

TRHT

Maintenance & Management Plan

Kickoff Meeting
10 January 2024





REMOTE ACCESS TO QUESTIONS:

https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVMj6BCy0=

Meet the Team



Client

DOMI will represent the city and other trail user, maintainer, and owner interests as the client for this project.



Consulting Team Lead + Planning Consultant
evolveEA will lead coordination with the city and collaboration with the planning team.



Planning Team

Oikos Ecology, Ethos Collaborative, and Civic Mapper will provide data collection and analysis, and best practices.

**“People remember what the riverfront was before:
an industrial area, a wasteland,
now their grandchildren are saying,
this was where I had my first bike ride.”**

— Tom Baxter via Rails to Trails Conservancy (04/07/17)

TODAY'S AGENDA

5 min. Introductions: Who is involved and what are their roles?

20 min. Project Overview + Scope

- What's a maintenance and management plan and why do one?
- What decisions can we make in this project?

35 min. Key Questions + Discussion

- How can this project be of value to you?
- What data can you contribute?
- What's the right level of public engagement?

Meet the Consultants



Urban Planning +
Design Consultant



Breen Masciotra,
AICP, EcoDistricts AP
Senior Project
Manager



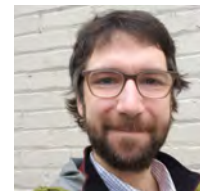
Claudia Saladin,
ASLA, LEED AP
Senior Landscape
Architect



Engineering
Consultant



Damon Weiss, PE
Engineer



Barton Kirk, PE
Engineer



Ecology Consultant



Tim Nuttle, PhD
Ecologist



Data + Mapping
Consultant



Matt Mercurio, GISP
Data Specialist



What is a maintenance and management plan, and why do one?

The Three Rivers Heritage Trail...

Is a **natural** asset.

Is **transportation** infrastructure.

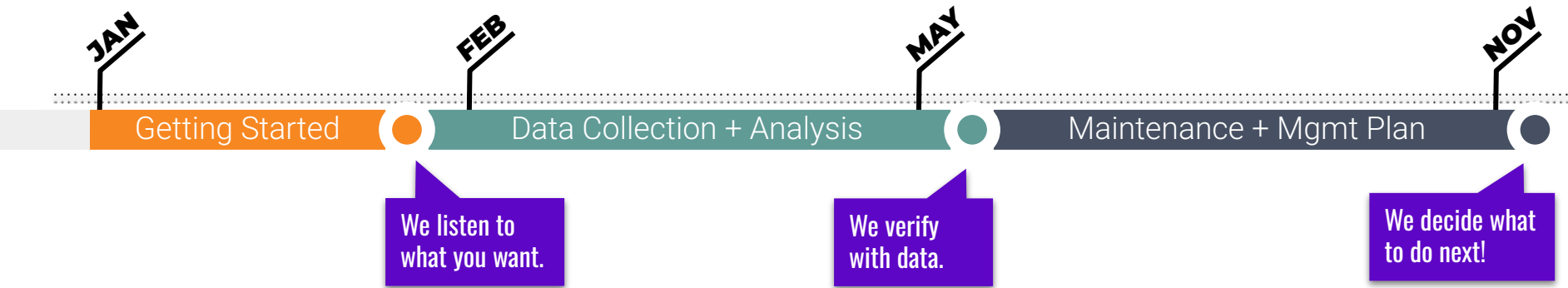
Is a regional **destination**.



Photo by KubotaMapDan

Critical Issues

- ❖ TRHT is a key component of the city's **active transportation** network.
- ❖ TRHT is a key component of the city's **stormwater and flood mitigation** landscape.
- ❖ TRHT is **collaboratively managed**.
- ❖ There are **limited data** regarding both natural and built conditions along the entirety of the trail.
- ❖ There are **gaps** in the TRHT (Strip, Lawrenceville, and Hazelwood).
- ❖ There is no unified plan to ensure **efficient and effective maintenance**, improvements, and building of new trail segments.
- ❖ There is no unified plan outlining clear **management roles and responsibilities** in trail maintenance and programming.



