

DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

# LEHIGH VALLEY CATALYST

## SECTION OF THE D&L TRAIL



April 18, 2019 Framework Plan Summary

Penn Praxis for  
Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor  
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission  
Wildlands Conservancy

# VISION FOR THE LEHIGH VALLEY CATALYST SECTION OF THE D&L TRAIL

Once complete, the D&L Trail will connect cities and towns of the valley and create a real alternative to driving.

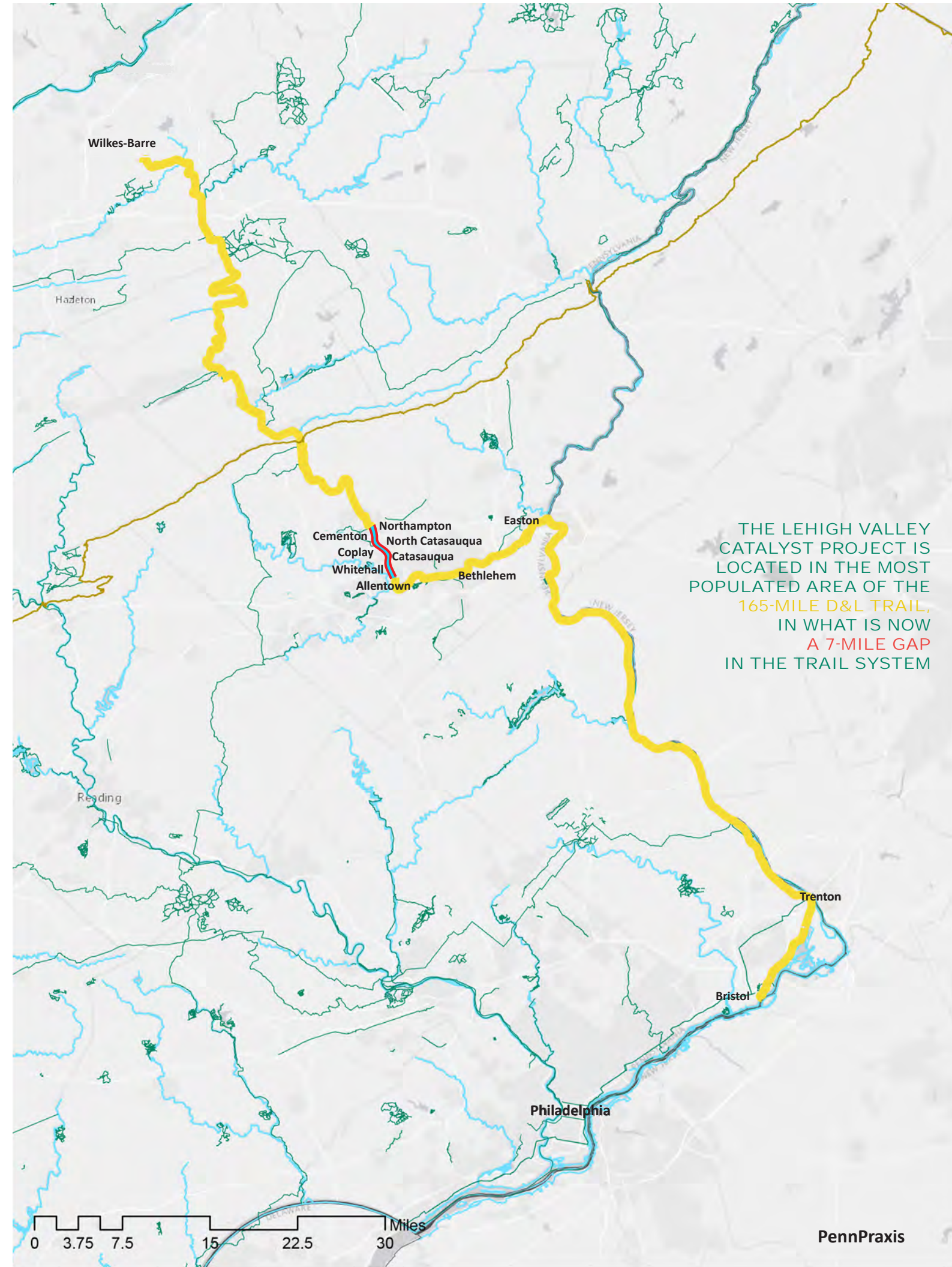
The catalyst section of the D&L Trail will recenter communities on enjoyment of the Lehigh River—the spine of human settlement, industry and wildlife movement from the time of the Lenape Indians.

Built at a time when the Lehigh Valley is emerging as a vibrant population center with excellent quality of life and environment, this urban section of the D&L Trail will be distinct from other sections of the Heritage Corridor.

