

# CYNWYD TRAIL



Come & learn about the Township's exciting new opportunity to create a multiuse recreational trail along the unused portion of the R-6 Line between Cynwyd Station & the Schuylkill River! Lower Merion Township Assistant Director for Building & Planning, Chris Leswing & Jerry Francis from the Lower Merion Historical Society will discuss recent efforts to preserve the historic Cynwyd Station and convert the unused rail corridor into a community open space. For more information please call 610-645-6116 or E-mail [cleswing@lowermerion.org](mailto:cleswing@lowermerion.org)

**The 2 –mile long Cynwyd Heritage Trail (CHT) opened in October 2011 and over the past decade the CHT has become one of the most heavily used public spaces in the Township.**

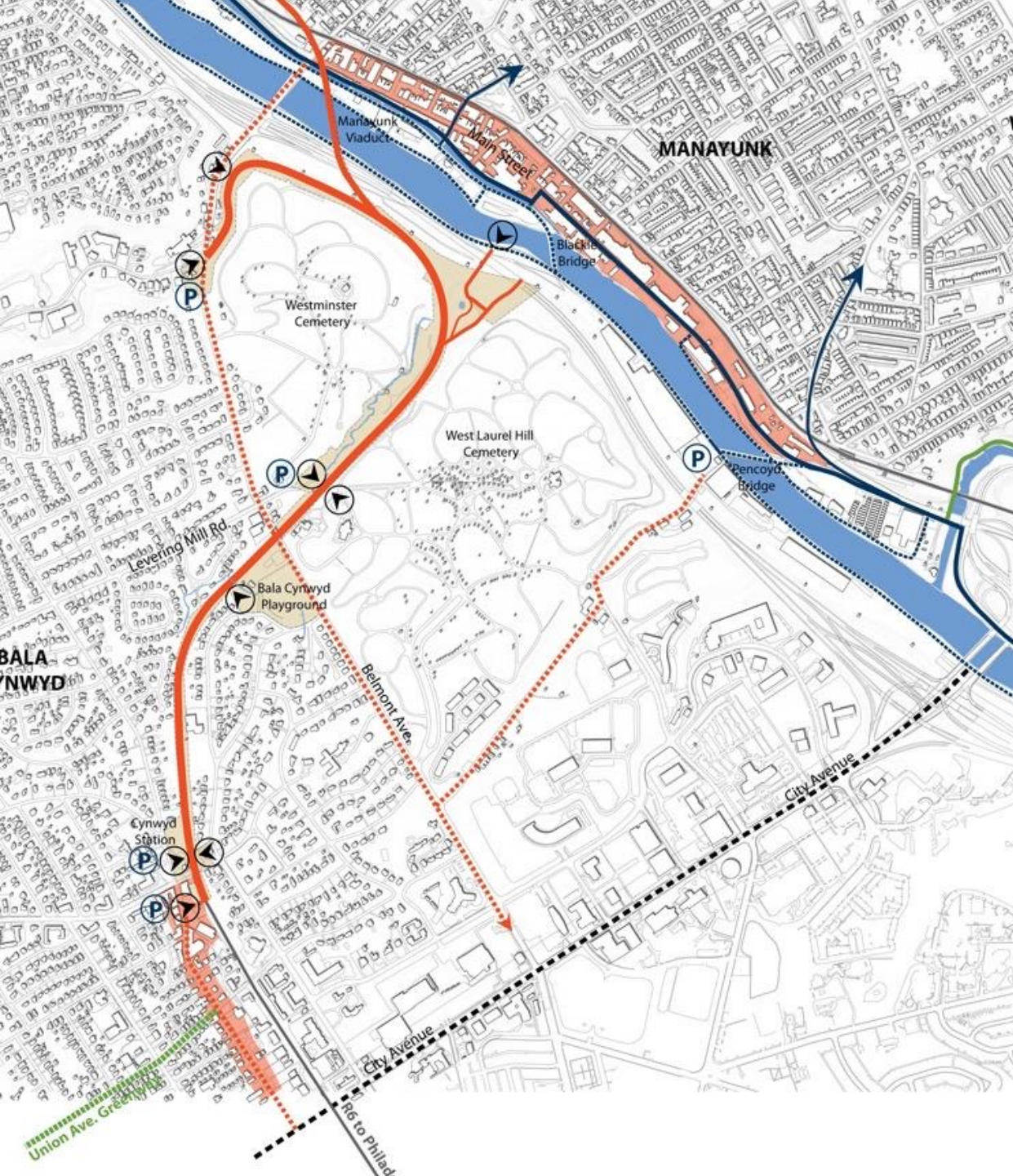
The final design of the CHT was prepared by Studio Bryan Hanes in 2009 through an extensive public process. At its core, the CHT was envisioned as a passive linear park surrounding an active recreational trail network. The Cynwyd Heritage Trail Master Plan established a framework for the incremental expansion/refinement of the park to accommodate Township needs while balancing evolving community desires for:

