Semi-Annual Circuit Trails Coalition Meeting

May 4, 2018
Welcome and Camden County Overview

Maggie McCann Johns, Camden County Parks Department
Benjamin Franklin Bridge Ramp

John Hanson, Delaware River Port Authority
BFB South Walkway Bicycle & Pedestrian Ramp

- This project will improve access to the South Walkway of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge.

- The existing stairway and narrow portion of the walkway will be replaced with a new ramp that will be 10 feet wide and extend the length to approximately 775 feet.

- The project also includes streetscape improvements as well as lighting improvements, security fencing and utility relocations.
New Ramp
Funding and Mileage Update

Chris Linn, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
MAY 2018 CIRCUIT STATUS

• 814 Circuit Miles in the DVRPC region
  • 329.2 miles Complete
  • 76.7 miles in Progress
  • 121.7 miles in the Pipeline
  • 286.3 miles Planned
• 28 Circuit Miles in Berks County
MAY 2018 CIRCUIT STATUS

• **63.2 miles built** since January 1, 2012

• **3.6 miles completed** between December 2017 and May 2018

• **3.7 miles expected** to be complete by December 2018
Circuit Trails Completed Since December 2017 – 3.6 miles

- SRT – South St. to Christian – 0.3 miles
- Darby Creek – Swedish Cabin to Kent Park – 1.0 miles
- Frankford Ck Greenway, Phase 1 – 1.2 miles
- Tacony Creek Trail – Roosevelt Blvd. Connector – 0.2 miles
- SRT – Washington St. to Lower Pottsgrove – 0.9 miles
Circuit Trails Coming Soon

- Baxter Trail – Firing Range Sect. – 0.6 miles
- Trenton Wellness Loop – 0.5 miles
- Upper Bucks Rail Trail – 3.0 miles
Total Circuit Funds Spent or Programmed since 2010

- $292.8 million
  - $267.8 million in PA
  - $25 million in NJ
- $152 million spent since 2010
- $140.8 million programmed or awarded
Total Circuit Funding Sources since 2010

- $222.7 million federal
- $26.3 million state
- $24.8 million local
- $17.6 million foundation
- $1.4 million private
Circuit Funding since 2010

- 70 miles constructed since 2010
- 25 miles fully funded for construction
Circuit Status NJ  261 miles

- Planned: 45%
- Existing: 30%
- Pipeline: 17%
- In Progress: 8%
Circuit Status PA

- Planned: 31%
- Existing: 46%
- Pipeline: 13%
- In Progress: 10%

553 miles
2018 Circuit Status 814 miles

- Planned: 35%
- Existing: 40%
- Pipeline: 15%
- In Progress: 10%
Marketing & Communications Update

Anya Saretzky, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Christine Reimert + Paige Knapp, Devine + Partners
2018 Objectives

Paid + Earned + Shared + Owned Approach

• Continue to build momentum around trail awareness and use
• Concentrate awareness building on trails connecting people to destinations across the region
Overview

Theme
“Meet the Circuit” → “Use the Circuit” → “Connect on the Circuit”

Opportunities

• Leveraging thought leaders to carry the Circuit message

• Strategic partnership with Alliance for Watershed Education, REI

• Galvanizing event “bookends” Opening Day for Trails (4/7) and River Days (9/15-10/15)
Opening Day for Trails

• 28 events across the Circuit
• Rides, walks, cleanups, dog walks, birding, tree planting, mussels
• 23 media hits: Action News, Good Day Philadelphia, Burlington County Times etc.
Scavenger Hunt

• Connect the Circuit
• Build on the momentum of 500 Mile Challenge
• “Scavenger Hunt” approach
• Incentivize audiences to visit priority locations/events using Circuit Trails
• Season-long challenge + mini challenge
  April – September
Earned Media

• 36 media hits in 2018 so far
• Desksides
• Maximize Events, Amplify Circuit Messaging
  • Ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, community events, public meetings, etc
• Op Ed opportunities
Burlington County Times

Cleanup set for Willingboro Lakes Park on Saturday

The Burlington County Clean Communities Office is organizing a cleanup of Willingboro Lakes Park off Route 130 on Saturday.

