



DELAWARE RIVER TRAIL STUDY 2025



AGENDA

- Scope of Study
- Purpose & Need
- Stakeholder Coordination
- Existing Conditions
- Trail Concept
- Cost Estimation
- Recommendations & Next Steps



SCOPE OF THIS STUDY

\$23,000 Study funded by the 2025 Delaware Bikeways Grant Program

The scope of work for this study included the following:

- Existing Conditions Assessment & Purpose and Need Development
- Prepare a concept map layout to illustrate the potential alignment, surface treatments, and design features.
- Conceptual-level cost estimate to inform future funding efforts.
- Final report to document findings and recommendations of this study.

NOT INCLUDED IN THIS STUDY

- Final Design & Engineering
- Land Acquisition & Right-of-Way (ROW) Negotiations
- Coordination with private property owners beyond access permissions for a field walk.
- Environmental Studies & Permitting
- Geotechnical & Subsurface Investigations
- Public Engagement & Stakeholder Outreach
- Construction Cost Refinement & Phasing Plans
- Surveying & Property Boundary Determinations
- Utility Coordination & Relocation Planning

PURPOSE & NEED

The purpose of the Delaware River Trail project is to:

- enhance connectivity, safety, and resiliency by creating a continuous multimodal corridor
- connects key destinations
- reduces reliance on single-occupancy vehicles
- provides safe routes for vulnerable populations
- integrates resilient design strategies to withstand climate impacts and ensure long-term sustainability

STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

- The project stakeholder group played a vital role in the planning process and concept development.
- Initial coordination has begun between Bike Delaware, Harvey Hanna and the City of New Castle





EXISTING CONDITIONS

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

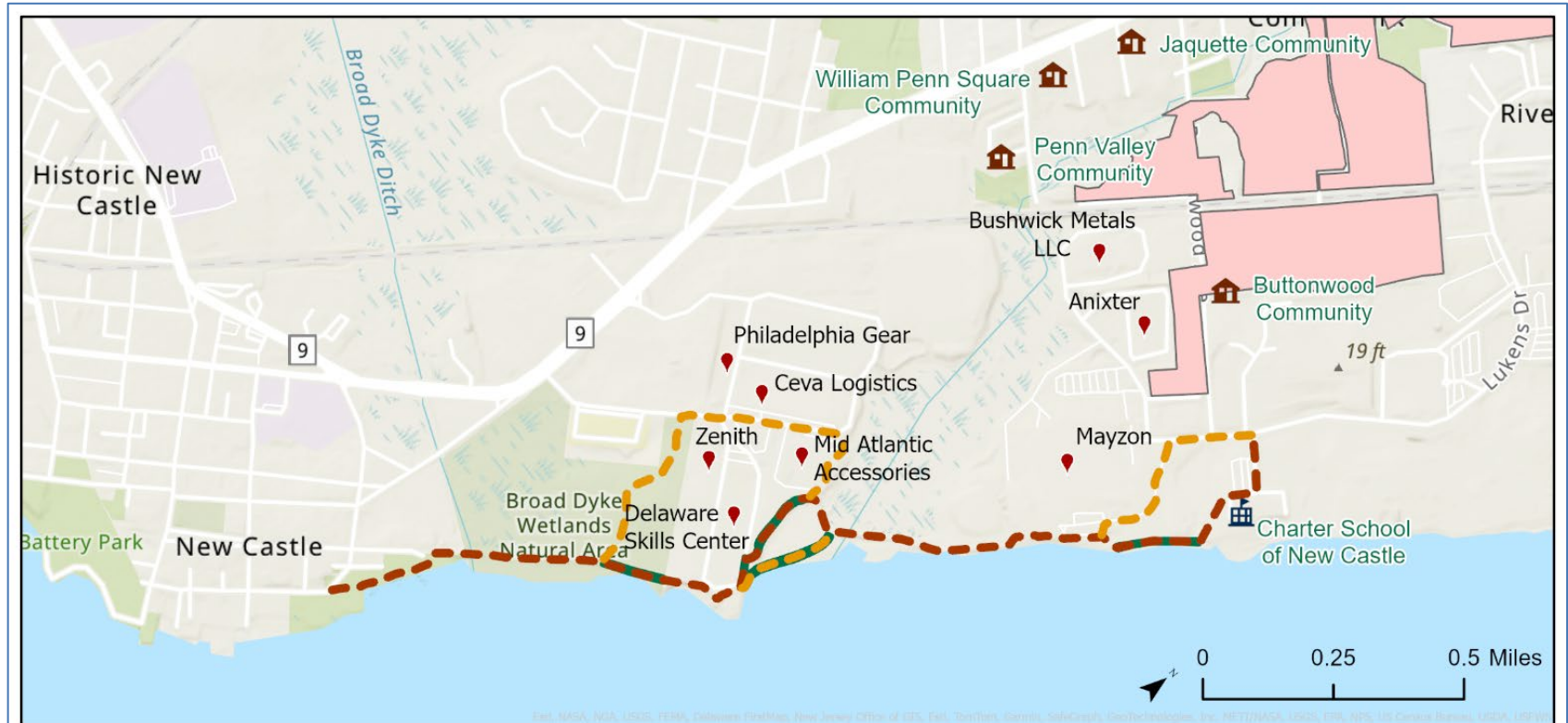
Trail improves access to moderate equity focus areas and provides nearby trail access to underserved neighborhoods:

- Buttonwood
- Jaquette
- William Penn Square

Opens new opportunities for employment, recreation, and access to key destinations:

- Employment centers
- Downton New Castle

Provides a safe, direct route for students and staff at the Charter School of New Castle



Delaware River Trail - Socioeconomics

Equity Focus Area

Moderate

Trail Connections
Being Explored

Main Pathway

Alternative Pathway

Raised Boardwalk



Employment Opportunities



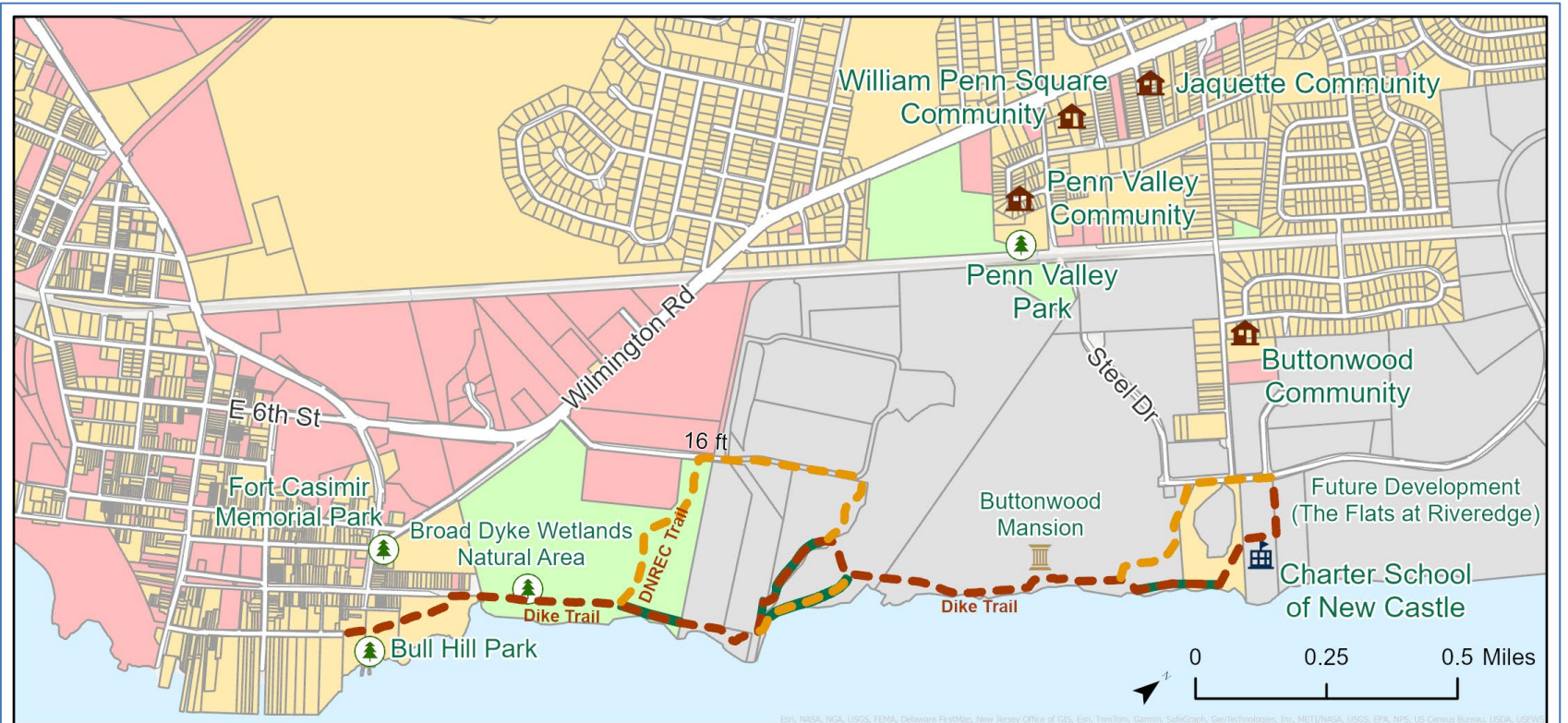
School



Underserved Communities

LAND USE

- Trail passes through industrial, residential, and greenspace areas with residential connections
- The northern part of the trail will cross in front of the historic Buttonwood Mansion