This 7-mile section will be **built for use by many more residents and visitors, and offer more amenity, heritage destinations, points of interest, ecological improvements, and inviting riverfront spaces.**

By developing **two parallel path systems** on both sides of the Lehigh River, the D&L Trail can offer a range of experiences for different users, and an **incredible variety of routes, vistas, atmospheres and itineraries for regular users.**

Long-distance travelers on the D&L Trail will find that many elements of the east side towpath trail are designed for continuity of experience with the 165-mile D&L Trail. Locals will find a wide, smooth bikeway and parallel walking and running trail on the west side of the river, which allow for faster travel and almost continuous connection to the river.



# VISION FOR THE CATALYST

**1** Premier, iconic, multi-modal urban / suburban mobility system that features pedestrian and bicycle movement for job growth, health, and equity



D&L AND IRONTON TRAILS IN COPLAY WITH NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE



D&L TRAIL IN HOKENDAUQUA

# VISION FOR THE CATALYST

**2** New infrastructure for water quality, and places to experience river life and the natural environment



WATER TREATMENT CANAL ALONG D&L TRAIL IN CATASAUQUA



D&L TRAIL, WATER TREATMENT CANAL AND SILK MILL IN NORTH CATASAUQUA

# VISION FOR THE CATALYST

**3** Network of exciting heritage destinations that spur historic preservation, revitalization, place-making and economic development



