



The Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition seeks to create a 35-mile world-class network of urban trails that link together the diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities and outdoor resources that make up the landscape of Baltimore City.

When complete, the trail network will transform the public realm by: connecting the city's anchor institutions and destinations with Baltimore's diverse communities; creating new safe avenues for non-motorized travel; and providing equitable, low-stress access to open space, reliable transportation and recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

PRESERVING BALTIMORE'S HERITAGE

The Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects painted a visionary picture for Baltimore in a comprehensive 1904 report, *Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore*, which describes a city park system built upon the three stream valleys—Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls and Herring Run—and other natural features unique to the city. Today, the stream valleys, including trails that parallel these waterways, remain among the city's greatest assets.

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition is working to connect these cherished resources and help transform Baltimore's neighborhoods to realize a dream set forth more than a century ago, but with a critical need to address the challenges of today.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BALTIMORE



PROMOTING SOCIAL EQUITY

Connected trail systems can reduce urban fragmentation prevalent in cities like Baltimore while providing much-needed opportunities for safe non-motorized travel and physical activity.

- A potential 6.9 million increase in new biking/walking trips (annual)¹
- Up to \$2.4 million in avoided health costs of residents (annual)²

Baltimore is fragmented by busy roads and a history of prejudicial housing policies going back to the 1950s and 1960s that have resulted in socio-economically segregated communities³. Today, many neighborhoods are isolated from transit, trails and greenways, while nearly one-third of Baltimore households are without access to a car⁴. The 35-mile greenway loop will directly touch 80 of the city's diverse neighborhoods, while the rest of the city neighborhoods sit within a half-mile of the trail network. When finished, it will connect all corners of the city to the downtown core, thereby providing a safe space for walking and biking while promoting access to jobs, schools and outdoor opportunities for all city residents.



IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

When people have safe places to walk within 10 minutes of their home, they are more than twice as likely to meet the recommended activity levels than those who don't.⁵

In Baltimore, opportunities for physical activity aren't evenly distributed, and chronic disease is often high. While Baltimore has many parks and open spaces that promote outdoor activity and connection to nature, a more equitable trail network is necessary to open up these places for nearby residents, many of whom face challenges in the built environment for access. The completed trail network, and the new opportunities it creates for exercise and active transportation, will help combat the high rates of obesity (31%), high blood pressure (33%) and heart disease (26%) prevalent in the city.⁶



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Studies show the social and environmental benefits of green infrastructure and open space are strongest when green spaces are connected.⁷

- 2,900-3,900 tons of carbon emissions avoided each year, which is equivalent to 550-750 fewer cars per year⁸

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Network is based on a vision set forth more than a century ago to create a parks and greenways system that naturally integrated—and was built upon—Baltimore's three stream valleys.⁹ The trail network will help preserve these cherished assets while serving as important green infrastructure that safely transports hundreds of thousands of people to their destinations and lowers Baltimore's carbon footprint. The green infrastructure network will: provide wildlife habitats and increased tree canopy; support stormwater management through trailside plantings and gardens; help clean the air; and reduce the urban heat-island effect in the city.¹⁰



CREATING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

Trail networks like the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network create infrastructure that encourage and enable people to walk and bike as part of their daily lives.

- A potential 8.6 million decline in vehicle miles traveled per year¹¹
- Up to 0.7 million new public transportation trips per year¹²

The trail network will provide active transportation connections within neighborhoods, activity centers and the downtown core—including to important public transit stations—creating a new freedom of mobility for residents. For example, residents in South Baltimore will be able to use trails for increased access to transit and parks around the redeveloped Middle Branch Waterfront for easier, safer access to downtown employment centers. The trail network will also provide a seamless traffic-separated, off-road trail link between the Jones Falls Trail and the Herring Run Trail (at Lake Montebello), creating connections to two major universities, two large parks and more than a dozen diverse neighborhoods.