- Understanding and appreciation of the role that the linear park plays in historic, economic, cultural and environmental qualities of Lower Merion Township;
- Public gathering and events, such as movies, concerts and farmers markets;
- A high-quality trail experience with public art, community restrooms and trail amenities such as interpretive signage, seating and bike infrastructure; and
- A sustainable, healthy natural environment supporting native species and wildlife.

## PUBLIC MEETING

LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 75 EAST LANCASTER AVENUE ARDMORE  
BOARD ROOM 2ND FLOOR





The Cynwyd Heritage Trail is a Linear Park assembled from multiple public and private parcels and easements creating a diverse and varied experience linking land use, transportation, recreation, economic development, Historic Preservation and open space together.

The original CHT is comprised of :

- The 1.2 mile SEPTA right of way from Cynwyd Station to the Manayunk Bridge;
- .9 acre Cynwyd Station Park;
- 13.4 acre Bala Cynwyd Park;
- 8 acre property acquired from Westminister Cemetery;
- 9 acre tract donated by the Connelly family;
- 6.4 acre, .6 mile long tract purchased from the Spaventa family; and
- The .33 mile long Manayunk Bridge leased from SEPTA.



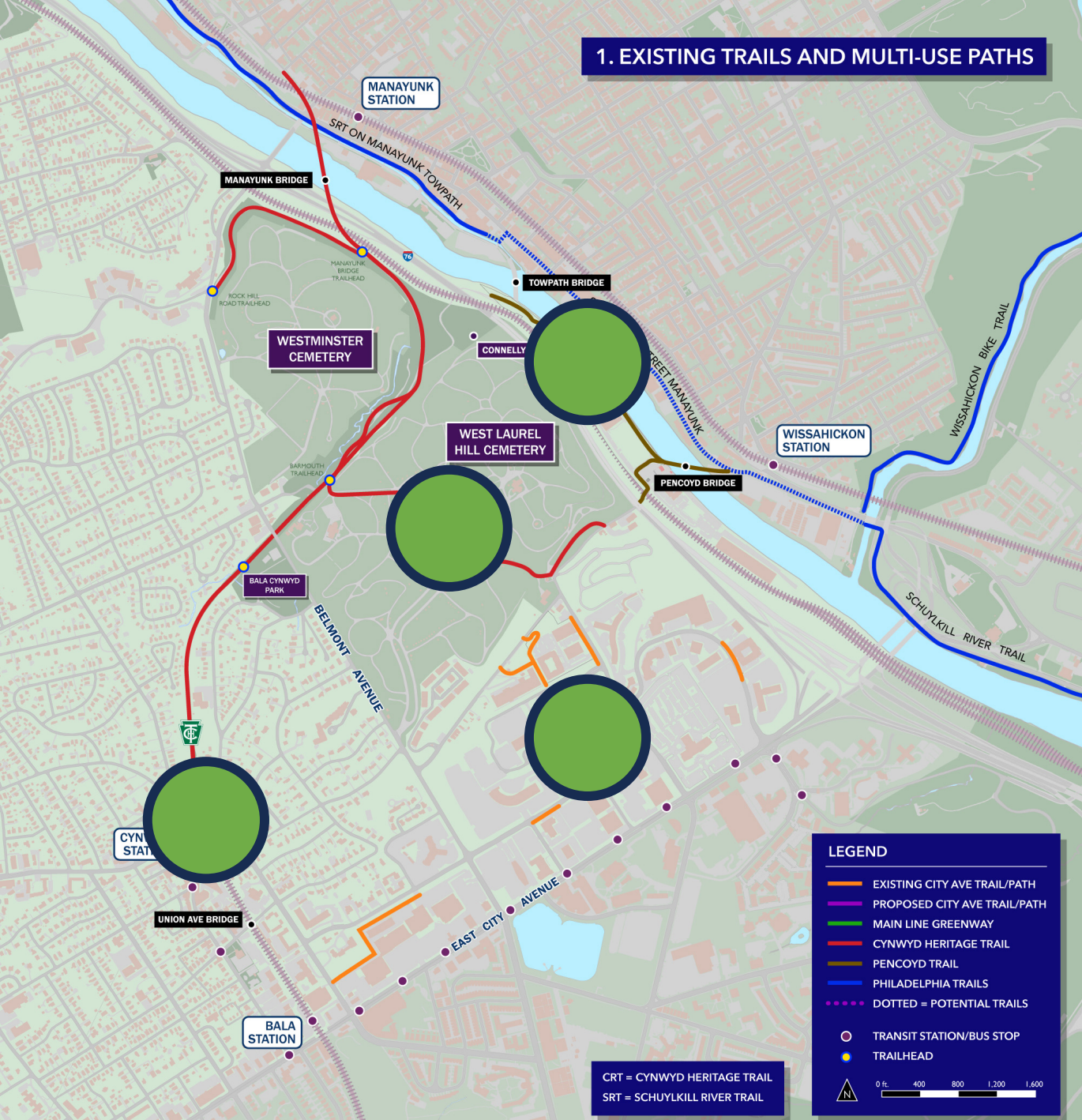


