

ROUND ONE PROJECTS

DVRPC awarded the first round Take Me to the River grants in 2008 (see Figure 5 for project locations). The 13 projects selected were chosen based on their ability to reconnect citizens and neighborhoods with the river and their relationship to previous riverfront planning efforts. Nine different organizations received grants, with three of them: the Schuylkill River Development Corporation; the Delaware River City Corporation; and the New Kensington Community Development Corporation, receiving more than one grant. Grant projects were divided nearly equally between both of the City's waterfronts; seven projects were located along the Schuylkill River and six projects were situated on the Delaware. In total, \$1 Million was awarded with grants ranging in value from \$25,000 to \$125,000. Projects were divided into three categories: capital, planning, and programming.

Capital Grants

Six capital projects were selected with grants supporting the development of new trails, park space, and wayfinding and placemaking initiatives.

Project: Grays Ferry Crescent Greenway (Formerly known as the DuPont Crescent)

Grant Recipient: Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC)

Amount: \$100,000

Project Overview: SRDC was awarded a grant to develop the DuPont Crescent section of the Schuylkill Trail system. This section, recently renamed the Grays Ferry Crescent, represents a 3,300 foot stretch of the tidal Schuylkill between 34th Street and Wharton Street near the Grays Ferry, Forgotten Bottom, and the South of South neighborhoods. Formerly home to a DuPont Chemical research laboratory, trail and park development here will help meet the goals of the Schuylkill River Master Plan by creating a critical link in the greenway south of Center City. The trail is now complete and SRDC is currently working with a contractor to construct an access ramp from 34th Street to the new trail.



The Grays Ferry Crescent during remediation.



Visitors tour a portion of Lardner's Point Park.

