

FUTURE TRAILS OF NORTHERN DELAWARE

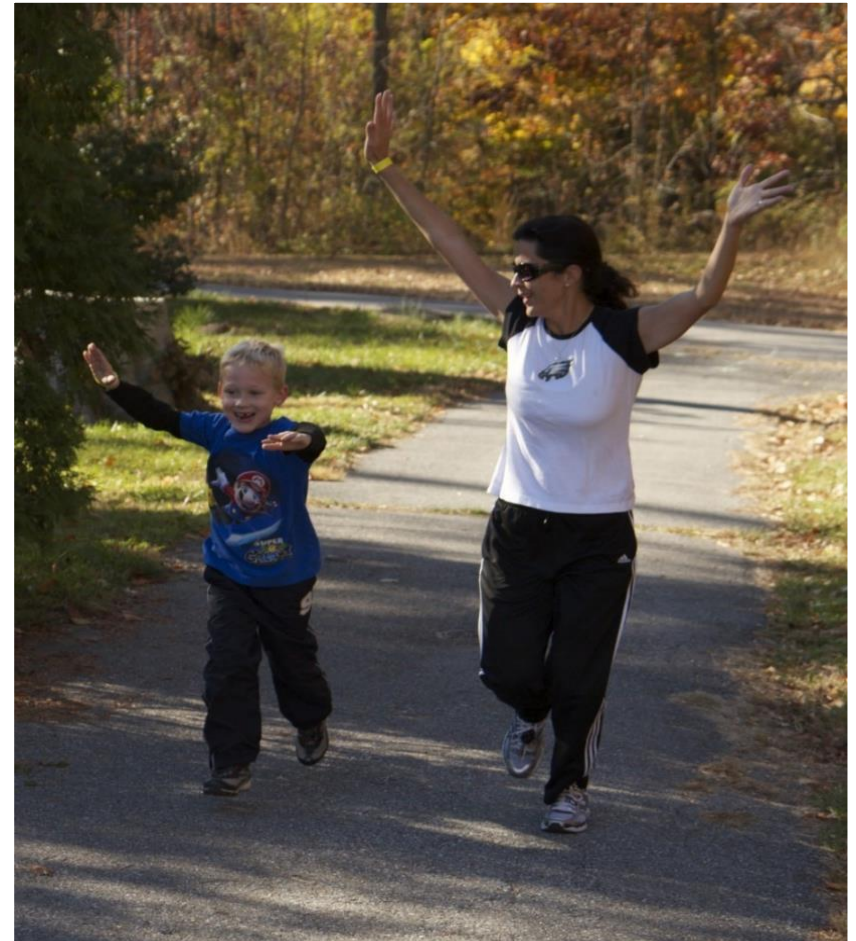
A Delaware Greenways Initiative



Delaware Greenways

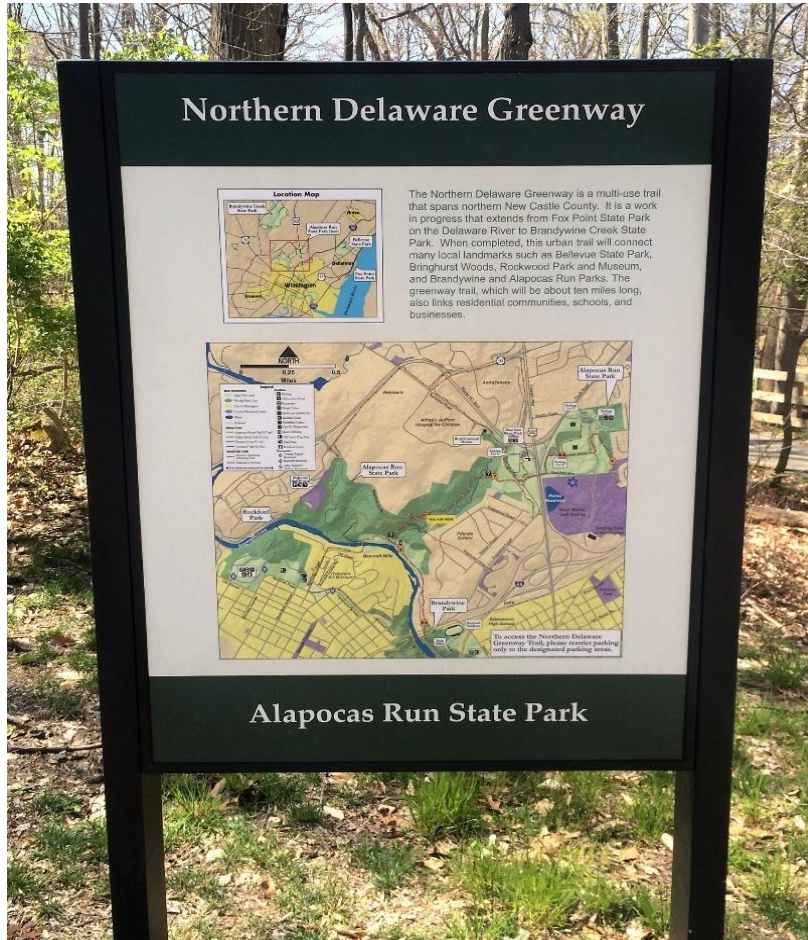
Creating Outdoor
Connections for Active
Living and Healthy Eating