NEW OUTDOOR EVENT SPACE THAT RECALLS THE PIG IRON CASTING FLOOR



THOMAS IRON WORKS HERITAGE PARK AND REDEVELOPMENT

# CATALYTIC MOBILITY NETWORK

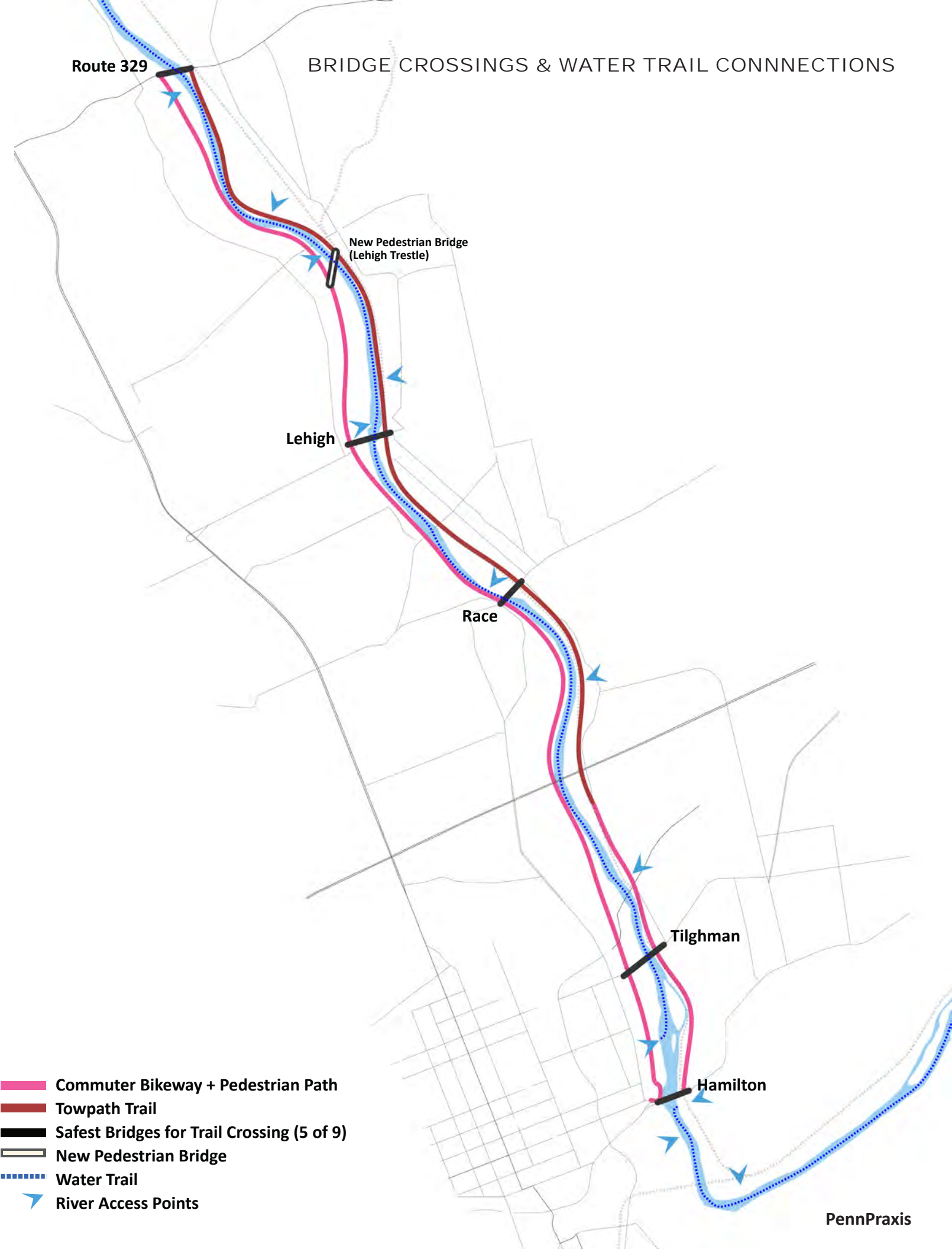
## BIG LOOP WITH MANY CROSSINGS

This section of the D&L Trail is not a single line. It is a big loop with many east / west connections that link communities, workplaces, connecting transit and trail lines on both sides of the Lehigh River. Fast and slow paths join the towns and boroughs to the city of Allentown.

Five of the nine existing vehicular bridges in the Lehigh Catalyst site area offer the safest crossings. A new pedestrian and bike bridge on the Coplay Trestle is proposed to offer a more generous crossing with room to stop and enjoy the river. The 6 bridges (5 vehicular and 1 pedestrian) connect the east and west side trails in a big loop, as well as a number of local loops. A beautiful, inactive rail trestle bridge north of American Parkway will support a slim, elevated park over the river, accessed from the Allentown (west) side, making another strong connection to the river.

## WATER TRAIL

The east and west D&L Trails will greatly expand access to the water trail on the Lehigh River. D&L Trail improvements will increase the number of places that people can reach the river and get out on the water. Kayak, canoe and bike rental kiosks will increase visitors' opportunities to hop in a canoe at one location, stop for lunch in another, and bike back to where they started.

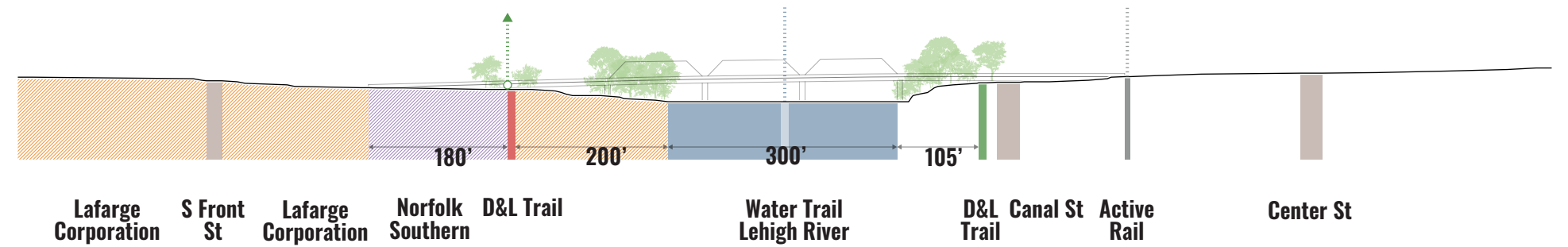


# ANALYSIS AND VISION

## ROUTE 329 BRIDGE

2 LANE 2 WAY (32 FT); SHORT SPAN (600 FT);  
SIDEWALK (SOUTH SIDE)

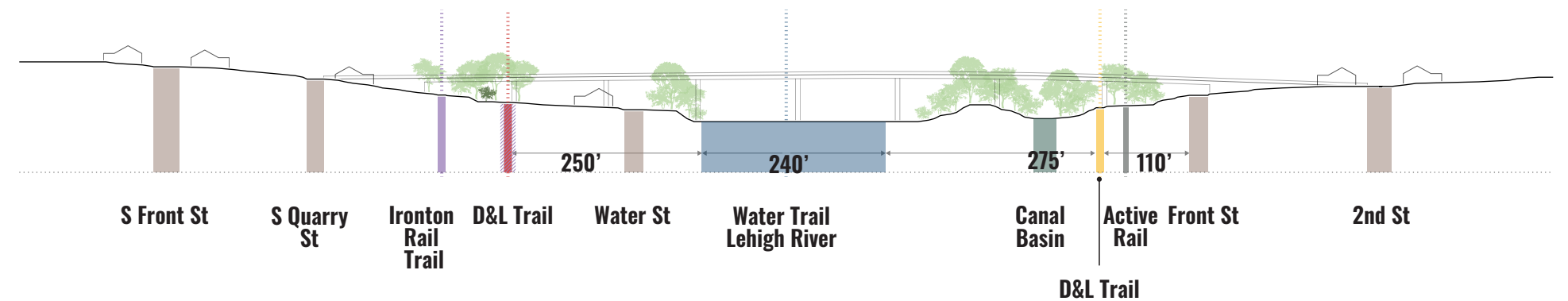
(1933)