WILLINGBORO — The Burlington County Clean Communities Office is organizing a cleanup of Willingboro Lakes Park off Route 130 on Saturday.

Volunteers will assist with trash collection, invasive plant removal and trail maintenance to prepare the 105-acre park for the spring and summer. Bags, gloves, grabbers, light refreshments and water will be provided.

Courier Post

10 updates on biking in South Jersey: Laws, lanes and trails

Bike enthusiasts will be happy to know local and regional trails are continuing to expand while new laws also have been passed to aid bicyclists in New Jersey.

At least two new trail segments opened since last summer in the tri-county region, and more are on their way and are in various phases of design and construction.

More: Bike-share program to pedal into Camden
More: In South Jersey, cycling clubs are advocating for safer roads, trails
More: SJ students learn lessons in mountain biking

Those trails will add off- and on-road segments to the planned 750-mile Circuit Trails network encompassing five counties on the Philadelphia side of the Delaware River and four counties in South Jersey — Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer. So far more than 340 miles have been completed, according to Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission officials.
New Grant to Close Key Gap in Schuylkill River Trail

AUTHORED BY: THE CIRCUIT TRAILS | MARCH 9, 2018

Circuit enthusiasts - we have HUGE news. The United States Department of Transportation recently awarded the City of Philadelphia with a $12M grant to close a major gap in the Schuylkill River Trail! When it’s completed, the now-funded Christian to Crescent Connector – located just south of the...
Shared Media

• Audience Growth
  • Twitter - 1,233 followers
  • Facebook - 5,208 followers
  • Instagram - 1,360 followers
• Go Live! -- Opening Day
• Encouraging Connections #onthecircuit
• Scavenger Hunt
• Leveraging Social Media Influencers
Paid Media

- Metro
- Public transit ads
- 6ABC Partnership
- Digital
Upcoming

- Printed Map – Summer 2018
- Photoshoot – Summer 2018
- AWE Partnership – Opening Day through River Days
To dos for you!

- Let us know when you are planning an event for website and Metro promotion.
- Order swag for your event at www.tinyurl.com/circuitswag2018
- Share a post on the Circuit blog
- Engage with Circuit social
Fostering Continued Synergy on the Circuit with A.W.E.

Circuit Trails Coalition Semi-Annual Meeting
May 4, 2018
Fostering Synergy

SYNERGY

1+1=3
What is AWE?

- **Alliance for Watershed Education of the Delaware River**
- 23 centers
- 3 states
What is AWE?

• Each of these centers is located along the Circuit Trails or a major connecting trail, and on waterways throughout the Delaware River Watershed.
THEN: Proposed Opportunities

NOW: Existing Collaborations

• Joint Programming
  – Opening Day for Trails
  – River Days
• Shared Communications
• Collaborative Planning
  – Delaware River Back Channel
  – Multiple amenities, such as trails, environmental centers, and boat launches
A New Proposed Opportunity...
Summer 2018: AWE Fellowships

• 23 in 2017... 46 in 2018!
• Shared Opportunities
  --Regional Meetings
  --Training Opportunities
  --Event Staffing
• Contact Sarun Chan, AWE Fellowship Coordinator,
schan@audubon.org
Continue to Innovate!
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia & The Circuit Trails Coalition

500/2025
What is the 500/2025 Campaign?

- DVRPC: 750 Circuit miles by 2040
- Circuit Coalition: 500/2025 interim goal
- Resolutions: sought from municipalities & counties in region
- Volunteer advocate driven effort
- Over 100 volunteers at work
<table>
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<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Township/Borough</th>
<th>Resolution Received?</th>
<th>Last Contact</th>
<th>Update &amp; Comments</th>
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<td>Burlington</td>
<td>Medford Township</td>
<td>7/11/2017</td>
<td>8/4/2017</td>
<td>Greg K reports council already may have passed resolution. He’ll follow up and get back to LK.</td>
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<td>Media Borough</td>
<td>7/11/2017</td>
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<td>10/11/2017: Eleanor Horne said she’d add it to her “November to-do list.”</td>
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<td>10/18/2017</td>
<td>4/7/2017: Still no meeting scheduled. 3/15/2017 David Bennett gave letter and resolution to municipal officials. No word yet on date of next meeting.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
500 Miles by 2025

