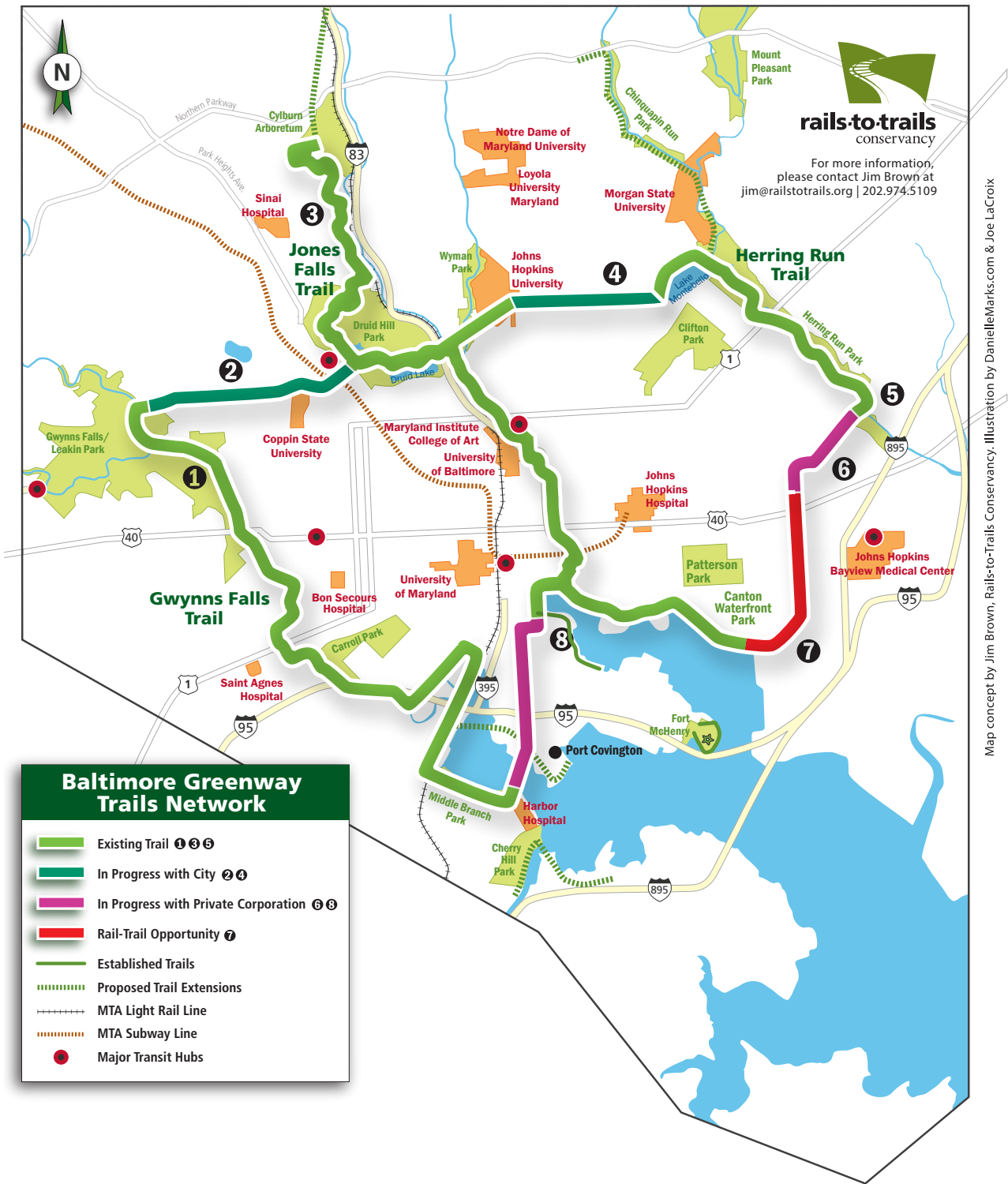


EXPLORE THE NETWORK

Former rail lines, industrial coastlines and reconfigured roadways will be transformed from barriers in the built environment to community-based assets centered on trails. This will change the way Baltimore residents work, live and play—and generate myriad long-term impacts for the city.

Only 10 additional miles are needed to close critical gaps.



The Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition seeks to create a 35-mile world-class network of urban trails that link together the diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities and outdoor resources that make up the landscape of Baltimore City.

When complete, the trail network will transform the public realm by: connecting the city's anchor institutions and destinations with Baltimore's diverse communities; creating new safe avenues for non-motorized travel; and providing equitable, low-stress access to open space, reliable transportation and recreation for people of all ages and abilities.



# PRESERVING BALTIMORE'S HERITAGE

The Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects painted a visionary picture for Baltimore in a comprehensive 1904 report, *Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore*, which describes a city park system built upon the three stream valleys—Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls and Herring Run—and other natural features unique to the city. Today, the stream valleys, including trails that parallel these waterways, remain among the city’s greatest assets.

