

2021 Delaware County Trails Progress: Grants, Delco Trails Alliance, & Project Updates

Philadelphia Western Suburbs Trail Summit
February 12, 2022

Elaine Paul Schaefer, Vice Chair, Delaware County Council
Steve Beckley, AICP, Delaware County Planning Department



DELAWARE COUNTY TRAILS: 2021 PROGRESS

1. Delco Trails Alliance
2. Delco Green Ways Grant Program
3. County-Led Project Updates

1. Delco Trails Alliance

DELCO TRAILS ALLIANCE

- A core action group assembled in 2021.
- Includes Leaders and staff of agencies, organizations, and experts with a stake in the Delco Trail Network.

- Rich Kerr, Friends of Haverford Trails, Chair
- Elaine Schaefer, County Council
- Brian Barrett, Haverford Twp. Rec.
- Bob Thomas, Campbell Thomas & Co.
- Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance
- Jean Lynch, PA DCNR
- Angie Hernandez, JMT Engineers
- Patrick Starr, PEC
- Patrick Monahan, BCGP
- John Paulson, Friends of Chester Creek Trail
- Shawn Megill Legendre, DVRPC (guest)

- Support provided by County Planning staff
- Motto is “Get trails done”.



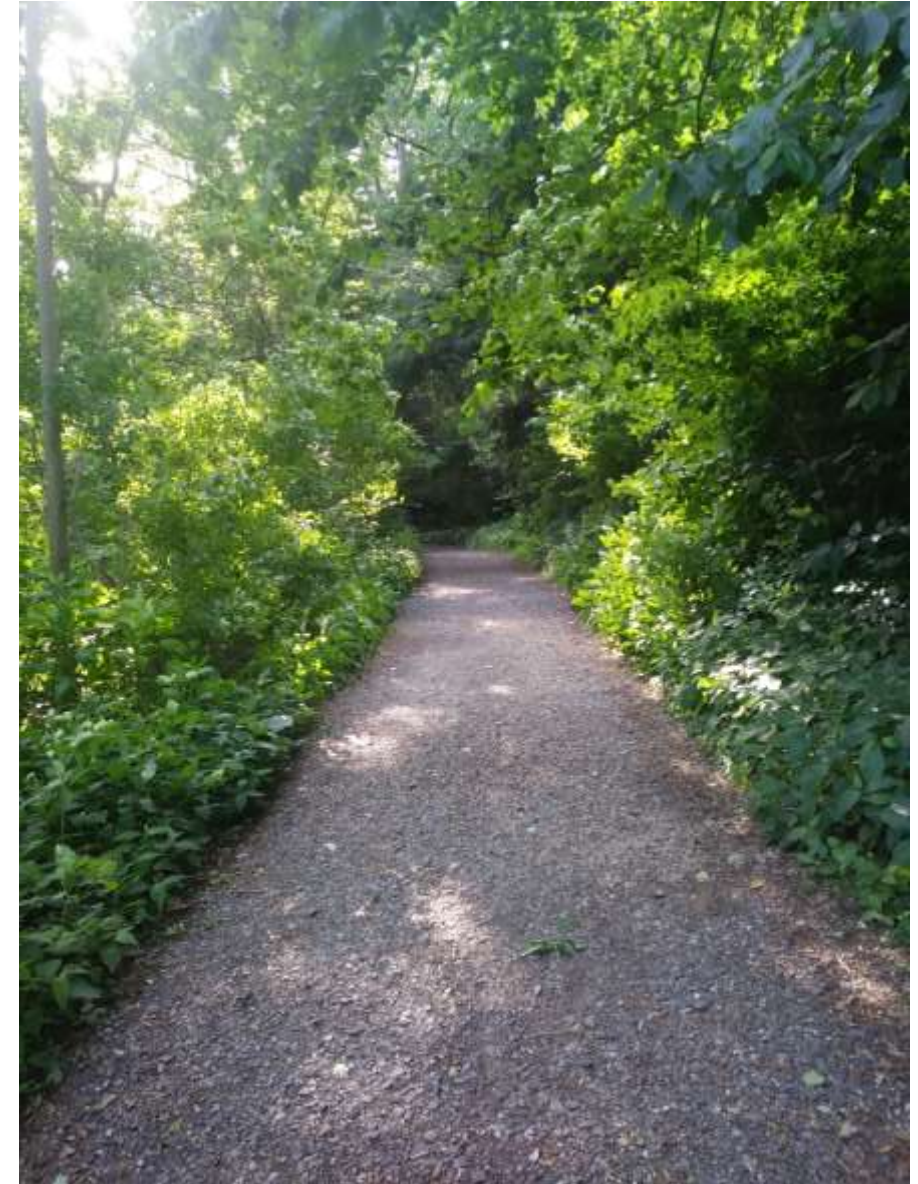
East Coast Greenway



DELCO TRAILS ALLIANCE

Some Key Points in the Alliance's Framework:

- Embrace a Vision for Delaware County as a Pedestrian/cycling friendly community.
- Advocate for increased bike & ped funding & policies to enable safe cycling & walking.
- Advocate for development of the trail network.
- Support public agencies.
- Keep a database of trails.
- Educate the Community about trail issues.
- Promote the Summit and more events like it
- Track funding opportunities.
- Collaborate with community organizations to enhance trail-based recreation for everyone.
- Develop a strategic work plan. Build on successes!



2. Delco Green Ways Grant Program

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Delco Green Ways Round 1 - 2019

- County Council announced awards on October 23, 2019.
- \$4.5 million awarded to 26 municipalities
- Projects now in various states of completion
- 7 projects related to trails development or greenway planning
- 4 Project Categories -
 - Conserve
 - Enhance
 - Connect
 - Professional Services



For more details visit: www.delcopa.gov/planning

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Delco Green Ways Round 2 - 2021

- Program was adjusted from experiences & lessons learned from Round 1.
- Guided by input from County's new Green Space Task Force
- 5 Project Categories -
 - Conserve
 - Enhance
 - Connect
 - Planning & Design
 - Mini-Municipal Parks, Rec. & Open Space Plans
- No Match Required
- Non-profits Eligible
- Added theme of Unity



For more details visit: www.delcopa.gov/planning

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Delco Green Ways Round 2 - 2021

- \$13 million was requested overall from 46 municipalities.
- County Council announced awards on October 5, 2021.
 - \$7.4 million was awarded to 43 projects from 38 municipalities & one non-profit organization.
 - \$1.7 Million was added to \$5.5 million in reserve.
- Much more demand shown = more competition for funds, tough decisions made.



OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Delco Green Ways Round 2 - 2021

- 6 “Connect” projects will fund trail development, for a total of \$1,990,809:

CONNECT (Trail) Projects	Awardee	Amount
Walkable Chadds Ford Project	Chadds Ford Township	\$ 500,000
Crozer Park - Chester Creek Trail	Chester City	\$ 500,000
Valley Forge to Heinz Refuge Trail/Radnor Trail Extension	Radnor Township	\$ 407,454
Darby Creek Trail Connectivity Project	Upper Darby Township	\$ 407,375
East Lansdowne-Upper Darby Recreation Trail	East Lansdowne Borough Upper Darby Township	\$ 100,000
Design & Construct Trail along Rose Valley Rd	Rose Valley Borough	\$ 75,980

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Delco Green Ways Round 2 - 2021

- Conserve projects - Land Acquisition.
- 6 Projects Funded totaling : 2,386,477
- 2 of these relate to trails

CONSERVE (Acquisition) Projects <i>relating to trails</i>	Awardee	Amount
Chester Creek Rail-Trail Phase III Property Acquisition <i>*at Lenni Rd. for trail & trailhead</i>	Middletown Township	\$ 450,810
Featherbed Lane (Chetty property) Acquisition and Conservation Easement <i>*adjoins the Garnet Valley Greenway</i>	Concord Township	\$ 250,000

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Delco Green Ways Round 2 - 2021

- 9 “Planning & Design” Projects Funded totaling : \$848,315
- 4 of these relate directly to trails:

PLANNING & DESIGN Projects <i>relating to trails</i>	Awardee	Amount
Lansdowne-Clifton Pedestrian Bridge	Lansdowne Borough & Clifton Heights Borough	\$ 100,000
East Coast Greenway Connectivity Feasibility Study	Tinicum Township	\$ 100,000
Newtown Square Rail Trail Feasibility Study	Newtown Township	\$ 85,000
Study for Optimal Alignments and Enhancements of Segments 9, 10, and 11 of the Delaware County Primary Trail Network <i>*Leiper-Smedley Trail and Extension South</i>	Nether Providence Township & Swarthmore Borough	\$ 75,715

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Delco Green Ways Round 2 - 2021

- Municipality-Wide Planning Projects:

PLANNING & DESIGN: <i>Full Municipal PROS Plans</i>	Awardee	Amount
Upper Darby Parks and Open Space Master Plan	Upper Darby Township	\$ 100,000
Comprehensive Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan for Haverford Township	Haverford Township	\$ 100,000
Bethel Township Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan	Bethel Township	\$ 100,000

- *Also, from Round 1,*
 - *Media Borough PROS completed in 2021,*
 - *Upper Chichester Township PROS is ongoing.*

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM

Delco Green Ways Round 2 - 2021

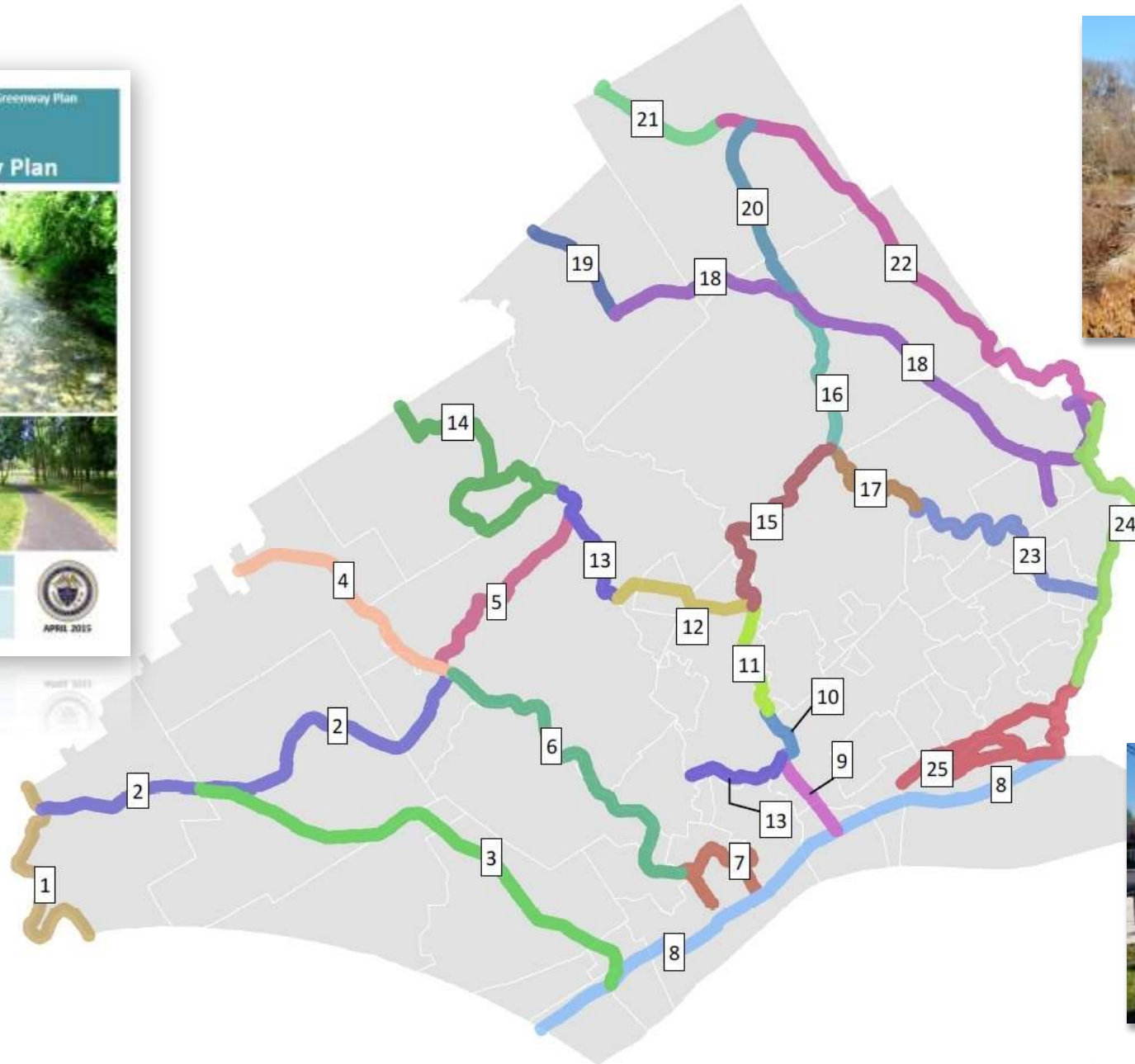
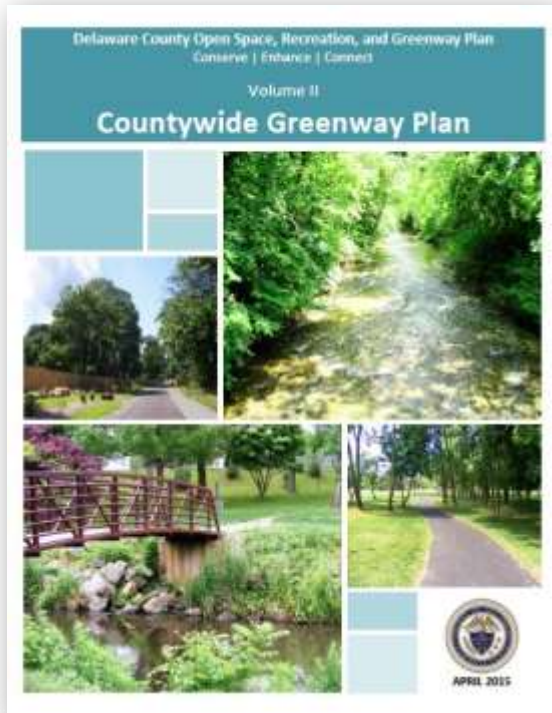
- Municipality-Wide Planning Projects - 16 Mini-Municipal Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Plans Funded:

Mini-Municipal PROS Plans	Amount
Tinicum Township	\$ 50,000
Edgmont Township	\$ 50,000
Lower Chichester Township	\$ 50,000
Ridley Park Borough	\$ 50,000
Morton Borough	\$ 50,000
Chester Heights Borough	\$ 50,000
Chester Township	\$ 45,000
Marcus Hook Borough	\$ 42,750

Mini-Municipal PROS Plans	Amount
Millbourne Borough	\$ 42,500
Folcroft Borough	\$ 42,100
Eddystone Borough	\$ 42,100
Prospect Park Borough	\$ 42,100
Darby Township	\$ 42,100
Norwood Borough	\$ 42,100
Parkside Borough	\$ 42,100
Colwyn Borough	\$ 40,000

