

Central Delaware Riverfront Planning Process

A Civic Vision For the Central Delaware and An Action Plan for the Central Delaware

Harris Steinberg

Philadelphia, PA

2006 - 2009

PennPraxis facilitated a civic engagement process and design and infrastructure plan for 1,100 acres (445 hectares) of the Central Delaware riverfront. In total, over 6,000 Philadelphians participated in the public process and played a crucial role in defining the future of the city's riverfront.

Working closely with Wallace Roberts & Todd, PennPraxis created a vision plan and an accompanying action plan that included a set of core principles focused on reconnecting the river to downtown. Other principles include honoring the river, designing with nature, striking the right balance, taking the long view, protecting the public good, and, lastly, making it real. A hallmark of the vision is an emphasis on the interconnectedness of ecological and urban systems using streets, transit and trails, parks and open space, and appropriate land development.



Public Art: The Full Spectrum

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Harris Steinberg

Philadelphia, PA

2008-2009

In fall 2008, the William Penn Foundation commissioned PennPraxis to study public art in Philadelphia with an aim of better understanding how the city currently supports public art and where gaps in programs exist, and to identify how Philadelphia might better manage existing public art programs.

The study assessed how public art is currently commissioned, managed and conserved by the City of Philadelphia and other public art organizations, and offered policy recommendations about how the city might utilize its public art resources relative to the goals of neighborhood revitalization, economic development and the creative economy. Additionally, the study helped establish a new narrative about public art that conveyed both the importance of Philadelphia's distinguished public art heritage and its future potential. These recommendations encouraged the city to create a vision for public art and to establish a long-term framework for the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy that can span political administrations.



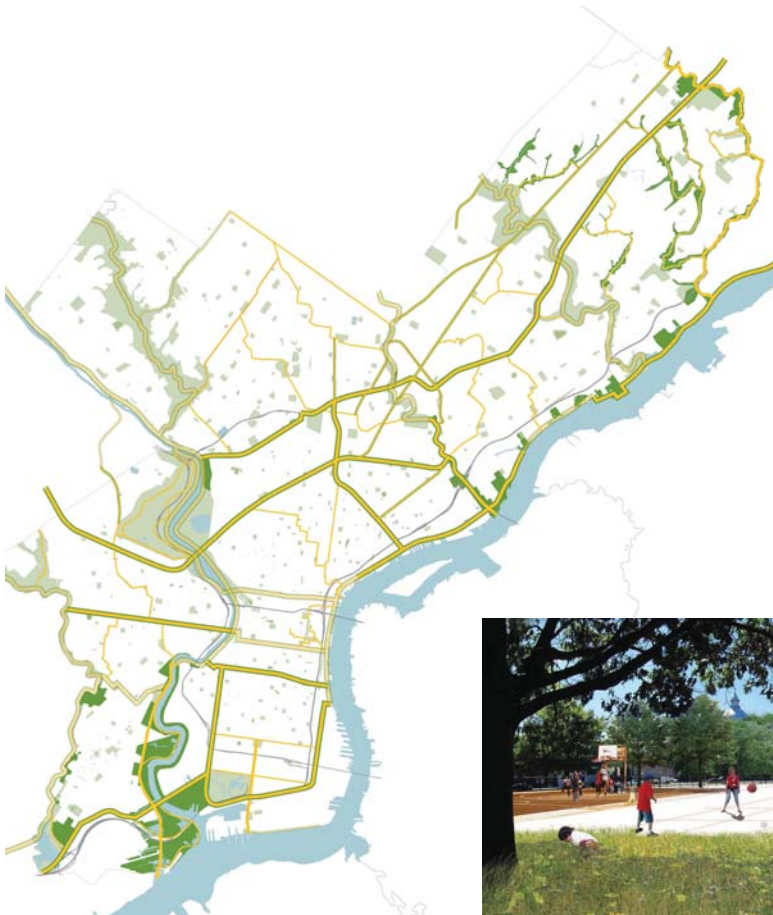
Green 2015 - An Action Plan for 500 New Acres

Green 2015: An Action Plan for 500 New Acres

Harris Steinberg
Philadelphia, PA
2010

PennPraxis is working with the City of Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation to create an action plan to help the department meet the mandate for 500 acres of new parkland set forth in Greenworks Philadelphia. The plan builds upon previous plans and research in order to identify potential short-term additions to the park system as well as a long-term vision and framework for the park system. This work is also being conducted in parallel with the Philadelphia City Planning comprehensive planning process and will support the goals of the comprehensive plan. The action plan will also complement the Green City Clean Waters initiative of the Philadelphia Water Department which seeks to create green infrastructure that serves multiple uses. Additionally, the action plan will support Mayor Nutter's goal of Philadelphia becoming the "greenest city in America."

