Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is a national nonprofit headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1986, we have worked from coast to coast, supporting the development of more than 22,000 miles of rail-trails for millions to explore and enjoy.

For more information about the Circuit Trails and the Burlington-Camden Connector, please contact Liz Sewell at 856.267.3456 or elizabeths@railstotrails.org
The vision is clear: Transform Burlington and Camden counties into New Jersey's most walkable and bikeable counties through the creation of a 10-mile continuous multi-use trail connecting to Camden's existing vibrant waterfront trail.

The work has already begun. Today, the Benjamin Franklin Bridge Walkway, Wiggins Promenade Trail along the Camden Waterfront, Merchantville Connector Rail-Trail and Merchantville Bike Path trails form key pieces of this future trail network. The Camden Waterfront attractions such as the Adventure Aquarium and Battleship New Jersey and Wiggins Promenade Trail gain more visitors every year, and their popularity will skyrocket when the ramp replaces the stairs from the bridge into Camden in December 2018.

The aim is to connect these trails, and, in turn, connect neighborhoods, workplaces, public transit, parks and shopping areas.

Learn more about the Circuit Trails at: CircuitTrails.org
For the past decade, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) has been working with redevelopment organizations, municipal agencies, railroads, hospitals, schools and neighborhood associations in Burlington and Camden counties to bring this county connection to fruition. During this time, RTC has shared the vision of a connected trail system with these stakeholders and the general public.

In order to further build confidence in this vision, RTC completed the following steps:

- Participated in town meetings;
- Conducted surveys;
- Secured media coverage;
- Convened meetings of necessary decision makers;
- Created youth programs and events; and
- Communicated these actions to our extensive membership in the region.

The first action needed to complete this vision is to fund and construct approximately 7 miles of strategic connections between Camden and Pennsauken. The resulting 10-mile trail will immediately become an integral part of Burlington and Camden counties’ infrastructure.

New Jersey has received substantial federal funding for the construction of these pathways; however, a coordinated effort to create strategic investments for planning the construction of these trails is still needed.

Merchantville and Pennsauken Township are already in discussions and have been fully funded to extend the Merchantville Bike Path over the Atlantic City Rail Line east toward Maple Shade Township, connecting parks, baseball fields and communities.
The corridor includes an out-of-service railroad bridge across the NJ Route 130 overpass, which has been used as an informal community connection for many years.

RTC is continuing to advocate for the development of this important missing link in the creation of a connected regional trail.

Did you know that there is a rail-trail through Stockton Station and Dudley Grange Park? The Merchantville Connector Rail-Trail—seven-tenths of a mile of paved asphalt—runs through the Dudley Grange and Stockton parks, between the Pavonia Yards and the Merchantville Bike Path. The corridor was formerly a segment of the Pennsylvania Railroad. This public space network will connect Burlington and Camden counties, making them blueprints of active recreation and transportation systems for the rest of New Jersey.

In addition to the trail, the parks have an amphitheater, athletic fields, basketball courts, handball courts and skateboard and BMX parks. The trail also passes by the Catto School and the Boys and Girls Club on North 33rd Street.

From 33rd street to the Merchantville Bike Path is approximately seven-tenths of a mile of undeveloped railroad corridor and includes the Route 130 overpass bridge. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy completed a concept plan for the development of this potential rail-trail in 2010.

For years New Jersey Transit (NJT) reported that it was unable to sell the land due to the potential for future operational needs, but recently RTC and NJT have begun collaborating to move the corridor into the hands of Camden County. First steps in the transfer have been completed and preliminary conditions for negotiation of the land are currently under review by the Camden County Planning Department.