## LEHIGH STREET BRIDGE

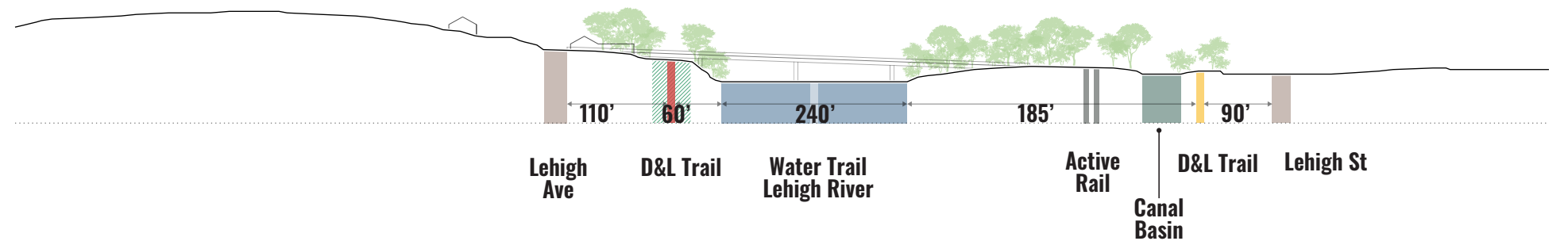
2 LANE 2 WAY (46 FT); LONG SPAN (1200 FT);  
SIDEWALK (NORTH SIDE, PROTECTED)

(2015)



## RACE STREET BRIDGE

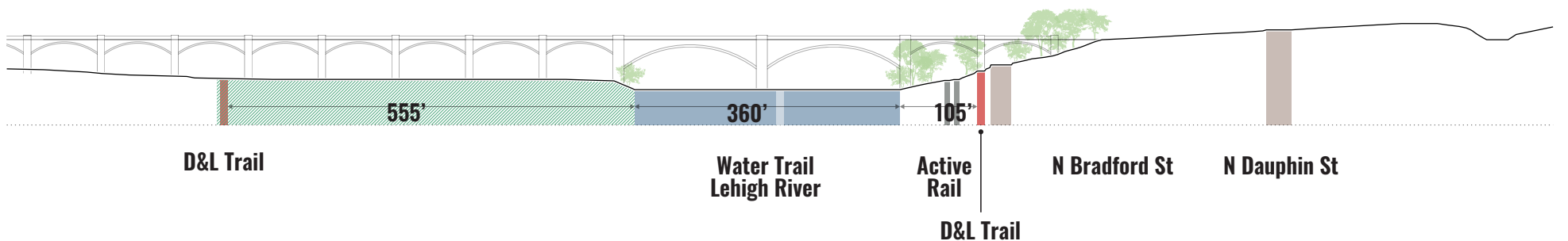
2 LANE 2 WAY (32 FT); SHORT SPAN (400 FT);  
SIDEWALK (NORTH SIDE)



## TILGHMAN STREET BRIDGE

4 LANE 2 WAY (54 FT); SHORT SPAN (1700 FT);  
SIDEWALK (BOTH SIDE)

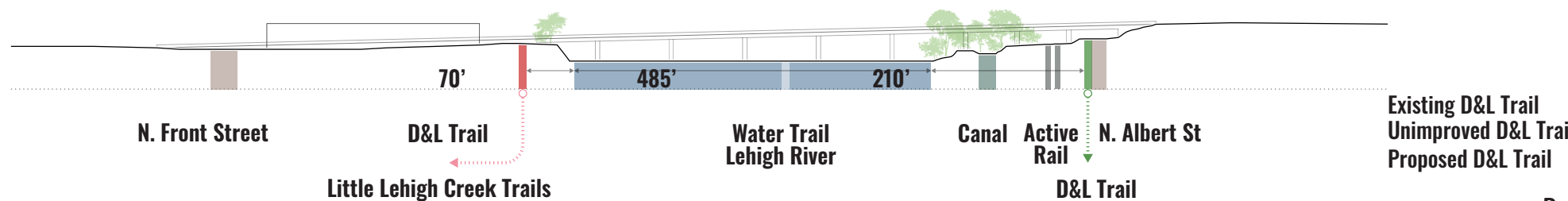
(1929, 1995, UNDER CONSTRUCTION UNTIL 2021)



## HAMILTON STREET BRIDGE

4 LANE 2 WAY (64 FT); LONG SPAN (1600 FT);  
SIDEWALK (NORTH)

(1959, 1973)