3. County-Led Project Updates

DELAWARE COUNTY – PRIMARY TRAIL NETWORK



DELAWARE COUNTY

PRIMARY TRAIL NETWORK



THE CIRCUIT TRAILS

100s OF MILES
OF HAPPY

- Existing Trail
- Trail Under Construction
- Planned Trail
- Federal and State Parks
- County Owned Land
- Municipal Owned Land
- School District Open Space and Recreation
- Homeowner's Association Open Space
- Conservation Organization Protected Land

THE
CIRCUIT
TRAILS
100s OF MILES
OF HAPPY



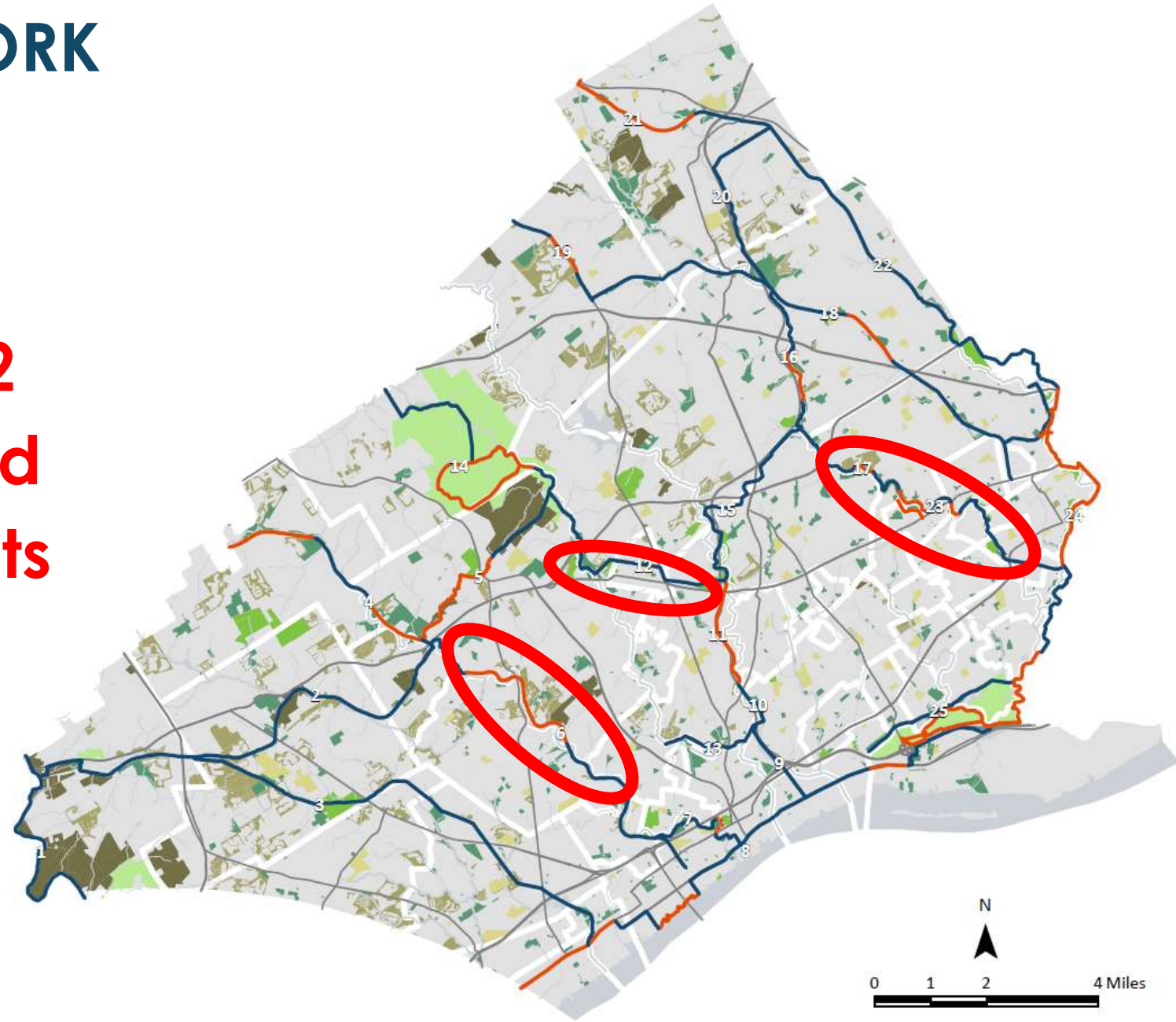
DELAWARE COUNTY

PRIMARY TRAIL NETWORK



2021-2022 County-Led Trail Projects

- Media-Smedley Connector Trail
 - Chester Creek Trail-Phase 2 Design (ongoing)
 - Darby Creek Trail- Phase 2 (ongoing)



