

Frequent Questions about the NDHC

Who is the Northern Delaware Heritage Coalition?

The Northern Delaware Heritage Coalition represents a broad spectrum of grassroots participants from more than 50 heritage, historic preservation, greenway, transportation, tourism, and local government agencies and organizations.

What is the Northern Delaware Heritage Network Concept Plan?

The Plan proposes a network of transit, cycling, walking and driving routes that link historic sites, cultural amenities, parks and other community resources in five “heritage areas” in northern New Castle County, and a network of interpretive and educational connections between the resources based on theme, topic or category.

This proposed Heritage Network is not yet complete, but the basis for it does exist. Proposed routes use existing greenways, bikeways and transit routes that access heritage resources and also planned connections defined in the New Castle County Greenway Plan and in the DelDOT Bicycle Plan. Proposed interpretive and educational materials have been partially developed but may need to be repackaged to illustrate the connections between the sites in northern Delaware.

Through work with state and local agencies on key physical improvements and coordinated cross-marketing, the Northern Delaware Heritage Network could become a reality.

How does the Coalition define the word “heritage”?

The Coalition uses the term “heritage” in the broadest possible way, that is the collection of resources that a community values.

- **What are those resources?**

The resources that the communities of northern Delaware value are its parks and natural areas, historic sites, cultural attractions, special festivals and events and the vibrant communities and neighborhoods that are special places to live. These are the community’s “heritage assets.”

- **How are these resources organized?**

The Coalition has divided itself into five heritage areas that relate to the geography of the area. Northern Delaware is geographically organized around the City of Wilmington; the three creek watersheds of the Christina River – the Brandywine, the Red Clay and the White Clay; and the coastal plain roughly south of Wilmington and east of I-95 to the Delaware River and the C&D Canal. The heritage assets have been cataloged by area.

The Coalition proposes that the heritage assets be organized by theme, topic or category to enhance interpretation and promote heritage tourism. The primary goal of the Coalition is to package information in a way that creates a network of all the assets across northern Delaware that related to a specific theme, topic or category regardless of the visitor count or ability of the site to promote its self. The information is to be prepared in a way that will inspire people to visit many sites and get more detailed information at the individual sites.

Frequent Questions about the NDHC

Is the focus primarily on historic sites & interpretation?

No. There are many statewide and local organizations and initiatives dedicated to preserving historic sites and historic interpretation.

The Coalition is focused on creating platforms to bring all efforts together in a way that makes it easier for the average person to get a clear picture of our heritage assets (including historic sites), gives them an easy-to-understand way to find out more about them and hopefully inspires them to actually visit some of them. Unlike other organizations, the Coalition is looking at all of our assets without regard to any national or state threshold for significance or economic contribution. If the resource is part of the theme, topic or category it will be included.

And... In addition to historic sites there are amazing preserved cultural landscapes surrounding the communities in northern Delaware -- and there are the communities and neighborhoods themselves.

The Coalition has proposed cross marketing all of the areas' resources in a way that connects the resources to the communities that surround them and enhances their collective value.

Is the Coalition primarily focused on physical connections?

No. While physical connections among sites are very important, the Coalition has included these within one of three broad areas of interest: Access, Marketing and Promotion, and Education and Interpretation.

In 2008 WILMAPCO assisted the Coalition in completing a physical assessment of northern Delaware above the C&D Canal. The work product of that assessment is part of the Concept Plan. The Concept Plan will continue to be updated with additional work products as the Coalition undertakes additional projects to implement its plan. In 2009 a primary focus will be developing the strategic approach to creating the network of connections based on theme, topic or category.

How will this Concept Plan be implemented?

The Coalition has just begun the process of organizing as a non-profit that will have representation from each of the five heritage areas on its board and will continue to work at the grassroots level with the participants from each of the heritage areas to strategically determine what activities to include in its annual work plan.

How has the Coalition accomplished its work to date?

The Coalition applied for and was awarded technical assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. The loosely formed group of interested volunteers secured support and assistance from New Castle County through the Planning Department, WILMAPCO, and a volunteer coordinator from the East Coast Greenway, DE. Collectively they made their case, documented the support and commitment from a stakeholder group and applied to the National Park Service. The agency's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program provides no funding. It does, however, provide technical assistance to local conservation and recreation projects, including a staff person who, among other forms of assistance, helps guide the group through the process of developing an annual work plan. The Coalition has accomplished the approved work plans over the three years it has received this assistance.

