



Baltimore Greenway Trails Network

Transit Choices

April 24, 2025



THE NATION'S LARGEST TRAILS, WALKING AND BIKING
ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION

RTC's Mission

To build a nation connected by trails,
reimagining public spaces to create
safe ways for everyone to walk, bike
and be active outdoors.



Washington D.C's Met Branch Trail

Multi-Use Trails

Rail-Trails



Mon River Trail, WV | Photo by Jason Cohn

Rails-With-Trails



Frisco Trail, AR

Greenways



Coal Creek Regional Trail, CO |
Photo by Scott Stark



★ TRAIL NATION



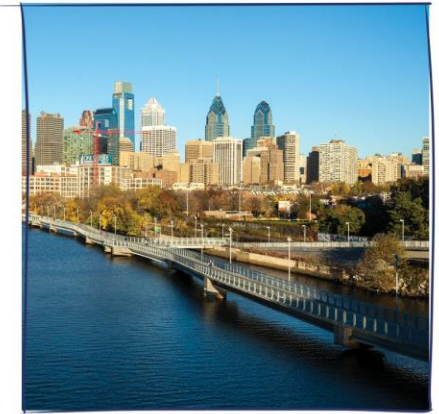
*Capital Trails Coalition
Washington, D.C. Region*



*Baltimore Greenway
Trails Network*



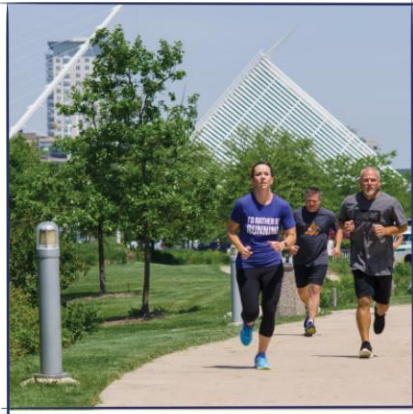
*New England
Rail-Trail Network*



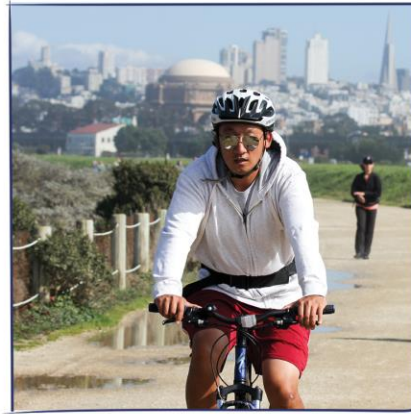
*The Circuit Trails
Greater Philadelphia Region*



