



Schuylkill River Trail Improvement Project  
 Montgomery County Parks Department

Montgomery County and  
 City of Philadelphia, PA

**P**roject Description:

The Schuylkill River Trail is a heavily-used 22 mile regional trail that links Valley Forge National Historical Park in Montgomery County to Center City Philadelphia, along both the tidal and upper reaches of the Schuylkill River. Well over 400,000 users make use of the trail annually. In January 1994, the Schuylkill River Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail, which recognized its outstanding contribution to historical, recreational, educational and natural resources for public enjoyment and use. The trail serves as the principal "backbone" of the Schuylkill River Heritage Corridor as a major tourist attraction in the region, as well as being the key connector to planned trails in Montgomery County and the major connection to Philadelphia's urban trail system. The trail also is a major transportation link for commuters, both cyclists and pedestrians, and is linked to regional rail stations and local bus routes.



*"The Schuylkill River Trail is the regional window to our wonderful Schuylkill River, where geographic boundaries blur, and we greet each other as one extended community connected by our mutual enjoyment of recreation and the outdoors."*

*Beth Pilling, Open Space Program Administrator, Montgomery County Planning Commission*

DCNR provided a \$40,000 keystone grant for an \$80,000 trail improvement project that was initiated in 1998 by the Montgomery County Department of Parks to resolve several key issues along a 2.5 mile section connecting Spring Mill Park in Whitemarsh Township to Philadelphia ending at Port Royal Avenue. Due to the trail's extensive use by all types of users -- whether cyclists, walkers, families with strollers or roller-bladers --

and its tight fit along rock outcrops along portions of that segment, it was determined that the trail should be widened by 4 feet -- from 8 feet to 12 feet wide - and shifted away from the hillside. In addition, drainage problems that

were causing standing water along the entire eastern edge of the trail that required constant maintenance were corrected.

Key partners in this project included the Bicycle Coalition of the Delaware Valley, the Schuylkill River Greenway Association, Whitemarsh Township and the

Fairmount Park Commission.

**Amount of funds awarded, year and matching sources:**

1999: \$40,000 Keystone funding  
 Matching funds (\$40,000) Montgomery County Open Space Program