**The broad, inclusive vision of the Trail was instrumental to the Township's ability to receive funding for construction. The core property assembly, design and construction was largely funded through the Montgomery County Open Space Program. However significant additional funds were received to facilitate specific transportation, stormwater management, economic development and historic preservation features.**

Cynwyd Heritage Trail (phase I)				
Source	Amount	Phase I	Phase II	Phase I & II
County construction	\$ 1,238,000	39%	na	na
County acquisition	\$ 464,000	15%	na	na
LMT construction	\$ 364,000	12%	na	na
PCTI (state) to lmt	\$ 625,000	20%	na	na
DCNR (state)	\$ 250,000	8%	na	na
LMT acquisition	\$ 116,000	4%	na	na
DCED (state)	\$ 75,000	2%	na	na
Federal	\$ 20,000	1%	na	na
PECO	\$ 10,000	0%	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,162,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>
Manayunk Bridge (phase II)				
LMT	\$ 250,000	na	4%	na
DCNR	\$ 500,000	na	9%	na
WPF/DVRPC	\$ 510,000	na	9%	na
PennDOT	\$ 4,500,000	na	78%	na
<b>Total Phase II</b>	<b>\$ 5,760,000</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>na</b>
Total Project Cynwyd Trail and Manayunk Bridge I & II				
Misc/Federal/PECO	\$ 30,000	na	na	0%
DVRPC/William Penn Foundation	\$ 510,000	na	na	6%
Lower Merion Township	\$ 730,000	na	na	8%
Montgomery County	\$ 1,702,000	na	na	19%
Pennsylvania	\$ 5,950,000	na	na	67%
<b>Total Phases I &amp; II</b>	<b>\$ 8,922,000</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>na</b>	<b>100%</b>



