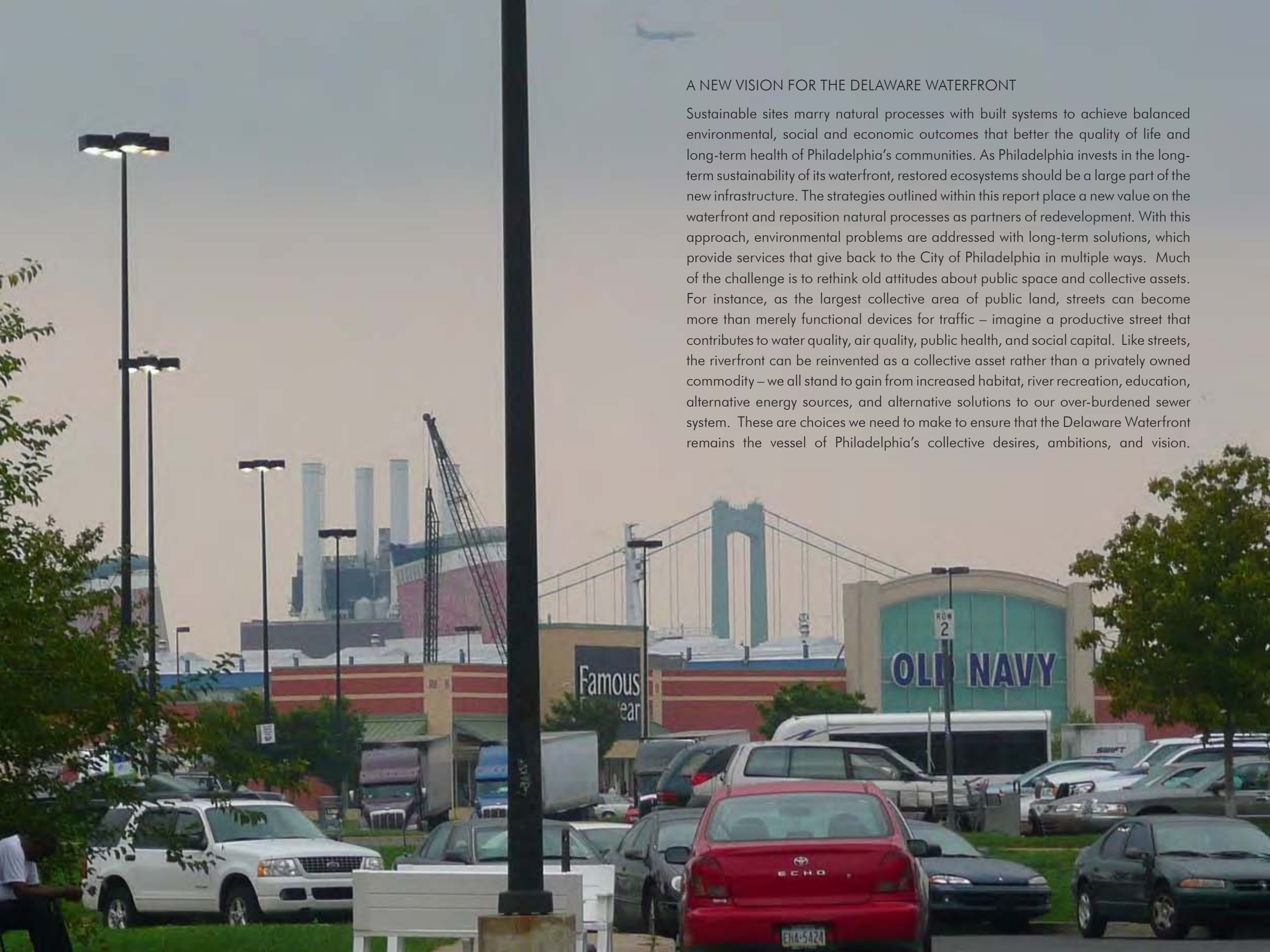


Sustainability and the Delaware Waterfront

Connecting Philadelphia back to the Delaware River:
Guiding Strategies to Integrate Development with Natural Systems





A NEW VISION FOR THE DELAWARE WATERFRONT

Sustainable sites marry natural processes with built systems to achieve balanced environmental, social and economic outcomes that better the quality of life and long-term health of Philadelphia's communities. As Philadelphia invests in the long-term sustainability of its waterfront, restored ecosystems should be a large part of the new infrastructure. The strategies outlined within this report place a new value on the waterfront and reposition natural processes as partners of redevelopment. With this approach, environmental problems are addressed with long-term solutions, which provide services that give back to the City of Philadelphia in multiple ways. Much of the challenge is to rethink old attitudes about public space and collective assets. For instance, as the largest collective area of public land, streets can become more than merely functional devices for traffic – imagine a productive street that contributes to water quality, air quality, public health, and social capital. Like streets, the riverfront can be reinvented as a collective asset rather than a privately owned commodity – we all stand to gain from increased habitat, river recreation, education, alternative energy sources, and alternative solutions to our over-burdened sewer system. These are choices we need to make to ensure that the Delaware Waterfront remains the vessel of Philadelphia's collective desires, ambitions, and vision.



This draft outline offers a thematic framework as well as specific recommendations for grounding the Delaware Waterfront plan within an ecological systems approach in four components;

Analysis of existing natural and man-made systems; **sustainable strategies** tailored to the Upper Delaware Estuary; ecological design typologies illustrated through **site specific examples** along the river; directions for landscape **management**.

New planning mechanisms are underway for the Delaware River that will begin to formalize the integration of ecology with development: a Riverfront Zoning Overlay to direct land uses; PWD stormwater management plans to address combined sewers; and PCPC public infrastructure plans for the North Delaware Riverfront, among others. Development scenarios and municipal regulations suggest a window of opportunity to embed ecological initiatives, including PennDOT plans to reconstruct a portion of I95 at the Girard Interchange; PWD goals to capture 100% of stormwater generated by new projects; EPA mandated CSO separation; the Estuary Restoration Act; and new waterfront development along Delaware Avenue and the Delaware River.