CHESTER CREEK TRAIL

PRIMARY TRAIL NETWORK

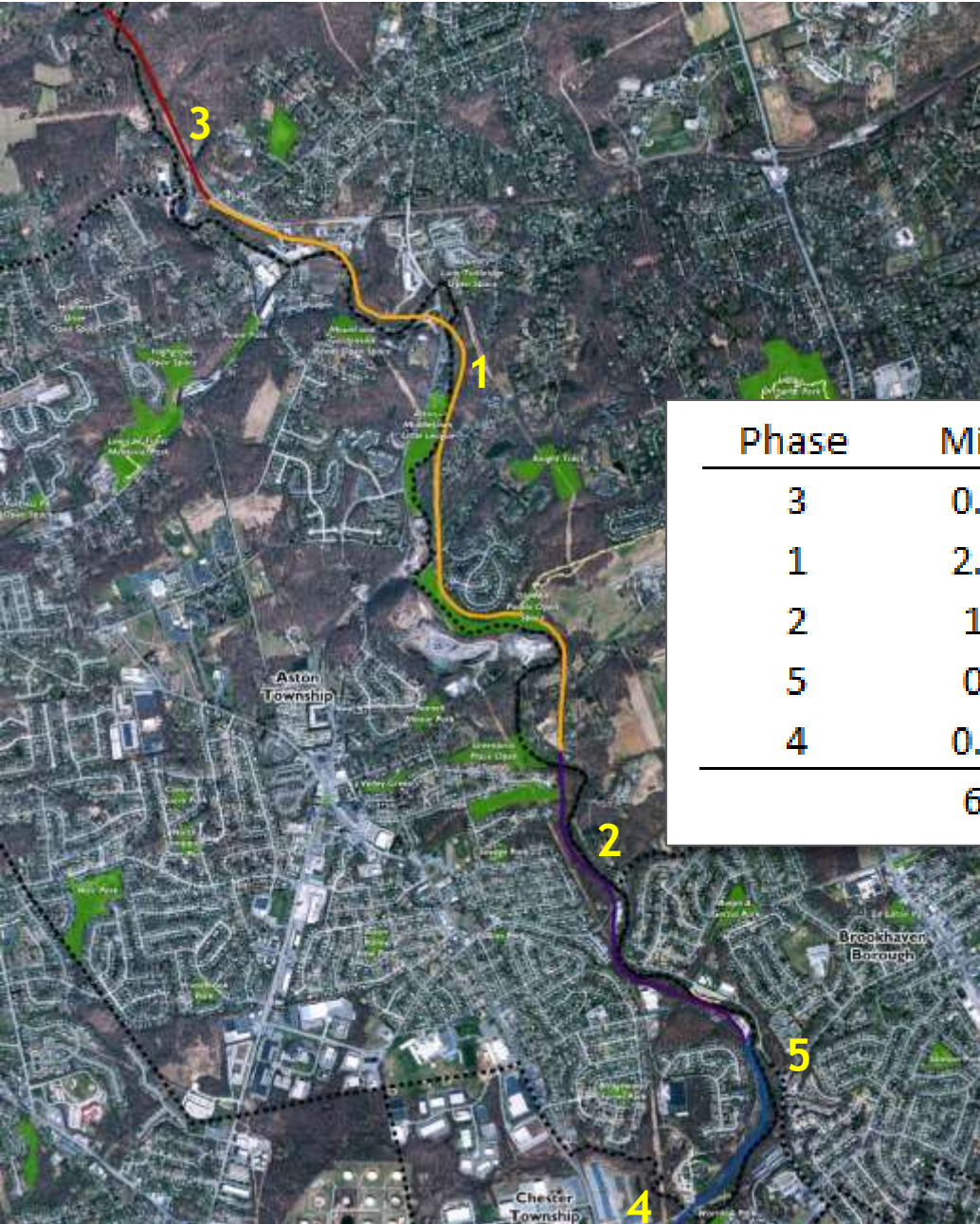


Chester Creek Trail

**THE
CIRCUIT
TRAILS**
100s OF MILES
OF HAPPY



CHESTER CREEK TRAIL – Phasing Breakdown



Phase	Miles		
3	0.42	7%	Phase 3 - North Ext. to Middletown Mint Trail & Rail Station
1	2.75	45%	Phase 1 - Existing
2	1.3	21%	Phase 2 - South Ext. in design
5	0.7	11%	Aston "Gap"
4	0.93	15%	Chester Twp.
	6.1	100%	

CHESTER CREEK TRAIL, Phase 2



Middletown Twp.

Continuing from
Phase 1, Rehab
Rail Bridge

Aston Twp.

Dutton Mill Rd.
Crossing / Endless
Pools Trailhead

P

Southern
Terminus/
Trailhead

P

Brookhaven
Borough

Phase 2 – Progress to Date

- Progress (Design 2018-2021):
 - Survey of entire easement / trail alignment including environmental and waste studies
 - Preliminary Alignment established to identify property issues and design challenges
 - Identified Trailhead options and approached landowners
 - More to come
 - Municipal meetings - including stormwater management related questions
 - Federal Funding (TIP) Approval May 2021
 - 18-24 Month process to get design approval/Solicit construction bids
 - Environmental clearance & permitting underway
 - Preliminary Structure plans/design prepared and reviewed by County
 - More to come



Phase 2 – Challenges

Encroachments



Washouts



Failed Drainage Features



Erosion



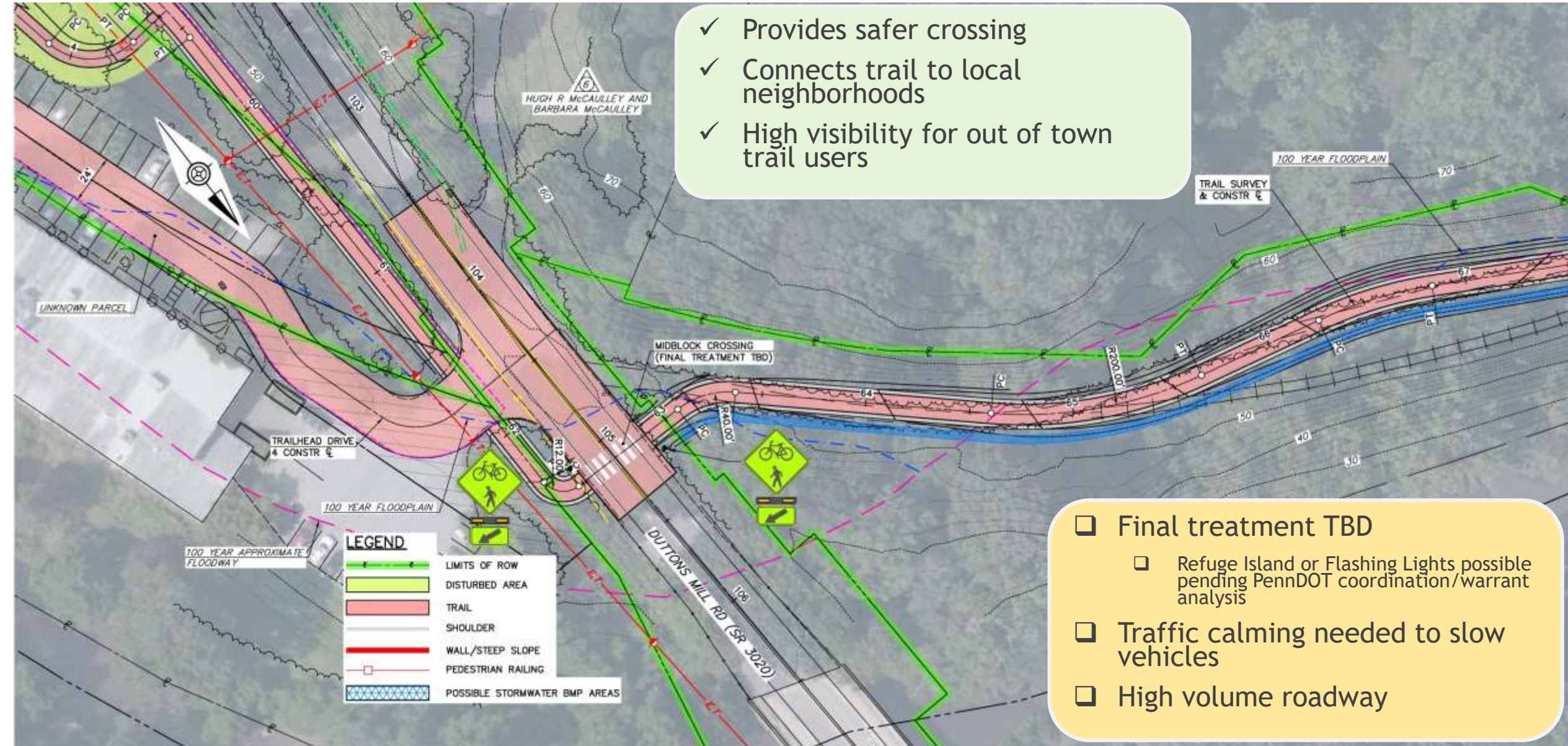
Speed



Phase 2 – Solutions

❖ Duttons Mill Road Crossing

- ✓ Provides safer crossing
- ✓ Connects trail to local neighborhoods
- ✓ High visibility for out of town trail users



- ❑ Final treatment TBD
 - ❑ Refuge Island or Flashing Lights possible pending PennDOT coordination/warrant analysis
- ❑ Traffic calming needed to slow vehicles
- ❑ High volume roadway