# 1. EXISTING TRAILS AND MULTI-USE PATHS

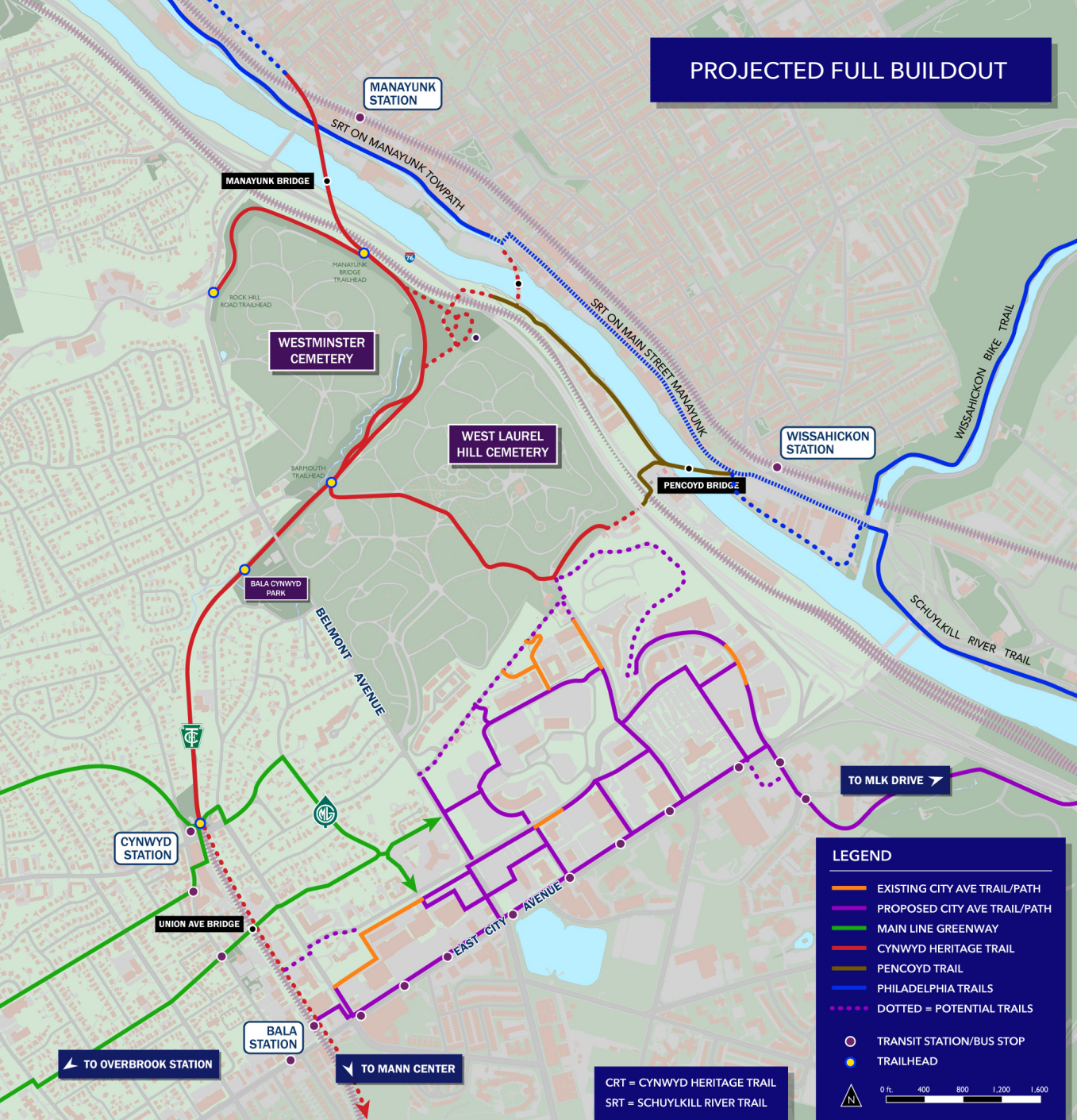


CRT = CYNWYD HERITAGE TRAIL  
 SRT = SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL

Over the past 10 years the Cynwyd Heritage Trail has expanded through land development of adjacent properties to include:

1. Easement through West Laurel Hill Cemetery
2. Connection under Montgomery Avenue Through BMW Dealership
3. Pencoyd Bridge and Trail improvements through new apartment complex
4. City Avenue Official Map





Future expansions of the Township’s trail network are envisioned to include:

- A completed Cynwyd Heritage Trail;
- The Pencoyd Waterfront Trail; and
- The City Avenue Trail Network constructed via redevelopment of City Avenue.

When completed the Lower Merion Trail Network will:

- Provide connections to the regional trail network via the Manayunk Bridge, the Pencoyd Bridge, the Towpath Bridge, the City Avenue Pedestrian Bridge, and the Cynwyd Station/Bala/Mann Center Extension.
- Link existing residential neighborhoods with under-used open space and new mixed-use development along the Schuylkill River waterfront and in City Avenue.



# 1. EXISTING TRAILS AND MULTI-USE PATHS



## Keystone projects.

1. Acquisition of a 500' long waterfront parcel from Norfolk Southern to connect the CHT and Pencoyd Trails. Acquisition is contingent upon the Township improving a 100-year-old railroad spur overpass.
2. Connecting the Bala Extension to the signaled intersection of Conshohocken State Road and St. Asaphs Road.
3. Completing side path, intersection, and pedestrian crossings along Righters Ferry Road to link the CHT with City Avenue Trails and the CHT with the Pencoyd Trail.
4. Wayfinding Signage



