

“The recreational trail dramatically improves waterfront access and enjoyment at this former brownfield site.”

Client: Chester Economic Development Authority

Fee: \$3,000,000

The Chester Economic Development Authority retained Urban Engineers, Inc. for the design of a 1.8-mile long pedestrian river walkway and bicycle trail along the Delaware River between Highland Avenue and Flower Street in the City of Chester, PA. The trail is interconnected with State Highway 291 and includes parking facilities, security lighting, and fences. The construction also called for the building of several small bridges over various drainage and riverfront structures, as well as riverbank stabilization to prevent erosion.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Pedestrian Walkway Construction
- Small Bridge Construction
- Recreational Development
- Permitting Services
- ISTEAFunding
- Rails to Trails

The City of Chester’s waterfront was once a thriving hub of industrial activity. However, with the demise of the city’s manufacturing and industrial base, large sections of the city’s waterfront have become largely vacant and underutilized. In order to rebuild its local economy, the City of Chester has made the waterfront a key focus of its revitalization efforts. In particular, the waterfront area between Highland Avenue and Flower Streets is undergoing a dramatic improvement by the conversion of this brownfield site into a major office, retail, and recreational development. In addition to transforming a former generating station to 400,000 SF of office space, the City has committed over \$3 million to make improvements to the adjacent Barry Bridge Park. The East Coast Greenway and Riverwalk connects with the expanded park and significantly opens up the waterfront which has been largely sealed off from the general public by industrial uses for the first time in the city’s modern history. In addition to providing a local and regional recreational attraction, the East Coast Greenway and Riverwalk also provides a public amenity that supports a major development project that will have a significant economic impact on the City of Chester.

Urban designed the recreational trail and associated facilities and provided site civil engineering and environmental permitting services including the preparation of PENNDOT ISTEAFunding documents (categorical exclusion, design documents, and bid documents), E&S Control Plans, and a Joint Chapter 105 Permit and NPDES Permit for construction activities.

