



Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

Schuylkill River Trail at Grays Ferry Crescent Reconnecting a Community With Its Riverfront

A local angler reels in a catfish, while a child climbs over a boulder to meet a friend on the other side.

A young couple shares a picnic, while families of all ages gather under the stars for movie night.




Welcome to Grays Ferry Crescent, a former industrial site that has been transformed into a popular park, trail and greenway along the Schuylkill River in South Philadelphia.

The project was a collaboration involving the City of Philadelphia, the Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC) and several other agencies and organizations. Money from the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund enabled partners to raise the matching funds necessary to revitalize the abandoned space and turn it into a community asset.

The space provides bicycle and pedestrian trails; lawn areas for picnicking, playing catch or throwing a Frisbee; and meadows of native grasses and wildflowers that provide natural beauty to the area.

The Grays Ferry Crescent also provides space for community events. The SRDC hosts free community movie nights on the greenway during the summer, where neighbors can connect with each other while enjoying a film under the stars and complimentary snacks and beverages.

Sustainable design features of the space include sweeping meadows with drought-resistant native plants to manage stormwater. The greenway and its amenities, including a paved riverfront esplanade, seating areas, and interpretive signs detailing the history and ecology of the area, are ADA accessible.

While the Grays Ferry Crescent is currently a standalone park and trail, it will eventually connect to other portions of the Schuylkill River Trail, forming an important part of the riverfront trail connection between historic Bartram's Garden in South Philadelphia and Center City. 

Project Spotlight

Keystone investment: \$800,000

Total project cost: \$2.8M

Project leader:

Schuylkill River Development Corporation, City of Philadelphia

Key local partners:

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Forgotten Bottom Neighborhood Assn, Gray's Ferry Community Council, PennDOT, Philadelphia Department of Commerce, William Penn Foundation

County: Philadelphia

Fun fact: In 2013, Philadelphia Magazine labeled Grays Ferry Crescent the "best Philly public park nobody knows about" because of its location and has been referred to by many as Philly's most hidden gem.



The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund was established in 1993 with overwhelming bipartisan support both in the General Assembly and through a voter referendum. A portion of the state Realty Transfer Tax has been dedicated to the Keystone Fund for more than two decades. Each dollar of Keystone Fund investment typically leverages three dollars or more in direct local investments in our parks, trails, community green spaces and libraries.

Read more about the Keystone Fund at KeystoneFund.org