Connelly Site 



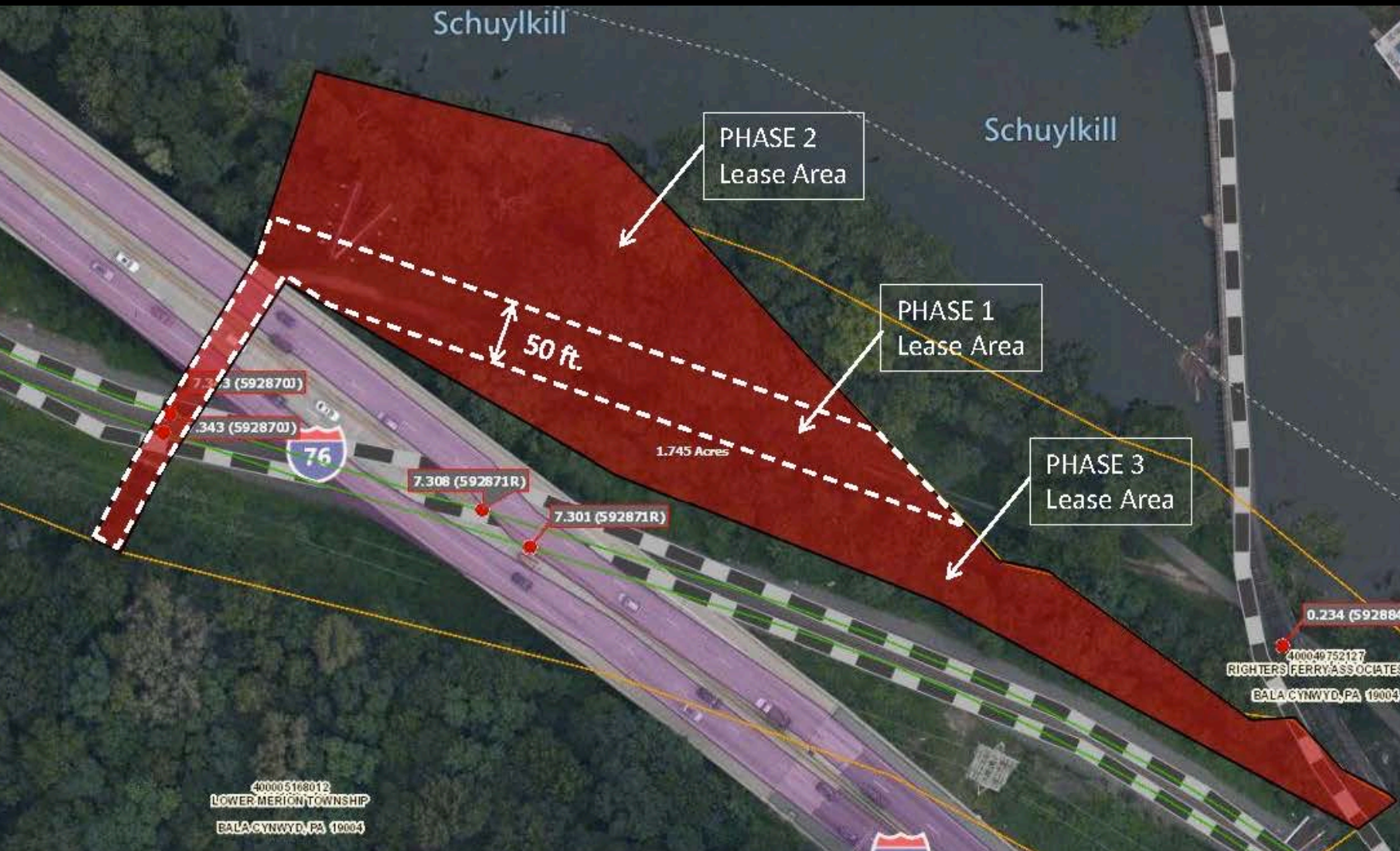
Norfolk  
Southern  
Parcel

Manayunk Towpath SRT 

 Pencoyd Trail







The 2-acre Norfolk Southern parcel is located between the end of the Royal Athena and an undeveloped section of the CHT called the Connelly Tract, named for Tom Connelly, who donated the 9 acres to the Township in 2007.

The Norfolk Southern parcel is a remnant rail spur that supported the former Pencoyd Iron Works. It was abandoned after the demolition of the Iron Works and the construction of the Schuylkill Expressway.

The spur is currently overgrown, but has excellent waterfront views of the Schuylkill River, Manayunk, and the Manayunk and Towpath Bridges.