Phase 2 – Solutions

❖ Duttons Mill Road Trailhead

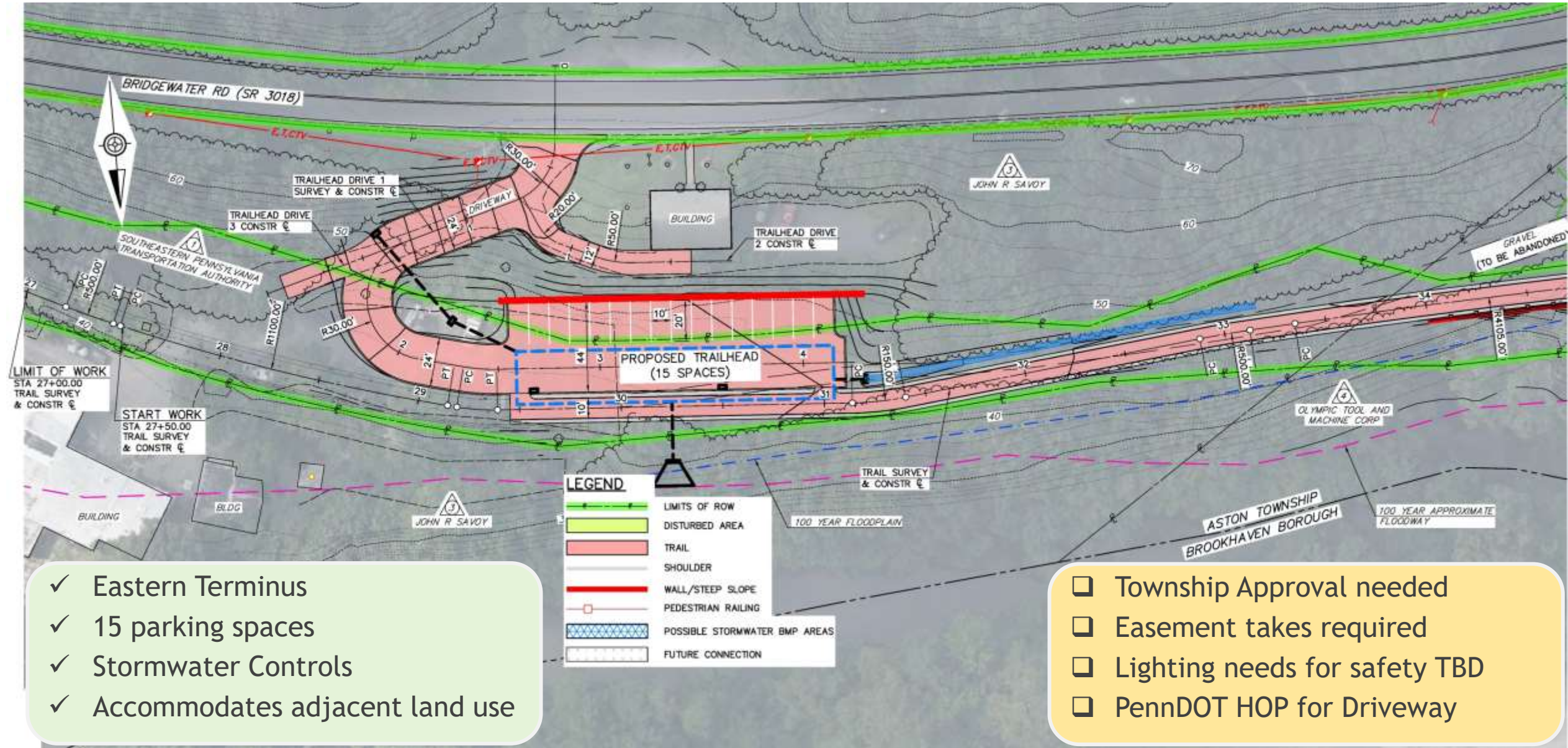


- ✓ Mid-Point Critical Parking
- ✓ 32 parking spaces
- ✓ Stormwater Controls
- ✓ Park like setting

- ❑ Township Approval needed
- ❑ Easement takes required
- ❑ Lighting needs for safety TBD
- ❑ PennDOT HOP for Driveway

Phase 2 – Solutions

❖ Bridgewater Road Trailhead



- ✓ Eastern Terminus
- ✓ 15 parking spaces
- ✓ Stormwater Controls
- ✓ Accommodates adjacent land use

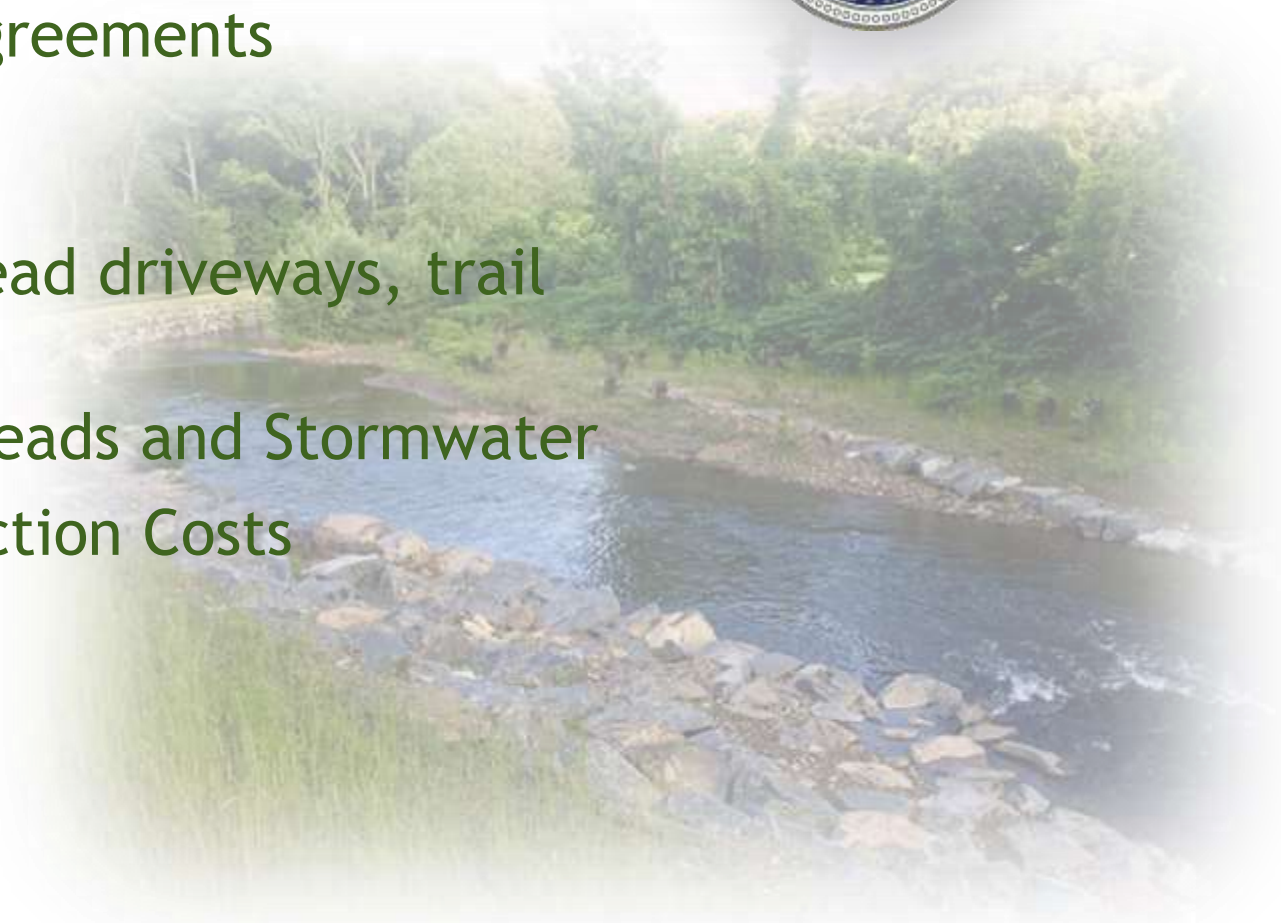
- ❑ Township Approval needed
- ❑ Easement takes required
- ❑ Lighting needs for safety TBD
- ❑ PennDOT HOP for Driveway

