

WALKING TOURS OF PHILADELPHIA

Attached are a few self-guided tours you may wish to try. The focal points are primarily architectural; however, there are some gardens and artwork of note included in the tours. Although you won't have the time today to visit them all, you may be able to stroll through at least one tour and enjoy the beauty and diversity of the city of Philadelphia.

TRANSPORTATION

Parking is available in downtown Philadelphia (Center City), although it usually is pretty expensive. It's more convenient to take public transportation from campus to downtown. The "21" bus stops at 34th and Chestnut and travels east (downtown) along Chestnut to Penn's Landing, and then returns via Walnut Street. The subway and subway-surface lines are much faster but less scenic. Trolleys at 36th and Sansom will take you underground along Market Street to City Hall (15th and Market). The Market-Frankford El subway station at 34th and Market (eastbound) will take you to City Hall as well as farther east for the Society Hill and Old City tours. Both bus and subway cost \$2.50 in exact change (coins or bills). Keycards and all-day passes are available for purchase in some stations, which are cheaper. The Fairmount Park tour may be better by car or bicycle, unless you want to concentrate on just one area (Philadelphia Museum or Memorial Hall). Philadelphia has an extensive bike lane system, with accessible lanes and trails to Fairmont Park as well as to any of the other downtown city locations via crossing the Walnut Street or Chestnut Street Bridge. This includes the Schuylkill River Trail Bike and Walking Path which runs from Center City to Valley Forge National Historical Park in Montgomery County.

