

*The Schuylkill River Trail is a multi-use path that will extend 120 miles from Schuylkill County to Philadelphia, running through Berks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties. It travels through the historically rich region of southeastern Pennsylvania and includes rural, agricultural, suburban, urban, and industrial landscapes. Currently the trail is 80 miles, with 40 miles remaining to complete in Berks and Schuylkill Counties. Schuylkill River Greenways plays a crucial role in the development and implementation of conservation, recreation, and tourism initiatives focused on the Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill River Trail.*

Schuylkill River Greenways owns and maintains approximately 35 miles of existing trail in Berks and Schuylkill Counties. Our challenge is that to date there has been no stable funding source to ensure our ability to take on and absorb the high cost of bigger maintenance, upgrade, and repair projects – such as resurfacing existing trails, repairing our trail bridges, or removing large fallen trees after a bad storm.

As we grow our trail footprint throughout the region, the need for dedicated funding to support these extraordinary community amenities also grows. We anticipate that the annual interest income and earnings from a \$5 million fund will cover these expanding needs. These expenses are over and above the ordinary funding needed to continue our mission to complete new trail projects and connections, which are largely supported by grant funding.

This financial gap is why Schuylkill River Greenways is launching the Stewardship Fund, to ensure that we have a ready and reliable source of funds for the critical maintenance, upgrade, and repair projects that are not covered by grants or our membership dollars.

The Stewardship Fund will ensure we have flexible funds that we can quickly direct to projects requiring immediate and expert attention, such as:

- Restoring and repairing bridges – We own five major bridges!
- Tree work – removal of dangerous trees and pruning of healthy trees.
- Improving safety features on elevated sections, including the installation of fencing.
- Keeping the trail and river obstruction-free, particularly after extreme weather events.
- Improving and maintaining trail surfaces (some asphalt and some natural surfaces).
- Repairing sink holes and other surface damage.

## **Become a Supporter of our \$5 Million Stewardship Fund**

Earnings and interest from the Stewardship Fund will fund trail projects that are large scale, more visible, and require substantial expertise and financial commitment. These projects involve significant time and investment, have a more tangible impact on the trail user experience than typical routine maintenance, and keep the SRT open, accessible, and safe for all, but they are difficult to fund through government or private grants. This fund and your support are essential to trail sustainability.





STEWARDSHIP FUND CAMPAIGN  
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