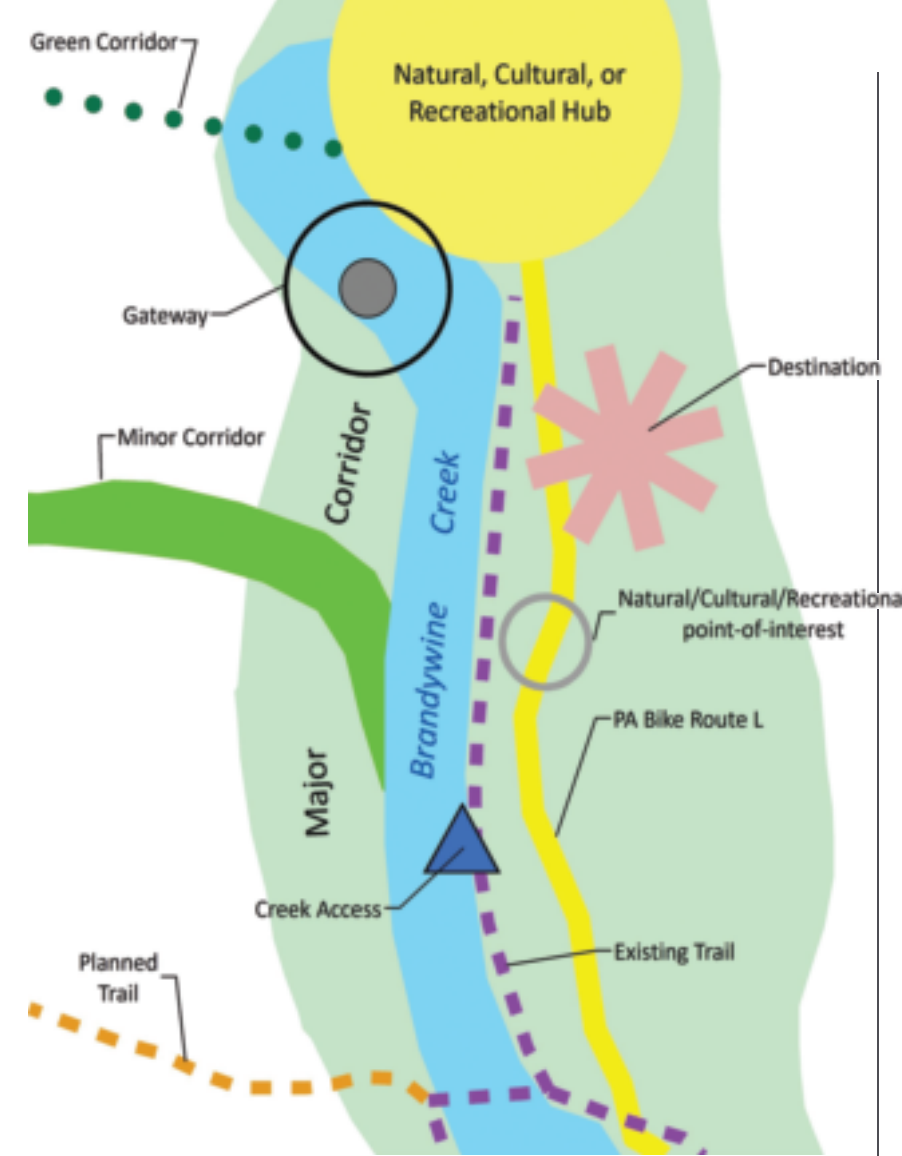


Executive Summary

The Brandywine Creek Greenway celebrates the natural, cultural and recreational features that define the Brandywine Creek and surrounding landscapes. It endeavors to protect and improve water quality and vital natural resources, promote recreational use of public lands, and preserve nationally—and municipally-designated historic and scenic resources for the benefit of future generations.

A Path Forward

The Brandywine Creek Greenway



The Brandywine Creek Greenway

The Brandywine Creek Greenway reveals a common vision for the Brandywine Creek and the special places that have become intertwined with its story. Two common threads—water and land—connect cities, towns, villages and neighborhoods to a shared heritage and a dream for a sustainable future. The Greenway reveals the essence of the Brandywine and increases awareness of the fragility of its unique natural and cultural treasures.

