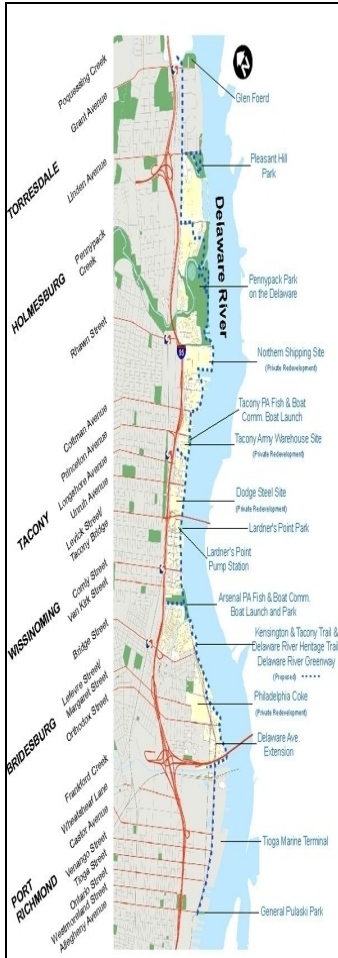




NE Delaware Greenway Trail

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Volunteers Clear the Way for River Path at Pennypack on the Delaware

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., nearly fifty volunteers donated their time on Monday, January 18th, to resurface a riverside pathway at Pennypack on the Delaware. With the blessing of Fairmount Park, and almost 100 tons of donated material from Tony DePaul & Sons Construction, as well as gloves and hand tools donated by Home Depot in Port Richmond, everyone used shovels and rakes to clear the pathway of roots and debris and then spread topping material to resurface the small walking path adjacent to the river.



Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz and other of our volunteers working to resurface the River Path.

In addition to members of the DRCC Board and staff, including Jim Donaghy and Julie Slavet, and her daughter, Elizabeth Slavet Walber and Liz's friend, Alex McGady; Paul Lonie and his lovely wife Lisa, Sam Friedman and Mariann Dempsey, with her husband, Tom, we were joined by U.S. Rep. Allyson Schwartz and her staff—Anna Marie Feeney, Michelle Espinal, Dan Lasko and his dog, Wally, Joe MacNeal, and Scott Loeffler; led by Business Agent Ed Donnelly were 15 members of Roofers Local 30; from the Costello Boxing Club - Patrick, Tim, Brian, John and Timothy Costello, Sean Hayes and Jeffrey Sanchez. In addition, Mike Thompson of the City Planning Commission; John Kevlock of the Holmesburg Fish and Game Protective Assn.; Fred Moore from the Holmesburg Civic Assn. and DRCC volunteers - Tom & John Branigan, Eileen & Kathy Porter, Douglas and Jessica Miller, Danielle Dunner, Nancy Zelena, Bet Gallagher & Fran Roselli. DRCC is most grateful to all who contributed!

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Arsenal & Tacony Boat Launch Trailheads

With the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, through the efforts of State Senator Michael Stack and State Representative Michael McGeehan, we will be able to provide trailhead access to the Delaware River Greenway Trail at these two sites. The Arsenal Boat Launch is just off State Road at Carver Street, adjacent to the Arsenal Business Center. There is a large parking lot to accommodate boat trailers at this facility, as well as those wishing to fish or begin a trail walk in this area. Also,

there are restroom facilities.

At the Tacony Boat Launch, located at Princeton Avenue and the river, it is a much smaller facility, with only portable toilet facilities at the present time. There is room for limited car parking, in addition to those with boat trailers.

These two access points are the terminus of the recreational trail for the Kensington & Tacony section. The span in this area is 1.8 miles for those wishing to walk, run or bike in one direction or a 3.6 mile roundtrip.

Our Partners, Champions and Supporters

While DRCC has been in existence for just over 5 years, it was in 2006, largely through the efforts of City Councilwoman Joan Krajewski, that we were recognized by the City as the nonprofit selected to oversee the development of a Greenway and Recreation Trail on the banks of the Delaware in Northeast Philadelphia.

However, this mission is only reaching fruition with the help of many!



2006 Check presentation to DRCC Board and Councilwoman Joan Krajewski

As stated, Councilwoman Krajewski has been a champion for the Greenway and Recreation Trail for over 10 years. It was only with her encouragement that the DRCC organization was originally formed.

Also, Mayor Nutter has given the project enormous support. DRCC is tremendously grateful that these leaders have helped to nurture this dream toward reality.

All throughout this time, our partnership with Fairmount Park has been invaluable. Fairmount Park staff, especially Mark Focht and Stephanie Craighead, have worked in many capacities and delivered numerous resources towards the creation of the Greenway and Trail. Their guidance, help and leadership has brought so very much to this joint enterprise.

Alongside them, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council carried the project torch in the early years of this project and today remains an active member of the DRCC. They bring invaluable skills and knowledge of environmental issues.

The City of Philadelphia has provided both financial and technical project support through many City Departments, including the Commerce Department, the City Planning Commission, the Streets Department, the Recreation Department, the Water Department, the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Department of Prisons, the Public Property Department, the Office of Housing & Community Development, and the Law Department. Their help and expertise have been invaluable.

On the State level, DRCC has been fortunate to have the support of our elected officials, State Senator Michael Stack, State Representatives Michael McGeehan and State Representative John Taylor. It is with their endorsement we have been able to obtain over \$1M in grant funding from the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. DRCC enjoyed the support of former DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and Penn DOT.

