

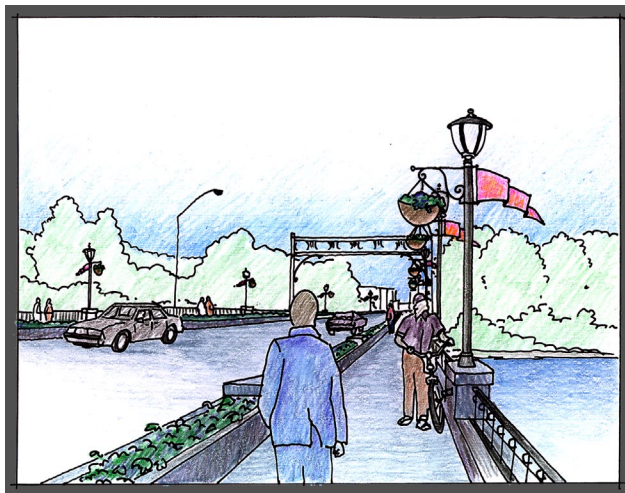
Reconnections: “Reconnecting the people of North Coventry Township and Pottstown Borough with each other and their Schuylkill River Heritage”.

Executive Summary

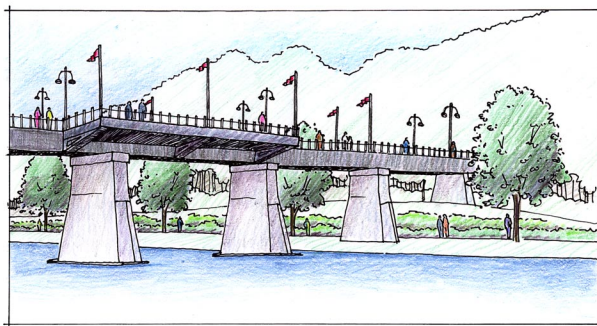
The Reconnections project examines the potential physical, economic, social, heritage and aesthetic connections between Pottstown and North Coventry. The plan focuses on the Schuylkill River as the “heart” of each community’s shared history.

The two municipalities formed a joint committee, obtained state and local funding, and retained a consultant team to assist them to identify obstacles in reconnecting the communities and to find solutions toward achieving the study’s goals.

The planning process and resultant plan and recommendations indicate many shared concerns that point to the advantages of continuing the dialogue and cooperation fostered by this effort.



Hanover Street Sketch.



Railroad Trestle Pedestrian Bridge.

Major physical improvement recommendations include:

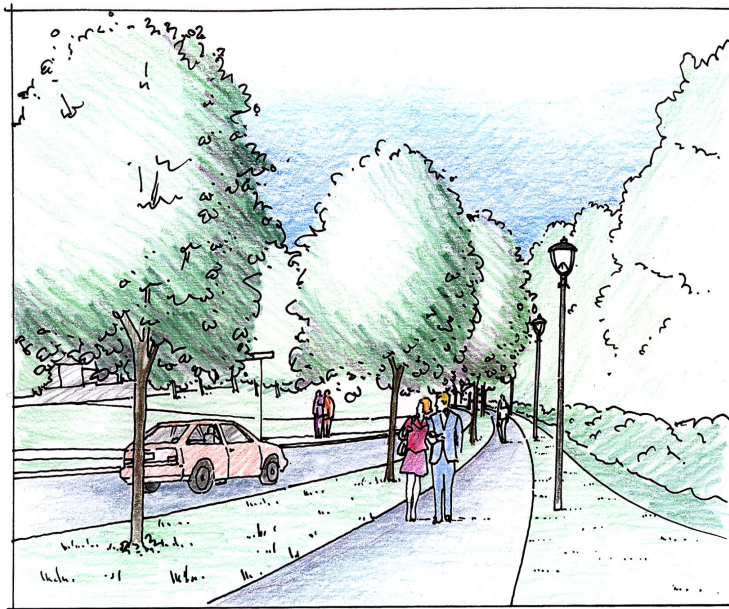
- Enhancements to the Hanover Street Bridge to create a functional and symbolic link and gateway for both communities;
- Establishment of the River Road Trail from the Hanover Street Bridge to River Park in North Coventry;
- Other improvements along Hanover Street, Laurelwood Road and Rt. 724 to create more attractive and walkable links between the Borough and the Coventry Mall;
- Conversion of the existing unused railroad trestle into a pedestrian bridge across the river to connect River Park and Riverfront Park;

Executive Summary

- Creation of additional pathways along the south bank of the Schuylkill River; and
- Plan for and advocate the replacement of the Keim Street Bridge.

Other recommendations include:

- Visual enhancements including the creation of a scenic protection overlay district along the Schuylkill River and selective clearing to expose views into the “Hidden River”;
- Improved communications between the two communities including comprehensive signage and community information kiosks, electronic kiosks and shared events and recreational programming; and
- Involve local schools in the “Reconnections” process and philosophy through the shared history and heritage of the Schuylkill River. Opportunities include hands-on environmental learning, local history curriculum and community participation on park and open space initiatives.



Proposed River Road Trail.

Opportunities for successfully implementing study recommendations are many. Projects that involve both counties, two municipalities, and the Schuylkill River Federal and State Heritage Area will present many prospects to leverage funding and move study recommendations forward.