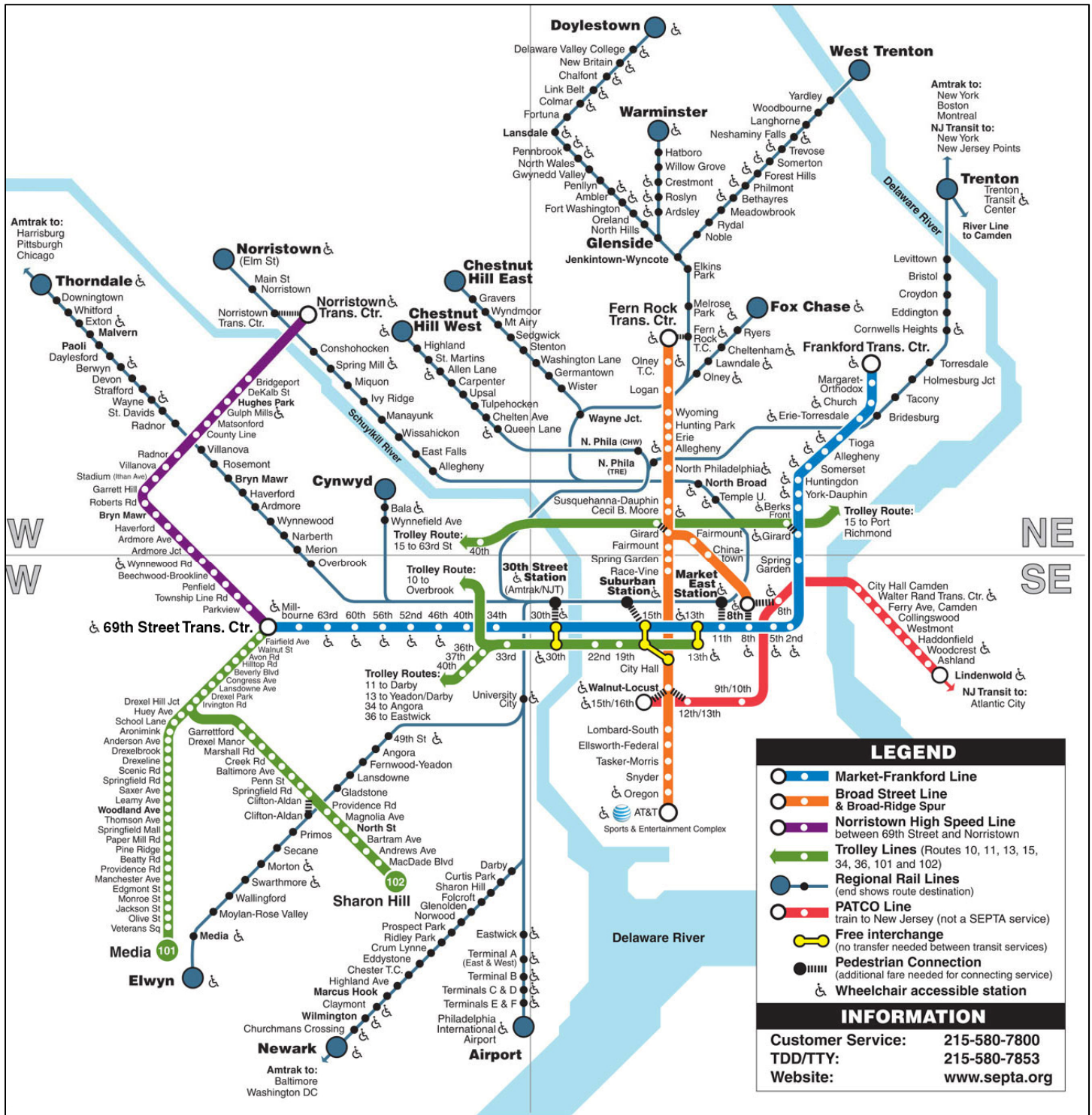
TOURS

- University City/West Philadelphia
- Old City
- Historic District
- Society Hill
- Washington Square
- Rittenhouse Square
- Benjamin Franklin Parkway
- Fairmount Neighborhood
- Fairmount Park
- Fairmount Park Houses

SUGGESTED ROUTES:

- Old City, Washington Square, Society Hill, and the Historic District are all accessible through the 2nd Street stop off the Market-Frankford subway Line (MFL).
- The Parkway and Rittenhouse Square can be accessed through the 15th Street stop (City Hall) off the Market-Frankford subway line.
- Fairmount Neighborhood and park can be accessed at the Fairmount Station on the Broad Street Subway Line (Free transfer at 15th Street between MFL and Broad Street Subway).
- Baltimore Avenue (on the University City Tour) can be accessed through the #34 Trolley Line.

MAP OF THE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, SEPTA



UNIVERSITY CITY/WEST PHILADELPHIA

West Philadelphia, specifically its easternmost portion, University City, was originally bought by William Warner from a local Indian tribe in 1677 and was called "The Blockley," named after his birthplace in England. In 1735, Andrew Hamilton, a "Philadelphia Lawyer" – a lawyer who is exceptionally competent -- purchased 300 acres of land within Blockley Township which came to be known as Hamilton Village. Another part of the neighborhood, The Woodlands, was once a sprawling botanical garden and mansion which is now the Woodlands Cemetery. However, West Philadelphia grew the most rapidly in the late 19th and early 20th century in the electrified streetcar era. The area features many Victorian homes reflecting growth during this time, many of which have been split into smaller units today. This area was coined "University City" in the 1950s by two Penn alumni for its many higher learning institutions.

Today, University City is Philadelphia's leader in education, science, and innovation, with eight higher education institutions and multiple medical institutions. It's a destination for food and culture with a multitude of dining, museums, and galleries. University City is a vibrant, close-knit community full of idyllic parks and green spaces. Also within walking distance of University City is the vibrant Baltimore Avenue with many types of ethnic cuisine. Baltimore Avenue is adjacent to Clark Park which features the city's largest year-round farmer's market and the seasonal Uhuru Flea Market.

When visiting Philadelphia, it is hard not to be drawn to 30th Street Station, the city's architecturally and culturally historic train station. Featured in such films as "Witness," "Blow Out," "Unbreakable," and "Trading Places," the station is a visual icon of Chicago-based architecture and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its design was influenced by the North East Corridor electrification. This allowed the tracks to pass beneath the main body of the station without exposing the passengers to soot and steam engines as earlier times had. Nearby, you can also find "The Porch", a new public space in a former outer parking lane.

University City has many monthly events throughout the year such as the Baltimore Avenue's Dollar Stroll and Lancaster Avenue's Second Fridays. Additionally, there are many new public spaces such as parklets and small pocket parks throughout the community. Many of the neighborhood's streetcar lines still exist today, many of which are fully functional. The area also features abundant bike lanes used by both commuters and students daily.

