



Tree lined Main Street



Tow Path & Canal



Narrow residential streets

TOUR NOTES

MANAYUNK HISTORY

The name Manayunk is derived from the Lenape Indian word "manaung" meaning "where we go to drink." The derivation is largely due to the availability of water with the completion of the Manayunk Canal, the first canal started in the United States. That definition still holds true today, although water may no longer be the drink of choice! The neighborhood historically adjusted well through various industrial booms, including water power, textiles, paper, and played a central role in making Philadelphia the industrial powerhouse it once was. The Borough of Manayunk was incorporated into Philadelphia in 1854.

MANAYUNK OF TODAY

Manayunk is located in the Northwest section of Philadelphia and on the banks of the Schuylkill River. It is characterized by its active Main Street and densely-settled residential neighborhood. The neighborhood has undergone recent revitalization efforts to develop a vibrant mixed-use Main Street. While Manayunk suffered from the decline of manufacturing jobs in the 1980s, revitalization began with the opening of several quality restaurants along Main Street in the 1990s. Over the next decade, Manayunk became a popular nightlife destination due in part to the many bars and restaurants in the area. The popular Tow Path is an active commuter and recreational path along the Schuylkill River and the Canal. The SEPTA R6 Norristown rail line serves Manayunk, partly along an elevated structure.

DESTINATION SCHUYLKILL RIVER

Destination Schuylkill River is a project of The Schuylkill Project, which looks to connect East Falls and Manayunk to the River through planning, programming, and projects. This is a joint effort between the Manayunk Development Corporation and the East Falls Development Corporation, funded by the William Penn Foundation. Below are two projects supported by The Schuylkill Project:

Wissahickon Gateway Plan: Examining the crossroads of users and uses at this intersection of East Falls, Roxborough, and Manayunk.

Manayunk Sewer Basin Construction Project & Venice Island Recreation Center Reconstruction Project (2009): Investigating infrastructure improvements, along with redeveloping a public parkland on Venice Island that compliments its riverfront location.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Currently, Kay Sykora is the Director of The Schuylkill Project for the Schuylkill Waterfront from East Falls through Manayunk. Ms. Sykora holds a BS in Communications and Organization Leadership with the President's Award for Excellence. Previous to this role, Ms. Sykora was the founding Director of the Manayunk Development Corporation, a CDC and BID that manages the Manayunk commercial district. For over 18 years, Ms. Sykora was responsible for all planning, development, marketing, public relations, fundraising, and retail development that made Manayunk one of the most successful Commercial Districts of the 1990s.

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The Schuylkill River Project
www.destinationschuylkillriver.org/

Manayunk Development Corporation (MDC)
www.manayunk.com