



Philadelphia residents fighting to gain access to the new Schuylkill River Park Trail

Free Schuylkill River Park is officially incorporated as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation in the name of Lower Schuylkill River Park Users Association (LSRUA).

Our mission is "to advocate on behalf of all users for the preservation and enhancement of safe and accessible access to Philadelphia's Schuylkill River Trail and to promote responsible development, management and enjoyment of the Park."

Lower Schuylkill River Users Assn. Board:

- Andy Toy *President*
- Robert Thomas *Secretary*
- Rob Stuart *Treasurer*
- Richard Atkins
- Perry Benson
- Alex Doty
- Terry Gillen
- Kevin Gruenfeld
- Harold Jacobs
- Sam Little
- Russell Meddin
- Hal Schirmer
- Sarah Clark Stuart

Reaching The Hidden River

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WE WON ! TOGETHER WE DID IT!

After four years of action alerts, emails, faxes, "blocked-access" complaint forms, rallies, hearings and online petitions, our campaign scored the ultimate victory. On April 24, 2007, Mayor John F. Street and CSX's William Goetz sat together on a podium next to the Schuylkill River Park Trail on Schuylkill Banks to sign an settlement agreement that keeps the two crossings at Race and Locust open and safe for park users.



City Solicitor Romulo Diaz hands a copy of the agreement for signing to Mayor John F. Street and CSX's William Goetz while Councilman Darrell Clarke beams. *Photo by Hal Schirmer*

This agreement embodies the position we took from the beginning: street level access into the Park had to be preserved and made safe for all park users.

Together, we demonstrated that when citizen voices are mobilized effectively, they can convince elected officials, government agencies and a multi-billion dollar corporation that it is in everyone's best interest to

find a mutually agreeable solution that meets the needs of both the community and the railroad. We want to thank all of the thousands of park users and neighbors who stepped up and took action whenever they were called.

This agreement sets a national precedent for how freight lines can co-exist within urban communities. It also sets an example for other cities and towns

that are seeking to reclaim their waterfronts. This agreement proves that transportation infrastructure is capable of adapting itself to become woven into the fabric of revitalizing urban communities.

We showed off Philadelphia at its best. We proved that when everyone unites and rallies together, Philadelphia can successfully make itself a more livable City for everyone.

Highlights of the CSX-City of Philadelphia Settlement Agreement

- Within two years, the crossings at Race and Locust Street will be improved with fencing and gates that will permit park users to cross the tracks when no train is approaching or parked. If trains are parked near, but not on the crossings, gates will reopen to permit crossing the tracks until the train moves again.
- A pedestrian overpass will be constructed south of Locust Street to connect the next segment of the trail to the Schuylkill River Park at 25th and Spruce Street within 30 months (The exact location and design is to be determined).
- Garbage trains will no longer park on tracks next to the Park or within the City's municipal boundaries.
- A segment of track will be built in the vicinity of 32nd and Thompson Street to facilitate faster movement of trains through the City.

The full settlement agreement can be read on our website.

Thanks to everyone who made this victory possible!

Mayor John F. Street
Councilman Darrell Clarke
Council President Anna C. Verna
Councilman Jack Kelly
Former Councilman Michael Nutter
U.S. Senator Arlen Specter
Governor Edward G. Rendell
State Senator Vincent J. Fumo
State Representative Babette Josephs

Romulo Diaz, Michael Eichert, Daniel Cantu-Hertzler of City of Philadelphia Law Dept.
Richard Glazer
Carl Engelke
Current and former staff of the Engineering Division, City of Philadelphia Streets Dept. Managing Director's Office
Steven David Masters, Will Carter, Anita Massara Levin, Christopher Wright and Julia Chapman (formerly) of Philadelphia City Council Staff
Jeanette Blize & Frances Cichetti (formerly) of State Representative Babette Josephs
Mark Focht, Fairmount Park Commission
Joseph Syrnick, Schuylkill River Development Corporation
U.S. District Court Judge Bruce W. Kauffman

Free Schuylkill River Park email subscribers
Logan Square Neighborhood Association
Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
Philadelphia Parks Alliance
Friends of Schuylkill River Park & Friends of Schuylkill River Park Dog Owner's Association
All neighborhood and civic organizations who adopted the 2004 Resolution

Janine Bauer, Esq.

William Penn Foundation
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
All donors to Free Schuylkill River Park, LSRUA and *Runnin' On The River*

Board members of LSRUA: Andy Toy *President*
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Richard Atkins, Perry Benson, Alex Doty, Terry Gillen,
Kevin Gruenfeld, Harold Jacobs, Sam Little,
Russell Meddin, Hal Schirmer, Sarah Clark Stuart

Julian Willis of Morgan Stanley
Jennifer Sanford Murphy and Marilyn D. Adelman of Cozen & O'Connor
Tom Sexton & Susan Weaver of Rails to Trails Conservancy
Democracy In Action
NPowerPA

April 24, 2007 Settlement Agreement Signing at Schuylkill River Park Trail



Mayor John F. Street lauds the Park



LSRUA Board with attorney Janine Bauer & CSX's Bill Goetz



Russell Meddin, Rob Stuart & Perry Benson



Watching the signing !



Russell enjoys the moment

Photos by Hal Schirmer and Sam Little

Donate online at www.freetheriverpark.org