The Three Rivers Heritage Trail Maintenance & Management Plan...

Articulates the **community needs** from existing conditions.

Develops a **maintenance plan** for the future.

Designs a **management plan** with actionable next steps.



QUESTION FOR YOU:

What is the value of this project to you?



STAKEHOLDER QUESTION:

What are the existing challenges in trail maintenance today?



Photo by D. Majesty

How does a maintenance and management plan get made?

The Three Rivers Heritage Trail Maintenance & Management Plan will . . .

Build **more complete data** regarding trail conditions.

Recommend a **schedule and budget** for regular trail maintenance.

Identify **roles and responsibilities** for trail ownership, maintenance, and management.

**COLLECT + ANALYZE
TREE CANOPY AND
INVASIVE PLANT DATA.**

**VALIDATE + UPDATE
RIPARIAN ZONE
CONDITIONS.**

**DEVELOP
ECOLOGY
MANAGEMENT
PLAN.**

**COLLECT DATA ON
TRAIL SURFACE
AND DRAINAGE.**

**DOCUMENT AND
ASSESS LIGHTING
CONDITIONS.**

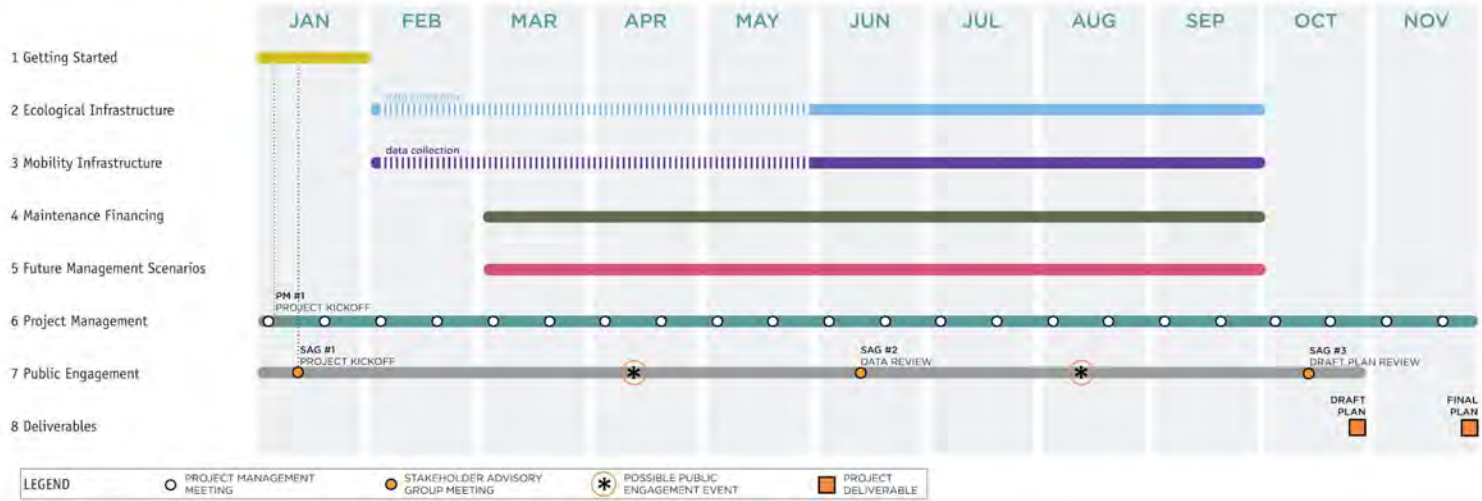
**DEVELOP
MOBILITY
MANAGEMENT
PLAN.**

**DETERMINE
COSTS AND
IDENTIFY
FUNDING.**

**DEVELOP TRAIL
MAINTENANCE
RESPONSIBILITY
MATRIX.**

**ENGAGE
STAKEHOLDERS
AND THE PUBLIC.**

Project Schedule



SCOPE OF WORK

1 Getting Started

- 1.1 Confirm Project Goals
- 1.2 Review Previous Analysis

2 Ecological Infrastructure

- 2.1 Canopy and Invasive Plant Management
 - 2.1.1 Collect field data on current tree canopy and invasive conditions.
 - 2.1.2 Assess the current canopy and losing rate.
- 2.2 Riparian Zone Restoration and Preservation
 - 2.2.1 Validate and update (as needed) riparian zone conditions as documented by ACE.
 - 2.2.2 Assess existing retaining walls.
- 2.3 Ecology Management Plan
 - 2.3.1 Identify best ecological practices for achieving project goals.
 - 2.3.2 Provide a list of recommended canopy trees.
 - 2.3.3 Recommend retaining wall repair strategies.
 - 2.3.4 Develop and apply a trail segment prioritization methodology.
 - 2.3.5 Identify short- (0-5 year) and long-term (6-20 year) priorities for ecological interventions.
 - 2.3.6 Map priority projects by time range.

3 Mobility Infrastructure

- 3.1 Trail Surface and Drainage
 - 3.1.1 Collect field data on current trail surface and drainage conditions.
 - 3.1.2 Assess current trail conditions.
- 3.2 Trail Lighting
 - 3.2.1 Develop a plan for lighting assessment.
 - 3.2.2 Collect field data on current lighting fixtures.
 - 3.2.3 Assess trail lighting.
- 3.3 Mobility Management Plan
 - 3.3.1 Identify best mobility practices for achieving project goals.
 - 3.3.2 Outline routine surface maintenance and repaving schemes.