Chester Creek Trail – Phase 2



Phase 2 - Next Steps

- Secure Funding
 - Estimated Cost: \$6.5 Million - Federal TIP, Circuit Line Item
- Finalize Encroaching Landowner Agreements
 - Trailheads at 2 locations
 - Minimal additional easement space
- Gain PennDOT approvals for trailhead driveways, trail design, and crossings
- Gain Municipal approvals for trailheads and Stormwater
- Final Design Documents & Construction Costs
 - For use to bid for construction.
- Solicit Construction Bids
- Construct Trail



DARBY CREEK STREAM VALLEY TRAIL



**THE
CIRCUIT
TRAILS**
100s OF MILES
OF HAPPY



DARBY CREEK TRAIL



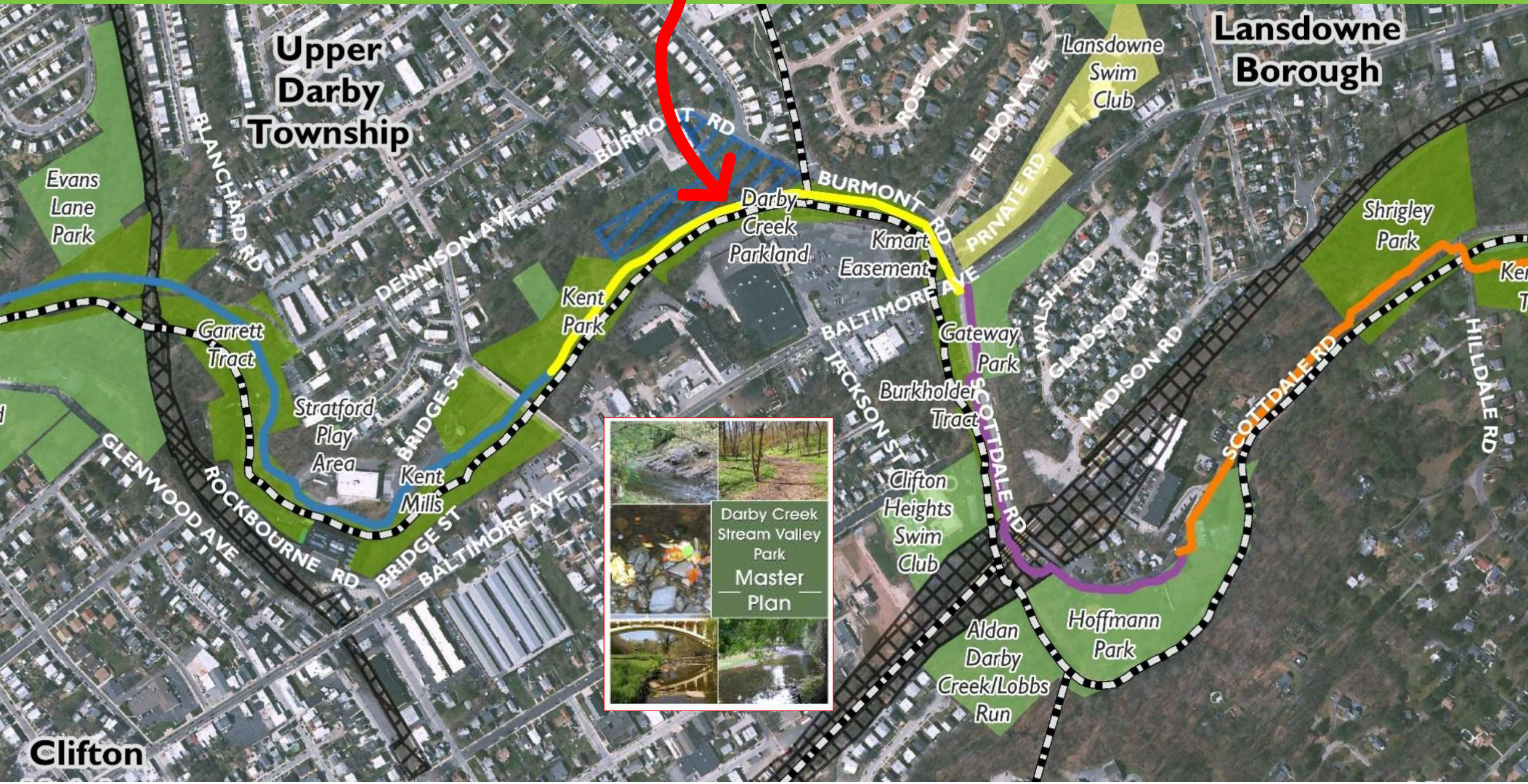
Darby Creek Trail – Phase 1



Darby Creek Trail – Phase 2



DARBY CREEK TRAIL – PHASE 2



DARBY CREEK TRAIL

Phase 2 Feasibility Study & Right-of-Way Acquisition



DARBY CREEK TRAIL



MEDIA-SMEDLEY CONNECTOR TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY



Study Completed and Adopted by County Council
December 2, 2020

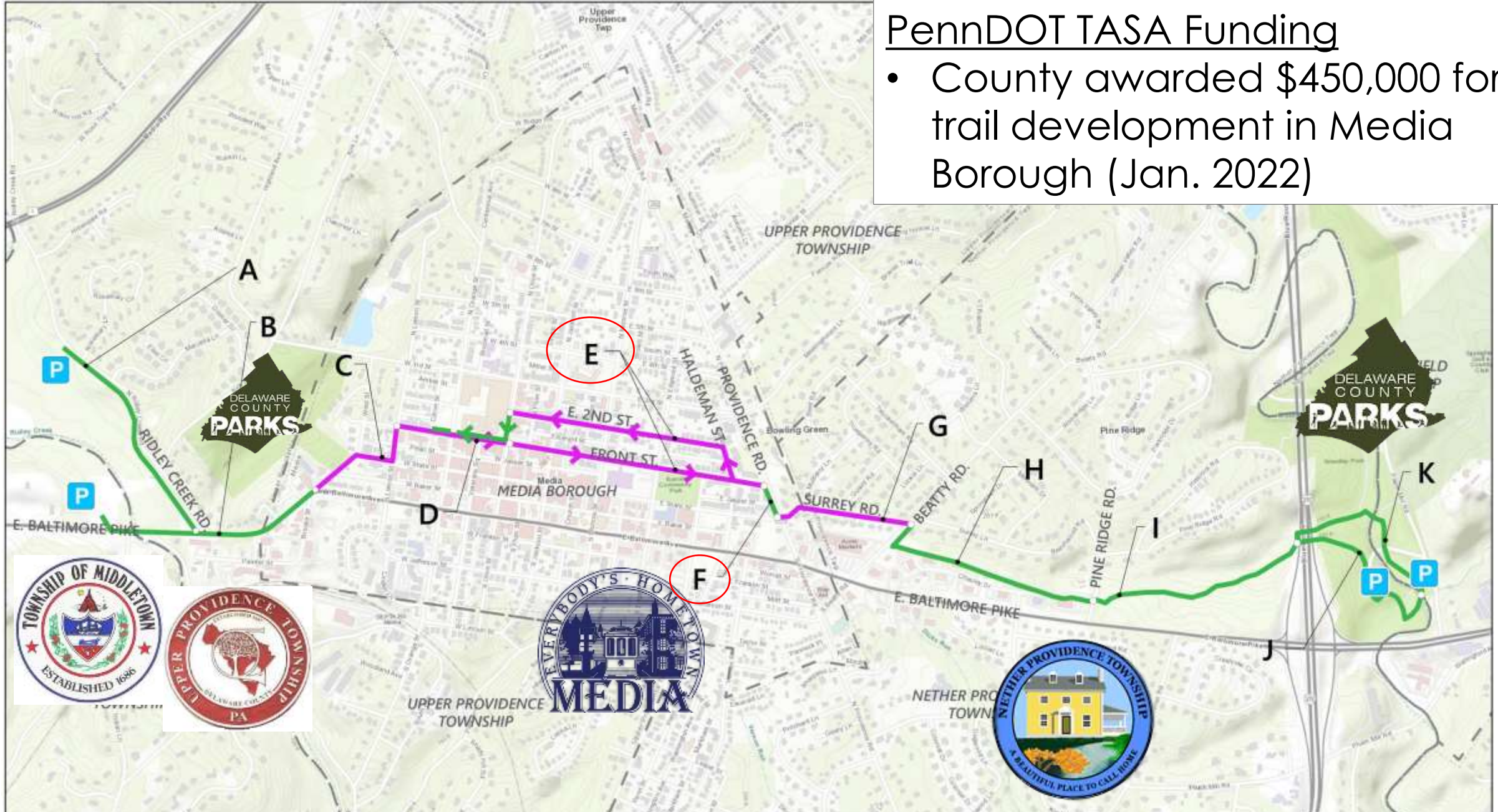
View at www.delcopa.gov/planning/publications.html



