



Reading Viaduct, Phase 1

The transformation of the derelict 4.5-acre elevated Reading Railroad Viaduct, running from 11th and Vine Streets to Ninth Street and Fairmount Avenue with a western spur at Noble Street, will offer a much needed public amenity and green space for neighborhoods adjacent to revitalizing Center City and expanding Chinatown.

Phase 1 of the project will turn a dilapidated quarter-mile portion of the Reading Viaduct that runs from Broad Street southeast across 13th and 12th Streets to Callowhill Street into a vibrant green park with walking paths, landscaping, lighting, seating and gathering spaces. SEPTA is leasing the land to the Center City District (CCD) for renovation purposes. Upon completion, the CCD will turn the completed project over to the City of Philadelphia, which will own the park and maintain it in a partnership between the Department of Parks & Recreation, the Friends of the Rail Park, and the CCD.

The new 25,000-square-foot linear park will provide a much-needed green amenity to the Callowhill neighborhood and support the expansion of both Chinatown and the thriving, mixed-use neighborhood on the expanding edge of Center City.

The entire Reading Viaduct was built at the end of the 19th century to transport both passengers to the northern and western suburbs and industrial raw materials and products from local manufacturers. It was rendered obsolete by the completion of the Center City commuter tunnel and carried its last train in 1984. Phase 1 of the project is converting a portion that was purchased by SEPTA in the 1980s as part of the once proposed Schuylkill Valley Metro Line.

The redevelopment of the Viaduct will foster new investment in the surrounding neighborhood and prompt the redevelopment of several major vacant parcels around the deteriorated Viaduct. The new park will serve families, workers, students, and residents from across the city, as well as visitors to Philadelphia

Designed by Studio | Bryan Hanes and Urban Engineers, the \$9.6 million project will be funded through a combination of state, city, foundation and private resources.