A Path Forward and donation

Your Creek...Your Vision...

Greenway Projects and Strategies

The Strategic Action Plan for the Brandywine Creek Greenway is a multi-year plan prepared with input from municipalities, grassroots 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 create and maintain active strategies. The Brandywine Creek Greenway strategies visit the website and peruse a map of key destinations, a collection of greenways, up-to-date news, events, 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.

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, Haverford, and Cranesville. The written narrative of the plan presents overarching 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 riverfront green 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 plans 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 and 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 next-door neighbors and among the four counties. The regions include:

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

Central Region—Valley, Caln, East Caln and Uchelkan Townships, Boroughs of South Coatesville, West Coatesville, and Downingtowns, 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.
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 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.