

**THE  
CIRCUIT  
TRAILS**

**2020**

ANNUAL REPORT



Upper Bucks Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting



# 2020 In Review

The previous year has been an interesting one to say the least. Despite the challenges, the Circuit had several gaps completed in 2020, which have created new connections along the trails. The Delaware River Heritage Trail and Arney's Mount Trail in Burlington County are under construction and expected to open in 2021 in New Jersey. The Spring Garden Street Greenway is moving forward to create safer connections from the Schuylkill River Trail to the Delaware River Trail in Philadelphia and in Bucks County, the Upper Bucks Rail Trail officially opened with more than a decade of work to turn the vision into a reality with connections to Saucon Rail Trail in Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

## In Pennsylvania, the Cross County Trail Brings New Connections



Cross County Trail

Upper Dublin Township extended their portion of the Cross County Trail along Virginia Drive. There are now 1.2 miles of contiguous trail from just east of the township library to Susquehanna Rd. The Township also worked with the

developer of the Promenade at Upper Dublin to build the trail along Dreshertown and Welsh Rd. Another section near Route 309 will be completed in the late spring or early summer. With several other segments

in progress the 4.5 miles of the Cross County Trail in Upper Dublin Township should be completed in the late spring or early summer of 2021



# Trails Under Construction in Burlington County, New Jersey



For the 5.5 mile section of the Delaware River Heritage Trail (DRHT), NJ Transit is finishing up installing New Jersey's first signal controlled trail crossing, which should be fully opened from end to end by summer 2021. The first phase of the Arney's Mount Trail (1.5 miles) is well underway and will be completed by the end of 2021.





# Visionary Plans for the Spring Garden Street Greenway

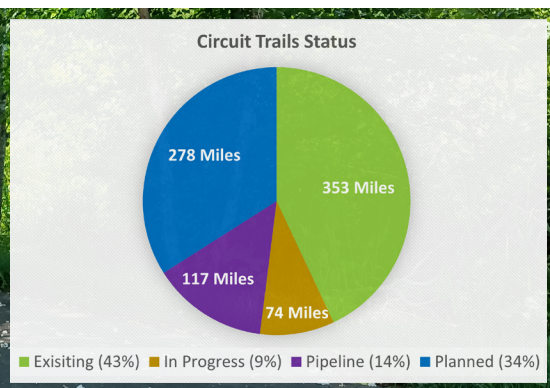


Above is a conceptual rendering of the raised bike lane/sidewalk configuration of the Spring Garden Street Greenway. The City of Philadelphia has completed a robust public engagement for the Spring Garden Street

Improvement Project. The people have spoken, and it is clear that the public wants to see a much safer, more beautiful Spring Garden Street, especially for people walking and biking -- an overwhelming 89 percent of

respondents favored curbside protected bike lanes. The Circuit Trails Philadelphia Action Team's top priority is to seek funding to make this design a reality.

## 500 Miles By 2025: We Can Do It!



The Circuit Trails will be complete by 2040. That's the goal. If we can ramp up trails construction enough to get to 500 miles by 2025, we will be on track. To figure out exactly what roadblocks are in the way of this intermediate goal,

members of the Circuit Coalition spent the last year doing a deep dive: we studied every segment, held dozens of meetings, created a database and published a report with recommended actions for state, county and local officials.

We need you too! Go to [circuittrails.org/get-involved](https://circuittrails.org/get-involved) to learn more, and to become a "Circuit Citizen," a grassroots activist who advocates for increased support of The Circuit with your elected officials.

# Trails Completed And Coming Soon

The Circuit Trails completed **12.96 miles** in 2020, including an additional **5.6 miles** of trail improved in the region. This brings the total to 354 miles built. When complete, The Circuit Trails will consist of 827 miles.

## Circuit Trails Completed in 2020

State	County	Trail	Mileage
NJ	Burlington	Delaware River Heritage Trail	4.99
PA	Bucks	Upper Bucks Rail Trail	3.19
PA	Bucks	ECG - Federal Street to Cramer Drive	0.28
PA	Bucks	Neshaminy Creek Trail - New Britain Segments	1.48
PA	Delaware	Chester Creek Trail - Eyre Park Trail and Levee Walk	0.58
PA	Montgomery	Cross County Trail - 1100 Virginia Dr to Susquehanna Road	0.69
PA	Philadelphia	Cobbs Creek Trail - Segment A	0.51
PA	Philadelphia	Delaware River Trail - Penn Treaty Park Promenade	0.22
PA	Philadelphia	Tacony-Tookany-Frankford Trail - Adams Avenue Connector	0.85
PA	Chester/Montco	Schuylkill River Trail - Route 29 Bridge	0.17