Frequent Questions about the NDHC

How will the Coalition define success?

There are several questions that can be posed.

- Are the Coalition participants pleased with the promotional pieces developed? Are their heritage sites seeing more traffic? Are they receiving economic benefits?
- Are the participants seeing the information about the areas resources being delivered to the residents and visitors of the area?
- Are more people able to access the resources? Are they accessing the resources?

The Coalition will need to work with the stakeholders to develop tracking mechanisms to address these questions. Success for the Coalition is ultimately success for its participants and their communities.

This Concept Plan for an integrated heritage network represents the culmination of a three year community planning effort of the Northern Delaware Heritage Coalition, supported by New Castle County Land Use Department and Wilmington Area Planning Council (WILMAPCO), and assisted by East Coast Greenway Delaware and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program.

Series of workshops were conducted in each heritage area with community representatives to identify:

- heritage assets;
- challenges and opportunities related to accessing those assets by public transit, foot or bike;
- options for access now available or under development;
- themes represented by heritage assets; and
- potential information and transportation hubs within each heritage area

Products to date include maps and matrix of priority transportation, historic preservation and community development projects to guide future project implementation discussions with the Coalition and a list of heritage assets with description of existing amenities and type of access. The approach to organizing information on heritage assets through a series of "discovery areas," identification and mapping of auto loop tours for each heritage area

The Draft Northern Delaware Heritage Network Concept Plan document describes the five heritage areas of northern Delaware and their assets, why these assets are special and why we should value them, explains why the grassroots Coalition formed and the challenges that inspired the group, and documents the benefits, vision and goals of the network.

Where are the Heritage Areas?

With 60% of the state's population within 20% of its land area., Northern Delaware possesses a concentrated and rich variety of resources. Northern Delaware can be divided into five geographic and cultural regions, or heritage areas, that are based largely on watershed boundaries and the Piedmont fall line.

Red Clay

Once home to more than 90 water powered mills churning out an astonishing variety of products, now its scenic, tranquil hills and valleys are the focus of conservation efforts by the Red Clay Valley Association, the second oldest small watershed organization in America.