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT  <->  COUNTY SUPPORT
Progress of the Campaign

• **Vision:** 100 municipalities, 9 counties sign

• **Completed:** 74 municipalities, 4 counties signed

• **In Progress:** 68 municipalities, 4 counties
Highlights by County

THE CIRCUIT TRAILS
• Camden: 20
• Chester: 14
• Bucks: 12
• Montgomery: 11
• Delaware: 10
• Burlington: 4
• Mercer: 2
• Gloucester: 1
Looking to help?
leonard@bicyclecoalition.org
EXPANDING
The Circuit Trails Pipeline

Patrick Starr
Executive Vice-President
Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Strategic Plan Goal

• Finish Circuit Trunk Lines by 2025 and complete 20 miles Circuit-wide annually

Pipeline Objectives

1. Create a process which assures 500 built miles by 2025
2. Create a digital “knowledge” base that is transparent and accessible to Coalition members
“Digital Brain Trust”

If I recall correctly there's a right-of-way...
Circuit Pipeline Strategy

1. Convene a group of steering committee members to develop a process to expand the pipeline.
2. Host PA and NJ caucus events
3. Create web-based tool to help prioritize projects and connect partners to projects
4. Seek input from agency and professional partners
5. Present the pipeline, revise often, and “shepherd” projects to completion
Gap Assessment and Management

- **Categorize trails**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Progress:</th>
<th>Pipeline:</th>
<th>Planned:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under construction; design funded, underway, or complete; ROW secured or nearly so</td>
<td>Feasibility study completed, funded or underway; is a priority being actively pursued by a capable partner; ROW identified or partially secured; barriers may remain</td>
<td>Not being actively pursued by a capable partner; no feasibility study completed; ROW lacking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Status Assessment

• Revised the Following:
  • Right of Way Control
  • Project Phase
  • Issues Description
• Identify “Project Lead” for Each Segment
  • Expanded Organization “Options”
• Project Action Items Tab
CIRCUIT TRAILS PIPELINE MANAGER

Welcome to the Circuit Trails Pipeline Manager! The purpose of this tool is to facilitate coordination between the many different organizations that are implementing trail projects that will contribute to the Circuit Trails network.

To get started using the tool, you will first need to create an account by clicking the "Sign Up" button. Once you have completed the signup, your credentials will be reviewed. You will be notified by email when they have been verified and then you will be able to log in to the tool.

Note: This tool has been built by integrating ArcGIS Online with a FileMaker database. Although it operates within a web browser, it is in fact a custom computer program. Please navigate using the tool’s controls, not your browser’s back button, as this will cause the entire tool to refresh and you will have to log in again.

Please direct all comments, feedback, and questions to Frank Maguire, Trails & Recreation Program Manager at the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (maguire@pec.org).

USERNAME: 

PASSWORD: 

LOGIN

SIGN UP
# My Organization's Project Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
<th>Right of Way Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 SEGMENTS</td>
<td>0 Existing</td>
<td>1 Obtained</td>
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<tr>
<td>OUT OF 423 TOTAL</td>
<td>2 In-Progress</td>
<td>1 In Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 Planned</td>
<td>0 Not Obtained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Pipeline</td>
<td>0 Not Obtained</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.8 MILES</td>
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<tr>
<td>OUT OF 846.8 TOTAL*</td>
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</table>

* Total includes 811 miles within the Circuit Trails project boundary plus 35.8 miles of the affiliated Schuylkill River Trail outside the boundary.