*Industrial Heartland
Trails Coalition*



*Route of the Badger
Southeastern Wisconsin*



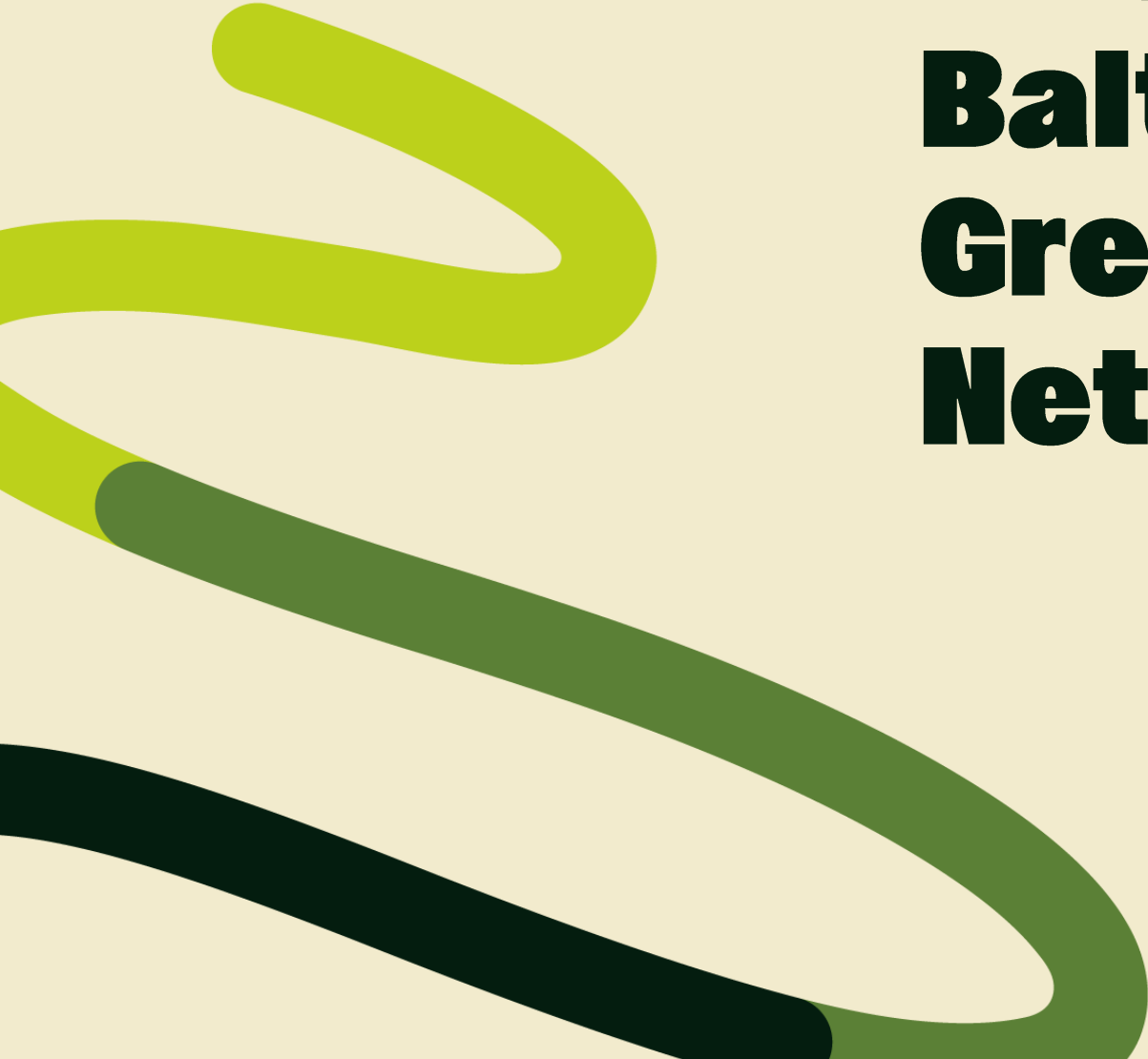
*Bay Area Trails
Collaborative*



*Caracara Trails
Southeastern Texas*



The Miami LOOP

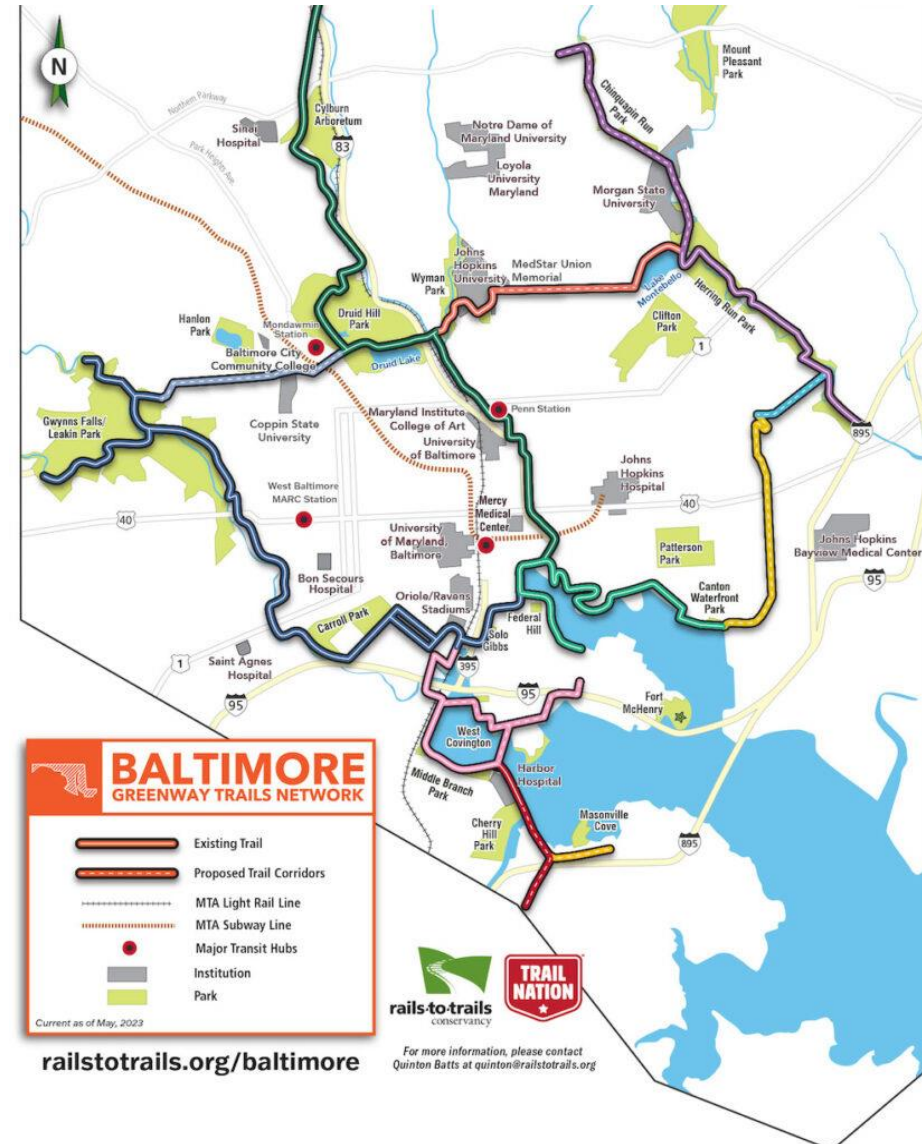


What is the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network?

A nearly 50-mile, connected trail network

The impact of trails is amplified significantly when they are part of a connected network.

When it is complete, the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network will connect more than 75 neighborhoods to each other and to job centers such as universities and hospitals, cultural amenities such as the BMA, transportation hubs such as the Mondawmin Metro stop and Penn Station, the stadium area, and the Inner Harbor.



Trails are more than just a day outside.

Trails are economic catalysts.

- Trails increase local business spending.
- Trails create jobs.
- Trails increase home values.

Trails create linear parks and greenspaces that provide community gathering spaces.

- Trails connect neighborhoods to one another by creating public space where neighbors, friends and family can spend time together.
- Trails can provide opportunities for cultural and recreational programming specific to the culture and context of their neighborhood.

Trails reduce greenhouse gas emissions by shifting people away from fossil fuel-burning vehicles.

- An impact report done by Greater Washington Partnership and EY estimates that the greenhouse gas reduction brought about by the completion of the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network will be equivalent to removing at least 750 cars from Baltimore's roads.



Indianapolis Cultural Trail



Atlanta Beltline



Houston Bayou Greenway Trail

What's happening with the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network?

- **Re-kindled Greenway Trails Coalition**
- **5 priority trail projects**
- **Nearly \$5M in public and private funding secured for Greenway Trail segments in 2024**