Delaware River Trail - Study Area

Land Use Type:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Greenspace
- Industrial

- Main Pathway
- Alternative Pathway
- Raised Boardwalk

- Park
- Historic
- School
- Underserved Communities

THE FLATS AT RIVEREDGE DEVELOPMENT

Proposed Development in New Castle

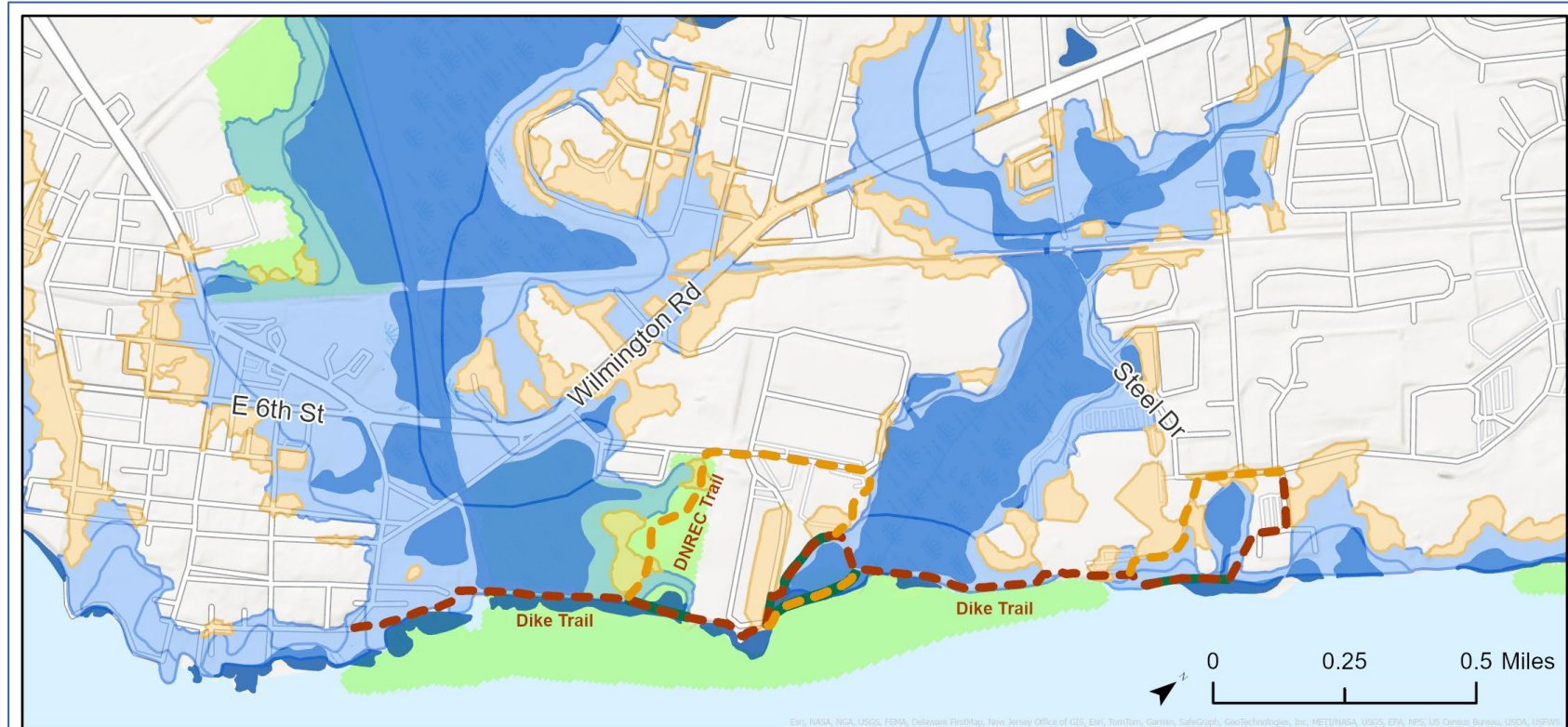
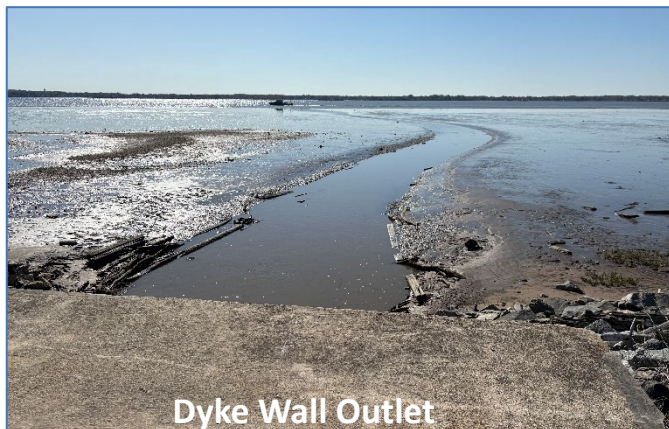
- vibrant mixed-uses including residential units, commercial spaces, and public amenities.
- Opportunity to Integrate with the Delaware River Trail to connect the new development to the historic city center.
- Development is approved; ongoing coordination occurring.