- 27 years of trail advocacy and leadership
- Brandywine, Bayshore and Lewes Byways management
- Historic Penn Farm – managing tenant



Delaware's Trail Success

- ✓ 506 miles of trails constructed to date (about half in State Parks)
- ✓ State Trails and Pathways Initiative
 - Funding increases in recent past
 - Gov. Jack A. Markell Trail – final phase bridge and boardwalk underway
 - Newark to Wilmington Trail/Pathway picking up momentum
- ✓ Complete Streets Policy factors in walking and biking in every transportation project
- ✓ State Parks is pursuing an ambitious trails program with connections to neighboring communities



How can we further success?

- Accelerate trail development by combining private funds and traditional public funds.
 - (Successful examples exist in other states/jurisdictions.)
- Demonstrate this approach in northern New Castle County
- The William Penn Foundation (WPF) awarded Delaware Greenways a planning grant to initiate such a program

Grays Ferry Crescent Trail Philadelphia, PA



Funding: FHWA, PA DCED, PA DCNR, DVRPC, the William Penn Foundation and the City of Philadelphia

Other Examples

Greenways for Nashville



The Circuit Trails Coalition of Greater Philadelphia



DNREC Division of State Parks and Recreation



Why is this of interest to the William Penn Foundation?



DuPont
Environmental
Education Center

- ✓ Protect, Preserve, Enhance the Delaware River Watershed through constituency building and trail building.