PROMOTING STRONG BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIES

- \$113 million per year from associated local business activity along the trail network¹³

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Network will support economic development across the city, linking employment centers to residential neighborhoods while supporting community development through trail-oriented development. For example, a former industrial section of East Baltimore is experiencing rapid growth as new people move in and businesses start up regularly. This economic renaissance will be enhanced by transforming the area's disused rail line into a rail-trail stretching south to the city's popular Inner Harbor and north to residential neighborhoods, creating a host of new access points and active transportation options. The rail-trail connection will help breathe new life into vacant brownfields and industrial corridors by serving as a draw for vibrant mixed-use development.

¹Economic and Social Benefits of Completing the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network, Ernst & Young (2020)

²Economic and Social Benefits of Completing the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network, Ernst & Young (2020)

³History: Housing Policy and Segregation in Baltimore, *Independent Reader*, Chris Gladora (2006)

⁴Has Motorization in the U.S. Peaked? Part 4: Households Without a Light-Duty Vehicle, The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, Michael Sivak (2014)

⁵Places to Walk: Convenience and Regular Physical Activity, *American Journal of Public Health* (2003)

⁶Baltimore Neighborhoods Indicator Alliance and Centers for Disease Control 2015

⁷Green Infrastructure, City Parks Forum Briefing Papers (2007)

⁸Economic and Social Benefits of Completing the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network, Ernst & Young (2020)

⁹The Ecological Design and Planning Reader, Forster O. Ndubisi (2014)

¹⁰Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning, Tim Beatley (2010)

¹¹Economic and Social Benefits of Completing the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network, Ernst & Young (2020)

¹²Economic and Social Benefits of Completing the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network, Ernst & Young (2020)

¹³Economic and Social Benefits of Completing the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network, Ernst & Young (2020)



Top: The Baltimore Greenway Trail Network will be created on Sharp and Stockholm streets by removing a row of on-street parking. This park-like setting will connect Solo Gibbs Park and the Gwynns Falls Trail at Ridgely's Cove.

Middle Left: The Baltimore Greenway provides the opportunity to bring the original vision for the Gwynns Falls Parkway—a linear extension of the city's park system—to life. This multi-use recreation trail will connect Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park to Druid Hill Park, thereby strengthening the connection of the communities that make up the area.