White Clay & Newark

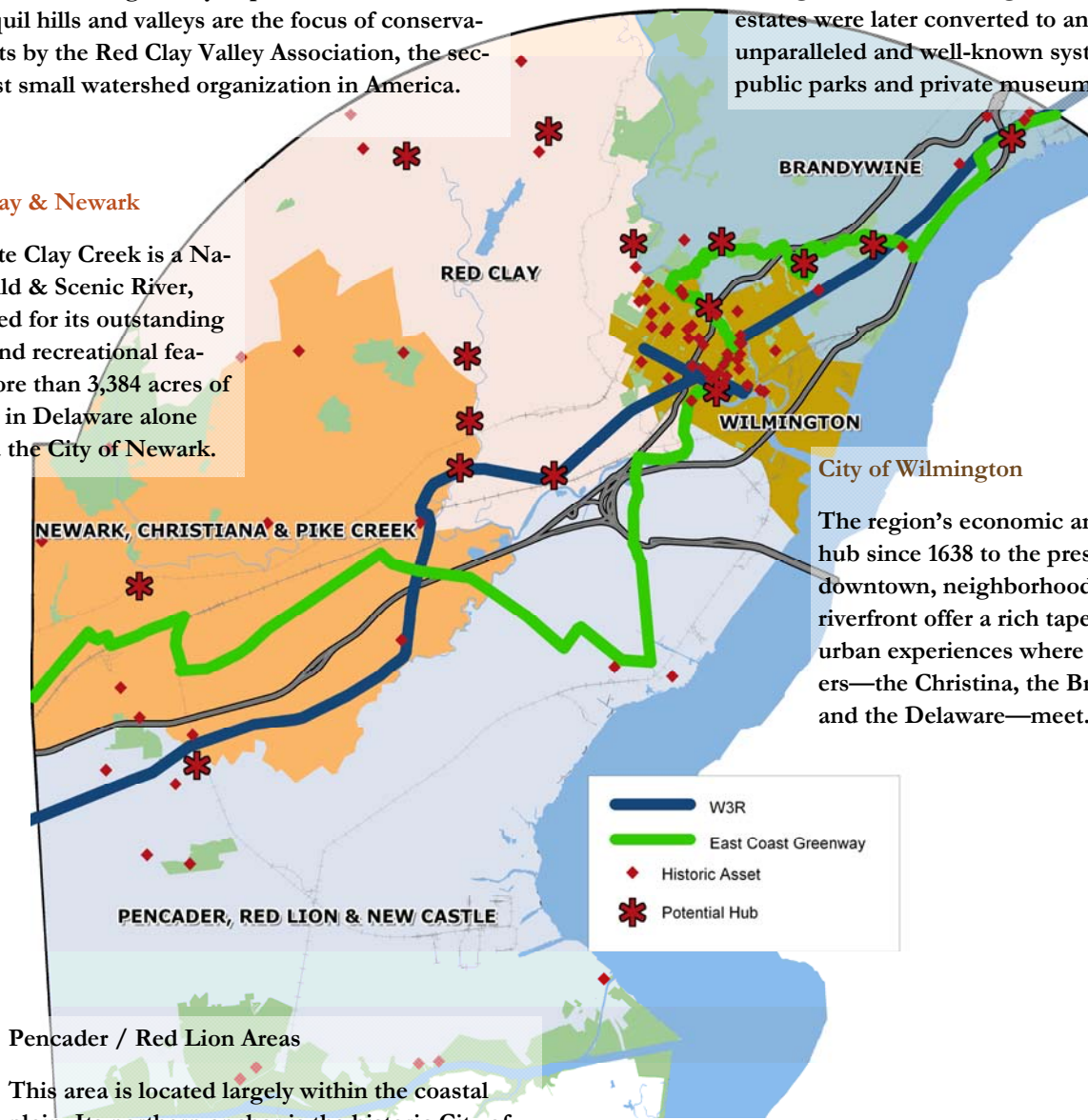
The White Clay Creek is a National Wild & Scenic River, recognized for its outstanding natural and recreational features. More than 3,384 acres of parkland in Delaware alone surround the City of Newark.

Brandywine

Water power was the key to wealth generated by industry and development of the region's industrial might. The resulting estates were later converted to an unparalleled and well-known system of public parks and private museums.

City of Wilmington

The region's economic and cultural hub since 1638 to the present. Its downtown, neighborhoods, and riverfront offer a rich tapestry of urban experiences where three rivers—the Christina, the Brandywine, and the Delaware—meet.



Pencader / Red Lion Areas

This area is located largely within the coastal plain. Its northern anchor is the historic City of New Castle, a capitol seat long before William Penn arrived, and its southern anchor is Delaware City, the eastern terminus of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.

Vision

The Coalition sees the Northern Delaware Heritage Network as a means to utilize the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R) and the East Coast Greenway (ECG) as the braided spine across New Castle County that directly connects or connects via a spur to each of five “heritage areas.” The network of transit, biking, hiking and driving routes would provide alternative transportation connections among historic sites, parks and cultural assets in northern New Castle County.

About the Physical Heritage Network

The physical heritage network elements consist of:

- The heritage assets themselves – major waterways, parks and recreation areas, cultural and historic sites, and educational institutions such as schools and libraries
- Regional trail spines - East Coast Greenway and Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route
- New Castle County greenway network from Pathway Plan
- DelDOT planned bike routes
- Trailheads/information hubs
- Transit routes and stops
- Auto tour routes

Goals

- **Access**
Provide increased mobility for a broad cross-section of the population. Create a comprehensive, consistent and understandable signage and wayfinding system. Emphasize safe, multi-modal access to historic sites and recreational opportunities throughout northern New Castle County.
- **Marketing**
Enhance awareness of and access to heritage resources through coordinated cross-marketing, including virtual information sharing and delivery systems as well as physical media.
- **Interpretation**
Provide a framework and options for incorporating information on heritage initiatives and interrelated stories and themes.
- **Conservation**
Increase community commitment to resource preservation.

What is included in the Concept Plan

The Concept Plan addresses two major elements...