The Concept Plan

A concept plan and concept map for the Greenway were completed in 2012 after public input was obtained through a series of four regional public workshops held in Chadds Ford, Downingtown, Honey Brook, and Coatesville. The written narrative of the plan provides over-arching goals and objectives for the greenway. The concept map illustrates a major corridor of green that follows both branches and the main stem of the Brandywine punctuated with minor corridors, green corridors, hubs, destination points, gateways, creek access, existing trails and bike routes, and planned trails.

The Strategic Action Plan

Strategies for realizing the greenway concept plan are set forth in *The Brandywine Creek Greenway Strategic Action Plan*—A coordinated approach to open space conservation and planning for 24 Greenway municipalities, Chester and Delaware Counties, conservation organizations, and volunteers.

Wide-Ranging Initiatives—The Strategic Action Plan narrative recommends greenway-wide strategies intended to guide municipalities, Chester County, Delaware County and land trusts towards implementing the vision for the greenway as articulated in the Concept Plan.

Project Portfolio—A “To Do” packet, unique to each municipality in the greenway, highlights recreation, alternative transportation, and conservation priorities.

Implementation Tool Kit—A “Tool Kit” can be used as a basis to explore potentially new approaches to natural and cultural resource conservation. Resource maps help municipalities to identify parcels of land that have important natural, cultural, agricultural, and water resources that could be considered by landowners for conservation and should be considered by municipalities during the land development process if conservation is not an option.

Organization and Management

Brandywine Creek Greenway Partners

The Brandywine Conservancy, Chester County, and Delaware County serve as greenway facilitators and inter-municipal coordinators. Twenty-four partner municipalities provide key input and guidance.

Greenway implementation and management occurs at the state, county, regional, municipal, and private levels. Partners and stakeholders contribute to greenway implementation by providing cash or in-kind services. Successful implementation depends upon each municipality taking the lead to implement critical elements of the strategic action plan and to work cooperatively with facilitators, neighboring municipalities, and other key partners.

Brandywine Creek Greenway Regions

The formation of 3 greenway regions promotes effective coordination among municipalities that are most likely to share goals and resources. The regions include:

Northern Region—Honey Brook Borough and Honey Brook Township, West Nantmeal, Wallace, Upper Uwchlan, East Brandywine, West Brandywine and Caln Townships.

Central Region—Valley, Caln, East Caln and Uwchlan Townships, Boroughs of South Coatesville, Modena and Downingtown, and the City of Coatesville.

Southern Region—East Fallowfield, West Bradford, East Bradford, Newlin, Pocopson, Birmingham, Pennsbury and Chadds Ford Township.

The Steering Committee

A 24-member steering committee is made up of one representative from each of the greenway municipalities. An annual meeting will be facilitated by the Brandywine Conservancy to review reports from the Regional Executive Committees and to revisit evolving priorities.

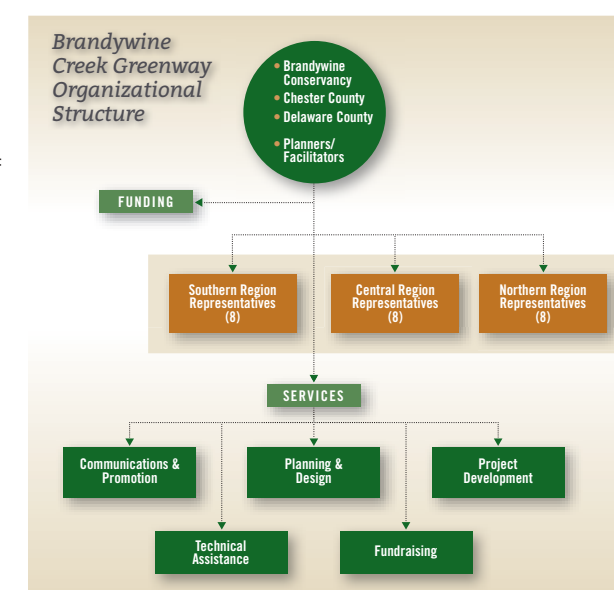
Regional Executive Committees

Three Executive Committees, sub-committees of the broader 24-member Steering Committee, are composed of representatives from the Northern, Central, and Southern Regions. Their roles are to plan, design and implement joint ventures and multi-municipal greenway projects, coordinate operations and management of joint ventures, hold quarterly meetings, report annually to the Steering Committee, and prepare annual work plans.

What is The Brandywine Creek Greenway?

A greenway may be broadly defined as a corridor of protected public and private open space managed for conservation and/or recreation purposes. Its width varies from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban and suburban areas to larger landscapes that incorporate diverse natural, cultural and scenic features.