**Total Miles: 12.96**

## Circuit Trail Openings Coming Soon

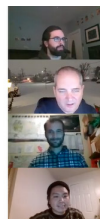
State	County	Trail	Mileage
NJ	Burlington	Rancocas Creek Greenway - Amico Island to Pennington Park	2.26
NJ	Burlington	Arney's Mount Trail - Phase 1	1.49
NJ	Burlington	Delaware River Heritage Trail - Cramer Hill Waterfront Park	0.77
NJ	Mercer	Lawrence-Hopewell Trail - Maidenhead Meadows Trail	0.51
PA	Berks	Schuylkill River Trail - Monocacy Bridge	0.05
PA	Delaware	East Coast Greenway - PA-DE Border Bike Lanes	0.30
PA	Bucks/Montco	Newtown Rail Trail - County Line Road to Bristol Road	2.54
PA	Bucks	D&L Trail - Bridge Street Crossing	0.08
PA/NJ	Bucks/Mercer	Scudder Falls Bridge Side Path	0.76
PA	Chester	Chester Valley Trail - Segment 4A	1.04
PA	Montgomery	Schuylkill River Trail - Parker Ford to PA 422	3.69
PA	Montgomery	CCT - PA 309 Overpass to Life Time/Trumark Entrance	0.20
PA	Montgomery	Pennypack Trail - Byberry road to County Line Road	0.83
PA	Philadelphia	Schuylkill River Trail - Grays Ferry Bridge	0.10
PA	Philadelphia	Delaware River Trail - Christian Street to Spruce Street	0.58
PA	Philadelphia	Cobbs Creek Trail - Segment D	0.32
PA	Philadelphia	Delaware River Trail - K&T Phase 2	0.63

**Total Coming Soon: 16.15**

# The Rally for the Circuit Trails!

In October 2020, members from the Circuit Trails Coalition hosted several Facebook Live Rallies for the Circuit Trails to announce the growing network of trails in the Greater Philadelphia and southern New Jersey region. With 146 miles to build in the next 4 years, the Coalition kicked off a public campaign to make 500 miles by 2025 a reality by inviting members of the public to become Circuit Citizens.

## The Circuit Trails



After the two rallies, the Circuit Coalition invited Circuit Citizens to join a County Action Team if they wanted to become more involved.

As of early February, the Circuit Coalition held Zoom Meetups for each of the nine counties informing trail users on how they can get involved and advocate for the Circuit Trails. Organizing members of the public into Circuit Citizens and Action Teams is our latest step to bring us closer to completing 500 miles by 2025.

If you're interested in getting involved, become a [Circuit Citizen](#) or join an [Action Team](#) for updates and future actions to advocate for the trails. As the Circuit Citizen community continues to grow we aim to inform those who are interested in supporting and advocating for the advancement of the Circuit Trails network.

## Support the Circuit Trails

At the outset of the pandemic, the Circuit Trails immediately pivoted its marketing efforts to emphasize themes and resources about [trail safety](#), [etiquette](#) and [advocacy](#). Traditionally, the campaign focuses on promoting trail use,

their gratitude for trails in their community during this time. The messaging was well timed and well received as demonstrated by web metrics alone: The site has experienced an 80%+ increase in visitors, the "Trail Etiquette"

messages from those officials in return.

While the direct engagement and enthusiasm from trail users has offered promise for building future long-term support for the trail network, this time has also drawn into sharp focus the disparities faced by many in our communities, including access to greenspace and safe spaces to walk, bike and be active. There is an urgent need to bring more intention to the coalition's engagement with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, and communications and marketing play a significant role in building a more inclusive outdoors on trails—a need that will be front in center in the development of future marketing and engagement strategies.



but given the uncertainty of evolving public health guidelines related to COVID-19, the 2020 campaign instead emphasized messages about trail etiquette and calls for trail users to express

landing page has received thousands of visitors each month, and hundreds have submitted messages of gratitude to their local officials across the Circuit footprint, yielding supportive