East Coast



Greenway

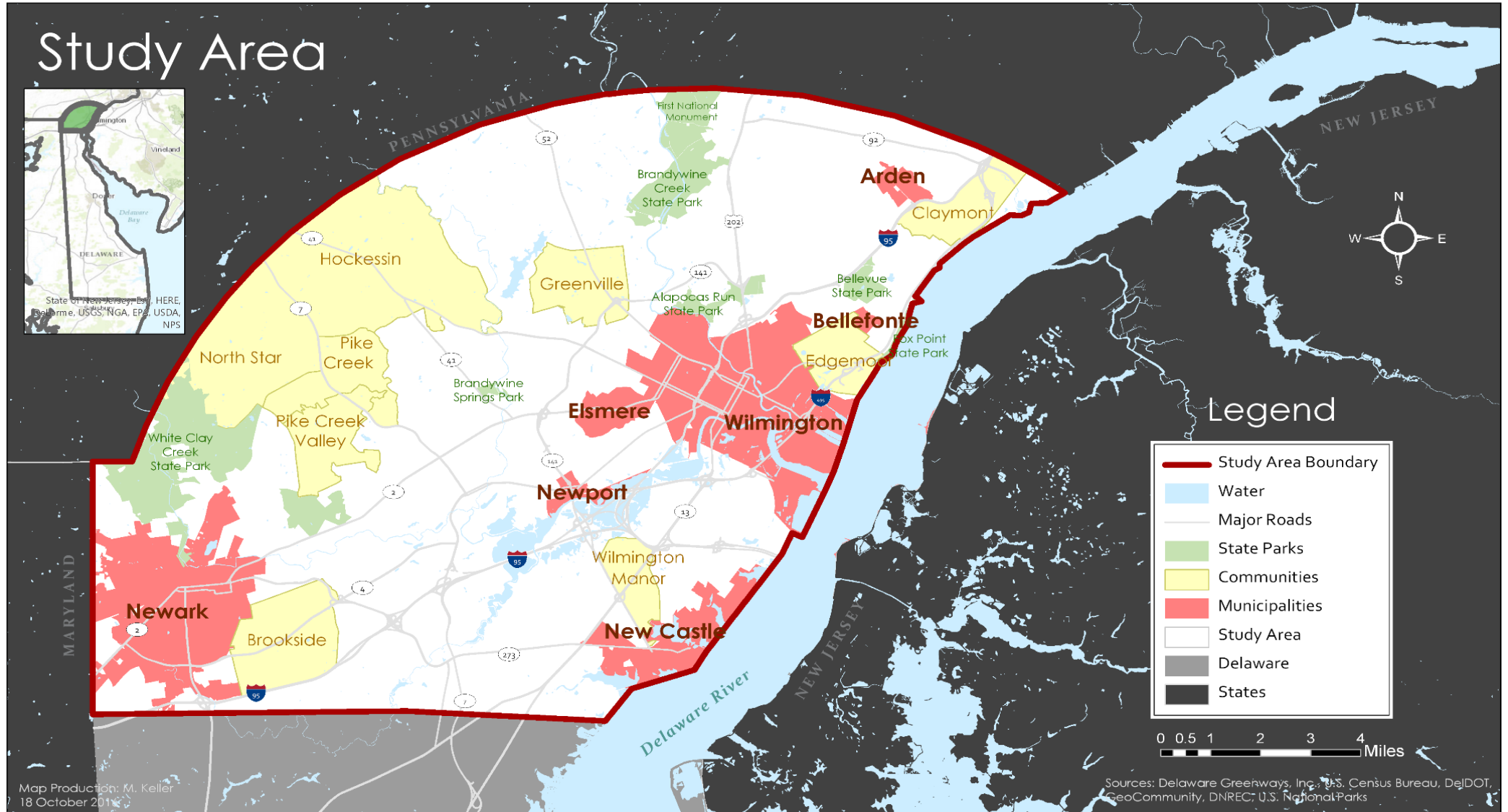


- ✓ Extending SE PA's Circuit Trails into Delaware
- ✓ Extend the East Coast Greenway

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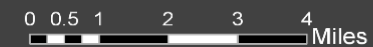


Study Area



Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Water
- Major Roads
- State Parks
- Communities
- Municipalities
- Study Area
- Delaware
- States



Future Trails of Northern Delaware

Phase 1

- Generate up-to-date, consolidated, user-friendly maps and post on our website.
- Build a Coalition.
- Develop consensus on major trail network.
- Determine process for leveraging private funds.
- Identify “early action projects”.



Mapping the Trails

- Create good tools to engage stakeholders.
- Must be up-to-date, consolidated and user-friendly.
- Will show four categories of trails and pathways:
 - Existing
 - Planned Trails
 - Trail Ideas (will transition to “Proposed”)
 - Needs improvement
- Need both a simple major trails map and an eventual comprehensive network (including sidewalks, etc.).
- Need ground truthing.

The Coalition

- Includes non-profit organizations, hiking/bicycling groups, civic organizations, businesses/corporations, government agencies and elected officials.
- Develops consensus on major trail network for Northern Delaware.
- Works together over the coming years to push development forward.
- Speaking with one voice, the coalition is a powerful agent in securing funds and keeping the focus on the community's highest priority projects.

Major Trail Network

- Should reflect consensus of the community.
 - Need input from full cross-section of stakeholders.
- Consider walking and biking for transportation, fitness/health, recreation and environmental education.
- Focus on major loops and spurs connecting population centers, parks / natural areas, employment centers, retail/service areas and major attractions.
- Emphasis on high density populations and natural areas.
- Regional perspective with interstate connections.
- Think **BOLD** with long term view!



Leveraging Private Funds

- Develop formal relationships with government to enable public/private partnerships in trail building.
 - Need policies and procedures including prioritization in current processes
- Good examples in other states/jurisdictions.
 - Greenways for Nashville
 - The Circuit Trails Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
 - DNREC Division of State Parks and Recreation
- Research potential federal and private funding sources to match state funding.

Role of Coalition Members

- Reach out to constituency to get feedback:
 - on suggested trail ideas
 - seek new ideas
 - ground truthing
- Work together to define a consensus Major Trail Network.
- Identify candidates for early action projects.
- Develop ideas/strategies for potential funding sources.
- Possibly choose to lead/drive a particular project forward.
- Must commit to putting the weight of the organization behind the unified push for funding and development of the proposed trails.

Benefits to Coalition Members



- Know that you are benefitting the community through an accelerated pace of trail development.
- Influence the priorities of trail development.
- Collaborate, synergize and leverage so the outcome is more than the sum of the parts.
- Develop stronger relationships with both government and organizations that have overlapping interests.
- Recognition for being a trail blazer!

