

# THE CIRCUIT TRAILS

## SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL

Manayunk to Valley Forge  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### ACCESS

#### Public Transit:

##### SEPTA Regional Rail

Wissahickon, Manayunk, Ivy Ridge, Spring Mill, Conshohocken, and Norristown

##### SEPTA Bus

Routes 35, 61, and 62 at Main Street Manayunk Route 97 in Spring Mill

Routes 95 and 97 in Conshohocken

Routes 90, 91, 93, 96, 97, 98, 99, and 131 in Norristown  
Route 99 in Betzwood and Valley Forge

#### Bicycle

This section links with the trail between Manayunk and Schuylkill Banks (see Tour 4), and the section of the Schuylkill River Trail (SRT) that continues north to Phoenixville.

Link to the Cynwyd Heritage Trail via the iconic Manayunk Bridge, which was opened in the fall of 2015 as a multi-use trail.

At Haws Avenue in Norristown, the SRT links with the Farm Park Connector, a marked trail route on back streets linking to the Norristown Farm Park which has parking and picnic facilities.

At Betzwood there is a walkway across the Schuylkill River on the Betzwood Bridge, linking to multi-use trails in Valley Forge National Park.

#### 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

#### 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](http://www.schuylkillrivertrail.com).

#### General Characteristics:

- Trail segment length: 14 miles
- Direct link from Philadelphia to Valley Forge National Historic Park
- Completely separated from traffic: Excellent for families
- Follows the towpath of the historic Schuylkill Canal and the rail bed of the former Pennsylvania Railroad.
- Wooden boardwalk, crushed stone, and asphalt path at different parts of the trail.
- Trail follows regional train line: Highly accessible by public transit
- Trail connects many other regional trails
- Offers excellent views of the Schuylkill River.
- Part of a regional trail that continues to the source of the Schuylkill River in Pottsville

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### SPECIAL AMENITIES

The trail passes through several interesting and easily accessible historic manufacturing towns:

**Manayunk:** a fascinating residential, retail and restaurant district of Philadelphia. Many restaurants and shops provide water and restrooms to trail users.

**Shawmont:** a village containing one of the oldest passenger rail stations in the country, which is currently being considered for adaptive reuse.

**Conshohocken:** a revitalized industrial town known for its excellent restaurants found on Fayette Street and its cafes, some of which are directly accessible from the trail. The new Conshohocken Rowing Center offers public access to the Schuylkill River at Cherry Street.

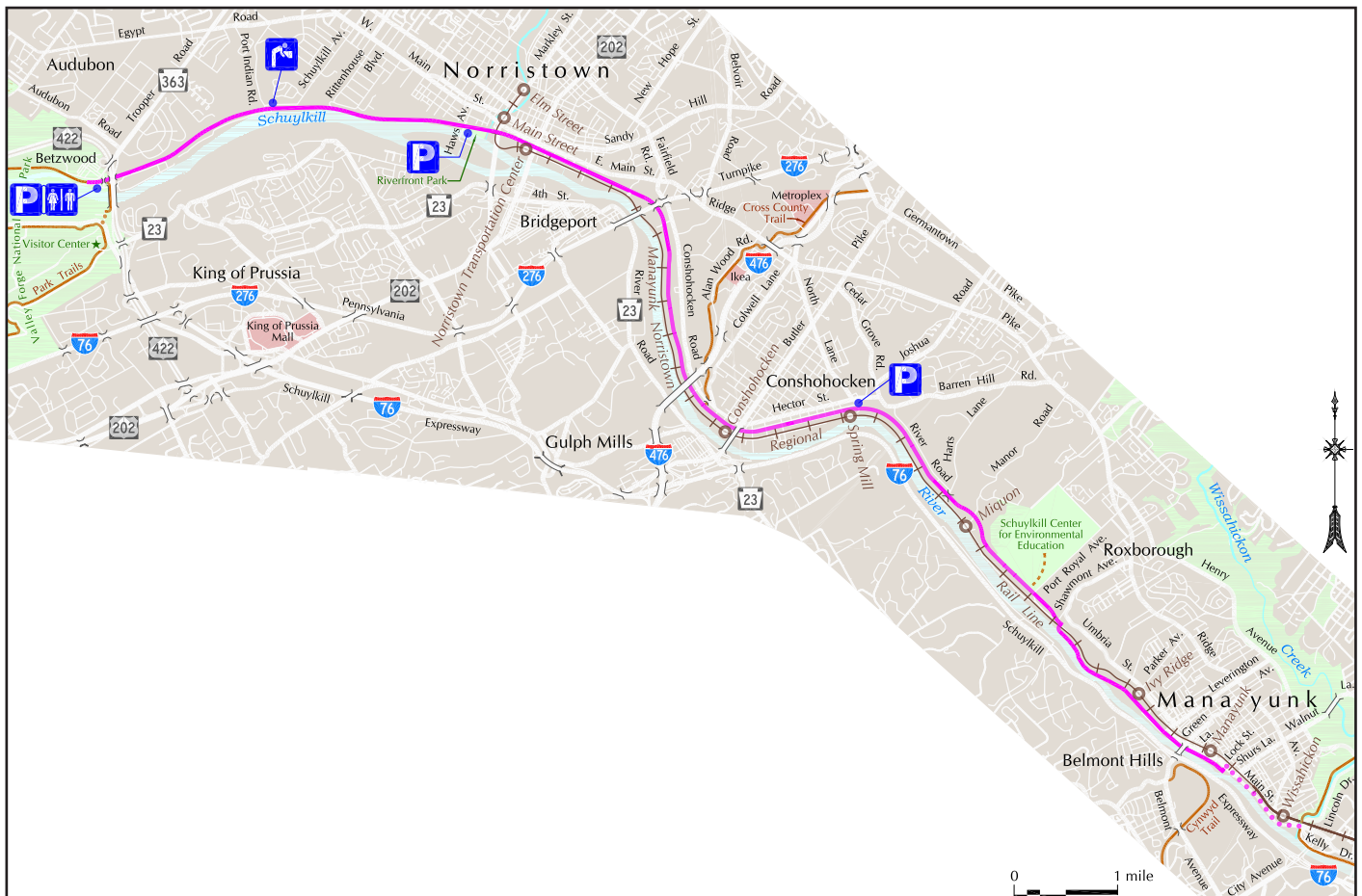
**Norristown:** Montgomery County Seat, many historic buildings and a number of multicultural restaurants are within a block or two of the trail. Riverfront Park offers public river access, picnic facilities, and port-a-potties in summer months.