The Brandywine Creek Greenway is a tapestry of over 37,000 acres of privately protected open space and public lands that form a 30-mile long green corridor of varying widths along both branches and the main stem of the Brandywine Creek in south-eastern Pennsylvania. It threads its way through 24 municipalities and includes a national historic landmark, a national monument, 3 state parks, 2 county parks, over 40 municipal parks, PA Bike Route L, and 68 miles of trails and sidewalks. The greenway presents opportunities for its many partners to continue to conserve and protect those features that contribute to the uniqueness of the region. It invites residents and visitors to experience the natural beauty of the Brandywine Valley and to live active and healthy lifestyles.



The Brandywine Creek Greenway



BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY

Brandywine Creek Greenway Contact Information

Please email or call for information and news about active projects in your immediate area.

Web: www.brandywinegreenway.org
Email: emc@brandywine.org
Phone: 610-388-8317

Funded in part by the Community Conservation Partnership Program, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Chester County, and the William Penn Foundation.

Your Creek...Your Vision...

Greenway Projects and Strategies

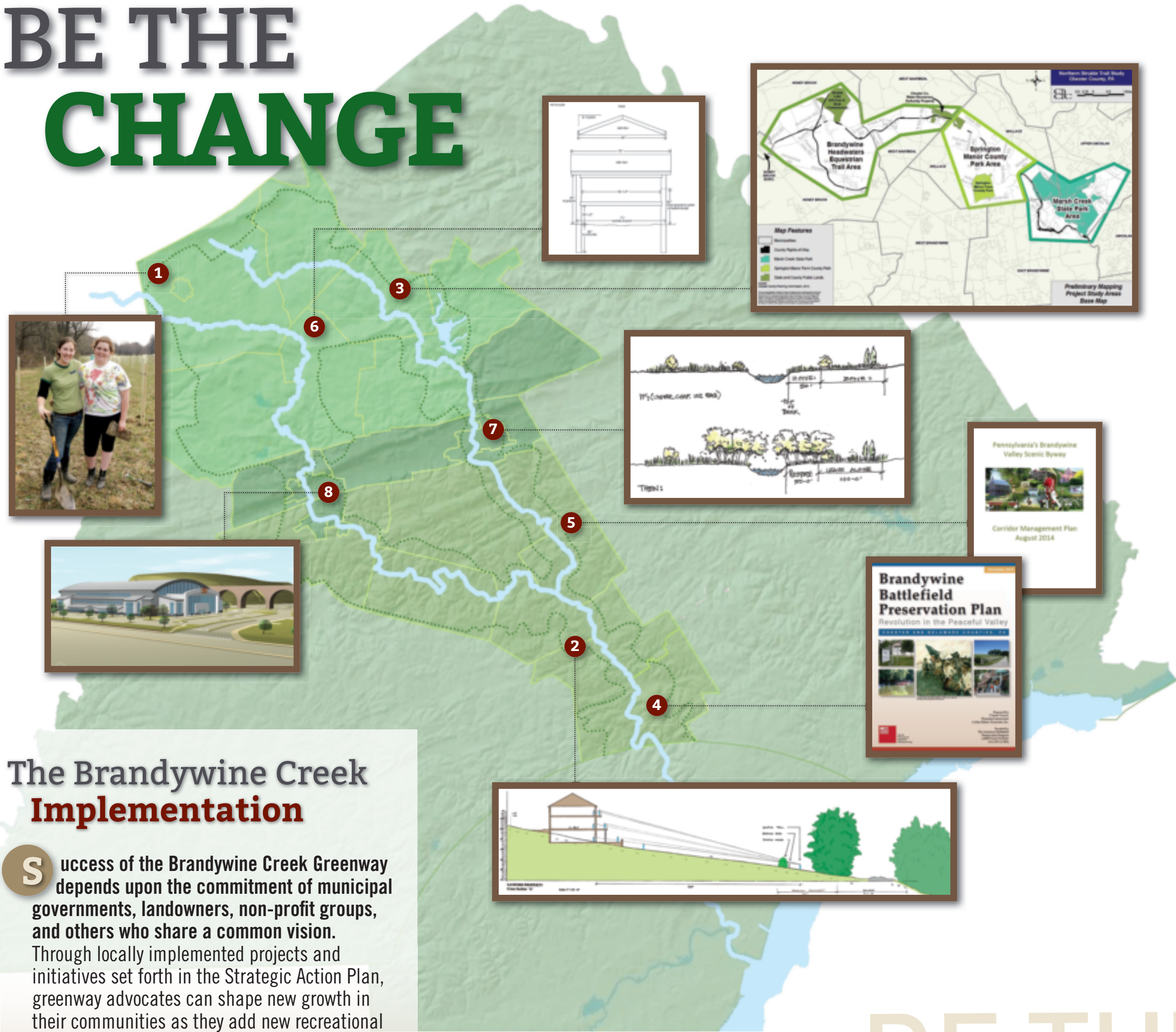
The Strategic Action Plan for the Brandywine Creek Greenway is a 20-year plan prepared with input from municipalities, government agencies, non-profit organizations and individuals committed to long-term conservation and enhancement of the Brandywine Creek, its natural landscapes, and its historic places. The document may be viewed and downloaded from the Brandywine Creek Greenway website.

