Your support for Schuylkill River Greenways will contribute to the Schuylkill River’s health and vitality; improve access and promote the use of the river and trail; ensure responsible commercial and residential development; drive economic growth; and increase the benefits and possibilities of living, working and playing along the river.

However, no matter where you connect to the Schuylkill River and Schuylkill River Greenways, our story of caring and our support for our mission.

In new and exciting ways, we say “Thank you.”

Letter from the Executive Director & President

Joe Francis

We are so pleased to present the 2019-2020 Annual Report. Like our entire world, we have worked hard to overcome the many challenges of the global pandemic, and we have done so to a large extent because of your support and involvement. Thanks to this important and valued support, we have continued to grow and maintain our programs without a strategic change in our mission. We have taken the necessary steps to protect these opportunities and future these connections.

We are entering 2021 with a renewed sense of optimism and excitement about the promise of our future—connecting people and communities with the Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill River Trail. To that end, we are more committed than ever to increase and develop the connections we create, to write sustainable engagement and stewardship into the new narratives of the future.

All of our efforts during the Schuylkill River Scare and growing and maintaining the Skidgall Trail provide an experience and educational programming, creating a water quality improvement projects and supporting local communities is carefully designed to encourage stewardship of our environment, history and culture. We hope you all will plan and create your own personal connection to the Schuylkill River during the coming months.

This year, we are grateful for all our members, donors and funders. We look forward to working with you to create new opportunities to make a difference in our local communities.

Sincerely,

Claire Paul Schaefer
Executive Director

STATE    PRIVATE    LOCAL GOV'T

OPERATING    PROJECTS    EVENTS/PROGRAMS

STATE    PRIVATE    LOCAL GOV'T

FINAL BUDGET

2019 FUNDING

2020 FUNDING

2021 PROJECTIONS

2019 EXPENSES

2020 EXPENSES

2021 PROJECTIONS

A NEW PARTNERSHIP IS FORMED

The Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area is excited to announce a strategic partnership with Take It Outdoors. A regional recreation catalyst and service organization, the partnership has been incredibly successful — specifically our PA60 in the fall of 2020, with several hundred participants. The partnership is a great example of what we envision the future of the Schuylkill River Trail and the Greenways to be. Our local partners, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to all of the trail’s potential. We have created educational programming, youth, residents and others to the river and the opportunities will provide you with the opportunity to enjoy the river and the trail.

The collaboration between the Schuylkill River Greenways and Take It Outdoors is a new and exciting partnership. We are grateful for the opportunities provided by this new relationship.

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HERITAGE AREA 101
The Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area includes the Schuylkill River watershed as one of America's most significant cultural, historical, and industrial regions. The boundaries of the Heritage Area cover the Schuylkill River watershed in Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties. This region is nationally significant for the role it played in the American, Industrial and Environmental Revolutions.

ENGAGEMENT
Building Constituencies That Value and Protect the River

Connecting people and communities to the Schuylkill River and the Schuylkill River Trail through enjoyable activities that engage and educate.

Completing the Schuylkill River Trail in a top priority goal of SRT’s strategic plan. Currently, 77 miles trail is incomplete and, the finished SRT will be just over 120 miles. In 2019 and 2020 we moved closer to the goal of finishing the trail with progress on three construction projects and two planning projects.

PARK LAND ACROSS THE RIVER COUNTY

The plan sets goals that call for completing the Schuylkill River Trail connecting communities to the river. By protecting and preserving the watershed, engaging new constituents, and improving access to the river, the plan aims to connect current and future generations.

The 22nd Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn went virtual for the first time in 2020 and featured two evening video live streams as well as three days of in-person for the first time in 2020 and featured two evening video live streams as well as three days of in-person.

The plan to move closer to the goal of finishing the trail with progress on three construction projects and two planning projects.

WHAT IS A HERITAGE AREA?
A National Heritage Area is a place designated by the federal government to preserve and promote cultural, historical, and recreational resources considered to have a cultural, historical, and recreation value. The Heritage Area concept was created in 1996.

The Schuylkill River watershed, which was designated a Heritage Area in 1996, is one of 297 designated as a Heritage Area.

As a National Heritage Area, we see our mission is to preserve and conserve the Schuylkill River area, which is considered one of the most significant waterways in the nation. We believe the Schuylkill River watershed is a precious resource that needs our value and caring, and we will continue to work for its future.

What people tell us: that by completing the Schuylkill River Trail connecting communities to the river, protecting and preserving the watershed, engaging new constituents, and improving access to the river, the plan aims to connect current and future generations.

FILED WITH THE RIVER
This year we will be using the River Report will be on the Schuylkill River Trail. This 12-mile trail has had a history of service projects, education, conservation, and restoration and will be shared.

The recreational floodplain of the Schuylkill River located between the City of Philadelphia and the City of Allentown is known as the “River Line”.

The Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area coordinates with the Schuylkill River recognition event with a focus on raising the awareness of the Schuylkill River and the importance of its conservation. We would like to recognize a day as the Schuylkill River Recognition day.

The plan is to move closer to the goal of finishing the trail with progress on three construction projects and two planning projects.

2019-2020

SRT - Building, Maintaining and Promoting the Schuylkill River Trail

2020 - Building, Maintaining and Promoting the Schuylkill River Trail

2020

Conservation

Restoring and Protecting the Schuylkill River for future generations.

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Conservation continues to build our watershed educational program, through which we seek to inspire children and young adults to appreciate, embrace and protect our environment. Our programming has been quite nimble and has adapted to the constantly changing parameters around group instruction.

In the spring of 2020, we adapted our program to virtual and accessible programs for the more vulnerable settings for Early Education, Related Services, and Specialed. The Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area continues to develop new and creative ways to further our mission and to engage new constituents, and businesses to protect the river.

In the fall, we hosted Mayor Mura and as our Education Coordinator to help expand our public education program across the State for children, students in high schools, schools, and for people of all ages.

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In 2017 we adopted a new 10-year plan to develop recycling and conservation goals for the Schuylkill River Trail.

We combined our annual Serving the Schuylkill event with our first-ever hosting of the 22ND ANNUAL SCHUYLKILL RIVER SOJOURN - The 22nd Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn went virtual for the first time in 2020 and featured two evening video live streams as well as three days of in-person.

With only 15 participants and biking and paddling, we were able to hold four Pedal and Paddles, which was a major success for the pandemic. With only 15 participants and biking and paddling, we were able to hold four Pedal and Paddles, which was a major success for the pandemic.

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For more information, please contact Sarah Crothers, Director of Education, at sarah@schuylkillrivergreenways.org or 215-361-0763.