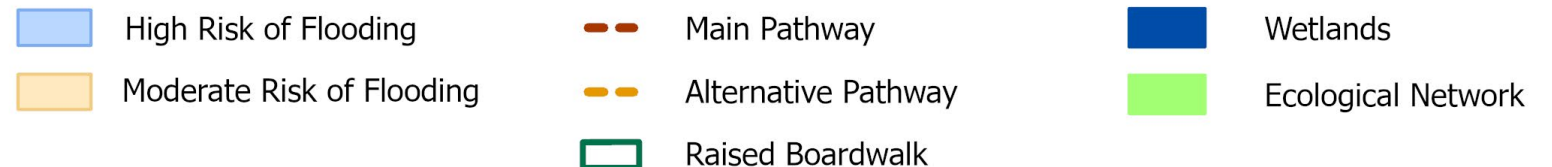
Proposed Flats at Riveredge Development by Greggo & Ferrara Group

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

- Includes wetlands and flood-prone areas.
- Dike elevations may need adjustment to meet new flood standards
- Coordination with DNREC, FHWA, ACOE, and other relevant agencies will be essential to determine appropriate design responses and potential permitting implications



Delaware River Trail - Environmental Consequences



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

- Access is mainly provided by industrial roads to nearby factories and office buildings
- Limited pedestrian access provided
- DTC bus route runs across the project study area and provides limited connections to pedestrian and proposed trail





TRAIL CONCEPTS EXPLORED

TRAIL CONCEPTS

Main alignment:

- Begins at Bull Hill Park and follows along the Delaware River, including raised boardwalks
- Connects with the existing Dike Trail

Alternative Options:

- Use of City parcel / DNREC conservation easement
- Connect through Harvey Hanna parking/ building circulation areas to minimize boardwalk construction

Design Features:

- 10' wide asphalt and boardwalk sections
- Scenic riverfront view
- Integration with new developments



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Existing Foot Path on City Parcel with DNREC Easement





Zenith Frontage against River
(10' wide) space

Skills Center against City Parcel with DNREC Easement



Mayzon Frontage near Buttonwood Mansion



Mayzon Frontage



Dyke Trail



PROPERTY ACCESS

- Began coordination with public and private landowners for easements and right-of-way
- Ongoing engagement meetings with DNREC and other agencies to finalize design and permitting



Delaware River Trail - Property Ownership

Land Ownership

- Public or Government
- Private

- Main Pathway
- Alternative Pathway
- Raised Boardwalk
- Parcel

COST ESTIMATES

- Total estimated cost of \$6.3 million, including engineering, property acquisition, construction, and contingencies
- \$4.88 million for trail, raised boardwalks, parking and amenities