Sites that are in University City include:

- The Rave Theater
- 30th Street Station, *Graham, Anderson, Probst, & White*
- The Porch
- Baltimore Avenue and Clark Park
- Woodlands Cemetery
- Addams Gallery
- Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
- World Café Live/WXPN Radio
- Institute of Contemporary Art
- Philadelphia Armory, *Philip H. Johnson*
- Slought Foundation Gallery
- Addams Gallery
- Free Library of Philadelphia
- St. Francis De Sales, *Henry D. Dagit*
- Centennial National Bank, *Frank Furness*

OLD CITY

In the birthplace of our nation, Old City was the first center of commerce, shopping, religion, and government. A truly historic square mile, the Old City District is home to Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and many fabulous museums highlighting the discoveries of famous Philadelphians. The Old City District has reinvented itself from foundries, factories, and warehouse spaces into a residential, retail, dining, and cultural mecca of Philadelphia with art galleries, restaurants, and upscale retail boutiques. Wonderful stocks of architecturally important buildings line the streets at every turn.

Art galleries are one of the many distinguished characteristics to explore while visiting the Old City District. Discover what's happening on "First Friday" here. Held on the first Friday of each month, rain or shine, First Friday is a cultural open house, which highlights contemporary and traditional art. Check out artists' cooperatives, workshops, contemporary design showrooms, ethnographic art as well as architectural and graphic design galleries - all open to the public!

Enjoy the eclectic tastes of dining at over 50 restaurants in the Old City District. Choose from the classic fare to the new fusion of the best chefs in Philadelphia. Before or after dining at one of the Old City District's award-winning restaurants, why not take in a show at The Arden Theater Company or an international film right here in the heart of the Old City District? The Ritz theaters show a bevy of independent films otherwise difficult to find in wide-release theaters.

Boutique retail stores provide the savvy shopper with a wide variety of styles. The shopping choices are as vivid as your imagination! It's all here in the Old City District.

Unique historical charm combined with a flare for the contemporary is what makes the Old City District the place to visit and see what's truly "new" in Philadelphia! The area is noteworthy for its fine examples of 18th and 19th century commercial architecture of different styles and materials ranging from brick, terra cotta, and marble to cast iron.

Sites that are in Old City include:

- Christ Church, *John Kearsley*
- *Old First Reformed Church*
- Old St. George's Methodist Church
- St. Augustine's, *Napoleon Lebrun*
- United States Mint, Vincent G. Kling
- Christ Church Burial Ground
- Free Quaker Meeting House, Samuel Wetherill
- National Museum of American Jewish History
- Elfreth's Alley
- Fireman's Hall Museum
- Race Street Houses
- Cuthbert Street
- Old World Piazza off Cuthbert Street
- Betsy Ross House
- Friends Meeting House
- Loxly Court
- Franklin Square

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Ben Franklin, the Declaration of Independence, Betsy Ross, the Constitution, Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, William Penn, and Carpenters' Hall. Here is where a country was born. The buildings, the taverns, and the cobbled walks used by the Founders of America are, in great number, preserved for all to enjoy. Come and take a "virtual walking tour" of the Historic District — the Most Historic Mile in America. On our stroll through the gardens and green walks, the streets and alleys, in and out of the buildings of today's city we sense what Philadelphia was like long ago and ultimately what the roots of American history are.

When we consider that the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution — the documents upon which the United States is founded and which have inspired other democracies of the world — were written and adopted here, that our first five Presidents were involved in the life of Philadelphia and that of the infant republic while they lived here, and that the greatest American of the 18th century, Benjamin Franklin, was — when not abroad — engaged in every phase of Philadelphia activity, it is easy to understand why the area has been termed the most historic square mile in the nation.

The city of Philadelphia grew westward from the Delaware River. Construction was started on Independence Hall in 1732, only fifty years after the founding of the city by William Penn. At the time, the area between 5th and 6th Streets was still on the edge of things.

Some forty years later, when the events leading to 1776 were involving the citizenry, the city had grown west toward 8th Street. The streets were still unpaved in the thriving port city and at that time the square, or "State House Yard" as it was called in the 18th century, was not developed as we see it today. The city was unlit, too, and except for an occasional lantern on a house or tavern, or one carried by the watch, all was in darkness after nightfall.