Existing D&L Trail █  
Unimproved D&L Trail █  
Proposed D&L Trail █

# WEST SIDE D&L TRAIL

TYPICAL DESIGN APPROACH

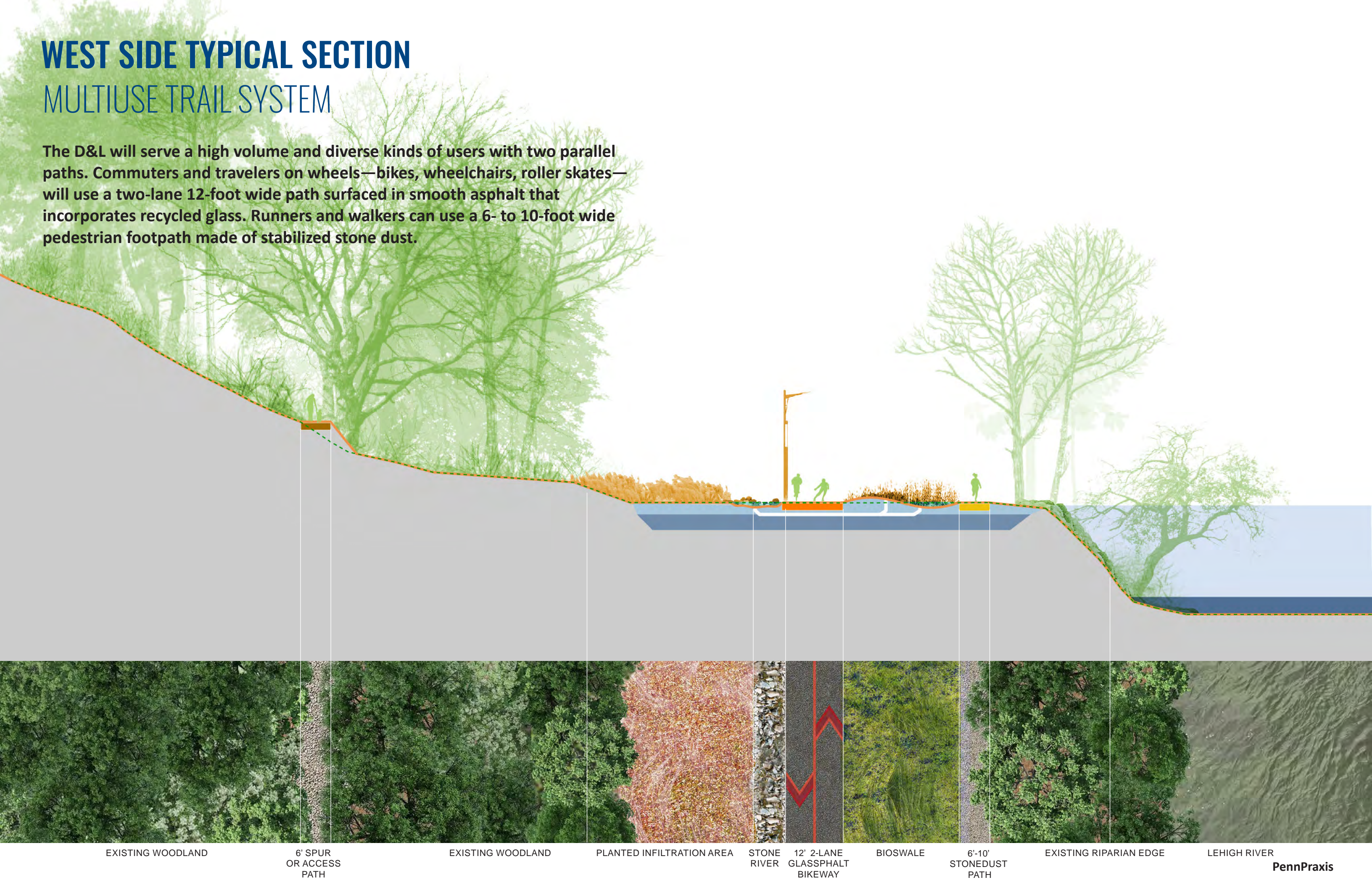




# WEST SIDE TYPICAL SECTION

## MULTIUSE TRAIL SYSTEM

The D&L will serve a high volume and diverse kinds of users with two parallel paths. Commuters and travelers on wheels—bikes, wheelchairs, roller skates—will use a two-lane 12-foot wide path surfaced in smooth asphalt that incorporates recycled glass. Runners and walkers can use a 6- to 10-foot wide pedestrian footpath made of stabilized stone dust.