# Celebrating the Opening of the Upper Bucks Rail Trail

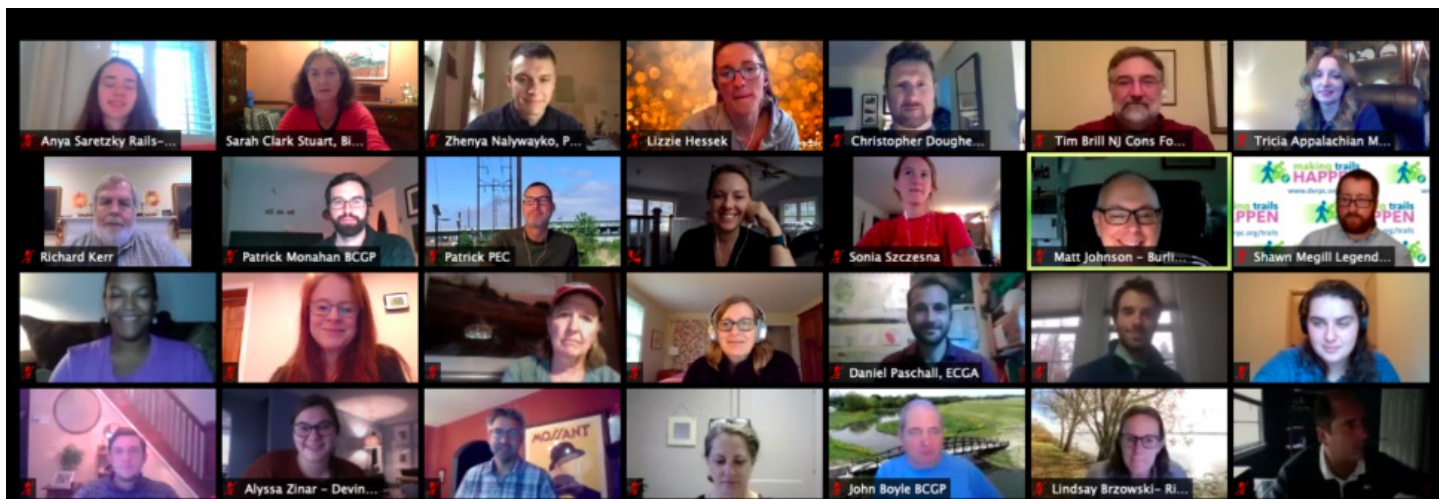


In the photo above, Patrick Starr of the PA Environmental Council and Vice Chair of the Circuit Trails Coalition was one of many speakers to celebrate the ceremonial ribbon cutting of the Upper Bucks Rail Trail.

The new 3.2 mile Upper Bucks Rail Trail connects to the Saucon Rail Trail and features an 800-foot-long boardwalk at its end to cross wetlands. The trail is also part of the PA Highlands Trail and connects 7 municipalities. This cooperative effort to get this trail open was between the county and Richland and Springfield Townships linking the county to a network of recreational trails throughout the Delaware and Lehigh Valleys.







The Circuit Trails Coalition is a collaboration of nonprofit organizations, foundations, and agencies working to advance completion of a connected network of trails – The Circuit Trails – in the Greater Philadelphia region. Its goal is to raise the profile of bicycle and pedestrian trails and their public benefits so that building the Circuit Trails becomes a significant regional priority. Since its May 2012 launch, the Circuit Trails Coalition has brought together dozens of organizations to advocate for completing The Circuit Trails network, with an eye toward raising the profile of trails and their many public benefits.

### Circuit Trails Coalition Members

Members of the Circuit Trails Coalition are a diverse group of nonprofits working in the fields of transportation, recreation, health, environmental sustainability, and economic development.

The Circuit Trails Coalition is governed by a steering committee that is comprised of elected representatives from the 65+ member organizations.

### Circuit Trails Coalition Public Partners

The Circuit Trails Coalition has formed active partnerships with governmental agencies that work to provide support and resources for Circuit Trails development and management.

Local, county, state and regional organizations are involved, representing interests such as planning, transportation management, parks, and conservation.

### Circuit Trails Coalition “Circuit Citizens”

The Circuit Citizens community is a growing, interconnected, multi-county network of people who are interested in supporting and advocating for the advancement of the Circuit Trails network.

Circuit Citizens are the grassroots of the trail movement, who take action at the local level to increase support for trails.

**Want your business or organization to become a Circuit Trails Ambassador?**  
Visit [circuittrails.org/ambassadors](https://circuittrails.org/ambassadors) for more information.

This work of The Circuit Coalition is made possible with the generous support of:

*William Penn*  
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