- Physical Infrastructure of the Heritage Network, including transportation, “Discovery Areas,” information hubs, trailheads and the heritage assets themselves
- Programmatic/ Virtual Infrastructure
 - Themes & Interpretation
 - Marketing and Promotion, including the need for a graphic identity and wayfinding system, and use of digital / electronic media
 - Education

...and describes how these elements can improve the experience of northern Delaware’s heritage.

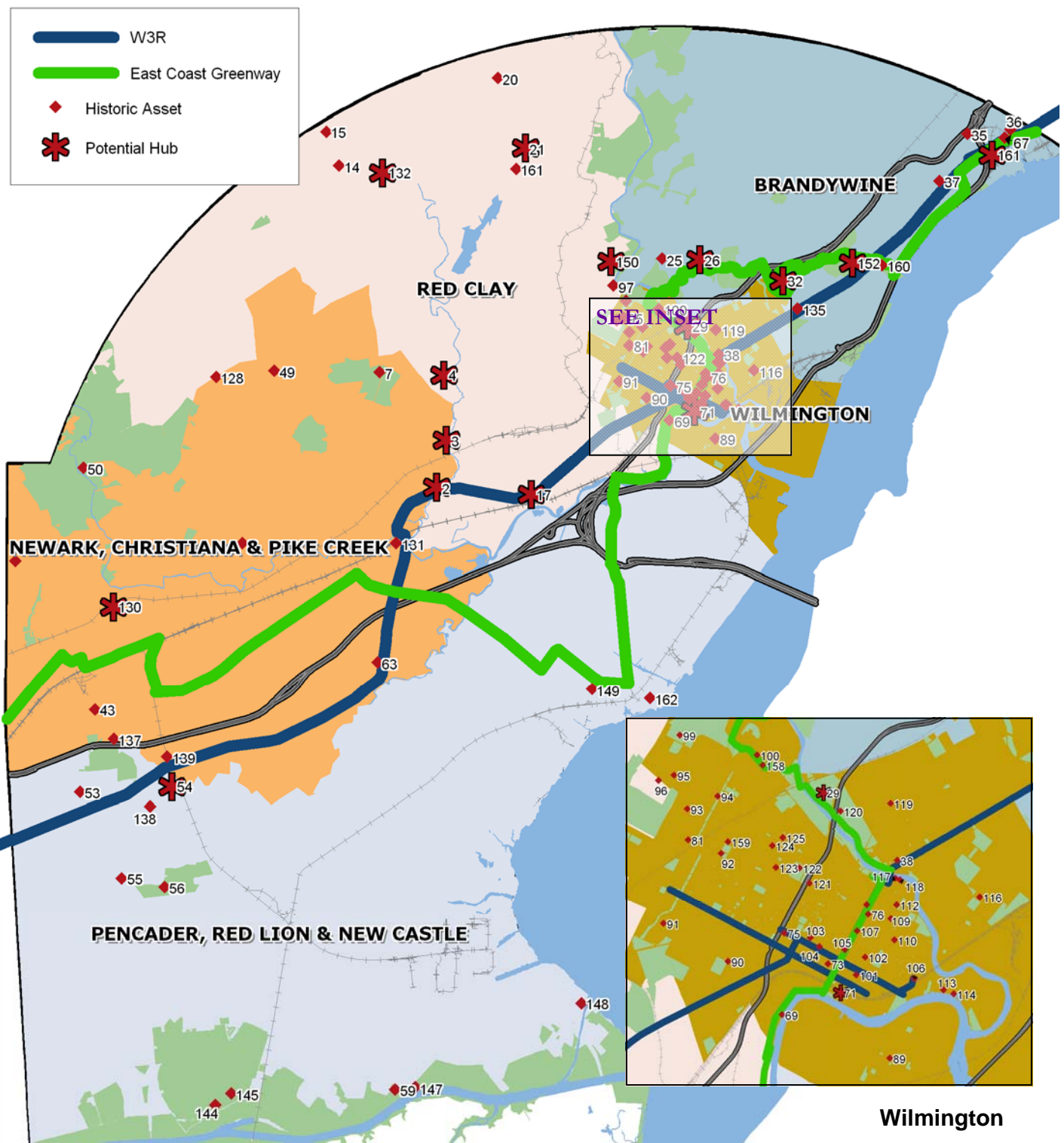
Actions to complete the Physical Heritage Network:

- Complete the East Coast Greenway
- Implement the New Castle County Greenway Plan
- Encourage improvements to designated bike routes from the DelDOT Bicycle Plan
- Implement community and area plans that integrate walking, bicycling and public transit improvements
- Continue to plan for and promote our scenic and historic highways

Actions to integrate the heritage assets and organize the visitor experience:

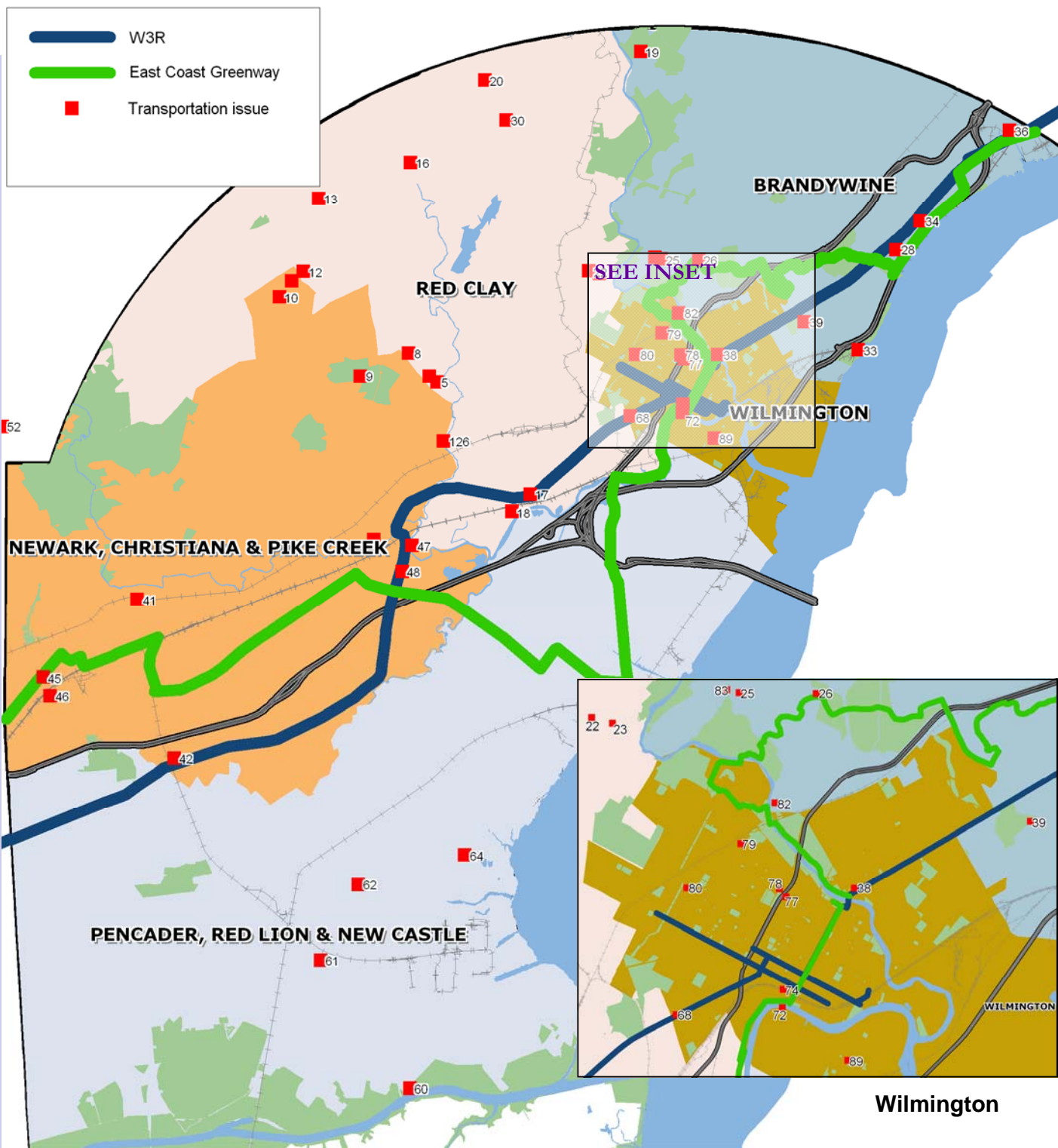
- Using interpretive themes represented by the heritage assets and develop theme-based tour options and materials
- Integrate Information Hubs and thematic materials into the physical network
- Further develop “Discovery Areas.” The “Discovery Areas” concept to help organize the heritage experience. Discovery areas are clusters of sites within each of five heritage areas that could serve as potential information “hubs” for both the heritage area and the larger Northern Delaware Heritage Network. Themes are tentatively suggested for each discovery area, and connections among sites are encouraged through existing public transit and the bicycle and pedestrian network. Transit already provide service to many heritage sites. Opportunities exist to provide more information at DART bus stops about the heritage resources in the surrounding area. Train stations provide ideal hubs for information about the overall network. Walking or bicycling tours such as the Northern Delaware Greenway provide environmentally friendly, recreational routes between identified sites.