EXISTING WOODLAND

6' SPUR  
OR ACCESS  
PATH

EXISTING WOODLAND

PLANTED INFILTRATION AREA

STONE  
RIVER

12' 2-LANE  
GLASSPALT  
BIKEWAY

BIOSWALE

6'-10'  
STONEDUST  
PATH

EXISTING RIPARIAN EDGE

LEHIGH RIVER



1 WEST SIDE QUARRY



2 WEST SIDE HERITAGE PARK

455 FEET TO THE RIVER >>

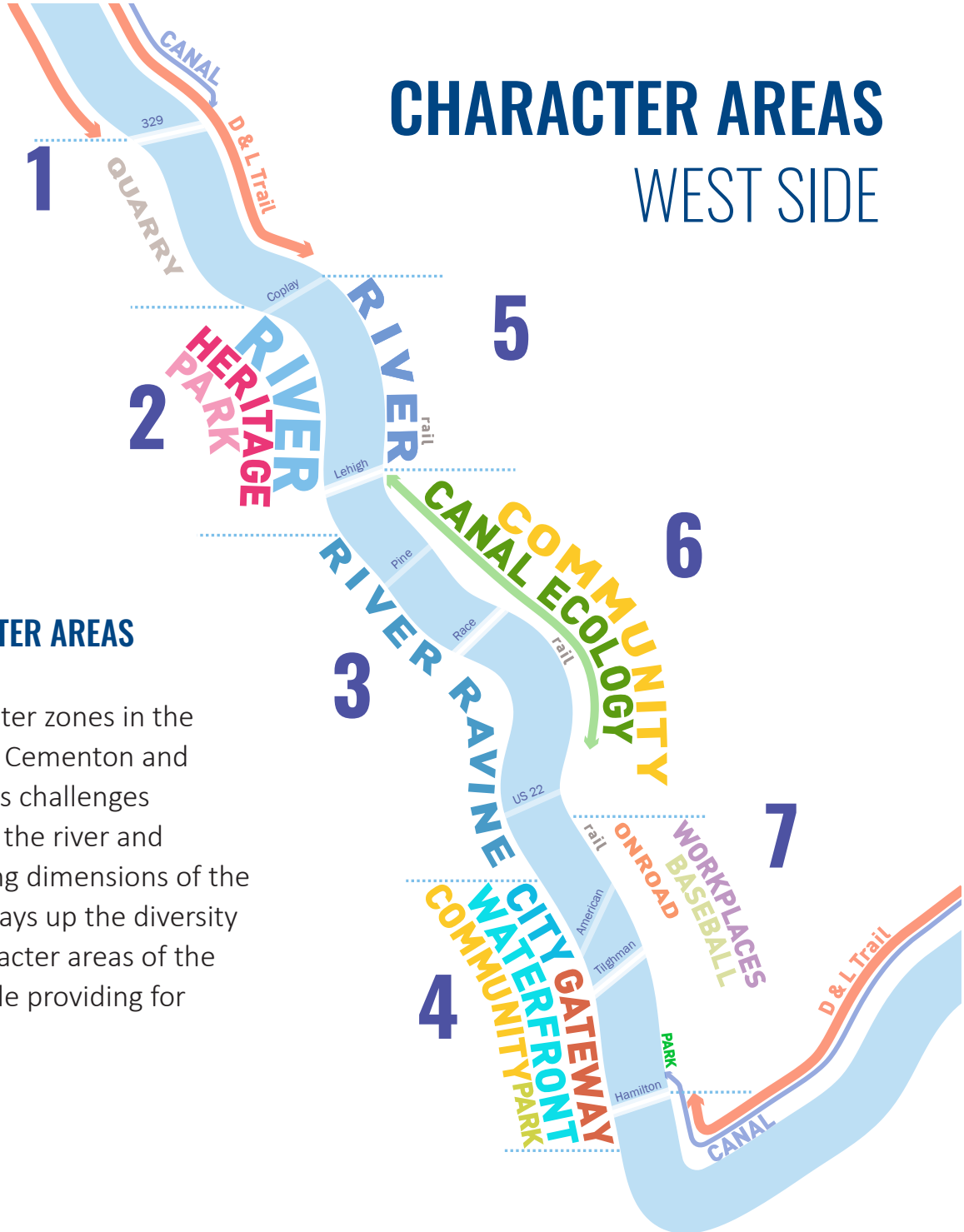


3 WEST SIDE RIVER RAVINE



4 WEST SIDE CITY GATEWAY

# CHARACTER AREAS WEST SIDE



## SEVEN DISTINCT CHARACTER AREAS

There are 7 distinct character zones in the the D&L corridor between Cementon and Allentown. Each one has its challenges and assets, relationship to the river and neighborhoods, and varying dimensions of the right-of-way. The design plays up the diversity of conditions in the 7 character areas of the Lehigh Valley Catalyst, while providing for continuity between them.

