

THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL IN BIRDSBORO BOROUGH & ROBESON TOWNSHIP

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Birdsboro Borough and Robeson Township Trail Study revisited previous trail alignments to update or improve the proposed route of the Schuylkill River Trail (SRT) between completed sections from Gibraltar to Birdsboro.

Goals of This Study

Goal A. Review Existing Proposed Alignments and Current Conditions

Goal B. Host a Focus Group Discussion Regarding Opportunities and Constraints

Goal C. Make Recommendations for Temporary, Alternate and Ultimate Trail Alignments

The study area includes Birdsboro Borough, portions of Exeter Township, and portions of Robeson Township. Alignments proposed in 2007 were analyzed and several alternative alignments were studied and analyzed to improve this on-road connection with the objective to develop a fully off-road trail experience. The Gibraltar to Birdsboro segment is a 4 mile stretch of the SRT located between Reading and Pottstown.

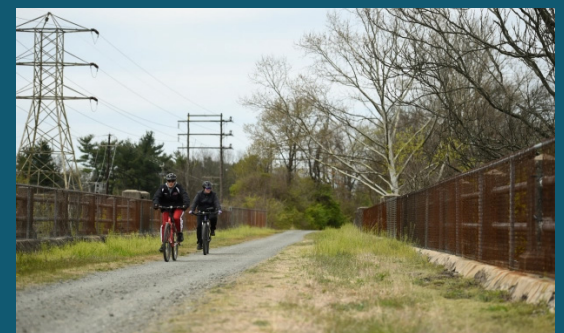
The Schuylkill River Greenways (SRG) currently utilizes an on-road alignment to span the 3.7-mile gap between Gibraltar and Birdsboro. This alignment follows Old-River Rd. for 1.2 miles, before crossing an active railroad and Route 724 at an unsignalized intersection to connect to Schuylkill Rd. Schuylkill Rd. continues for 2.0 miles before again re-joining Route 724 (W Main St.) at an unsignalized intersection just north of Birdsboro. The on-road route continues for 0.2 miles on W Main St. to Route 345, briefly co-locating with Route 345 before crossing to connect with Armorcast Rd to connect to the trailhead.

