When complete, the 35-mile Baltimore Greenway Trails Network will connect the city’s anchor institutions and destinations with Baltimore’s diverse communities. For more information, go to railstotrails.org/Baltimore.

View and download a full map of the trail network route: rtc.li/baltimore_map-footprint.

Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park to Middle Branch Park
Western Loop Segment

This mostly complete section of the loop heads southeast on the Gwynns Falls Trail from Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park—one of the largest urban parks/forests in the country—to Middle Branch Park, with a further connection to Cherry Hill Park further south. On its way, it connects a number of historically significant neighborhoods and parks, the oldest railroad trestle in the country, the B&O Museum and roundhouse (the birthplace of the railroad in America), St. Agnes Hospital and many other historical destinations.

Hanover Street Bridge to Canton
Southern Loop Segment

The loop segment extends from Hanover Street Bridge—on the southern side of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River—north to Port Covington. A large-scale planning and redevelopment project at Port Covington for Under Armour’s world headquarters is underway, which will include public shoreline access and the connecting of both sides of the river via a disused railroad trestle. The corridor travels through one of the last undeveloped sections of the Baltimore shoreline, provides great views of the city skyline and passes by many historical sites.

The route, which includes parts of the Jones Falls Trail and Gwynns Falls Trail, will also provide further access to the Inner Harbor and some of the city’s other popular tourist destinations as it makes its way to Canton Waterfront Park.

Jones Falls Trail South to North
North-South Loop Connector

This segment—which cuts through the middle of the project loop via the Jones Falls Trail—extends from the Inner Harbor of Baltimore north to Cylburn Arboretum (and will eventually extend to Mount Washington), passing shops, natural areas, farmers’ markets and Druid Hill Park—a major green space and civic attraction. The trail provides direct access or easy connections to four universities, including the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, the Maryland Institute College of Art and the University of Baltimore, as well as to many of Baltimore’s unique green spaces, neighborhoods and cultural attractions.

Canton to Herring Run
Southeast Loop Segment

This segment of the project involves the transformation of a north-south utility corridor at the southern end of the Herring Run Trail, in conjunction with an unused rail line segment, to support the economic development and growing population of several neighborhoods—including Brewer’s Hill—which are experiencing rapid revitalization. This includes the recent and ongoing addition of breweries, residential and commercial spaces, tech hub startups, artists, workshops and more.

The route for the future “Highlandtown Highline” elevated in a few sections like its namesake in New York—extends south past Highlandtown and then swings west toward the Inner Harbor, and could provide a transit connection to Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center as well as the new tech incubators and DIY spaces coming to fruition in Highlandtown.

A BGE utility corridor that runs north of the Highlandtown Highline route and links to the Herring Run Trail could serve as a connector for the adjacent residential neighborhoods and provide a direct trail link to the Inner Harbor from northeast Baltimore.
Herring Run to Lake Montebello
Northeast Loop Segment

The segment heads north to Lake Montebello along the existing (and recently improved) Herring Run Trail, which parallels Herring Run and is surrounded by residential and Main Street neighborhoods, as well as parkland consisting of stream valleys, forests, meadows and ball fields.

Currently comprising automobile lanes and a median strip, plans are in the works to create a multiuse pathway that connects the Herring Run Trail in the east with the Jones Falls Trail and Johns Hopkins University. Coalition partners are working with city agencies, neighborhoods and professional engineers to determine how this historic corridor can be honored by bringing the original shared-use paths and multimodal intent to a contemporary vision of safe connectivity to support public health, urban greening and economic development.

Olmsted Corridor – 33Rd Street:
Lake Montebello to Druid Hill Park
Northern Loop Segment

This route stretches from Lake Montebello—a drinking water reservoir and one of the city’s most popular places for walking, biking and fitness—to Druid Hill Park. Just north of Lake Montebello is Morgan State University, a historically black college significant to the post-Civil War era and the American Civil Rights Movement. The corridor also provides links to Johns Hopkins University, Wyman Park Dell, the bustling neighborhoods of Remington and Charles village, and the Jones Falls Trail.

A star of this segment is the 33rd Street Corridor, a route developed by the Olmsted Brothers and originally envisioned as a connecting parkway between the east and west. The route is already one of the most-used bike corridors in Baltimore, with the 0.5-mile area surrounding the corridor receiving double the use than of the rest of the city.

Currently comprising automobile lanes and a median strip, plans are in the works to create a multiuse pathway that connects the Herring Run Trail in the east with the Jones Falls Trail and Johns Hopkins University. Coalition partners are working with city agencies, neighborhoods and professional engineers to determine how this historic corridor can be honored by bringing the original shared-use paths and multimodal intent to a contemporary vision of safe connectivity to support public health, urban greening and economic development.

Olmsted Corridor: Druid Hill Park to Gwynns Falls/LeakIn Park
Northern Loop Segment

Heading west from Druid Hill Park, the route passes through many neighborhoods with significant African-American history, including Rosemont, Mondawmin, Ashburton, Walbrook Junction and Auchentoroly Terrace. Another Olmsted Parkway between Druid Hill Park and Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park could serve as a multiuse pathway that connects these neighborhoods to the greater loop—providing new and improved access to jobs, schools, hospitals, shopping centers and green space. Nearby anchors include Coppin State University, Lake Ashburton, Mondawmin Mall, the Baltimore Zoo and the Parks & People Foundation headquarters, located in a repurposed, historic park property.
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 myriad long-term impacts for the city.

Only 10 additional miles are needed to close critical gaps.

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 Herrington 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 neighborhoods to realize a dream set forth more than a century ago.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BALTIMORE

PROMOTING SOCIAL EQUITY

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

Baltimore is fragmented by busy roads and a history of housing policies going back to the 1950s and 1960s that have resulted in socio-economically segregated communities. Today, many neighborhoods are isolated from transit, trails and greenways, while nearly one-third of Baltimore households are without access to a car.1 The 35-mile greenway loop will connect 50 of the city’s diverse neighborhoods to the downtown core—providing safe walking and biking access to jobs, schools and outdoor opportunities for physical activity and recreation.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

When people have safe places to walk within 10 minutes of their home, they are 1.5 times more likely to meet the recommended activity levels than those who don’t.2

In Baltimore, opportunities for physical activity are low, but chronic disease is high. While Baltimore has many parks and open spaces in which to be active and connect 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 percent), high blood pressure (33 percent) and heart disease (20 percent) prevalent in the city.3

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Studies show the social and environmental benefits of green infrastructure and open space are strongest when green spaces are connected.4

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Network is based on a vision set forth a century ago to create a parks and greenways system that naturally integrated—and was built upon—Baltimore’s three stream valleys. 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 triside plantings and gardens; help clean the air; and reduce the urban heat-island effect in the city.

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.

The trail network will provide active transportation connections within neighborhoods, activity centers and the downtown core—including important public transit stations—creating 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 Middle Branch waterway for easier, safer access to downtown employment centers. The trail network will also provide a seamless off-road link between the Jones Falls Trail and the Herrington 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

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Network will support economic development across the city—linking employment centers to residential neighborhoods and supporting community development through trail-oriented development. For example, a former industrial section of Baltimore’s east side is experiencing rapid growth as new people move in and businesses pop up regularly. This economic renaissance will be enhanced by transforming the area’s dismissed rail line into a trail-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.

Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition

Launched in 2015, the Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition is led by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) and Bikemore—with the full leadership team comprising the following:

*City of Baltimore Department of Planning
City of Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks
City of Baltimore Department of Health
City of Baltimore Department of Transportation

CORE COALITION

Our Core 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.org/baltimore-core-coalition.