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition is working to connect these cherished resources and help transform Baltimore’s neighborhoods to realize a dream set forth more than a century ago.

# WHAT THIS MEANS FOR BALTIMORE



## PROMOTING SOCIAL EQUITY

*Connected systems can reduce urban fragmentation prevalent in cities like Baltimore while providing much-needed opportunities for safe non-motorized travel and physical activity.*

Baltimore is fragmented by busy roads and a history of housing policies going back to the 1950s and 1960s that have resulted in socio-economically segregated communities.<sup>1</sup> Today, many neighborhoods are isolated from transit, trails and greenways, while nearly one-third of Baltimore households are without access to a car.<sup>2</sup> The 35-mile greenway loop will connect 50 of the city’s diverse neighborhoods to the downtown core—providing safe walking and biking access to jobs, schools and outdoor opportunities for physical activity and recreation.



## IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

*When people have safe places to walk within 10 minutes of their home, they are 1.5 times more likely to meet the recommended activity levels than those who don’t.*<sup>3</sup>

In Baltimore, opportunities for physical activity are low, but chronic disease is high. While Baltimore has many parks and open spaces in which to be active and connect to nature, a more equitable trail network is necessary to open up these places for nearby residents, many of whom face challenges in the built environment for access. The completed trail network and the new opportunities it creates for exercise and active transportation will help combat the high rates of obesity (31 percent), high blood pressure (33 percent) and heart disease (26 percent) prevalent in the city.<sup>4</sup>



## PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

*Studies show the social and environmental benefits of green infrastructure and open space are strongest when green spaces are connected.*<sup>5</sup>

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Network is based on a vision set forth a century ago to create a parks and greenways system that naturally integrated—and was built upon—Baltimore’s three stream valleys.<sup>6</sup> The trail network will help preserve these cherished assets while serving as important green infrastructure that safely transports hundreds of thousands of people to their destinations and lowers Baltimore’s carbon footprint. The green infrastructure network will: provide wildlife habitats and increased tree canopy; support stormwater management through trailside plantings and gardens; help clean the air; and reduce the urban heat-island effect in the city.<sup>7</sup>



## CREATING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS

*Trail networks like the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network create infrastructure that encourage and enable people to walk and bike as part of their daily lives.*

The trail network will provide active transportation connections within neighborhoods, activity centers and the downtown core—including to important public transit stations—creating a new freedom of mobility for residents. For example, residents in south Baltimore will be able to use trails for increased access to transit and parks around the Middle Branch waterway for easier, safer access to downtown employment centers. The trail network will also provide a seamless off-road link between the Jones Falls Trail and the Herring Run Trail (at Lake Montebello), creating connections to two major universities, two large parks and more than a dozen diverse neighborhoods.



## PROMOTING STRONG BUSINESSES AND ECONOMIES

The Baltimore Greenway Trails Network will support economic development across the city—linking employment centers to residential neighborhoods and supporting community development through trail-oriented development. For example, a former industrial section of Baltimore’s east side is experiencing rapid growth as new people move in and businesses pop up regularly. This economic renaissance will be enhanced by transforming the area’s disused rail line into a rail-trail stretching south to the city’s popular inner harbor and north to residential neighborhoods—creating a host of new access points and active transportation options. The rail-trail connection will help breathe new life into vacant brownfields and industrial corridors by serving as a draw for vibrant mixed-use development.

# BALTIMORE GREENWAY TRAILS COALITION

Launched in 2015, the Baltimore Greenway Trails Coalition is led by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) and Bikemore—with the full leadership team comprising the following:



City of Baltimore Department of Planning  
City of Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks  
City of Baltimore Health Department  
City of Baltimore Department of Transportation

## CORE COALITION

Our Core Coalition comprises more than 45 local and national organizations that are working to make the Baltimore Greenway Trails Network a reality.

View the full list on the RTC website at [rtc.li/baltimore-core-coalition](http://rtc.li/baltimore-core-coalition).

<sup>1</sup>History: Housing Policy and Segregation in Baltimore, *Independent Reader*, Chris Gladora (2006)  
<sup>2</sup>Has Motorization in the U.S. Peaked? Part 4: Households Without a Light-Duty Vehicle, The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, Michael Sivak (2014)  
<sup>3</sup>Places to Walk: Convenience and Regular Physical Activity, *American Journal of Public Health* (2003)  
<sup>4</sup>Baltimore Neighborhoods Indicator Alliance and Centers for Disease Control 2015  
<sup>5</sup>Green Infrastructure, City Parks Forum Briefing Papers (2007)  
<sup>6</sup>The Ecological Design and Planning Reader, Forster O. Ndubisi (2014)  
<sup>7</sup>Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning, Tim Beatley (2010)