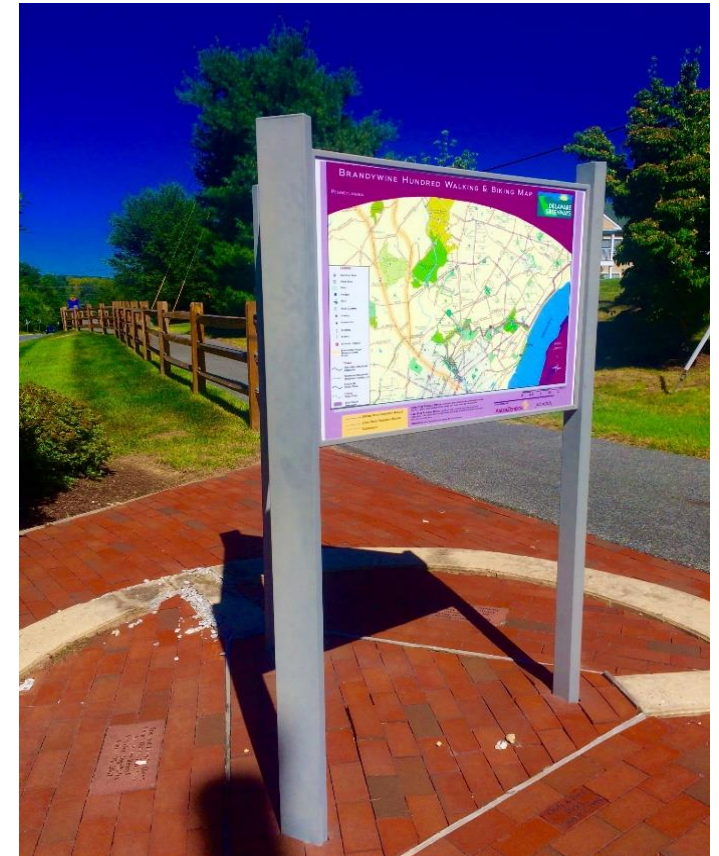
Today's Discussion

We've put together some initial thoughts and proposals to launch the discussions. We're seeking your input and early reactions to the following:

- Goals for a "major trail network"
- Criteria for an "early action project"
- The new maps as a communication tool
- Early suggested trail ideas

Goals for the Major Trail Network

- Forms a connected set of regional loops and spurs.
- Makes connections among significant areas:
 - Large population centers; parks, waterways and green spaces; employment centers and retail/service areas; points of interest such as cultural attractions
 - Multiple interstate connections (e.g., East Coast Greenway, The Circuit)
- Multi-use (bikes and pedestrians).
- Safe/comfortable for all ability levels.
- Context sensitive design
- Environmentally appropriate



Safe/Comfortable For all Ability Levels

- Surface is hard or compact and relatively smooth.
- Reasonably wide and physically separated from road (by either a curb, grass or other barrier)
OR a cycle track with a parallel sidewalk.
- Well-managed road crossings.
- No blind, sharp turns or steep hills



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Major Trail Map



Early Action Projects

Definition: a trail/pathway project that will allow us to demonstrate a **quick success** of the process

It does NOT have to be part of the consensus major trail network.

Need to select 1 or 2 projects.



Early Action Projects

What Makes it Successful?

- Fully implemented
- Would not have happened in the near term without Coalition's efforts.
- Meaningful (even if for small constituency) - value of which is easily articulated/understood.
- Not controversial
- Clear how the private funds were leveraged into the process

Early Action Projects

What Does “Quick” Require?

- Clear path to implementation
- Expect it to jump straight to the front of the line.
 - Probably so small that it will have negligible impact on pipeline.
- Very easy - without major permitting or right of way issues
- Has a potential private funder already identified.

BREAK OUT SESSION

What's Next

- Continue building out maps with additional layers.
- Gather feedback from potential Coalition members and the public.
- Work with Government on process for leveraging private funds.
- Identify candidate early action project(s).
- Formalize the Coalition and membership.
- Work towards consensus on proposed Major Trails Network.
- Full Coalition meeting in February.



Your Homework

- Reach out to your staff and constituency to gain feedback and ideas:
 - Share your thoughts on the existing trail map, and bring BOLD new ideas to the table
 - Ground truth maps ensuring accuracy
- Begin thinking about:
 - Your priorities for major trail network
 - Suggest candidates for early action projects
 - Brainstorm/Strategize potential funding sources

Join the Coalition! Together we will be one voice keeping the focus on the community's highest priority trail projects.

Funding for this planning stage is being graciously provided by:

William Penn
W I L L I A M P E N N
F O U N D A T I O N

Thank You

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City of Wilmington Focus Area