At the Federal level, DRCC has received unwavering support from U.S. Representative Allyson Schwartz and U.S. Senator Arlen Specter. Both have done a yeoman's job of obtaining federal transportation funding that allows for the building of an extension to Delaware Avenue from Lewis to Orthodox Streets that will include greenway trail adjacent to it. They have also set aside funding to build the North Delaware Riverfront Greenway as a recreational trail through the neighborhoods of Port Richmond, Bridesburg, Wissinoming, Tacony, Holmesburg and East Torresdale. In addition to the incredible amount of assistance we have received from our elected officials at every level of government, the alliances we have been able to achieve with our community organizations has been nothing short of spectacular. Many have been particularly helpful since the very early stages of our planning and throughout the process of our design and construction. All these groups are listed on our website Partners' page.

We are especially grateful to the Bridesburg and Tacony Historic Societies who have been so accommodating with our interpretive design work. Their generosity of time and material has been priceless.

The William Penn Foundation has also provided financial support to the DRCC at many levels. Their continued support will make this project a reality.

In all, DRCC is indebted to an enormous number of City, State and Federal officials and departments, along with their helpful staffs. As well as an equally great number of neighborhood and community groups, activists and residents who have kept the faith and toiled along with DRCC; some for as long as a decade—or more! Thank you to all the consultants, construction and design teams who performed their tasks to insure a spectacular greenway recreational trail.

Finally, we offer our heartfelt thanks to past and present board members, and former staff members, for their hard work and dedication to the creation of the North Delaware Greenway Trail.

For more information on our vision, plans and organization, please visit our website at www.drcc-phila.org.



Fairmount Park Director, Mark Focht, at Pennypack on the Delaware.

New Design Project Starts in Port Richmond

The William Penn Foundation provided funding to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for distribution to several area nonprofit organizations involved in riverfront projects. This funding initiative, Take Me to the River, provided \$199,000 to the Delaware River City Corporation for three projects.

With an amount of \$75,000, DRCC was able to partner with the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority to begin the design of the roadway and trail for the Port Richmond section of the North Delaware Riverfront Greenway. This Greenway planning effort runs from Richmond Street and Allegheny Avenue eastward along Allegheny to Delaware Avenue, then continues northbound on Delaware Avenue to Lewis Street.

The plans call for the roadway to be narrowed for the inclusion of a trail separated from the highway by a green divider that will include trees and other plantings.



Depiction of Delaware Avenue redesign for roadway and greenway.

TEI Engineering, and their sub-contractor, Landscape Design, have already begun work. Arrangements are being made to meet with the stakeholders and property owners along this stretch of greenway to insure that their ideas and concerns are heard. Our Capital Program Director, Paul Lonie, will be working closely with everyone involved. Should you wish to contact him directly, he can be reached at plonie@drcc-phila.org, or you can call the office at the number listed on the back page. The design and construction of this greenway section will tie in with the planned Delaware Avenue Extension project from Lewis Street to Orthodox Street. For more on that project, see the article below.

DRCC Design & Construction Project Updates

Two design projects that have been underway for some time are about to move to the construction phase. The K&T, or Kensington & Tacony Trail, from the Arsenal Boat Launch in Wissinoming to the Tacony Boat Launch at Princeton Avenue will be bid for construction by PennDOT in the early winter months. The contract award process could take as long as 6 months, so actual construction will likely start in the Summer of 2010.

The second design project is the Baxter section of trail in the Holmesburg and Torresdale neighborhoods from the mouth of the Pennypack Creek to Pleasant Hill Park at the River and Linden Avenue. This section of the greenway will be going out for bid of the construction phase by PennDOT in the Spring. Given the timeline of the contract award, it is expected that this construction project will begin in late Fall, 2010. The work to be done along the State Road portion will be done by

the Philadelphia Water Department near the Baxter Water Treatment facility. Finally, Lardner's Point Park will also begin construction in early Spring, offering area residents and the citizens of our region the 64th park in the Fairmount Park system. In Bridesburg, under the Streets Department, construction of Phase I of the Delaware Avenue extension will begin in late Summer. The extension project includes a separate recreation trail on the east side of the roadway.

DRCC Is Reaching Out To Our Stakeholders

During the past few months we have taken the opportunity to visit with stakeholders of the Delaware Riverfront in an effort to bring everyone up-to-date on our plans. Thus far we have met with several community organizations. Also, we have done presentations for two of the boat clubs, and the



Paul Lonie & Jim Donaghy at a meeting

Bridesburg Business Association. These meetings have been most productive in allowing us to share our progress, but also to learn of your ideas and concerns during the implementation process of our design as we move to the construction phase of

the Riverfront Greenway. We would like to reach as many of our partnering organizations as possible, so if you would like us to come to one of your meetings, please let us know. Reach us by phone at 215-537-8400, extensions 135 and 136. By email please send your request to: info@drcc-phila.org, and we will be happy to come visit.



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www.drcc-phila.org

The mission of the Delaware River City Corporation is to *revitalize a sustainable riverfront* corridor in Northeast Philadelphia by *reconnecting the people, places, businesses and neighborhoods* of the City of Philadelphia and the surrounding region to the Delaware River while simultaneously *promoting a diversity of uses* through implementation of the North Delaware Riverfront Greenway Plan.

How Can You Help?

- Volunteer to help maintain our trails and parks
- Contribute to defray the cost of trail maintenance
- Support DRCC with your online purchases.
Go to www.iGive.com/drcc-phila to learn more.

You can now

DONATE ONLINE



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Mouth of Pennypack Creek where it meets the Delaware River.