- **Poll of City Voters**
- **Building political and public support**
- **Equitable development**



Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition



This group of trail champions and advocacy groups is working to organize trail supporters citywide, advocate with elected officials for completion of the trails network and set standards for trail design and inclusion in the network.



Neighborhood Action Teams are a core component of the Coalition's leadership. Every trail segment in the network will have its own Action Team, made up of residents who live in the neighborhoods along the trail corridor. Action Teams advocate for their trail segment and serve as liaisons with their community for planning, designing and programming their section of the trail.



Sponsors an ongoing monthly bike ride or walk. This year's series is called A Year of Movement. Each month is led by a different partner, such as Black People Ride Bikes, Latino Outdoors, or the AIA's Urban Design Committee, and each ride features a segment of the Greenway Trails Network.



5 Priority Trail Projects



Chinquapin Run Trail

Status: Funding secured for the 30% design process

Description: A multiuse trail through Chinquapin Run Park will provide access for Northeast Baltimore neighborhoods to enjoy the Chinquapin Run, and will connect the Northern end of Chinquapin Run Park to the Morgan State University campus, Lake Montebello and Herring Run Park

Needed: Funding to complete design and construct the trail



Druid Hill Park to Lake Montebello

Status: 30% design complete. Full design funded and starting soon.

Description: Multiuse trail connecting two of Baltimore's signature parks also will connect key sites in central Baltimore

Needed: Funding for construction; support for community engagement with area neighborhoods; funding for equitable development strategy

Priority trail projects (continued)



Middle Branch Shoreline Trail

Status: Seeking funding for re-design and construction.