 - 3.3.3 Develop a plan for developing a lighting standard and maintenance of existing and future trail lighting.
 - 3.3.4 Develop a plan for expansion of lighting and associated cost.
 - 3.3.5 Develop and apply a trail segment prioritization methodology.
 - 3.3.6 Identify short- (0-5 year) and long-term (6-20 year) priorities for mobility interventions.
 - 3.3.7 Map priority projects by time range.
- 4 Maintenance Financing
 - 4.1 Determine the replacement, maintenance, and equipment costs of different trail segment and average per mile costs.
 - 4.2 Identify funding streams for the maintenance of each segment of the trail.

5 Future Management Scenarios

- 5.1 Develop a Trail Maintenance Responsibility Matrix that details the roles and responsibilities of each trail partner.
 - 5.2 Evaluate current staffing situation of the City and recommend future staffing plan.
- ### 6 Project Management
- 6.1 Hold internal consultant team meetings.
 - 6.2 Meet biweekly with DDM staff.
- ### 7 Public Engagement
- 7.1 Attend any public meeting or in person engagement.
 - 7.2 Provide necessary digital materials (e.g., PowerPoint presentation, fact sheets, FAQ for distribution, banners, and posters) for the community engagement.
 - 7.3 Analyze the public inputs collected and received by the City, evaluate their feasibility, and incorporate them into the plan.

8 Deliverables

- 8.1 photos collected during the project
- 8.2 data collected and analyzed during the project
- 8.3 final plan document



QUESTION FOR YOU:

What information can you contribute to our understanding of the TRHT?



QUESTION FOR YOU:

What would be the most useful deliverable to you?



What decisions can we make
in this project?

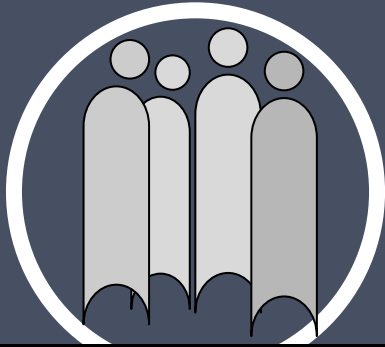
Decisions

The TRHT M&MP will...

- Identify best practices for achieving project goals.
- Provide a list of recommended canopy trees.
- Recommend retaining wall repair strategies.
- Outline routine surface maintenance and repaving schemes.
- Develop a plan for developing a lighting standard, maintenance of existing and future trail lighting, and expansion of lighting.
- Develop and apply a trail segment prioritization methodology.
- Identify short- (0-5 year) and long-term (6-20 year) priorities for interventions.
- Map priority projects by time range.
- Determine the replacement, maintenance, and equipment costs of different trail segments and average per mile costs.
- Develop a Trail Maintenance Responsibility Matrix that details the roles and responsibilities of each trail partner.
- Analyze the public inputs collected and received by the City, evaluate their feasibilities, and incorporate them into the plan.

