

# Connecting People to Nature and History

## Early Action Item Goals

- Complete the interconnected regional trail network, most notably completing gaps that connect from the Schuylkill River Trail to destinations, gateways, and communities.
- Engage people in the Greenway and nearby communities through interpretation of heritage sites, events, bike sharing programs, and other programs that connect residents and visitors to the diverse offerings throughout the Greenway.
- Develop and nurture relationships with municipalities, partners, and key policy makers at all levels to advance the importance of connecting residents to the outdoors through parks, trails, and other public facilities that contribute to active living and healthy communities.



## Longer Term Greenway Implementation Techniques

- Complete regional trail gaps that connect residents to the natural, cultural, and historic resources in the Greenway.
- Support compatible economic development.
- Work with municipalities on plans for public parks and natural areas that manage land and engage the public in a sustainable manner.
- Steward and promote adaptive reuse of historic buildings and culturally significant sites.
- Promote the rich agricultural heritage by supporting the preservation of farmland in the Greenway, encouraging “buy fresh, buy local” products, and supporting best farming practices.
- Assist townships in adopting conservation subdivision ordinances as a low-cost means of providing trails and adding land to the Greenway.
- Assist townships in adopting local (Act 167) historic districts.
- Assist townships in adopting zoning for compact mixed-use development sited on less constrained land, especially in older boroughs, former commercial centers, and gateway communities.
- Explore expanded agricultural zoning and transfer of development rights as ways to expand farmland preservation.
- Provide zoning and design guidelines for gateway communities to encourage recreational tourism and economic revitalization.
- Investigate scenic overlay districts and ridgeline protection zoning to preserve scenic areas of the Greenway.
- Implement signage, smart phone tours, and other means of enhancing the Greenway interpretive experiences.
- Promote environmental education throughout the Greenway.
- Interpret historic buildings and landscapes within the Greenway.