



**Project Title:** Schuylkill River Trail Extension – Locust Street to South Street Boardwalk (Philadelphia, PA)  
**Category I:** Special Projects – Recreational Facilities

### 3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Schuylkill River Trail has been a tremendous success as evidenced by the volume of users since the portion of the trail downstream from the Art Museum, branded as Schuylkill Banks, was opened in 2000. However the trail ended at Locust Street where the distance between the river and CSX railroad property was inadequate to allow continuation.

Extending the trail to South Street was accomplished with a boardwalk structure that extends into the river, meanders vertically and laterally along, and comes back to land at the South Street Bridge stair tower. The structure length of 2,000 feet creates a wonderful experience of floating above the river while providing breathtaking vistas of the city skyline, University of Pennsylvania athletic facilities and the recently reconstructed South Street Bridge.

Significant engineering expertise was required to provide a structure that balanced the desire for users to emotionally connect with the river and for a low maintenance facility that would withstand the unique river forces. The results were reinforced concrete pier columns integral with supporting caisson foundations and protected by permanent steel casing pipes, low profile cast-in-place reinforced concrete pier caps, prestressed concrete beams and conventional cast-in-place reinforced concrete decks. Setting the bottom of superstructure only slightly above normal high tide elevation meant that resistance to buoyancy and impact from ice flows was required. Solar powered lights, nautical theme railings, widened deck overlooks with benches and a deck finish that presents an appearance of a wooden boardwalk completes the aura of this waterway structure.