

THE CIRCUIT TRAILS

SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL

Schuylkill Banks to Manayunk
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

ACCESS

Public Transit:

SEPTA Regional Rail

30th Street Station

All stops on the Manayunk/Norristown line

SEPTA Market-Frankford Line and trolleys Exit at 30th Street Station onto JFK Blvd, descend the stairway on the east side of the Schuylkill River that goes directly to the Trail.

SEPTA Bus

Routes 38 and 43 at Spring Garden Street Routes R, K, 1, and 63 at Midvale Avenue Routes 1, 9, 27, 31, 61, 62, 65, 124, 135, and R at the Wissahickon Transfer Center.

Bicycle

Several shared lanes and buffered bicycle lanes link with Schuylkill Banks. The off-road Wissahickon Trail links with the SRT at Ridge Avenue. The Schuylkill River Trail currently extends beyond Manayunk out into Montgomery and Chester Counties. Refer to the Circuit Trails website (circuittrails.org) for recommended bicycle routes.

Vehicle Parking

There are several parking facilities along both Kelly Drive and Martin Luther King Drives in Fairmount Park, as well as at the Fairmount Waterworks. There are paid private parking lots near Schuylkill Banks; on-street parking is very limited. On street parking in East Falls and Manayunk is possible, but sometime limited during busy period; however, there are paid private parking lots available as well.



OVERVIEW

General Characteristics:

- Trail segment length: 7.5 miles
- Multi-use asphalt trail
- Restroom facilities located at the Schuylkill Banks at Walnut Street and at Lloyd Hall
- Completely separated from traffic except for one on-road section in Manayunk
- Connects to many cultural, historic, and recreational amenities in Philadelphia
- Part of a regional trail that continues to the source of the Schuylkill River in Pottsville

History and Future

The Schuylkill River Trail was originally conceived by Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Commission to give new life to an important industrial corridor that helped build the economy of the region. The trail follows the Schuylkill River through five counties and necessitates cooperation of many jurisdictions. Currently, over 60 miles of trail is completed, and the remaining segments are either under construction, in design, or being studied. When the trail is complete, it will stretch 130 miles from Philadelphia to Pottsville. For more information on the trail's development, visit www.schuylkillrivertrail.com.

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SPECIAL AMENITIES

Many restaurants and cafes are available where the trail passes through Center City, at Lloyd Hall on Boathouse Row, in East Falls, and in Manayunk.

The Waterworks Interpretive Center at the Fairmount Waterworks is a free environmental education museum and learning center (fairmountwaterworks.org).

The trail passes below the Philadelphia Museum of Art, one of the largest art museums in the country.

Tickets to the museum include admission to the nearby Rodin Museum and guided tours of Fairmount Park's historic houses (www.philamuseum.org).

Rowing is a traditional sport in the area, with several historic boathouses located at Boathouse Row. Watching shells and occasional dragon boats on the River is a popular pastime.

The Laurel Hill Cemetery, a National Historic Landmark and one of the oldest rural cemeteries in the country, is located in East Falls above the trail. Its thousands of 19th- and 20th-century monuments include obelisks and elaborately sculpted hillside tombs and mausoleums (www.thelaurelhillcemetery.org).

East Falls and Manayunk are historic mill towns incorporated into Philadelphia in 1854. Their unique main streets are lined with local businesses and adaptively reused historic buildings.

In Manayunk, the trail becomes a boardwalk along the Schuylkill Navigation Canal. The canal was the first to begin construction in the country, and opened in the early 19th century to tap the coal resources in upstate Schuylkill County.

Venice Island, visible from the trail in Manayunk, is home to a state-of-the-art Performing Arts and Recreation Center. (manayunk.com/dsr/veniceisland)



TRIP IDEAS

Schuylkill River Out-and-Back Trip

Take SEPTA regional rail to Manayunk

Head downhill toward Main Street and access the Trail, which is a boardwalk at this location, through Canal View Park.

Head south, away from the bridge that crosses the river, and bike to Center City. Retrace the route to return to the beginning.

Tour length - 7 miles

Biking - 35 minutes

Walking - 2.5 hours

Fairmount Park Loop

Begin at Fairmount Park Waterworks.

Take the Schuylkill River Trail north toward Manayunk/East Falls. Cross the Schuylkill River at Falls Bridge.

Return to Fairmount Water Works via the multi-use trail that follows the west side of the river.

Tour length - 8.6 miles

Biking - 45 minutes

Walking - 3 hours

Monumental Philadelphia

Start on the Schuylkill River Trail in East Falls. Head south to Hunting Park Avenue.

Turn left on Hunting Park and continue to Laurel Hill Cemetery. Explore the monuments.

Return to the trail and head south to the Philadelphia Art Museum and Water Works.

After visiting the museums, return to the trail and continue to the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk to experience monumental views of the skyline.

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TRAIL MAP