The Trail enters Valley Forge National Historical Park at the Betzwood Picnic Area, where there is parking, bathrooms and riverside picnic tables ([www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo)).

Near the end of Philadelphia, there is a steep spur trail to the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, one of the first urban environmental education centers in the country ([www.schuylkillcenter.org](http://www.schuylkillcenter.org)).

Interpretational signage and kiosks are displayed along the trail to explain the history of the area.

### TRAIL MAP





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### TRIP IDEAS

#### Revolutionary Loop (Bicycle Trip)

Park at the Valley Forge National Historic Park visitor's center and explore one of the most important sites of the American Revolution.

Exit the parking lot at County Line Road, turn right on to Valley Forge Park Road, then left on to S. Trooper Road (a sign at S. Trooper Road indicates the direction to the trail.). S. Trooper Road dead ends, and the path to the Schuylkill River Trail is on the right behind the barrier.

After crossing the River, turn right and take the Schuylkill River Trail toward Port Indian. Notice the sweeping views of the river along the trail. Revitalization of the once dead Schuylkill spurred the Environmental Revolution.

Continue on the trail through Norristown and Conshohocken and Manayunk. These historic mill and manufacturing towns played an important role in the Industrial Revolution.

In Manayunk, stop at one of Main Street's many restaurants for lunch. Return to the trail and head back to Valley Forge to complete the loop.

This trip is transit accessible if reversed: take the train to Manayunk and head north to Valley Forge. Head back to Manayunk after a picnic lunch in the National Park.

Tour length: 30 miles  
Biking - 3 hours

#### Take me to the River Tour

Start the trip at 9AM. If walking, take the train or drive to Miquon. If biking, take the train or drive to Norristown.

Head south on the trail toward Manayunk.

Arrive at the Manayunk Brewing Company by 10:30 to enjoy a guided kayak tour by Hidden River Outfitters and a Live Jazz Sunday Brunch afterward. Reservations are required. ([manayunkkayaktours.com](http://manayunkkayaktours.com))

After brunch, return to the trail and head north to close the loop.

Tour length: 10 miles on bike  
4 miles on foot  
Total trip time - 5 hours



#### Schuylkill Brewery Tour Loop

Manayunk is the Lenape word for, "where we go to drink," so start the tour at the Manayunk Brewery, which is directly adjacent to the trail as the trail joins Main Street. Grab a drink and a bite to eat in this repurposed, historic factory ([manayunkbrewery.com](http://manayunkbrewery.com)).

After exiting the Manayunk Brewery, turn left on Main Street, then left on Lock Street to reach the Schuylkill Canal boardwalk.

Continue north on the trail to Conshohocken.

Stop at the Conshohocken Brewing Company, directly accessible from the trail. If the trail crosses Cherry Street, you have gone too far. Bike parking is available near the building's porch which looks out over the trail. Grab a drink and enjoy the view ([conshohockenbrewing.com](http://conshohockenbrewing.com)).

Continue north on the trail to the Conshohocken Train Station and take the train back to the start.

Tour length: 6.5 miles  
Biking - 50 minutes  
Walking - 2 hours

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