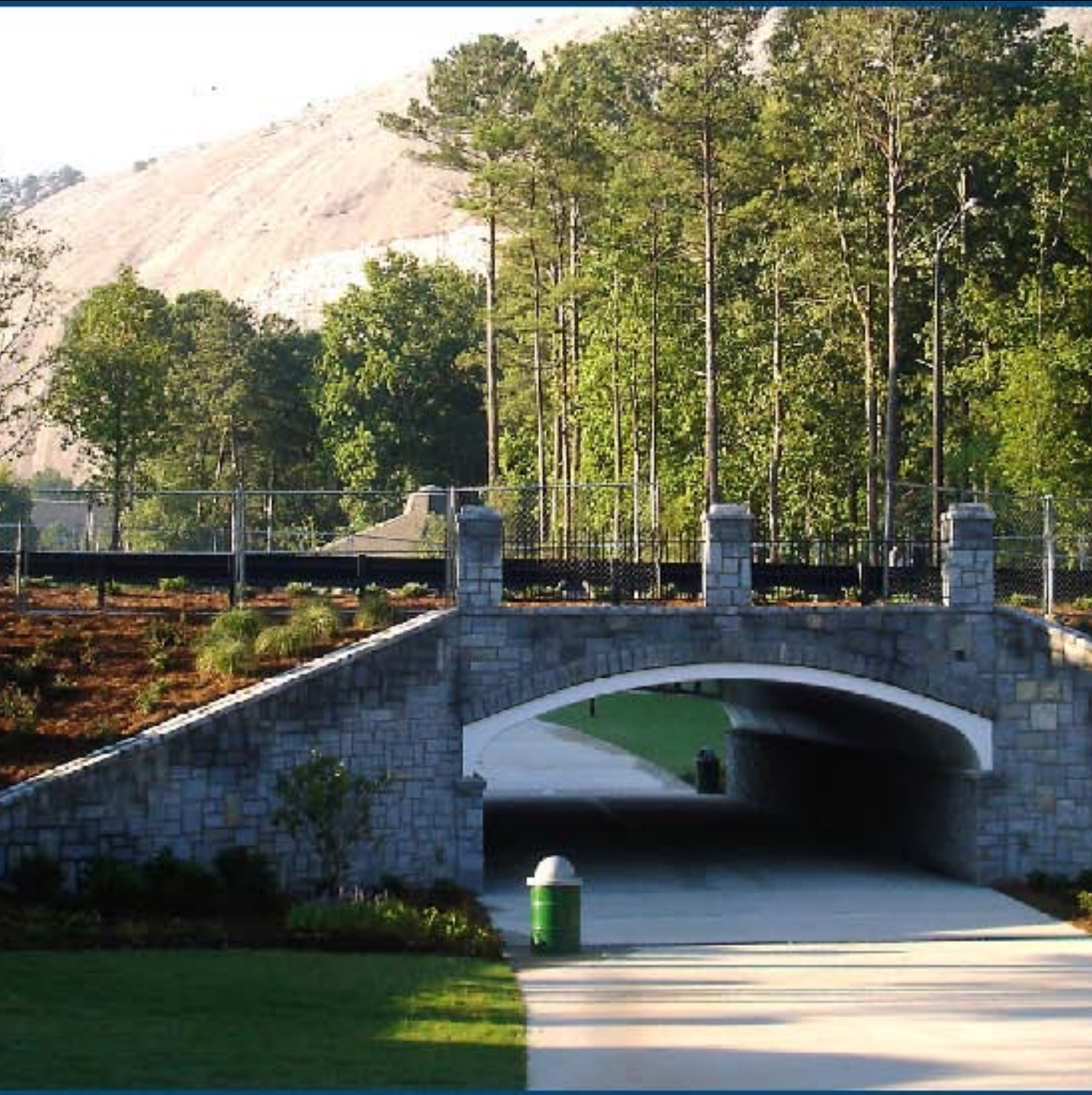




The Norfolk Southern parcel has no operating value to the railroad with the exception of a 100-year-old tunnel under the existing tracks.

Norfolk Southern has been negotiating with the Township to lease the parcel and allow access under the tunnel – with the key provision that the underpass be improved to reduce railroad liability by discouraging trail users from accessing any areas near active rail.





Township Engineers and Norfolk Southern Engineers have agreed on a Contech Bridge Lining Solution to shore up the Norfolk Southern Tunnel, while allowing future maintenance.

The improvement project would also include construction of a trail from the underpass to the existing Pencoyd Trail, site restoration, additional security fencing, and stormwater management.









Completion of the Norfolk Southern Tunnel would link the CHT with the Pencoyd Trail.

The Connelly Tract is very steep and wooded but currently contains natural walking paths.

