



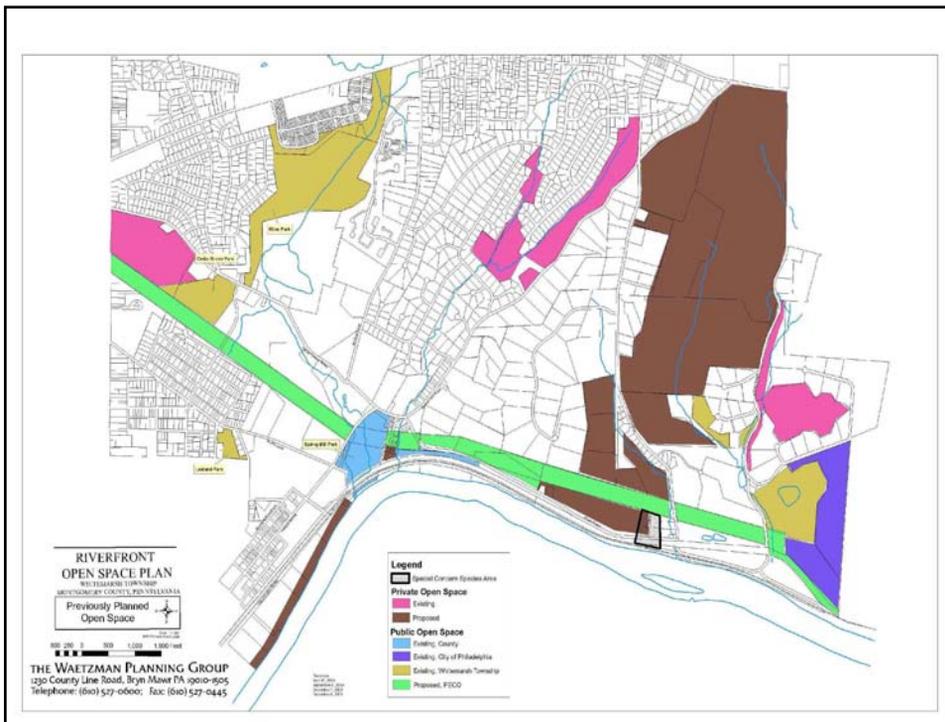
Riverfront Open Space Plan

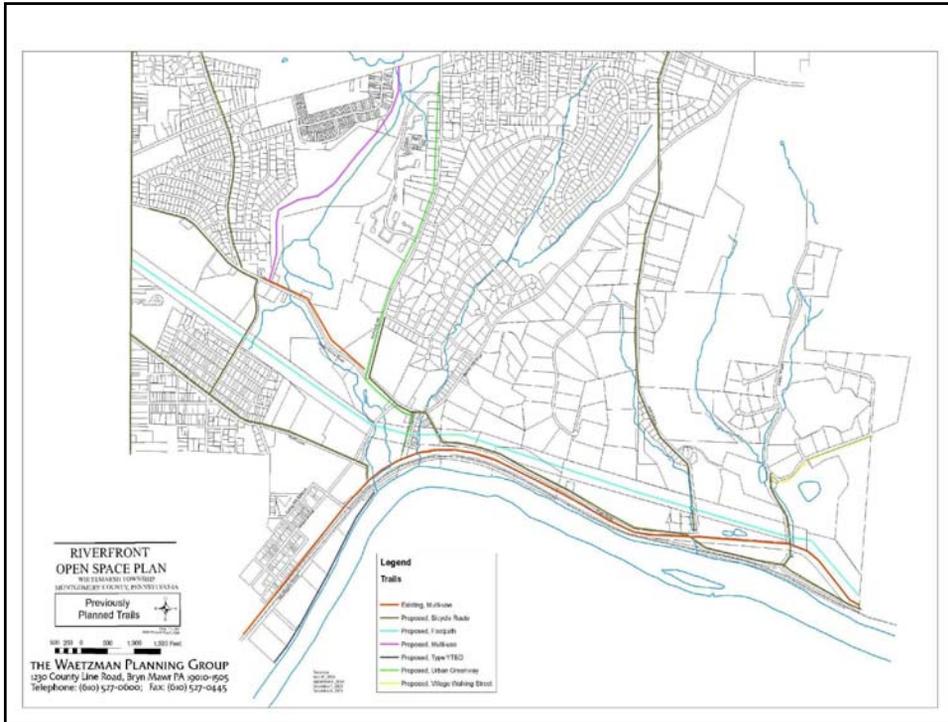
Board of Supervisors December 17, 2009



● ● ● Plans Reviewed

- **A Feasibility Study for the Township-wide Pedestrian and Bike Network.** December 14, 2007. Prepared by Campbell Thomas & Co. Architects.
- **Whitemarsh Township Greenway Plan.** August 16, 2007. Prepared by Stell Environmental Enterprises, Inc.
- **Whitemarsh Township Open Space Plan.** August 2006. Prepared by Gannett Fleming.
- **Whitemarsh Township Parks and Recreation Plan.** 2007. Prepared by Gannett Fleming.
- **Pertinent plans and documents published by Montgomery County**
- **Open space plans and related plans for surrounding communities**