Stay Informed—Lend a Hand

Successful greenway implementation depends upon active involvement by municipalities and their constituents to advance new projects and initiatives. To learn more about the Brandywine Creek Greenway strategies visit the website and peruse a map of key destinations, a brief overview of the greenway, up-to-date news, calendar of upcoming events, vision statement, history of the greenway initiative, files for download, and donation portal. You can also sign up for the monthly newsletter online where you will be kept informed of successful projects and opportunities to lend a helping hand in your community.



BE THE CHANGE



The Brandywine Creek Implementation

Success of the Brandywine Creek Greenway depends upon the commitment of municipal governments, landowners, non-profit groups, and others who share a common vision. Through locally implemented projects and initiatives set forth in the Strategic Action Plan, greenway advocates can shape new growth in their communities as they add new recreational opportunities, conserve and protect sensitive natural resources, and improve the places where they live, work, and play.

1 Natural Resources

Conservation of vital natural resources within the Brandywine watershed is a key aim of model resource protection ordinances provided in the Strategic Action Plan. Beyond land conservation, the greenway aims to protect and restore habitat areas such as riparian buffers, woodlands, and wetlands, and reduce storm water runoff. Farm preservation and best land management practices in headwater areas, as in Honey Brook Township, will enhance water quality downstream.

2 Recreational Opportunities

Many greenway municipalities view recreation as an important resource for their residents. Enhanced public access to the Brandywine Creek can provide new opportunities for water-based recreation. Trails can connect neighborhoods to parks and provide safe routes to walk, bicycle, and horseback ride. Municipalities and other partners will work to ensure historic trails, such as the Brandywine Trail, will be protected for future generations.

3 Transportation Alternatives

Three planned multi-use trails within the greenway are part of The Circuit regional trail network of Greater Philadelphia. They will provide safe routes for walking and bicycling and an alternative to automobile travel. The Struble Trail, which is a successful multi-use trail near Downingtown, will be extended 16 miles to reach Honey Brook, providing connections among neighborhoods and county and state recreational lands.

4 Culture and History

Important historic resources will be linked by an extensive open space and trail network, and the history and cultural richness of the Brandywine Valley will be celebrated. Cities and boroughs will be promoted as cultural gateways to the greenway. Partnerships will be formed to implement the Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan.

5 Scenic Resources

The scenic integrity of the Lower Brandywine PA Scenic River Corridor will be preserved through regulatory and non-regulatory tools. Scenic resources along the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway will be protected and preserved as partnerships are formed to implement the Corridor Management Plan.

6 Education

Success is centered upon a public awareness and appreciation of the greenway's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. Municipalities, landowners, and volunteers will share conservation knowledge through a variety of initiatives such as community tree planting events and educational signage. Gateway kiosks, such as the one proposed at Icedale, could host an educational display on a topic of historic interest.

7 Flood Control

There are several flood-prone areas in more urbanized municipalities such as Downingtown. Reforestation of deforested land along streams is an effective best management practice that can help reduce storm water runoff and flooding. Numerous creek corridors, such as Parke Run Green Corridor in Downingtown, are targeted for riparian corridor restoration, and a model riparian buffer ordinance is recommended to further protect forested streams from future development.

8 Economic Prosperity

Urbanized areas that attract visitors will benefit from regional multi-use trails and related facilities. As the Struble Trail and Chester Valley Trail expand they are likely to become destinations in themselves. Municipalities that offer a range of goods and services along trail routes can promote themselves as trail towns and increase economic activity. Coatesville and Downingtown will become economic hubs along the planned Chester Valley Trail just as Honey Brook Borough will become a gateway to the Northern Struble Trail.

BE THE CHANGE