Sites that are in the Historic District include:

- Welcome Park
- City Tavern
- Merchant's Exchange, *William Strickland*
- First Bank of the United States, *Samuel Blodgett & James Windrim*
- Visitor Center
- Bishop White House
- Walnut Street Garden and Houses
- The Philadelphia Contributionship, *Thomas U. Walter*
- Todd House (Dolley Madison), *Carpenter's Company*
- Carpenters' Hall, *Robert Smith*
- New Hall Military Museum, *Carpenter's Company*
- Pemberton House
- Franklin Court
- Second Bank, *William Strickland*
- Library Hall, *William Thornton*
- Philosophical Hall
- Independence Square
- Independence Hall, *Andrew Hamilton and Edmund Wooley*
- Atwater Kent Museum, *John Haviland*
- Graff House, *Jacob Graff*
- Liberty Bell
- Constitution Center

SOCIETY HILL

It was the Free Society of Traders to whom William Penn made liberal concessions of land and privileges that gave its name to Society Hill. In 1683 its assets included a sawmill, a glasshouse, and a tannery. It fell upon hard times in the 20th century, but today it is the very model of urban renewal and urban amenity in a historic setting.

Today, Society Hill includes the land from the Delaware River to Washington Square and from Front Street west to 8th Street and from Lombard Street to Walnut Street. Horse-drawn cabs driven by knowledgeable guides can be hailed in the vicinities of Independence Mall (4th to 6th on Chestnut Streets) and Head House Square (2nd and Pine Streets).

The charm of Society Hill is that its homes are not museums, but are lived in by Philadelphians who delight in 18th and 19th century houses. In the 18th century, Society Hill was removed from the avenues of commerce and given the residential character it retains today.

Sites in Society Hill include:

- Old St. Joseph's
- Shippen-Wistar House
- Cadwalader House
- St. Mary's Church, *Charles Johnson*
- House of Joseph Hopkinson
- Wharton House
- Powel House, *Carpenter's Company*
- John Penn's House
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Davis-Lenox House
- A Man Full of Trouble Tavern
- Tun Tavern
- American Street
- Head House
- Thaddeus Kosciuszko House
- St. Peter's Church, *Robert Smith*
- Old Pine
- Presbyterian Historical Society
- Society Hill Synagogue, *Thomas U. Walter*

WASHINGTON SQUARE

Washington Square, one of the five squares William Penn laid out in his 1682 survey of Philadelphia, was then simply called the Southeast Square. In 1833 it was renamed to honor the first President. At first a pasture, the square later served as a burial ground and a potter's field. The burial ground mainly served for the city's African American population, citizens and troops killed during the Revolutionary War, and victims of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793.

Many of those Revolutionary War soldiers buried in the square died while being held as POWs in the Walnut Street Prison, formerly located on the northeast corner of the square. Both Colonials and British at various times controlled the jail. After the war, the jail's most famous prisoner was Robert Morris, who helped finance the Revolution - ironically, he landed in debtors' prison. Washington did not forget Morris' loyal service and often visited the financier while he was jailed. It was from this prison yard that Jean-Pierre Blanchard made his balloon ascension in 1793 with Washington and hundreds of Philadelphians watching.

Sites that are in Washington Square include:

- Washington Square
- PSFS and Ayer Buildings
- Lea & Febiger Publishers Building, *Earle Nelson Edwards*
- Athenaeum
- Penn Mutual
- Curtis Building
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, *G. Edwin Brumbaugh*
- Holy Trinity Church (Washington Square)
- Reynolds-Morris House

RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

Rittenhouse Square, one of William Penn's original five, was known as the southwest square until 1825 when it was named for the astronomer-clockmaker, David Rittenhouse (1732-96). This amazing man of universal talents — one of many in 18th century Philadelphia — was a descendant of William Rittenhouse, who built the first American paper mill in Germantown. He was, at various times, a member of the General Assembly and the State Constitutional Convention, and president of the Council of Safety. His survey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary in 1763-64, to settle a dispute between the Penns and Lord Baltimore, was so accurate it was accepted and followed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon when they surveyed the "line" for which they are still remembered. A Professor of Astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania and an inventor of the collimating telescope, he was also president of the American Philosophical Society and the first director of the United States Mint.

The first house facing the Square was erected in 1840. During its next century the Square kept its residential quality. In 1913, the architect Paul Cret, who was one of the men responsible for Benjamin Franklin Parkway and many of its buildings, designed the Square's entrances, and the central plaza with its stone railings, pool, and fountain. To have lived near or on the Square was a mark of prestige. Today, private homes are gone, but it still counts for something to live on the Square. There are several houses still standing, but they have been converted into apartments. With cooperative apartments and condominiums displacing private dwellings in the last three decades, only a few of the Old Guard still live here — just in homes of the sky rather than family mansions. Just north of Rittenhouse, on 19th and JFK, is the Comcast Center, which was completed in 2008. Not only is it Philadelphia's tallest building at 975 feet, it is also the tallest LEED certified building in the United States.