Goals Established for the Plan

- **Goal #1:**
Develop opportunities and methods for increasing public access along the Schuylkill River.
- **Goal #2:**
Enhance and preserve the natural surroundings/environment of the Riverfront area through the use of sustainable practices and standards.
- **Goal #3:**
Coordinate the recommendations within this Riverfront Plan with those contained in other pertinent planning documents.
- **Goal #4:**
Continue to develop active recreational opportunities along the Riverfront area.
- **Goal #5:**
Encourage partnerships with those municipalities that share the Riverfront with Whitemarsh Township.

Summary of Stakeholder Meetings

- Conshohocken Borough
- Springfield Township
- Whitemarsh Boat Club (a.k.a. Hines Rowing Center)
- Fairmount Park Commission
- Montgomery County
- PECO
- Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area
- SEPTA
- Campbell Thomas & Co., Architects

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Riverfront Tour Summary

- Date of Tour: Saturday, October 31, 2009
- Attendees:
 - Doug Knauss, Director of Parks and Recreation
 - Leslie Richards, Board of Supervisors
 - Hugh Moulton, Open Space Committee
 - Scott Quitel, Environmental Advisory Board & Planning Commission
 - Dave Shula, Planning Commission
 - Dick Leonard, Planning Commission
 - Kevin Kissling, Parks and Recreation Board
 - Charlie Guttenplan, WPG Project Manager
 - Pattie Guttenplan, WPG Design Supervisor

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● ● ● Riverfront Tour Observations

- Sites of recently proposed development projects in the RDD area were pointed out
- Some discussion concerning the locations of the riverfront trail required by the RDD
- The provision of emergency services along the river.
- Possibility of creating a safe crossing of the R-6 tracks from the existing County trail to Washington Street
- Maintaining and enhancing views to the river, in general, was discussed
- The formation of additional public/private partnerships for various purposes
- Need for signage to alert users along the existing county trail and the river to locations of nearby comfort and commercial facilities.
- Locations for potential boat launches or improvements to existing ones
- Plan future boat tour of the Study Area

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● ● ● Riverfront Tour



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Preliminary Recommendations

- Trail Related
 - Development of a multi-use trail along the entire riverfront within the Township
 - The RDD-area trail should be designed for more leisurely use and public interaction; an appropriate surface treatment should be utilized
 - Safety issues along the trails should be addressed
 - Create a safe crossing of the R6 tracks from Washington Street to County Trail
 - Develop more of a focal point/trailhead at Spring Mill (through joint efforts of the County, Twp., PECO and SEPTA).

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Preliminary Recommendations

- Amenities
 - Provide overlooks of the river (off-trail)
 - Create civic gathering space
 - Install river-related art
 - Construct a restroom facility
 - Consider the desirability of a “water wall” as a focal point and noise reduction device
- Water Use
 - Boat launches are recommended in several locations
 - Miquon
 - Spring Mill
 - Finnaren and Haley site
 - ‘Riverwalk at Millennium’ apartment complex
 - Provide water tours—self-guided and/or guided?
 - Establish fishing piers

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Preliminary Recommendations

- Public Safety
 - Coordinate potential Miquon, Spring Mill and Finnaren and Haley boat launch locations with Fire Officials to provide adequate facilities for drafting water
 - Provide 'security posts' with emergency phones; security cameras
 - Provide security lighting
- Environmental Concern
 - Alert potential developers in the industrial RDD area of potential hazardous materials to be investigated and if necessary, mitigated during the redevelopment process
- Circulation
 - Extend Washington Street to connect with Hector Street/Spring Mill Avenue