Description: Existing trail was built more than a decade ago and is badly in need of being re-graded, widened and improved

Needed: Funding support for Middle Branch Trail expansion.



Jones Falls Gateway Project

Status: Funded through 30% design and partial funding for 60% design.

Description: This project will improve and enhance an existing trail that currently contains several on-street and on-sidewalk segments, goes under numerous unsightly underpasses, Will improve a critical segment of the Jones Falls Trail to enhance user experience for trail users in and around Station North and Penn Station.

Needed: Funding for full design and Construction.



Eastside Connector Rail-Trail

Status: Acquisition funding roughly secured. City should be re-entering negotiations with Norfolk-Southern for purchase in the coming months.

Description: This trail will run north from Canton at Boston and Haven Streets, through Highlandtown and Greentown, and connect through a BGE utility corridor to the lower end of the Herring Run Trail in NE Baltimore.

Needed: Funding for preliminary design and possibly for environmental review (TBD).

Recent Funding Awarded to Advance Trail Segments



\$270K for the Chinquapin Run Trail
(for 30% design)

From

- France-Merrick Foundation
- Kentfields Foundation
- Lockhart Vaughan Foundation
- Private Donors



\$2.5M from Maryland DOT's
Transportation Alternatives program:

- Jones Falls Gateway Project
\$497K (full design)
- Druid Hill Park to Lake Montebello
trail segment \$2M (full design)

\$15.5M Federal RAISE grant for the
Hanover-Potee Street Bridge includes
a critical segment of the trail network
across the bridge (planning grant)



\$500K in FY24 and FY25 from
Maryland DOT's Maryland Bikeways
program for the BGE Trail (full design)
and the Boston Street Connector trail
(full design)

\$733K from Maryland's Department of
Natural Resources's Greenspace
Equity Program to go toward
acquisition of the Eastside Connector
rail-trail

Trails and Transportation Poll



In late April and early May 2024, RTC and Central Maryland Transportation Alliance collaborated to commission a poll of Baltimore City and Baltimore County voters about trails and transportation issues.

The poll was conducted through Stratalys research and collected data via online polling fielded April 17 to May 1, 2024, reaching 750 registered voters across Baltimore city and county zip codes, with 50% of the 500 city respondents from zip codes 21217, 21216, 21230, 21218, 21225, 21223, 21224, 21205, 21239 and 21251. Quotas ensuring respondents reflect the Baltimore population's overall age, gender and ethnicity were also in place.

Poll results demonstrate that
Baltimore voters overwhelmingly support the Greenway Trails!

*Hypothetically, assume
you're the government and
you have \$100 to spend on
transportation.*

*How would you distribute
funds among each of the
following six policies?*

Mean responses:

\$23.52

Fixing and maintaining roads and highways

\$17.13

Fixing and maintaining existing public
transportation

\$15.87

Expanding and building new public
transportation

\$15.60

Expanding and building new roads and
highways

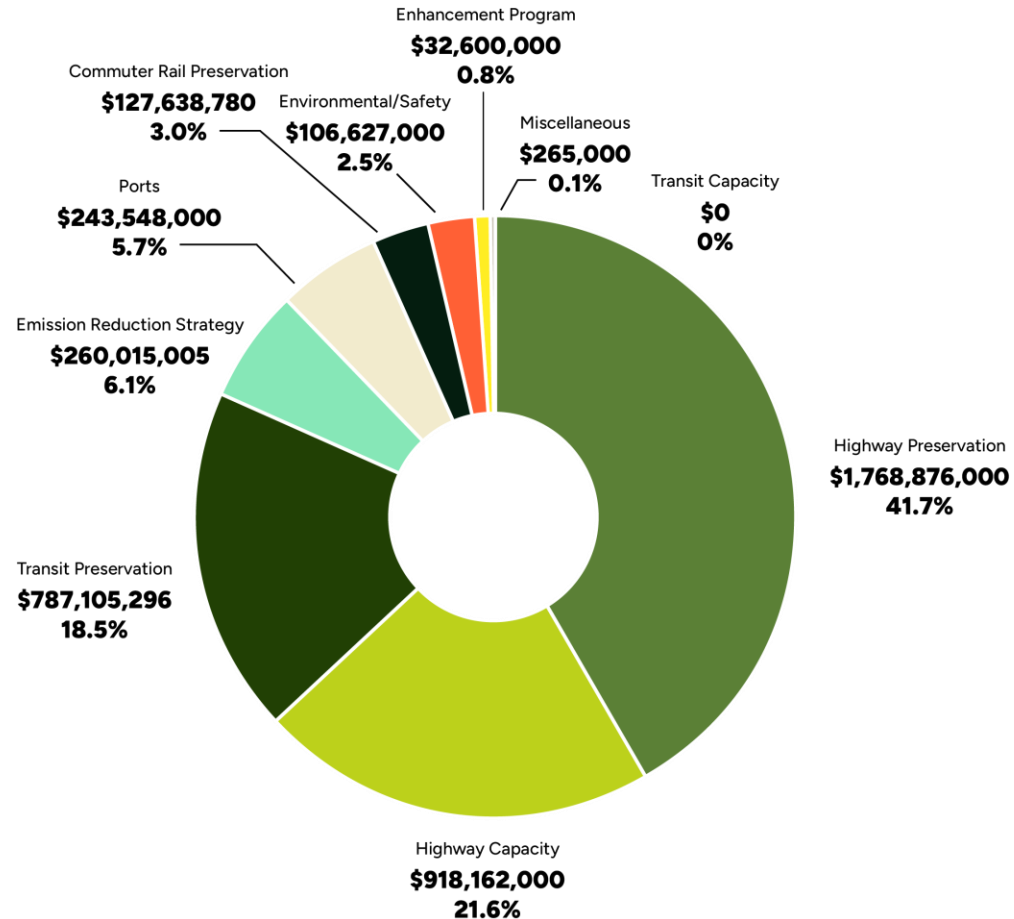
\$14.15

Fixing and maintaining walking and biking
facilities like trails and sidewalks

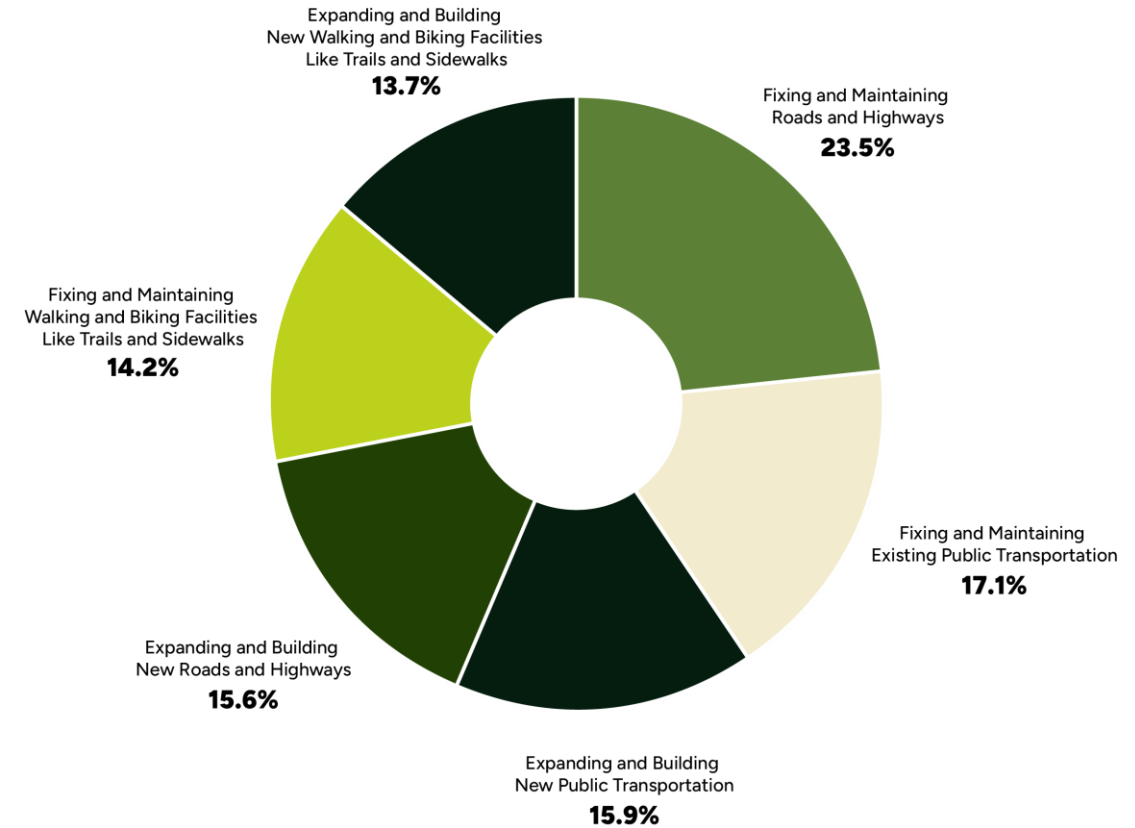
\$13.73

Expanding and building new walking and
biking facilities like trails and sidewalks