Identified Sites in the Network



ID	SITE	Comments	TRANSPORTATION ACCESS				FACILITIES				
			Road	Bicycle	Walk	Transit	Parking	Public	Restroom	Web	
	BRANDYWINE HERITAGE AREA										
20	Centreville	Centreville. Potential Trailhead. Don't widen roads, but off road biking a po	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			http://www.centrevillede.info/
21	Winterthur	entrance to Winterthur a potential trailhead.	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		http://www.winterthur.org/
25	Nemours	Nemours: Parking and restrooms under construction. Vending machines a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.nemours.org/mansion.html
26	Blue Ball	Blue Ball Property a Trailhead. Necessary to pay to get into barn.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		http://www.destateparks.com/blueball/index.asp
32	Rockwood	Rockwood Mansion is a potential trailhead.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.rockwood.org/home/webpage1.asp
35	Woodhaven Kruse Park	Woodhaven Kruse Park is a potential trailhead. (is historic info currently the	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/nccparks/home/webpage1.asp
36	Robinson House	Robinson House is a potential trailhead. Need better crosswalks or a pede	✓			✓	✓				http://www.robinsonhouse.org/
37	private	Overlook Colony and A.A. Grubb House, which is being restored.	✓	✓	✓	✓					www.claymontrenaissance.org
67	Hickman Row	Hickman Row is a National Historic Site built in 1919 as worker housing for	✓	✓	✓	✓					
97	Brecks Mill	Brecks Mill	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		http://www.somervillemanning.com/default.asp
135	Shaw and Penny Houses	Shaw House/ Penny House	✓	✓	✓	✓					
150	Hagley	Hagley Museum	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	http://www.hagley.lib.de.us/index.html
152	Bellevue State Park	Bellevue/Caulfield	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.destateparks.com/bvsvp/bvssp.htm
161	Claymont	Claymont area - Archmere, Darley Manor, and Stone School	✓	✓	✓	✓					http://www.claymontrenaissance.org/
	NEWARK HERITAGE AREA										
43	Rittenhouse Park	Mason-Dixon Trailhead - Rittenhouse Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		http://www.cityofnewarkde.us/index.asp?NID=58
49	Tweed's Tavern	Tweed's Tavern goes on Hockessin Route. There is hub potential there w	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		http://www.delDOT.gov/archaeology/tweeds_tavern/index.shtml
50	White Clay Creek State Park	Trailhead: Park Headquarters	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	http://www.destateparks.com/wccsp/index.asp
63	Christiana	Trailhead: Baldwin Property - Main St. & Old Baltimore Pike. Community C	✓	✓	✓	✓					http://www.xtinahs.org/xtinahistoricalociety.html
127	Judge Morris Estates	Judge Morris Estates	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	http://www.destateparks.com/know/event/JudgeMorrisEstate.htm
128	Eastburn-Jeanes Mining Complex?	Eastburn-Jeanes Mining Complex	✓								http://archives.delaware.gov/markers/ncc/EASTBURN%20NC-83
129	Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church	Head of Christiana Presbyterian Church	✓								http://www.headofchristiana.org/
130	Newark Walking Tour	Hike and History Walking Tour - Potential Trailhead: Hike & History secto	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://newark.de.us/downtown/
131	Hale-Byrnes House (limited hours)	Hale-Byrnes House	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.halebyrnes.org/
137	Welch Tract Church	Welch Tract Church	✓	✓	✓	✓					
	PENCADER HERITAGE AREA										