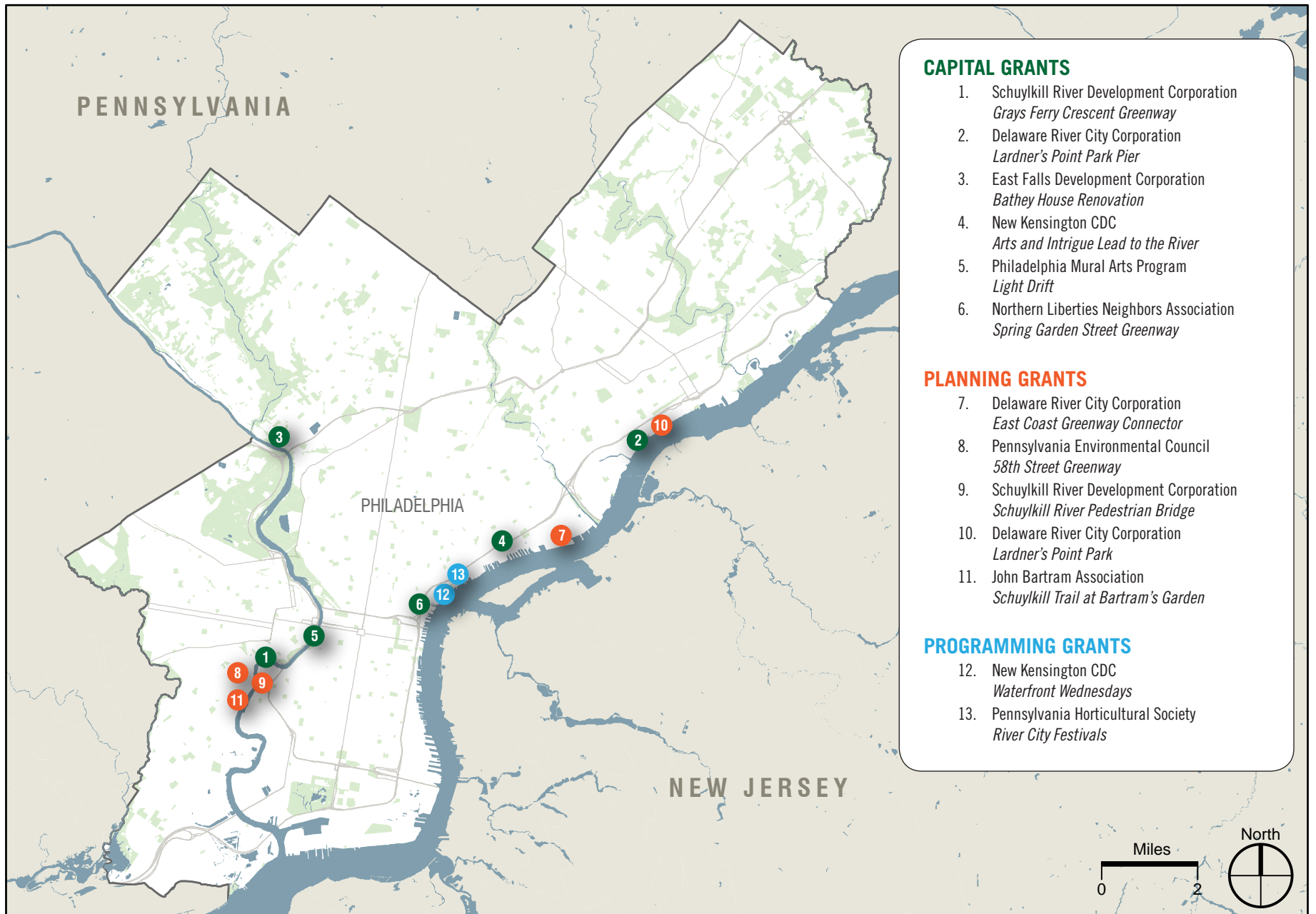


Figure 5: Round One Grants

Project: Lardner's Point Park Pier

Grant Recipient: Delaware River City Corporation (DRCC)

Amount: \$75,000

Project Overview: DRCC received two grants related to Lardner's Point Park located at the end of Levick Street near the base of the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge. This capital grant is being used to make repairs to an existing pier that will serve as one of the central elements of the park. The grant will pay for structural repairs and the installation of a railing along its periphery. Implementation of this project was slowed by a delay in additional funds which are being supplied as part of the Athos I oil spill mitigation project. However, DRCC is now preparing to move ahead with the project with completion scheduled for 2011.

Project: Bathey House Renovation

Grant Recipient: East Falls Development Corporation

Amount: \$125,000

Project Overview: The East Falls Development Corporation used its capital grant to repair and repurpose the old Bathey House at Ferry Road in East Falls. The building reopened on September 15, 2010 and is now home to the Trolley Car Café and a bicycle rental and repair shop. Previously vacant for nearly 40 years, the building serves as a gateway to both the Schuylkill River State and National Heritage Area and the East Falls Riverfront Business District.

Project: Art and Intrigue Lead to the River

Grant Recipient: New Kensington Community Development Corporation (NKCDC)

Amount: \$100,000

Project Overview: NKCDC has used its grant to develop a public art campaign designed to enhance pedestrian connections to the Delaware River. The project focuses on Girard and Columbia Avenues and links Penn Treaty Park to the Girard Station of the Market-Frankford El. For this effort, NKCDC partnered with the Mural Arts Program to develop both temporary and permanent art, including two murals, with an aquatic theme. NKCDC also collaborated on the development of a scavenger hunt which coincided with the spring Shad Fest at Penn Treaty Park. Additionally, NKCDC is continuing to coordinate an intersection improvement for Girard and Columbia Avenues with the Philadelphia Streets Department.



The refurbished Bathey House opened in September 2010 as the Trolley Car Cafe.



Children pose before a recently completed mural on Girard Avenue sponsored by the New Kensington Community Development Corporation.



Visitors interact with the Light Drift installation in October 2010.



Early rendering of lighting treatment for the I-95 underpass as part of the Spring Garden Greenway project.

Project: Light Drift

Grant Recipient: Mural Arts Program

Amount: \$75,000

Project Overview: Mural Arts used its capital grant to support its New Gateways for a Great American City initiative which seeks to create high impact public art projects at significant gateways throughout the City. For this project, Mural Arts collaborated with artist J. Meejin Yoon to create Light Drift, a temporary interactive lighting installation along Schuylkill Banks between Market and Chestnut Streets from October 15-17, 2010. The lighting elements, or orbs, were installed both in and along the river. The orbs on land doubled as seating and used sensors to detect the presence of a person and relay a radio signal to the corresponding orbs in the water. These lighting elements drew visitors into a playful engagement with the artwork, the river, and each other.

Project: Spring Garden Street Greenway

Grant Recipient: Northern Liberties Neighbors Association (NLNA)

Amount: \$100,000

Project Overview: With its Take Me to the River grant, NLNA aims to enhance neighborhood connections to the Delaware River by improving the area under and around the SEPTA Market-Frankford El Spring Garden transit station, located on Spring Garden Street, just east of its intersection with N. 2nd Street. The project calls for a linear park along Spring Garden and will include landscaping and stormwater improvements to Dolly Madison Park and an innovative lighting treatment to be installed under the I-95 overpass. NLNA is currently collaborating with the Philadelphia Water Department and Fairmount Park Commission and expects to complete the project in 2011.

Planning Grants

Five planning grants were awarded to support a range of feasibility studies, public outreach, and site-specific design and planning studies.