Sites on Rittenhouse Square include:

- Church of the Holy Trinity, *Notman, Hewitt*
- Van Rensselaer House
- Statuary in the Square
- Art Alliance
- Barclay Hotel
- Curtis Institute of Music
- St. Mark's Episcopal Church, *Notman, Cope, & Stewardson*
- Locust Street houses
- Cosmopolitan Club and Print Center
- Tenth Presbyterian Church
- Thaw House
- Smedley Street
- Chadwick Street
- Plays and Players Theatre
- Rosenbach Museum & Library
- The New Church
- Mutter Museum
- First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, *Frank Furness*
- Comcast Center

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY

The Benjamin Franklin Parkway is Philadelphia's Champs-Élysées. True, there is no Arc de Triomphe, but there are such fine buildings as the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Rodin Museum, and the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul. Fountains, small parks, statues, and monuments all lend a formality that gives the Parkway its own special aura. This, of course, was not an accident. Photographs of the area before World War I show the cathedral and a stretch of road from Logan Square to Fairmount Park and a mass of buildings with no space at all between them extending from Logan Square to what is now John F. Kennedy Plaza.

By 1919 a stretch of Parkway was visible, but none of the public buildings we know today had yet been erected. The designers of the Parkway were Paul Cret and Jacques Greber, who were also responsible for the design of the Rodin Museum. By 1935 the Franklin Institute, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Museum of Art at the head of the avenue, and the Rodin Museum could be seen. Paul Cret was also the architect of the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. The Parkway is a place of parades. In recent years the Parkway has been the starting point for a bicycle race which is part of the international racing circuit. For running enthusiasts, the Philadelphia Marathon and Half Marathon take place in mid-November starting at 22nd and Parkway. Be sure to check out philadelphiamarathon.com for more information.

In the beginning the Parkway was an architect's and a planner's dream — something breathtakingly bold for the humble old city. Then it became a cultural mecca — a center for museums and educational institutions. Today the Parkway stands as a triumph in urban planning. Anyone viewing the sweep of the Parkway from the Art Museum steps may be compelled, like Rocky, to raise one's hands, and share in that triumph.

Sites that are on the Parkway include:

- LOVE Park (Kennedy Plaza), *Sculpture by Robert Indiana*
- Henry Moore Sculpture
- The Prophet Sculpture
- Friends Select School
- Statue of Copernicus
- Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, *Napoleon LeBrun*
- Parkway Sculptures
- Swann Fountain (Logan Circle), *Alexander Stirling Calder*
- Free Library of Philadelphia
- Raemisch Sculptures
- Rodin Museum
- Eakins Oval
- Philadelphia Museum of Art, *Trumbauer, Zantzinger, Borie & Medary*
- Rocky Statue
- Franklin Institute, *John T. Windrim*
- St. Clement's Episcopal Church, *John Notman*
- Academy of Natural Sciences
- Mace's Crossing
- Sculpture to the Martyrs, *C. Natan Rapoport*
- Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial
- Barnes Foundation
- Sister Cities Park and Visitor Center

FAIRMOUNT NEIGHBORHOOD

Fairmount's name comes directly from William Penn, who named the neighborhood's high hill "Fair Mount" for its gorgeous view of the Schuylkill River. And although the banks of the Delaware River were settled earlier than the banks of the Schuylkill, the Fairmount area holds some of Philadelphia's most important history. In 1810, the Fairmount Dam was built, taming the river and making it ideal for ice skating in winter and rowing in summer. In 1815, the area became home to the Fairmount Water Works, which provided all of Philadelphia's drinking water at a time when most other American cities didn't offer any citywide water service. After Water Works closed in 1909, the building was used for many different purposes, including over 40 years as the Philadelphia Aquarium. Major plans for a restoration were in the making, but were delayed from of serious fire. Despite these struggles, the location is now home to the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center (FWWIC). The FWWIC is an environmental educational center that offers exhibitions, various events, and school programming. In addition, a fine dining restaurant opened in 2006 called the Water Works Restaurant and Lounge.