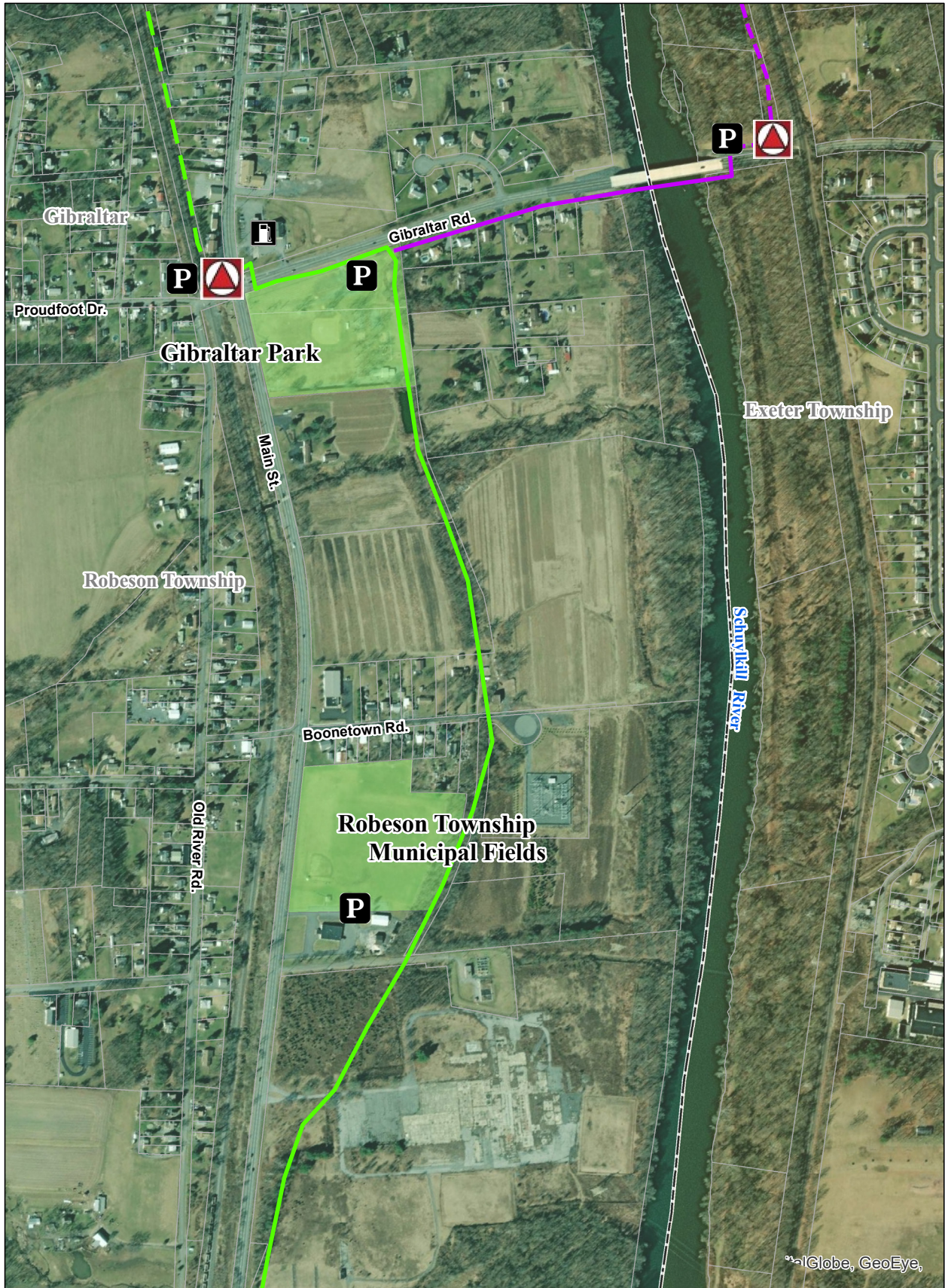
Birdsboro-Robeson Study eliminated the constrained options of the Exeter Township riverside route due to a pinch point and eliminated an unsignalized crossings of Route 724 because of safety. The rail with trail route was also eliminated due to the difficulties around a rail with trail alignment. The study revealed opportunities for new advisory bicycle lanes, roadside trail route, trail easement acquisitions, and connections along historic canal routes between publicly owned land.

Therefore the new alignment was developed that will be both on-route and off-route to get trail users from the Gibraltar Trailhead to where the existing off road SRT ends. The proposed trail alignment will travel from the Gibraltar Trailhead along Gibraltar Road and will briefly parallel Route 724, before reaching the former canal. The SRT would then turn right onto Schuylkill Road utilizing bike lanes as the trail follows the scenic road westward until it reconnects with Route 724 (Main Street) in Birdsboro. The trail will then continue on-route until Furnace Street. The trail will then continue along Armorcast Road where the existing off road SRT ends. The following pages include three maps that depict the proposed trail alignment.

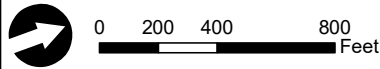
ABOUT ON-ROAD & OFF-ROAD TRAIL ALIGNMENTS

The Schuylkill River Trail will be an off-road trail wherever possible. When an off-road route is not available, typically because property rights cannot be obtained or physical barriers interrupt the preferred alignment, short sections of the SRT will use on-road routes until an off-road segment can be identified and developed. Where on-road trail options are proposed how can the project team provide a safe and comfortable experience for the user. Below is an example of an off-road trail alignment.





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Mapping derived from data provided by Berks County, PASDA, ESRI.

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- Existing Schuylkill River Trail (SRT)
- Proposed Off-Road SRT
- Proposed On-Road SRT
- Existing Connector Trail
- Proposed Connector Trail






- Trailhead or Access
- Parking
- Restaurant
- Gasoline/ Convenience Store





2022 Schuylkill Trail Project
Birdsboro Trail Segment Map

Berks County, Pennsylvania
Sheet 3 of 3





 0 400 800 1,600 Feet
 Mapping derived from data provided by Berks County, PASDA, ESRI.

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 Existing Schuylkill River Trail (SRT)	 Trailhead or Access
 Proposed Off-Road SRT	 Parking
 Proposed On-Road SRT	 Restaurant
 Existing Connector Trail	 Gasoline/ Convenience Store
 Proposed Connector Trail	

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Birdsboro Trail Segment Map
Berks County, Pennsylvania
Sheet 1 of 3