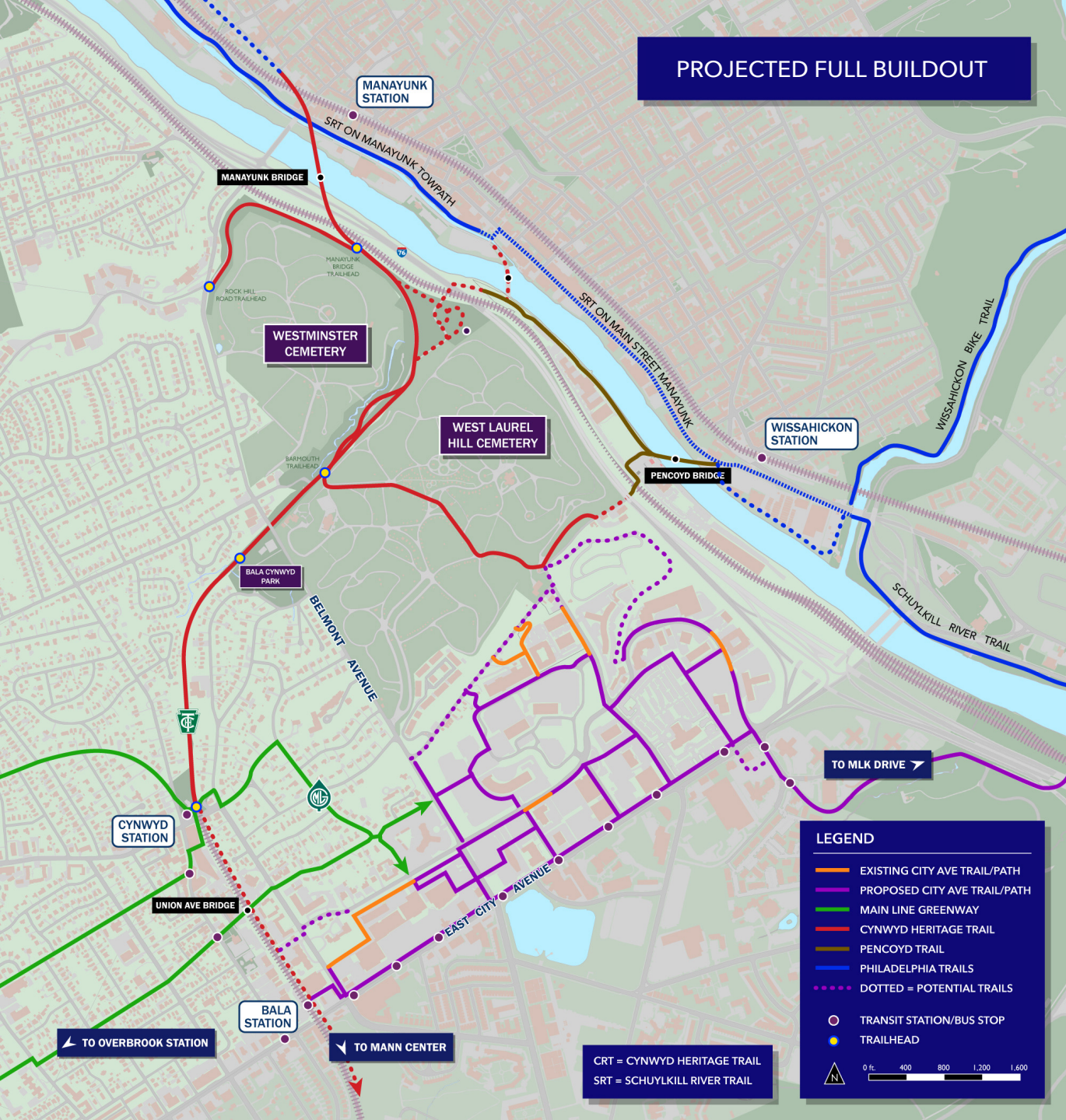
Because of the significance of connecting the Pencoyd and Manayunk Bridges, future improvements to the Connelly Tract would be eligible for Federal, State and Regional Trail funds.







# PROJECTED FULL BUILDOUT



[https://f.io/N\\_G-6Mat](https://f.io/N_G-6Mat)

**LEGEND**

- EXISTING CITY AVE TRAIL/PATH
- PROPOSED CITY AVE TRAIL/PATH
- MAIN LINE GREENWAY
- CYNWYD HERITAGE TRAIL
- PENCOYD TRAIL
- PHILADELPHIA TRAILS
- DOTTED = POTENTIAL TRAILS
- TRANSIT STATION/BUS STOP
- TRAILHEAD

CRT = CYNWYD HERITAGE TRAIL  
SRT = SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL

0 ft. 400 800 1,200 1,600