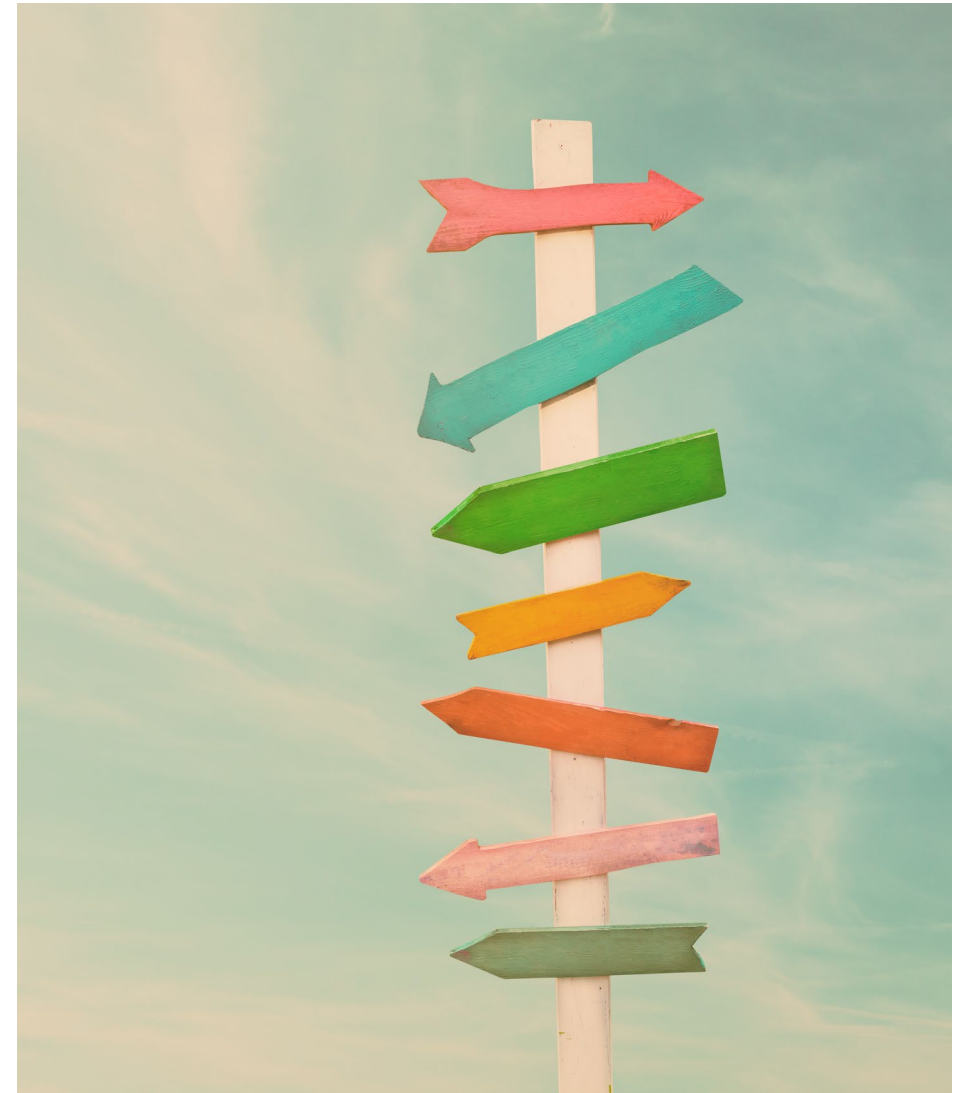
Note: Costs do not include the potential extension on Lukens Drive or roadway improvements to connect into Buttonwood Neighborhood.

Project Efforts	Cost Estimates
Location and Environmental Studies	\$414,806
Preliminary Engineering	\$690,044
Real Estate	\$360,470
Construction	\$4,880,061
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$6,345,381

RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS

Future Efforts Should Include :

- Final alignment determination (additional property owner/stakeholder coordination needed)
- Secure property access and easements.
- Address flood resiliency and dike elevation.
- Environmental Studies & Permitting
- Geotechnical & Subsurface Investigations
- Public Engagement & Stakeholder Outreach
- Construction Cost Refinement & Phasing Plans
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QUESTIONS