In 1829, the Fairmount area attracted national attention once again when Eastern State Penitentiary opened in 1829. As part of a controversial movement to change the behavior of inmates through "confinement in solitude with labor," Eastern State Penitentiary quickly became one of the most expensive and most copied buildings in the young United States. It is estimated that more than 300 prisons worldwide are based on the Penitentiary's wagon-wheel, or "radial" floor plan. Some of America's most notorious criminals were held in the Penitentiary's vaulted, sky-lit cells, including bank robber Willie Sutton and Al Capone. After 142 years of consecutive use, Eastern State Penitentiary was completely abandoned in 1971 and now stands a lost world of crumbling cellblocks and empty guard towers. During the Halloween season, the penitentiary now serves as a spooky haunted house called "Terror Behind the Walls."

Sites in the Fairmount Neighborhood include:

- Boathouse Row
- Eastern State Penitentiary
- Terror Behind the Walls
- Fairmount Art Center
- Fairmount Park
- The Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Rocky Statue
- Girard College
- St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
- Mugshots Coffeehouse
- Fairmount Water Works
- Ward Memorial Park
- Von Colln Park and Playground

FAIRMOUNT PARK

The Fairmount Park system, while best known for the 4,400-acre ribbon of green bordering the Schuylkill River and Wissahickon Creek, is actually a city-wide park system, with 63 separate parks of all sizes and types covering 8,900 acres. From the city's original squares laid out by William Penn to the Manayunk Canal reclaimed from industrial to recreational use, from South Philadelphia to the Far northeast, the parks serve every community.

Within the parks are the premier cultural and recreational resources of Philadelphia: the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the Robin Hood Dell, the Mann Center for the Performing Arts, the Philadelphia Zoological Garden, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Also within the parks are more than 90 historically certified buildings and sites, and most are open for public events, tours, and other activities so that people can learn about the growth and development of our country through these visible markers of the past. From grand Memorial Hall and the Fairmount Waterworks, to the elegant country houses of the colonial elite and the humble homes of 17th century Swedish and German settlers, many have been recognized on the National Register of Historic Places or designated National Historic Landmarks.

In 1835, the first regatta took place on the Schuylkill River between the Blue Devils and the Imps Barge clubs. The excitement from the race sparked the formation of several barge clubs at the location now known as the historic Boat House Row. One in particular, The Undine Barge Club, was designed by Frank Furness, the same architect who designed the Fisher Fine Arts Library on the University of Pennsylvania's campus. In 1855, Fairmount Park – one of the country's largest public park systems – was founded when the Fairmount-area Lemon Hill Estate was purchased and converted into public land. And in 1928, the world-class Philadelphia Art Museum relocated from Memorial Hall to its current location overlooking the Schuylkill.

But of greatest importance, within the parks are the gardens, day camps, ballparks, pools, tennis courts, rivers, streams, paths, picnic areas, and playgrounds that bring outdoor leisure to thousands of people from the city and the region. Fairmount Park is indeed a resource without parallel.

FAIRMOUNT PARK HOUSES

Within Philadelphia's extensive Fairmount Park lands is a group of 18th and early 19th century historic houses, established during the period by prominent families of the city as "country seats" or rural retreats. Located in William Penn's suburban "Liberty Lands," which lie to the north and west of Philadelphia, these houses were, for a gentleman-merchant, within an easy ride from the city's commercial center. The elevated, forested banks of the Schuylkill River, described by one 18th century observer as being "finely situated for prospect, health and pleasure," provided beautiful locations for the establishment of these early domestic retreats. Some functioned as working farms, including productive dairies, orchards, extensive fields, and game lands, while others provided an elegant, fashionable and healthy retreat from Philadelphia's urban environment, summer heat and periodic epidemics.

The early establishment of what is now Fairmount Park evolved from the concern to preserve the purity of the Schuylkill River, the source of the city's water supply, and to provide the city dweller with recreational park lands. Philadelphia's gradual acquisition of a number of the historic houses, beginning with the city's initial purchase of Lemon Hill in 1844, resulted in the creation of Fairmount Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the country. The development of these great city lands has in turn led to the preservation of what is now considered to be the most significant group of 18th and early 19th century domestic architectural examples in the United States. Illustrating over a century and a half of style, fashion, and domestic life, the Fairmount Park historic houses are preserved and maintained today by a number of private and civic organizations and provide the visitor with a unique glimpse into Philadelphia's rich cultural history.