TIP Compared to Voters' Responses



2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program



Mean Poll Responses



How much more likely or less likely are you to vote for an elected official who prioritizes trails for walking, biking, etc.?

	Total	City	County
N =	750	500	250
Much more likely	27%	29%	21%
Somewhat more likely	32%	30%	35%
Neither more likely or less likely	35%	33%	38%
Somewhat less likely	2%	2%	3%
Much less likely	4%	5%	3%
Categories			
Total More Likely	58%	60%	56%
Neither	35%	33%	38%
Total Less Likely	6%	7%	6%



The Baltimore Greenway Trails Network is a vision for a 50-mile world-class network of urban trails that will link together the diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities and outdoor resources that make up the landscape of Baltimore City.

Based on this description, do you support or oppose the Greenway Trails Network?

	Total	City	County
N =	750	500	250
Strongly support	35%	38%	27%
Somewhat support	35%	33%	40%
Neither support or oppose	26%	25%	27%
Somewhat oppose	3%	3%	2%
Strongly oppose	2%	1%	3%
Categories			
Total Support	70%	71%	67%
Neither	26%	25%	27%
Total Oppose	4%	4%	6%



*How much do you believe
trails contribute to the well-
being of a neighborhood?*

	Total	City	County
N =	750	500	250
A great deal	38%	38%	38%
A moderate amount	43%	43%	43%
A little	12%	12%	12%
None at all	7%	6%	7%
Categories			
Total Great deal/Moderate	81%	81%	81%
Total A little/None	19%	19%	19%

Building Political and Public Support for the Greenway Trails Network



Meeting with elected officials

- Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition have met regularly with the Mayor's office and City Council members whose districts include our priority trail segments
- We have shared poll results and asked for their help advancing our priority projects



Securing media coverage

- Baltimore Beat has run 2 articles (June 19, 2024 and Sept 18, 2024) about trail projects in West Baltimore
- Baltimore Banner has run several articles in the past 18 months
- Baltimore Sun, WBAL and WMAR covered the Chinquapin Run Trail design process launch
- Jayne Miller show interviewed Kate Foster on July 20, 2024



Building public support

- Community engagement by tabling at festivals, neighborhood events, the Year of Rides monthly bike rides, etc.
- Bus ads ran all fall and through the winter
- "Bmore Connected" campaign

Equitable Development



Trails are an investment in neighborhoods and increase property values. However, without intentional efforts to prevent harm caused by "green gentrification," they also can cause displacement of low-income homeowners and renters.

What are we doing to ensure that the Baltimore Greenway Trails are developed equitably?

- We've organized an Equitable Development Project Team tasked with generating an equitable development strategy for the "northern segments" of the Greenway Trails (connecting Leakin Park to Druid Hill Park to Lake Montebello and Herring Run Park) as a pilot project.
- Team members: Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation, Friends of Herring Run Parks, Waverly Main Street, The Urban Oasis, Parks & People, Friends of Gwynns Falls-Leakin Park, and Morgan State

Abell Foundation and Deutsch Foundation have provided funding to support this effort

What you can do to help

1. Advocate: Help us build political will by talking about the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network with elected officials and asking them to support it with funding and by championing it as a worthy project that is good for Baltimore.
2. Join the Coalition: The Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition meets quarterly. The next meeting is on Tuesday, May 20th from 6-8 p.m.
3. Join a Neighborhood Action Team: Find one near where you live and get involved (or start one if there isn't one yet!)

For more information: glawson@railstotrails.org



Dir Moore of Rec and Parks and President of NECO Angie Winder, September 9th press conference celebrating the launch of the 30% design process for Chinquapin Run Trail.



April 24, 2025

Baltimore Greenway Trails Network