The TRHT M&M will not...

- Design trail improvements.
- Implement trail improvements.



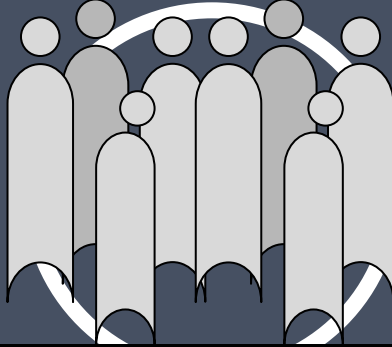
CORE TEAM

Reviews & Finalizes:

Meeting places + times
Meeting invitations
Project content

Includes:

City of Pittsburgh DOMI



STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP

Co-Creates and Advises:

Meeting invitations
Project content
Project vision

Includes:

Individuals with a
professional stake in the
trail's maintenance



THE COMMUNITY

Co-Creates:

Plan content
Project vision

Includes:

All trail users, property
owners, etc., who are
interested in the project

JAN

Getting Started

FEB

Data Collection + Analysis

MAY

Maintenance + Mgmt Plan

NOV

A typical **PUBLIC PROCESS** involves several touchpoints:

During **community meetings** we request and verify input for the plan.

During **stakeholder advisory group meetings** we discuss the agenda, logistics, and outreach for community meetings.

During the **project management meetings** we make sure that the critical path is being addressed.

Community Engagement Plan

PUBLIC MEETING FORMAT

MEETINGS ARE AN
IMPORTANT WAY TO REACH
OUT TO THE COMMUNITY. WE
WILL ESTABLISH

**EXISTING CONDITIONS,
CRITICAL ISSUES, &
PRIORITIES**

AND BE CLEAR ABOUT

POTENTIAL VISIONS.

Community Meetings will share information about the process, gather information from the lived experience perspective and build an engaged community. Typically meetings will include a combination of:

- **meeting agenda** to encourage active listening
- **introductory activity** to build a sense of community and to introduce the topic
- **content** to build shared vocabulary and to enable informed decision-making.
- **breakout activities** for group learning and decision making, serves as a feedback loop to the team and community.



QUESTION FOR YOU:

What is the right level and type of community engagement for this project?



QUESTION FOR YOU:

Who is missing from this stakeholder group?

Conclusions + Reflections

Additional questions
or comments?

Contact:
Breen Masciotra, Consultant Project Manager
breen@evolveea.com



Three Rivers Heritage Trail Maintenance & Management Plan

Stakeholder Meetings

10 January 2024 | Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting

ATTENDING:	Nancy Hirsch	Alex Peppers
Jeff Bergman	Barton Kirk	Claudia Saladin
Kevin Brown	Angie Martinez	Nazia Tarannum
Leann Chaney	Adam Mattis	Courtney Mahronich Vita
Panini Chowdhury	Emily Mercurio	Damon Weiss
Bill Crean	Jake Milofsky	Katie Wettick
Julia Ferri	Tim Nuttle	Gavin White
Austin Herzog	Mike Panzitta	Zach Workman

NOTES

1. Angie Martinez kicked off the meeting with thanks for attending and an introduction to its purpose. Attendees introduced themselves. Adam Mattis from DCNR, the project funder, indicated that this effort is a priority for him.
2. Breen Masciotra presented slides regarding the project scope and posed questions for stakeholder input, as follows. In-person participants jotted answers on post-it notes; virtual participants contributed to a [Miro board](#). (Paper notes were later duplicated on the digital board.)
3. What is the value of this project to you?
 - a. Defining roles and responsibilities
 - b. Protecting the past and ongoing investment of time and money into the trail
 - c. Helping individual organizations plan staffing and fundraising
 - d. Clarifying ownership
 - e. Increasing overall efficiency of trail maintenance
 - f. Having a shared capital plan
 - g. Having a coordinated approach to fundraising for trail maintenance
 - h. Ensuring a safe, connected, and comfortable network
 - i. Creating accountability
 - j. Prioritizing investments
4. What are the existing challenges in trail maintenance today?
 - a. Encampments of unhoused people
 - b. Fragmented ownership and responsibility