# EAST SIDE D&L TRAIL

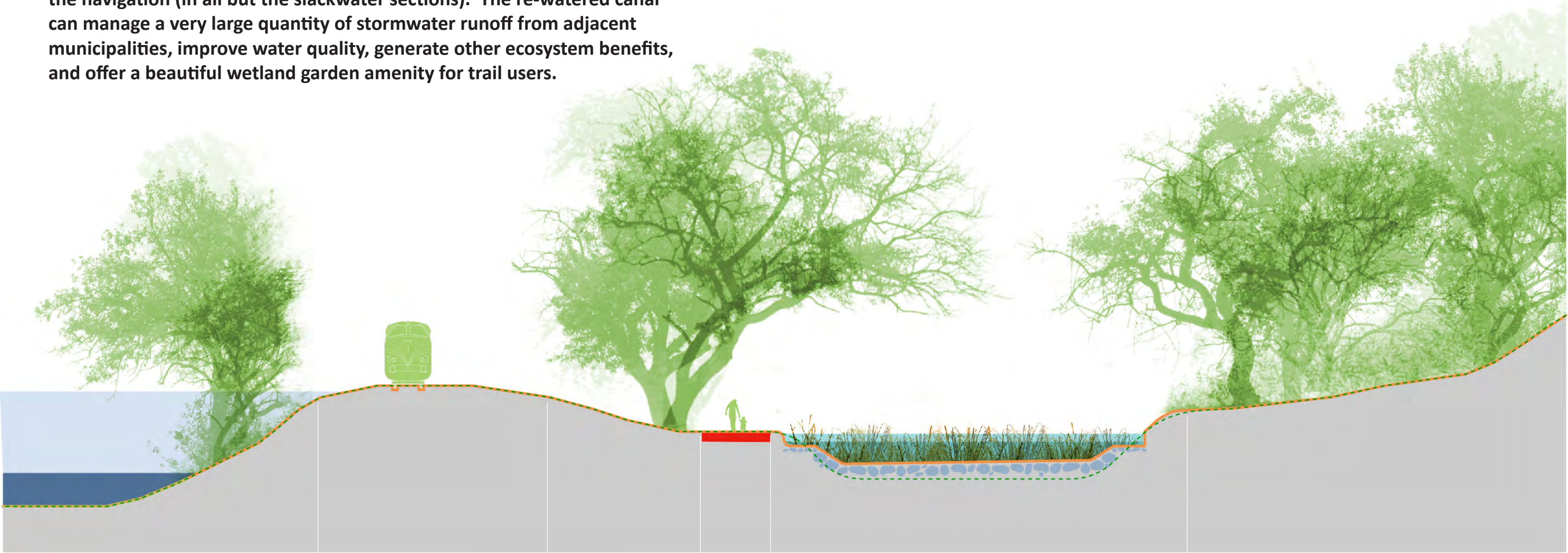
TYPICAL DESIGN APPROACH



# EAST SIDE TYPICAL SECTION

## TOWPATH TRAIL

The east side D&L will be a 12-foot wide path made of stabilized stone dust located on the canal towpath in the reaches where a canal was part of the navigation (in all but the slackwater sections). The re-watered canal can manage a very large quantity of stormwater runoff from adjacent municipalities, improve water quality, generate other ecosystem benefits, and offer a beautiful wetland garden amenity for trail users.