Project: Port Richmond Trail

Grant Recipient: Delaware River City Corporation (DRCC)

Amount: \$75,000

Project Overview: DRCC was awarded a grant to continue planning for a 1.6 mile stretch of off-road trail along the city-owned rights of way for Delaware Avenue and Allegheny Avenue in the Port Richmond neighborhood. Bounded by Allegheny Avenue at the southern end and Lewis Street to the north, this section of trail is a critical part of the North Delaware Riverfront Greenway and the eventual East Coast Greenway. Trail design is nearly complete and TIGER funding is in place to being construction of this project in 2011.

Project: 58th Street Greenway

Grant Recipient: Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)

Amount: \$83,000

Project Overview: PEC has used its planning grant to support the transformation of 58th Street into a landscaped boulevard that will provide access to an underutilized stretch of the Schuylkill River waterfront. The greenway is envisioned for a 1.2 mile segment of 58th Street stretching the Schuylkill River to Cobbs Creek. The grant has funded a variety of planning and engineering work including a series of public meetings in which residents were able to learn about and inform the process. PEC is currently working to get the permits and approvals needed for the project and finalizing the TIGER grant contracts which will help pay for construction.

Project: Schuylkill River Pedestrian Bridge

Grant Recipient: Schuylkill River Development Corporation (SRDC)

Amount: \$50,000

Project Overview: SRDC was awarded a planning grant to investigate a pedestrian crossing of the Schuylkill River at or near Grays Ferry Avenue. Such a crossing would connect Southwest Philadelphia residents with the many recreational opportunities of Fairmount Park and bring historic Bartram's Garden within reach of the many users of the Schuylkill Banks Trail system. SRDC feasibility study focused on the possibility of utilizing an abandoned railroad swing bridge just south



The public offered feedback on the 58th Street Greenway during a series of community meetings.



This railroad swing bridge was evaluated for its potential to serve as a pedestrian bridge across the Schuylkill River.

of the Grays Ferry Avenue Bridge. The leading alternative involves turning the existing bridge from its current open position to closed and adding new connections to each side. SRDC continues to pursue funding to implement this design.

Project: Lardner's Point Park

Grant Recipient: Delaware River City Corporation

Amount: \$49,000

Project Overview: DRCC used this second grant related to Lardner's Point Park to expand the project to include an additional 800 feet of shoreline restoration and wetland construction. DRCC hired Biohabitats, Inc., a landscape architecture firm who completed the original design for the park to complete the final design plans of the additional wetland areas and lead the permitting process. At this time construction documentation is complete and DRCC is finalizing permits needed for construction.

Project: Schuylkill Trail at Bartram's Garden

Grant Recipient: John Bartram Association

Amount: \$80,000

Project Overview: Bartram's Garden, a National Historic Landmark, is the oldest botanic garden in the United States and a key recreational and cultural destination on the Schuylkill River. The John Bartram Association was awarded a grant to continue planning for a trail which will link Bartram's Garden to the Schuylkill Banks Trail. When complete, the trail will include signage and interpretation of cultural resources, appropriate plantings along the trail, lighting for safety and accessibility, as well as plans for programming and maintenance. Construction of the trail is expected to begin in 2011.

Programming Grants

Finally, two programming grants supported seasonal festivals and a summer concert series at Penn Treaty Park.

Project: Waterfront Wednesdays

Grant Recipient: New Kensington Community Design Collaborative (NKCDC)

Amount: \$25,000

Project Overview: NKCDC used its programming grant to produce summer concert series at Penn Treaty Park in 2009 and 2010. The concert series was designed to provide cultural programming, engage local businesses and residents, and promote neighborhood access to and use of the Delaware Riverfront. The concerts featured a diverse set of musical acts, many with neighborhood ties, performing before audiences of 200-300 people, many of whom had never visited the park before. NKCDC worked with a committee of neighborhood volunteers to market and run the concert series while local restaurants prepared picnic menus and delivered meals to the park.

Project: River City Festivals

Grant Recipient: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)

Amount: \$63,000

Project Overview: PHS was awarded a grant to establish spring and fall festivals at Penn Treaty Park. The festivals are designed to celebrate the cultural life of the Fishtown community and reconnect neighborhood residents to the river through a range of educational and recreational activities. The spring festival, Shad Fest, has taken place in late April 2009 and 2010 during the time when shad traditionally swim up river from the ocean to lay their eggs. The fall-themed River City Festival has taken place in October the last two years. Both festivals have included a mix of recreation, music, food, art, and educational activities supported by local businesses, artists, and community organizations.



Musicians perform during the summer concert series at Penn Treaty Park.



Crowds enjoy Shad Fest at Penn Treaty Park.