- c. Insufficient communication among owners and maintainers
 - i. Example involving Three Rivers Rowing
 - d. No funding for emergencies
 - e. Lack of cohesion in approaches
 - f. Invasive species
 - g. Drainage issues
 - h. Flooding / washouts
 - i. Fallen trees
 - j. Landslides
 - k. Graffiti
 - l. Lack of lighting
 - m. Who to contact and how
 - n. Insufficient funding for maintenance
 - o. Accessibility for all
 - p. Crime and/or perception of crime
 - q. The trails are busy
5. What information can you contribute to our understanding of the TRHT?
- a. DOMI
 - i. Trail development standards
 - ii. Ownership of bridges and other city assets
 - iii. Technical knowledge on project delivery
 - iv. Bike counts and counting tools
 - v. ROW records (and possibly staff help)
 - vi. Documentation of gaps in the network
 - b. DCP
 - i. RCO connections
 - ii. Mapping, data, etc.
 - iii. Connection to citywide comprehensive plan
 - c. FOTR
 - i. Legal agreements
 - ii. Asset mapping and conditions
 - iii. Stewardship project data
 - iv. TRHT mapping
 - v. Easements and license agreements
 - vi. Types of volunteer-based management
 - d. Tree PGH
 - i. Tree planting numbers and locations
 - ii. Stewardship numbers (people, materials, etc.)



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- iii. Tree canopy data as of 2020
 - e. Riverlife
 - i. Model for routine maintenance
 - ii. Ownership and landscape maintenance typology along The Loop
 - iii. Model agreement from Trail Conservancy (Austin)
 - f. WPC: Documentation of past planting
- 6. What would be the most useful deliverable to you?
 - a. Roles and responsibilities matrix
 - i. Designate responsibility for filling network gaps
 - b. Legal protections for organizations working along the trail
 - c. Periods of recurrence for maintenance activities, responsibilities
 - d. How to fund maintenance activities
 - e. System for ongoing monitoring and communication
 - i. Recurring stewardship maintenance collaboration meetings
 - ii. Seasonal calendar of cleanup, planting, etc.
 - iii. Shared online map
 - 1. Establish trail centerline as a primary asset ID to tag repair and replacement to (to create a common lexicon)
 - 2. Ownership, easements
 - 3. Typologies, tasks
 - 4. Data
 - f. Comprehensive condition survey
 - g. Plan for invasives
 - h. Make sure access points are clear and accessible
 - i. Stakeholder and community engagement that results in full buy-in
 - j. Solutions are sustainable beyond current personnel
- 7. What is the right level and type of community engagement for this project?
 - a. Methods
 - i. Engaging on the trail with users
 - ii. On-trail surveys
 - iii. Story map
 - iv. Virtual public forum
 - v. RCO outreach
 - vi. Property-owner outreach
 - vii. Engage page
 - viii. DCP engagement staff
 - b. Input to Collect



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- i. Safety concerns
 - ii. What most impacts user experience?
 - iii. User experiences related to trail comfort (physical, social)
 - iv. User needs and wants
 - v. Current conditions
 - vi. New / missing segments
- 8. Who is missing from this stakeholder group?
 - a. The core team (i.e., project management) should include organizations that actively engage in maintenance
 - b. Parks and trail maintenance are two separate city departments
 - c. Others for the stakeholder group:
 - i. Sports and Exhibition Authority (was invited)
 - ii. Carnegie Science Center
 - iii. Bike Pittsburgh
 - iv. Public safety
 - v. Parks division
 - vi. Other owners
 - vii. Venture Outdoors
 - viii. Army Corps
 - ix. ALCOSAN
 - x. PWSA
 - xi. PennDOT
 - xii. Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
 - xiii. Representatives from neighborhoods (touching trail)
 - xiv. Railroads?
 - xv. Other municipalities?



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