LEHIGH RIVER

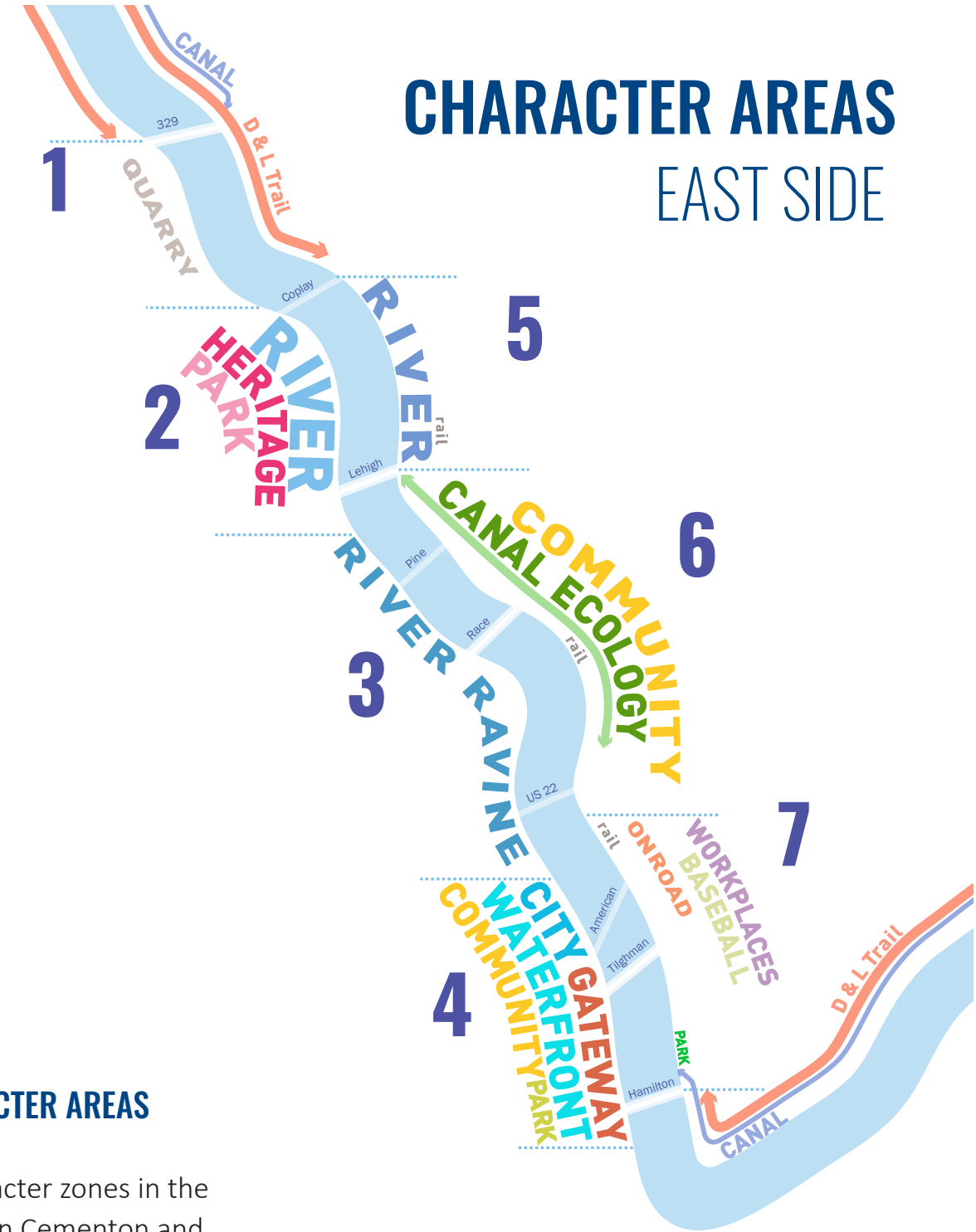
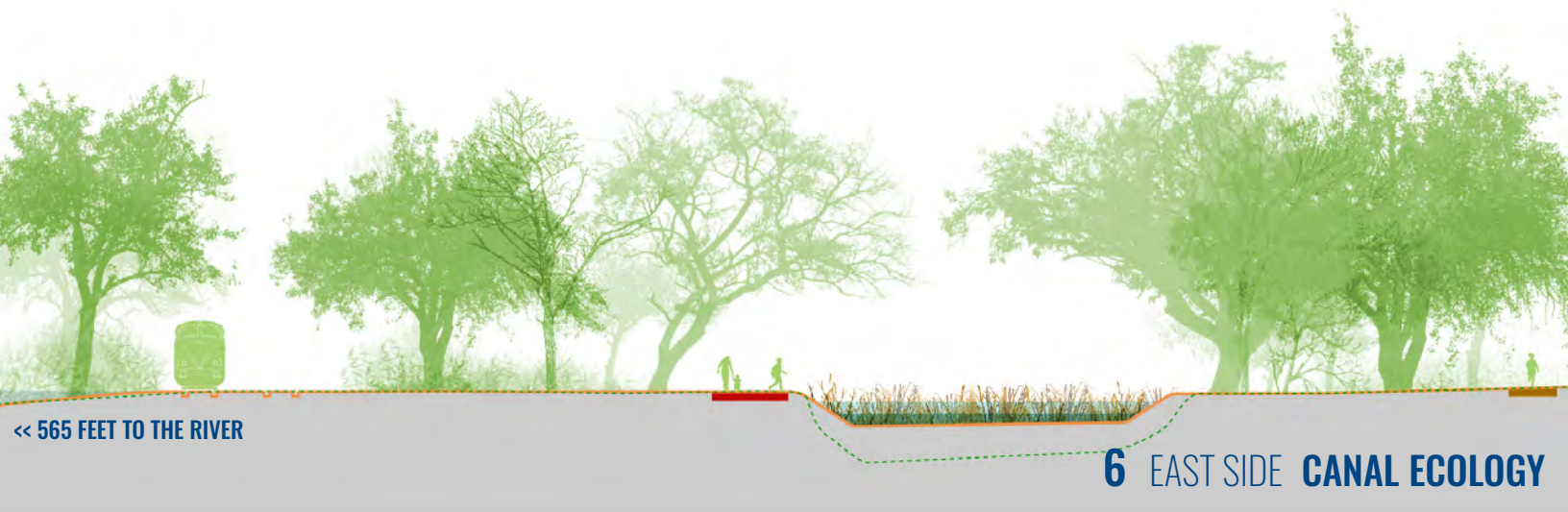
ACTIVE FREIGHT RAIL  
LINE

EXISTING WOODLAND

12' STONEDUST  
TOWPATH TRAIL

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
WETLAND IN CANAL BED

EXISTING WOODLAND



**SEVEN DISTINCT CHARACTER AREAS**

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# 14 MILES OF VARIETY