MEDIA-SMEDLEY CONNECTOR TRAIL

PennDOT TASA Funding

- County awarded \$450,000 for trail development in Media Borough (Jan. 2022)

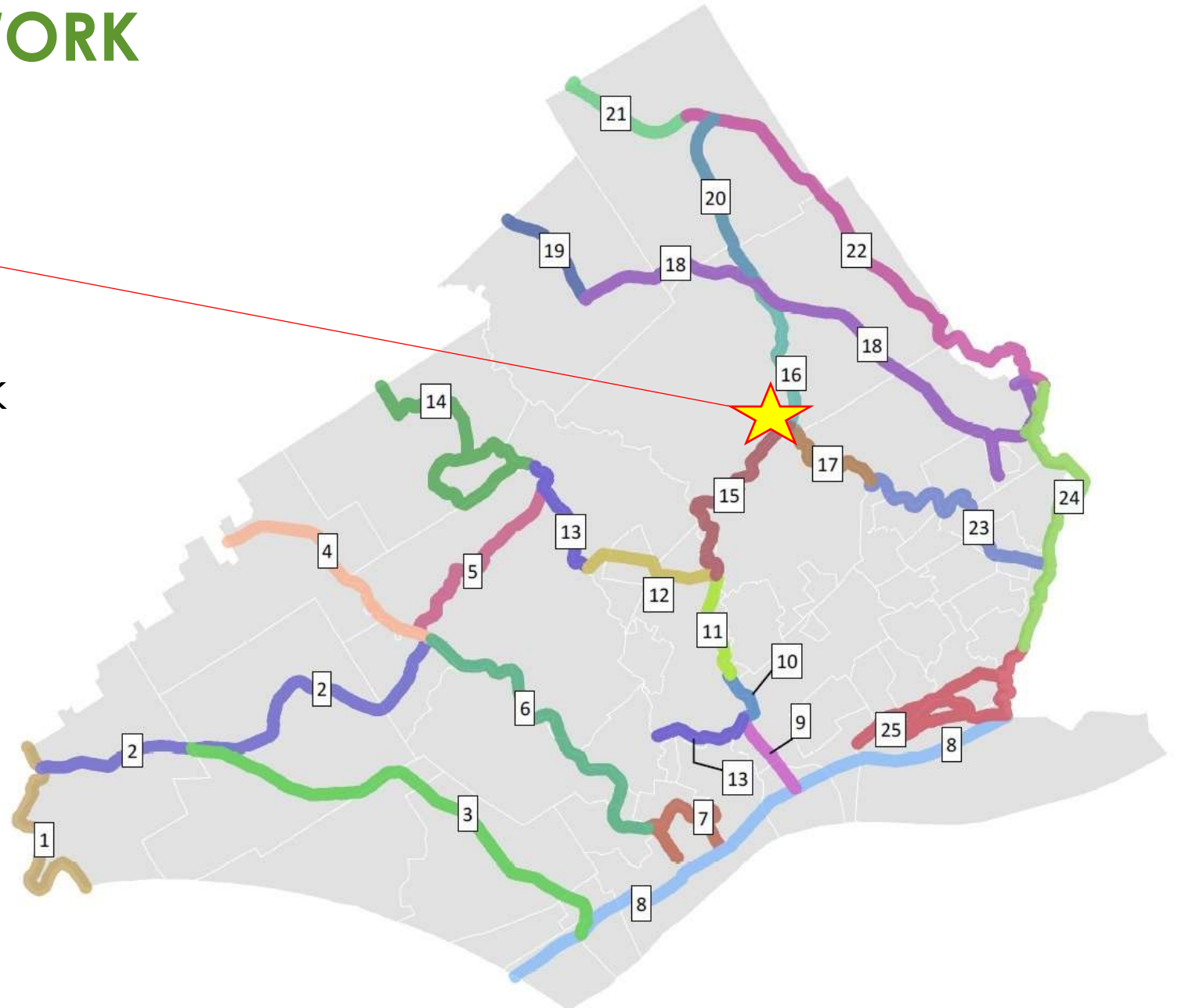


DELAWARE COUNTY

PRIMARY TRAIL NETWORK

Don Guanella Property

- 213 acres,
- New County parkland
- Potential hub in trail network
- Master Planning in 2022





Delco Trash Transfer Station

Incinerator Field
(Delco Parks)
16 ac, appr.

Don Guanella Site
213 acres

Potential Trail Concept - Smedley to Darby Creek segment

Merry Place & Darby
Creek Trail
(Haverford)

Jack McDonald Field
(Haverford)

Pilgrim Park
(Haverford/Upper Darby)



DVRPC-Delco Bike Connectivity Study



Which trailheads need on-street bicycle connections?

About this project

DVRPC is working with the Delaware County Planning Department to develop conceptual plans for bicycle network improvements that will improve mobility across the county by tying local trailheads to nearby neighborhood amenities with low-stress bike facilities.

We want your feedback to help us pick the locations for initial focus! Please use this map to vote for the three locations that are most in need of on-street connectivity improvements for cyclists.