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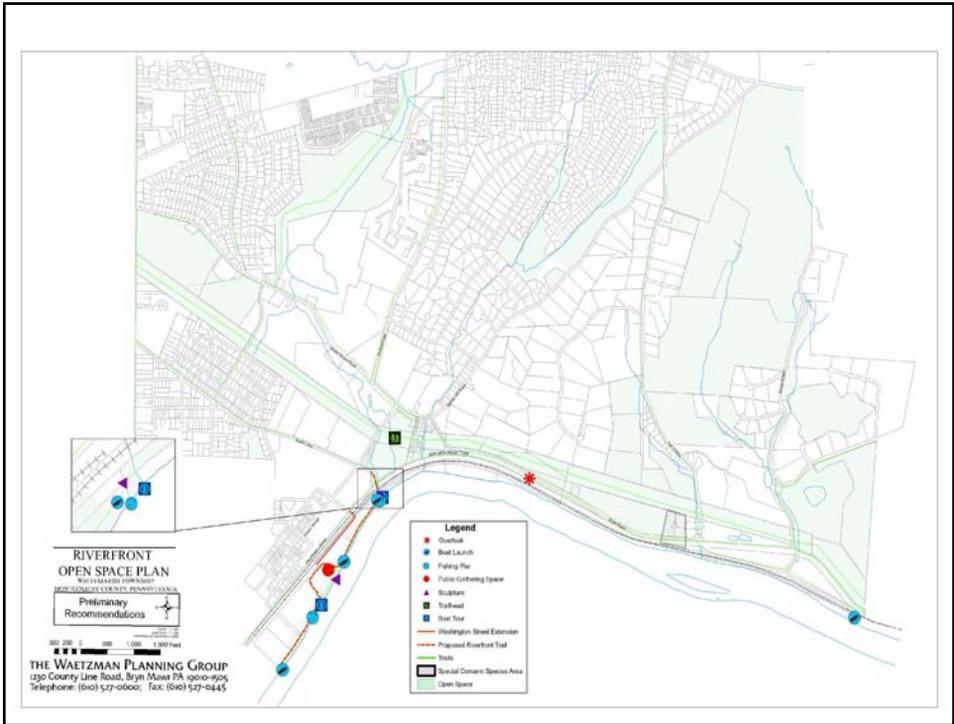


Preliminary Recommendations

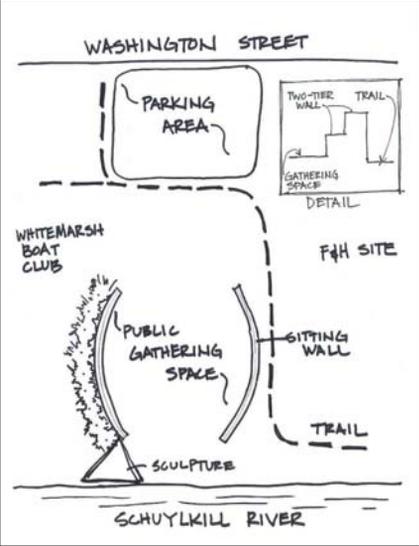
- Signage
 - Provide a consistent way-finding sign system to let trail users know where comfort and commercial facilities are located
 - Install interpretive stations/signage
- Landscaping
 - Create/restore riparian buffer landscaping
 - Generally provide appropriate beautification and landscaping in the Study Area to enhance the user experience
- Service Uses
 - Provide additional public parking
 - Locate bike and/or boat rental facilities

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Schematic Diagram of Public Gathering Space





Questions, Answers and Discussion



THE
WAETZMAN
PLANNING
GROUP



Riverfront Open Space Plan: Table of Contents

- **Chapter 1 Introduction**
- **Chapter 2 Riverfront Tour Summary**
- **Chapter 3 Plan Summaries**
- **Chapter 4 Goals and Objectives**
- **Chapter 5 Summary of Stakeholder Meetings**
- **Chapter 6 Recommendations**
- **Chapter 7 Action Plan**
- **Chapter 8 Summary**
- **Appendices**



Goals Established for the Plan

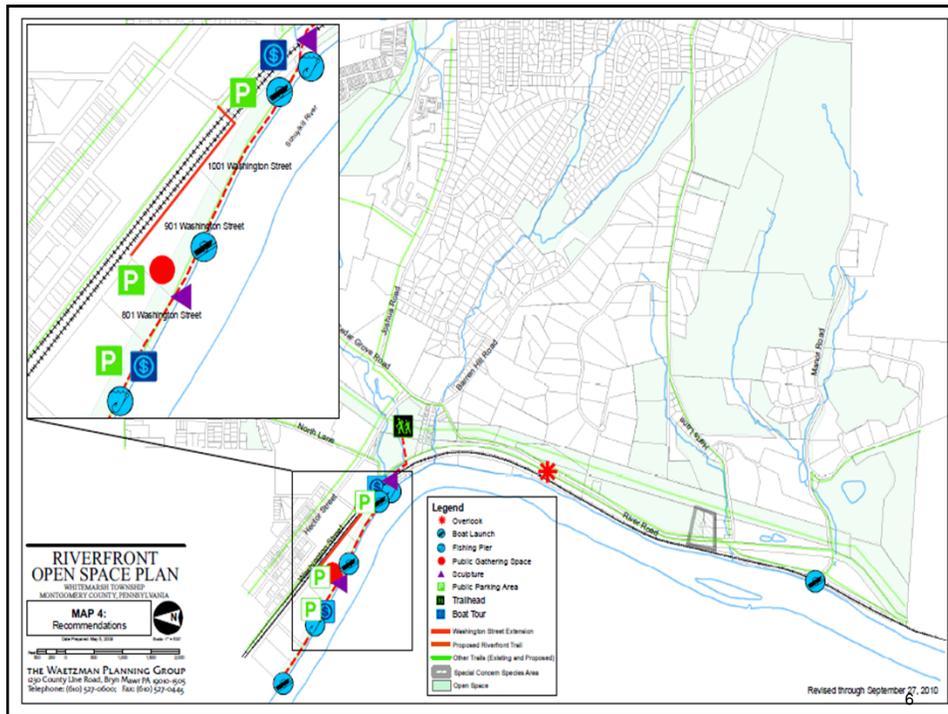
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Recommendations