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## My Organization's Action Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Target Completion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D&amp;L Trail - Bridge Street Crossing</td>
<td>Follow up about Cultural concerns related to bridge design and aesthetics</td>
<td>Not Started</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>5/31/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>Segment Name</td>
<td>Primary Trail</td>
<td>Primary Org</td>
<td>Secondary Org</td>
<td>Status</td>
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<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Bensalem - Biddle Ln to Station Ave</td>
<td>ECG</td>
<td>Bensalem Township</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</td>
<td>Pipeline</td>
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<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>Main St (Telford) to California Rd</td>
<td>Liberty Bell Trail</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>Planned</td>
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<td>280</td>
<td>Chester City 4th St - Price St to Highland Ave</td>
<td>ECG</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</td>
<td>City of Chester</td>
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<td>287</td>
<td>Chester City Highland Ave - 4th St to Waterfront</td>
<td>ECG</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</td>
<td>City of Chester</td>
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<td>306</td>
<td>D&amp;L Trail - Bridge Street Crossing</td>
<td>ECG</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</td>
<td>Morrisville Borough</td>
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<td>308</td>
<td>3rd St and Squirrel Ln - TAP Section to Koffel Rd</td>
<td>Liberty Bell Trail</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</td>
<td>AMC</td>
<td>Planned</td>
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<tr>
<td>311</td>
<td>Bensalem - Birch Ave to Carmer Drive</td>
<td>ECG</td>
<td>Bensalem Township</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
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</table>
### Project Hub

**306 D&L Trail - Bridge Street Crossing**

**BUCKS, PA**

#### Segment Profile
- **Segment ID:** 306
- **State:** PA
- **County:** Bucks
- **DCNR #**

#### Segment Details
- **Segment Name:** D&L Trail - Bridge Street Crossing
- **Trail Length:** 0.08 Mile(s) Length 431.62 Feet
- **Primary Trail:** ECC
- **Secondary Trail:** D&L Trail - Delaware Canal Region
- **Status:** In Progress
- **Right of Way Control:** Not Obtained

#### Project Phase
- Notion / Idea Developed
- Preliminary Engineering Completed
- Concept Plan Completed
- Final Engineering Underway
- Schematic Plan Completed

#### Major Issues
- Legal
- Infrastructure
- Politics
- Funding
- Environmental
- No Sponsor

#### Environmental Concerns
- Phase II Site
- Adjacent to Open Waterway(s)
- Subject to Flooding / Inundation
- Invasive Species Infestation
- State Environmental Agency Clearances Required

#### Construction Concerns
- Bidding Issues
- Federal Requirements
- Poor Working Conditions
- Poor Soils
- Railroad Approval Required
- State Transportation Agency Approval Required

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**Additional Information**

- **Map Location:** Bucks County, PA, Mercer County, NJ, State of...

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**Segment Description**

**Other Comments**
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Pennsylvania Environmental Council</th>
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<td>Full Time Staff</td>
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<td>Part Time Staff</td>
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<td>Volunteer Staff</td>
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<td>Staff Available</td>
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<td>Planning - Site</td>
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<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>Activities and Programming</td>
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Next Steps

• Register at www.circuitpipeline.org
• Review projects assigned
• Add yourself to project segments you want
• Changes will be reviewed and accepted by Helena Kotala
Protecting Significant Views Along The Circuit:
An Assessment Of Land Conservation Priorities For Viewsheds Along The Circuit

Mark Zakutansky, Director of Conservation Policy Engagement
Patricia McCloskey, Mid-Atlantic Recreation Planner
Catherine Poppenwimer, GIS Specialist
A Trail Experience Worth Protecting
The Circuit Trails Visual Assessment Project

- An Assessment of Land Conservation Priorities for Viewsheds along Multi-Use Trails of The Circuit
- Purpose: to identify potential conservation opportunities within a trail’s viewshed
- Based on a conservation assessment that scores and ranks priority land
- 31 Circuit Trails were selected, mostly trails in rural and suburban areas
Circuit Trails in the Visual Assessment Project

PA Trails
- Baxter Trail
- Big Woods Trail
- Brandywine Trail
- Chester Creek Trail
- Chester Valley Trail
- Cross County Trail
- Darby Creek Trail
- East Branch Perkiomen Trail
- Neshaminy Creek Trail
- Pennsy Trail

Map 1 Trail ID No.
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12

PA Trails Map 1 Trail ID No.
- Pennypack Trail
- Perkiomen Trail
- Power Line Trail
- Radnor Trail
- Route 202 Parkway Trail
- Schuylkill River Trail
- Skippack Trail
- Solebury Route 202 Gateway Trail
- Struble Trail
- Uwchlan Trail
- Wissahickon Green Ribbon Trail