53	Iron Hill	Potential Trailhead: Iron Hill Park and DE Academy of Science School Res	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	http://www.ironhillmuseum.org/index.html
54	Cooch-Dayett Mill	Trailhead at Cooch-Dayett Mill	✓	✓	✓	✓					http://www.pencaderheritage.org/main/phmain_1.html
55	Glasgow Village	Trailhead at Glasgow Village. Emergency care station provides first aid for	✓	✓	✓						http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/historicglasgow/
56	Glasgow Regional Park	An ideal trailhead. Glasgow Regional Park. It has walking trails, skateboa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/nccparks/home/webpage1.asp
59	Commodore School (future)	Trailhead when Commodore School shuts down in June.						✓			http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Georges,_Delaware
138	Cooch's House?	Cooch's House	✓	✓							
139	Cooch's Bridge	Battle of Cooch's Bridge - American Position	✓	✓							
144	Buck's Tavern (being restored)	Buck Tavern	✓								
145	Samuel Davis House?	Samuel Davis House	✓	✓	✓						
147	Saint Georges Church	Saint Georges Presb Historic Landmark	✓								
148	Fort Delaware/Delaware City	Fort Delaware	✓					✓	✓	✓	http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/parks/fdsp/index.asp
149	Bellanca Airfield (being restored)	Bellanca Airfield	✓	✓	✓	✓					http://www.friendsofbellanca.org/
	RED CLAY HERITAGE AREA										
2	Stanton	Trailhead in Stanton is a transit connection. Current Issue: Dumping	✓	✓	✓	✓					
3	Marshallton	Proposed Marshallton Trailhead. Signage, but no parking	✓	✓	✓	✓					http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marshallton,_Delaware
4	Greenbank Mill/WWRR	Restrooms and Parking - Greenbank Mill, Brandywine Springs and WWRR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.greenbankmill.org/index.html
7	DeCastle	Restrooms and Parking at DeCastle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.co.new-castle.de.us/nccparks/home/webpage1.asp
14	Auburn Heights Preserve	People are biking now, tour bikes very popular - limited hours - Bikes from	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	http://www.auburnheights.org/
15	duplicate	Bikes from PA going through (sites not open now enough)	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	http://www.auburnheights.org/
17	Newport	A hut for Newport? Birthplace of Oliver Evans. It effects entire Red Clay A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.newportde.gov/
132	Ashland Nature Center	Ashland Mill	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/ashland/index.html
	WILMINGTON HERITAGE AREA										
29	Zoo	Zoo, with parking and restrooms, is a trailhead. Josephine gardens, Frede	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.destateparks.com/wilmsp/wilmsp.htm
38	Brandywine Village	Brandywine Village is a potential trailhead. Possible walking tour of park a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.brandywinevillage.org/
69	Wilmington Riverfront	Dravo Plaza potential hub- Riverfront Market - Peterson wildlife refuge - Garret Tubm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.riverfrontwilm.com/
71	Wilmington Train Station	Wilmington Train Station: Times Square	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilmington_Station_(Delaware)
73	DeITech, Wilmington?	DeITech as hub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.dccc.edu/stanton-wilmington/
75	Adams Square?	Adams Square as hub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
76	Rodney Square	Rodney Square: Times Sq but lacks services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://gcwilmington.org/AboutUs.asp
81	Woodlawn Library	Woodlawn library as hub	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	http://www.friendsofwl.org/