In the following 9 categories:

- ▣ Trail Related
- ▣ Amenities
- ▣ Water Use
- ▣ Environmental Concern
- ▣ Public Safety
- ▣ Circulation
- ▣ Signage
- ▣ Landscaping
- ▣ Service Uses



Recommendation	Priority					Implementation: Private Sector or Township and/or other	Prerequisite Actions
	Immediate	High*	Medium*	Low*	On-going		
Trail Related							
Develop Multi-Use Trail		✓				Private sector development along the River in the RDD District, or the Township could take initiative by purchasing ROW along the river and developing the trail.	Private development and/or Township ROW acquisition.
Develop Focal Point at Spring Mill				✓		Township/Private	
Create Trail Crossing at R6 Tracks				✓		Township/SEPTA	
Design Riverfront Trail for Leisurely Use	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Address Safety Issues	✓					Township	
Amenities							
Provide a Restroom Facility			✓			Township/Private/County	
Install River-Related Art				✓		Township/Private	
Consider the Installation of a Water Screen				✓		Township/Private	
Install Overlooks			✓			Township/Private	
Provide a Civic Gathering Space				✓		Township/Private	
Water use							
Install Boat Launches		✓				Township/Private/County	
Initiate Water Tours				✓		Township/Private	
Install Fishing Piers		✓				Township/Private/County	
Public Safety							
Provide Locations for Water Drafting for Fire-Fighting		✓				Township	
Provide Security Lighting	✓					Township/Private/County/SEPTA	
Provide Security Posts with Emergency Phones	✓					Township	
Design (Trail Specifications) for Emergency Vehicles			✓			Township	
Environmental Concerns							
Alert Potential Developers of Environmental Concerns	✓					Township	
Circulation							
Extend Washington Street			✓			Township/Private	
Explore Potential River Crossing				✓		Township	
Signage							
Provide Way-Finding Signage			✓			Township/Private	
Install Interpretive Signage				✓		Township/Private	
Landscaping							
Creation/Restoration of Riparian Buffer Landscaping	✓					Township/Private	
Restore habitat on East 33				✓		Township	
Provide Beautification and Landscape Enhancements				✓		Township/Private	
Service Uses							
Provide Additional Public Parking		✓				Township/Private	
Provide Opportunities for Bike and/or Boat Rental Facilities				✓		Township/Private	

*High Priority (1-3 years); Medium Priority (3-5 years); Low Priority (5+ years)



High Priority Recommendations

- Address safety issues
- Provide security lighting
- Provide security posts with emergency posts
- Alert potential developers of environmental concerns
- Create/restore riparian buffer landscaping
- Develop multi-use trail (from Spring Mill to Conshohocken)
- Install boat launches
- Install fishing piers
- Provide locations for water drafting for fire-fighting
- Design trail specifications for emergency vehicles
- Extend Washington Street (to avoid dead-end access)
- Provide additional public parking



Reviews Received

Montgomery County Planning Commission

- **Recommends adding design criteria for trail**
- **Suggests additional information to maps**
- **Suggest use of historic canal wall as part of civic gathering space**
- **Request clarification to PECO footpath**
- **Cites site constraints for overlooks**
- **Commends the Township for Plan and recommends approval**

Conshohocken Borough

- **Clarifies Borough Zoning riverfront open space requirements**
- **Commends Township and hopes to work as a team**
- **Provides corrections to ownership/control of boat launch**

Lower Merion Township

- **Recommends a copy to PA Fish and Boat Commission**
- **Finds Plan thorough and well thought out**

Plymouth Township

- **Finds Plan well done**



Tonight's tasks:

- **Discuss Review Comments**
- **Answer Questions from the Public**
- **Consider a Formal Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors**