It will seek to identify projects that will provide Philadelphia with new parkland that provides sound environmental, social and economic benefits to the city.



More Park, Less Way: An Action Plan for the Benjamin Franklin Parkway

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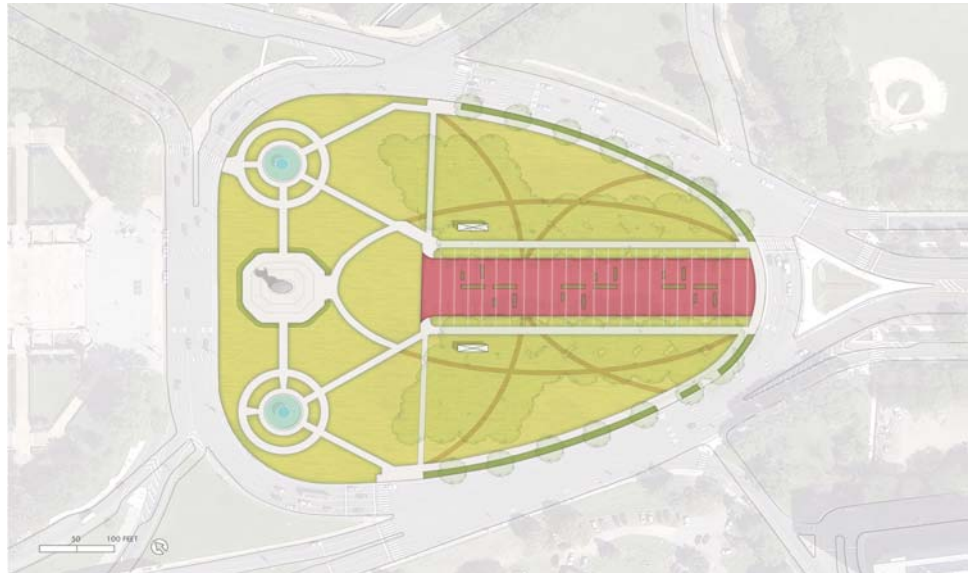
Harris Steinberg

Philadelphia, PA

2012 - 2013

In Philadelphia, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway evolved slowly from a gateway to Fairmount Park into an automobile conduit to the city. With *More Park, Less Way*, PennPraxis worked with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation to recommend a series of series of actions to shape the evolution of the Parkway into a 21st century public space. Through a comprehensive civic engagement process, PennPraxis recommended designing high-quality urban parks on overlooked parkland; reconsidering how the community accesses the Parkway, programming the public space along the Parkway in creative and consistent ways; and developing a structure for ongoing management of the Parkway as a special district within the city.

Because of robust public interest generated through the civic engagement sessions, Parks and Recreation was able to build an audience to support the quick implementation of a summer pop-up park in Eakins Oval. During the summer of 2013, Parks and Recreation reclaimed “The Oval” as the “new shape of fun”, creating a public amenity out of a highly visible surface parking lot.



The New Fairmount Park: A Community Vision Plan for East and West Fairmount Park

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Harris Steinberg

Philadelphia, PA

2013 - 2014

In 2013, Penn Praxis -- in partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department, the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Fairmount Park Conservancy -- was awarded funding to conduct a study to identify low-cost early actions and longer-term investments to improve connectivity to and through East and West Fairmount Park, as well as recommendations for how underused portions of the park can better serve park users of all kinds. While this 2000-acre park is the undisputed heart of the local park system, barriers of all kinds continue to limit its potential. Conceived as a watershed park in the mid-19th century, the park has been developed on an ad hoc basis over the intervening 157 years.

The effort, completed in May 2014, provided a comprehensive survey of park assets and user groups; identified early, low-cost actions that promote improved access to and through the park; offered recommendations for longer-term amenities, programs, development, and infrastructure needed to improve connectivity and draw energy through the park; set forth policies to appropriately guide development in the park; and planned for coalition building to aid in implementation and long-term stewardship.