Identified Transportation Needs



NDHC Transportation Projects Identified

Transportation Issues

ID	Transportation Comments
5	Dirt path currently, but landscaping is proposed.
6	Trail Designed
8	No Trail - Currently DelCastle Golf Course
9	Unpaved Trails in DelCastle
10	Sidewalk?
11	Very narrow road, near water, and no shoulder
12	Roadside - property owners don't want - clear the road to make one way
13	Hilly and Narrow
16	Need Info on bike racks - serious cyclists? (at Ashland?)
17	A hut for Newport? Birthplace of Oliver Evans. It effects entire Red Clay Area, including mills.
18	W3R Route to Wilmington
19	Current Trailhead. Needs additional signage for visibility. Accessible and many visitors from region. Trails of Woodlawn Trustees. Open to public, but privately owned. Hiking, Horseback Riding, and Biking all permitted.
20	Centreville. Potential Trailhead. Don't widen roads, but off road biking a possibility.
22	Steep slopes an issue in this area
23	DDRR ROW - An opportunity for DelDOT to Develop
25	Nemours: Parking and restrooms under construction. Vending machines available, and potential bus stop.
26	Blue Ball Property a Trailhead. Necessary to pay to get into barn.
28	Need separate bike/ped facility for Philadelphia Pike
30	Village of Centerville can serve as a trailhead. No Parking at Cenby Grove Park. Walking tour of area recommended.
33	Pedestrian/Bike connection to Fox Point needed
34	Pedestrian connection needed at Harvey Road/Philadelphia Pike
36	Robinson House is a potential trailhead. Need better crosswalks or a pedestrian bridge. Parking needed at old Claymont Post Office or at pocket park with info kiosk.
38	Brandywine Village is a potential trailhead. Possible walking tour of park and zoo in the area. Existing walking tour
39	Sellers Park - Paladin Club Walkway: Shopping and Tourist Jitney
41	Potential Trailhead: Hike & History section focusing on Pomeroy Rai-Trail. Addition possibly of interpretive kiosk, bike shop, and transportation hub. Need signage to indicate historic railroad.
42	High Priority: Connect cyclists and cars to Dayett's Mill and ??? Lums Pond
45	Mason-Dixon Trail Intersection - Improved transportation access programmed for implementation
46	Persimon Run Creek - possible hiking trail made of dirt
47	Need better to connection from Hale-Byrnes House to Christiana. Current connection is dangerous for pedestrians, as is nearby metroplex.
48	Shoulder, on-road planned through DelDOT for bicycling.
51	Establish Connection from Delaware Park to Hale-Byrnes House
52	Possible connection to Fair Hill
60	Access C and D Canal via St. George Town and explain C and D Canal history and fossils.
61	Not Safe for bicycles, no sidewalks.
62	Massing of Bike Clubs: White Clay Bike Club, Old Red Lion Church
64	Bear Rd needs shoulders, needs bike if added.
68	Future Rt 4 Wilmington Gateway
72	Extend Riverwalk to south bank
74	NEC viaduct separates downtown and river
77	I-95/Rt 52 Gateway, post office
78	Ped connections along 52 to downtown an issue
79	Trolley Sq, future Philly carshare pod
80	Little Italy as hub
82	Complete gap in N. DE Greenway/ECGW
83	Link N. DE Greenway north to BCSP and eventually West Chester
89	Southbridge-SAMP Plan greenway, pedestrian, traffic circulation and transit improvements
126	Marshallton Multimodal Improvements

Get involved in the Coalition

How to get involved:

- Fill out a workshop comment sheet
- View draft plan & comment online at www.wilmapco.org/NDHC. All workshop materials will be available for review following June 18.
- Schedule a presentation to your organization. Call 302.737.6205 x 118 or ask a Coalition member.
- Join the Coalition. Call to be added to the mailing list or provide contact information on your comment sheet.. Your participation is encouraged!

Next Steps

- Formalize the Northern Delaware Heritage Coalition and form partnerships with business and corporations, tourism interests, schools and educational institutions, health care/wellness interests, and civic organizations.
- Create a standard visual identity for the Heritage Network that includes the project web site, logo, and other materials.
- Develop guidelines for sites that would like to be part of the Heritage Network Discovery Areas.
- Broaden accessibility to the marketing materials created by the Coalition with translations into additional languages and appropriate internet access for the visually/auditorally challenged.
- Provide input to WILMAPCO on priority trail and transit projects on a regular basis. These priority projects may be included in WILMAPCO's workplan when funding becomes available; the Coalition may also seek funding through programs like the DelDOT Transportation Enhancements Program or the DNREC Delaware Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund.

Your Involvement Can Make a Difference

BUILD COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND CIVIC PRIDE

INSPIRE INTEREST IN HISTORY AND CULTURE

PROMOTE AND SUPPORT HEALTH, FITNESS, AND RECREATION

BOOST LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT TOURISM

LINK COMMUNITIES WITH THE ASSETS THAT SURROUND THEM