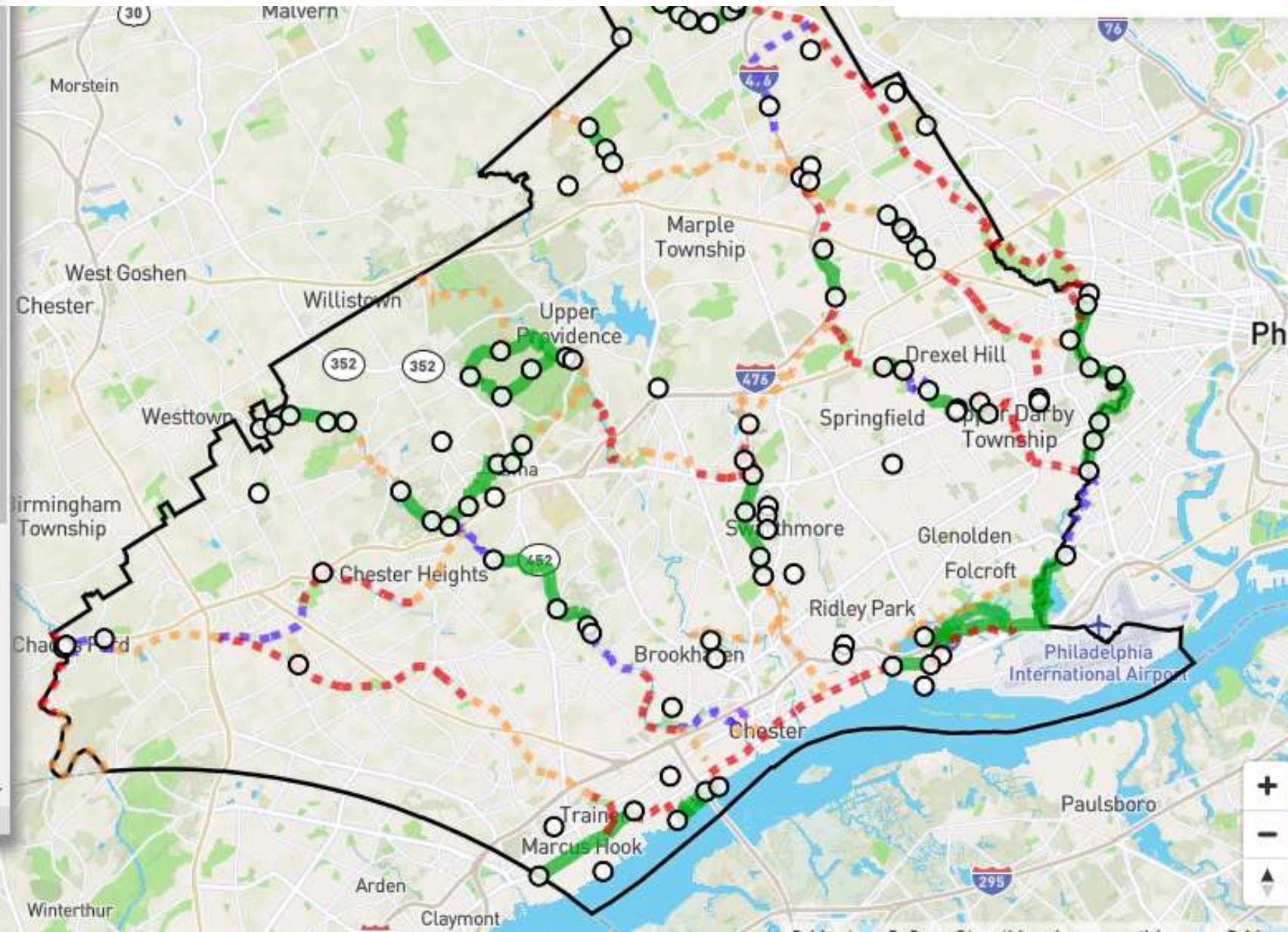
How do I use this map?

Trail Network

Existing Construction Design Potential Proposed

Existing: Solid green line
Construction: Dashed purple line
Design: Dashed blue line
Potential: Dashed orange line
Proposed: Dashed red line

<https://cloud.dvrpc.org/webmaps/delaware-county-trailheads/>



DVRPC-Delco Bike Connectivity Study

<https://cloud.dvrpc.org/webmaps/delaware-county-trailheads/>

improve mobility across the county by tying local trailheads to nearby neighborhood amenities with low-stress bike facilities.

We want your feedback to help us pick the locations for initial focus! Please use this map to vote for the three locations that are most in need of on-street connectivity improvements for cyclists.

How do I use this map?

1. Click on (up to) three trailheads where you're most interested in seeing connectivity improvements
2. If you click a trailhead by accident or want to change your vote, click it again to unselect it
3. Enter your email in the text box below
4. Click "Submit Votes" when you're finished

How do you define "need"?

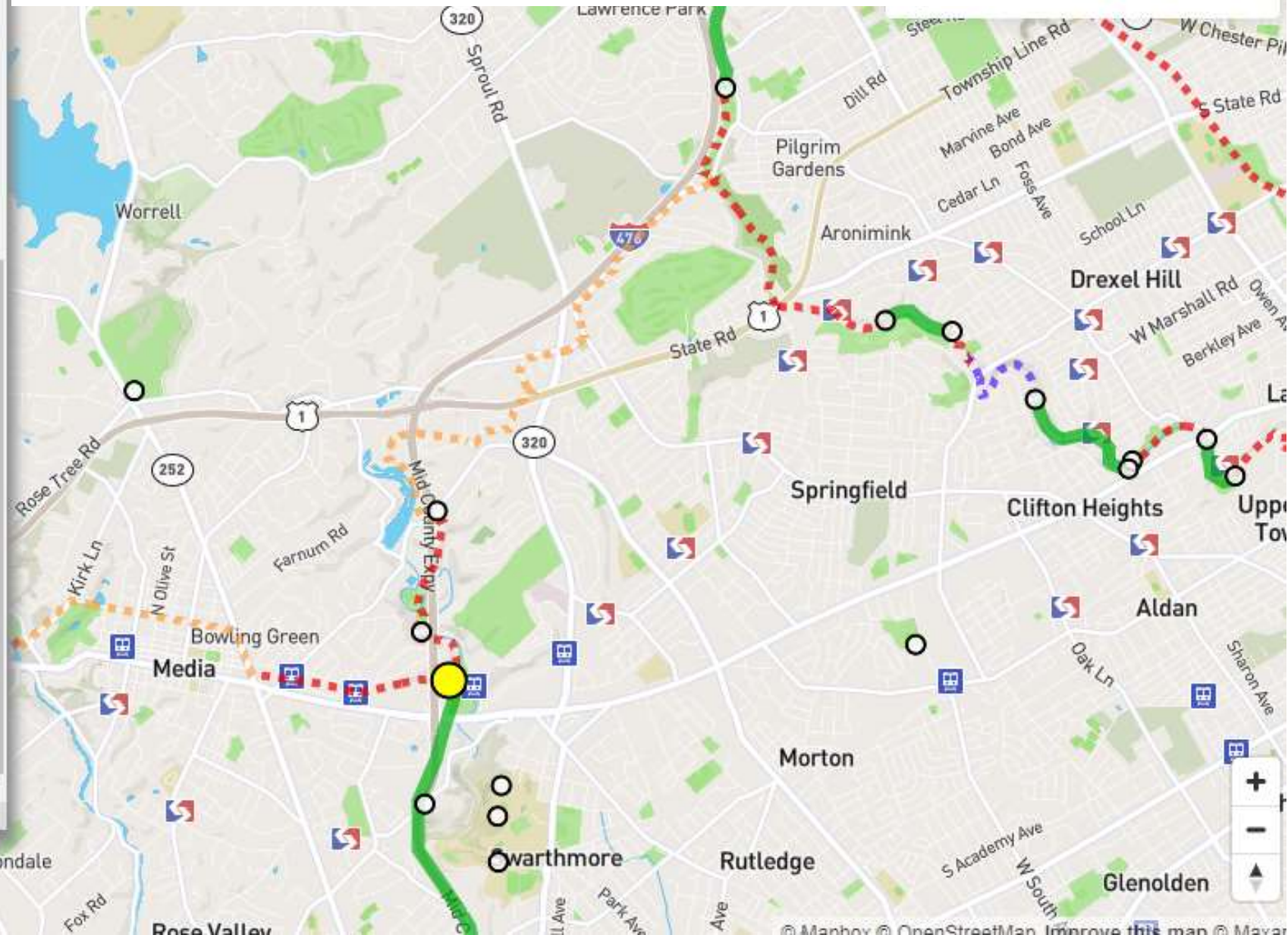
Enter your email:

Submit Votes

Trail Network

Existing Construction Design Potential Proposed

Existing Construction Design Potential Proposed





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Delaware County Planning Department
www.delcopa.gov/planning