NJ Trails Map 1 Trail ID No.
- Delaware & Raritan Canal Trail
- Gloucester Twp. Health & Fitness Trail
- Johnson Trolley Line Trail
- Kinkora Trail
- Lawrence Hopewell Trail
- Monroe Township Bike Path
- Pemberton Trail
- Rancocas Creek Trail

The Circuit Trails: Visual Assessment Study, Existing Trails, Trails in Progress. Corresponds to Trail ID Number in Table 1.
Visual Assessment Methodology

Methodology consists of a Viewshed Analysis of each trail

Landowner parcels within the viewshed were analyzed based upon the following criteria:

- Visibility from the Trail
  - Viewshed Area, Visual Magnitude, and Distance
- Scenic Character within the Trail’s Viewshed
  - Landform, Landcover, Water, and Historic/Cultural Resources
- Key Observation Points (KOP)
  - KOPs were identified by project partners
- Ownership Fragmentation
  - Parcel Size and Adjacency to Protected Areas

Notes

Methodology was reviewed and approved by project partners. Limits of the study include any parcel within a mile from the trail. Parcels not within the trails’ viewshed were removed from the analysis. Each individual trail is evaluated separately.
A combined parcel value score was developed by adding the visibility, scenic character, KOP, and ownership fragmentation scores.

The combined score identifies the parcels with the highest value for conservation based on the resource values and landscape context.

This information can be used when prioritizing conservation opportunities and obtaining funding for their conservation.
Pilot Project: Schuylkill River Trail

- 8.8 mile section between Pottstown and Birdsboro
- Study area extends one mile on both side of the trail (roughly 12,900 acres)
- The trail’s viewshed developed from the digital surface model (DSM) is approximately 1,970 acres or 15% of the study area
- Over 6,000 unconserved parcels encompassing about 8,800 acres are potentially available for conservation protection.
Pilot Project Results

• Visual Resources: 90% of the 6,000+ unconserved parcels have the lowest score (1) and 2 parcels have the highest score (10).

• Scenic Resources: Of over 4,200 unconserved parcels, 51% have the lowest score of (1) and 47 scored the highest (10).

• Parcel Size & Adjacency: 83% are less than 1 acre in size. 8 parcels over 133 acres in size represent the top 15%. Of the unconserved parcels, 459 are adjacent to protected open space areas.

• Combined Score: The highest score value represents the top 5% ranked parcels (54 total), 44 which are unconserved parcels.

Visual Assessment Project Next Steps

- Complete analysis of the 31 trails selected for study by end of 2018
- Prepare reports for each trail and provide to land trusts, agencies and planning commissions (Q1-Q2 2019)
- Present findings at Circuit Trails meeting and conferences in 2019
- Potential to expand to new study areas
A Trail Experience Worth Protecting
Schuylkill Banks Projects

Presented at
Circuit Coalition
Semi-Annual Meeting

May 4, 2018
THE TIDAL SCHUYLKILL RIVER
The Tidal Schuylkill
An Emerging Regional Center

• 8 Miles of River; 16 miles of Riverfront and Greenway

• 4 Universities

• 3 Hospitals

• Central Business District

• 27 Neighborhoods

• 4 National Historic Landmarks

• 15 Bridges/ Mass-Transit Connections
1924 Conditions

THE SCHUYLKILL BANKS ABUSE. THERE IS NO OCCUPATION OF ANY PERMANENT IMPORTANCE, EXCEPT THE RAILROADS. THEY SHOULD RUN UNDER EMBANKMENTS. THE PLANS FOR THE SCHUYLKILL EMBANKMENTS SHOULD BE MADE NOW AND THE GROUND ACQUIRED.
2015 Conditions
Christian to Crescent – Project Location
CCC Site Conditions
Looking S.W. from top of PECO Plant
Cable Stayed Bridge
Any Questions?
Next:
Walk/Ride the Cooper River Trail
Happy Hour at LaScala’s Birra