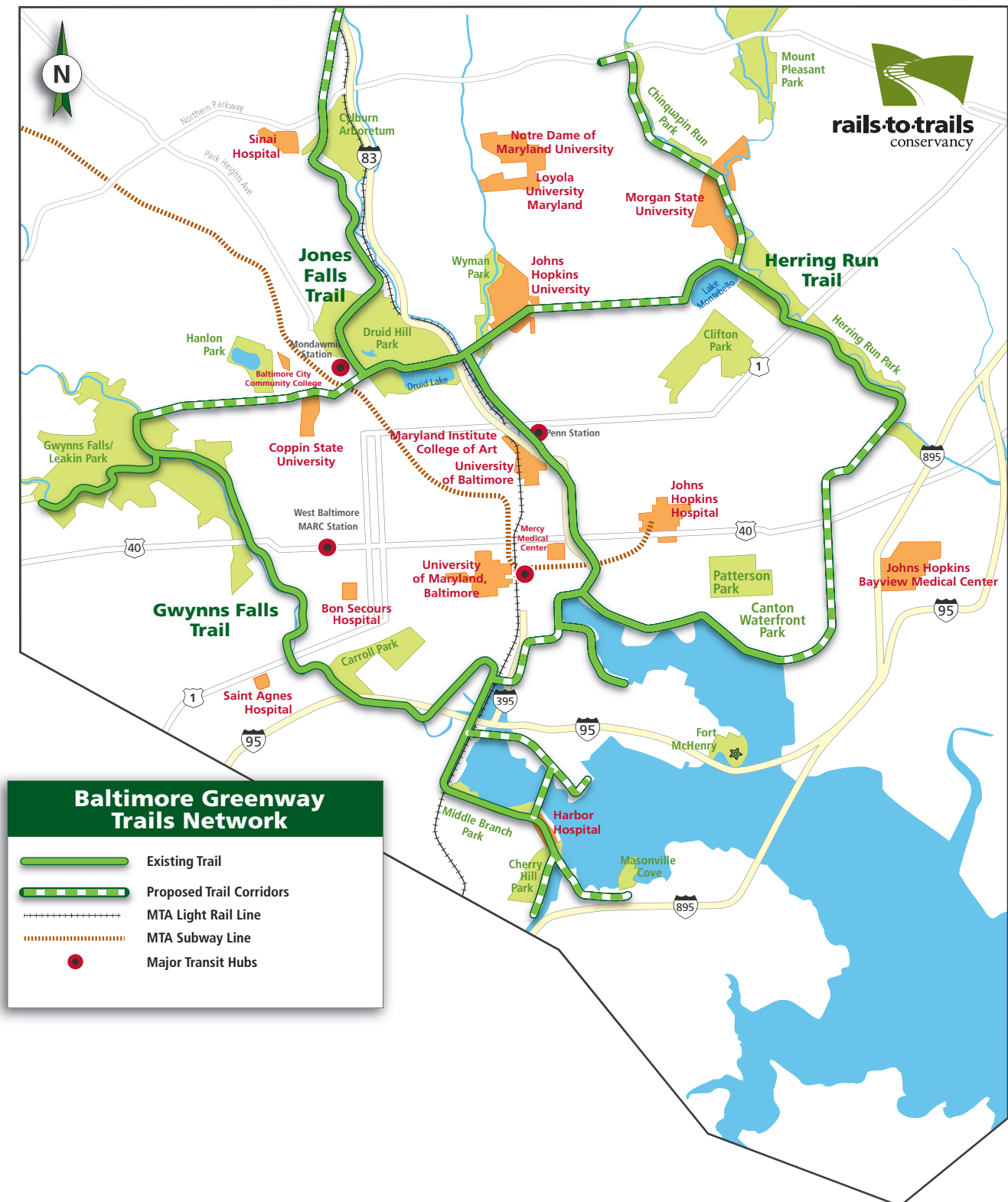
Middle Right: In Westport, the Baltimore Greenway will run alongside Clare Street, connecting Annapolis Road to Kloman Street. This section of the trail will connect to the neighborhood light rail station, thereby increasing the connectivity and accessibility of the area's transportation infrastructure.

Bottom: As the Westport waterfront property develops, a shared-use path through the site will be created. The shared-use path traverses the Westport waterfront between Clare Street and Middle Branch Park. This shared-use path provides a safer, more relaxing alternative route to the current Gwynns Falls Trail alignment on Kloman Street.

EXPLORE THE NETWORK

Former rail lines, industrial coastlines and reconfigured roadways will be transformed from barriers in the built environment to community-based assets centered on trails. This will change the way Baltimore residents work, live and play—and generate a myriad of long-term benefits for the city.

Only 10 additional miles are needed to close critical gaps.



BALTIMORE GREENWAY TRAILS COALITION

Launched in 2016, the Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition is led by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) and Bikemore—with the current leadership comprising the following:



City of Baltimore Department of Planning
City of Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks
City of Baltimore Health Department
City of Baltimore Department of Transportation
City of Baltimore Department of Housing
and Community Development
Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights
Baltimore Development Corporation
Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Commission

With Generous Support From:



The Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition comprises more than 45 local and national organizations that are working to make the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network a reality.

View the full list on the RTC website at rtc.li/baltimore-coalition.



As one of the city's Main Street Districts, Highlandtown is a commercial epicenter of East Baltimore. The park-like setting of the Baltimore Greenway will be a boon to both the local businesses and the communities that run parallel along Haven Street.