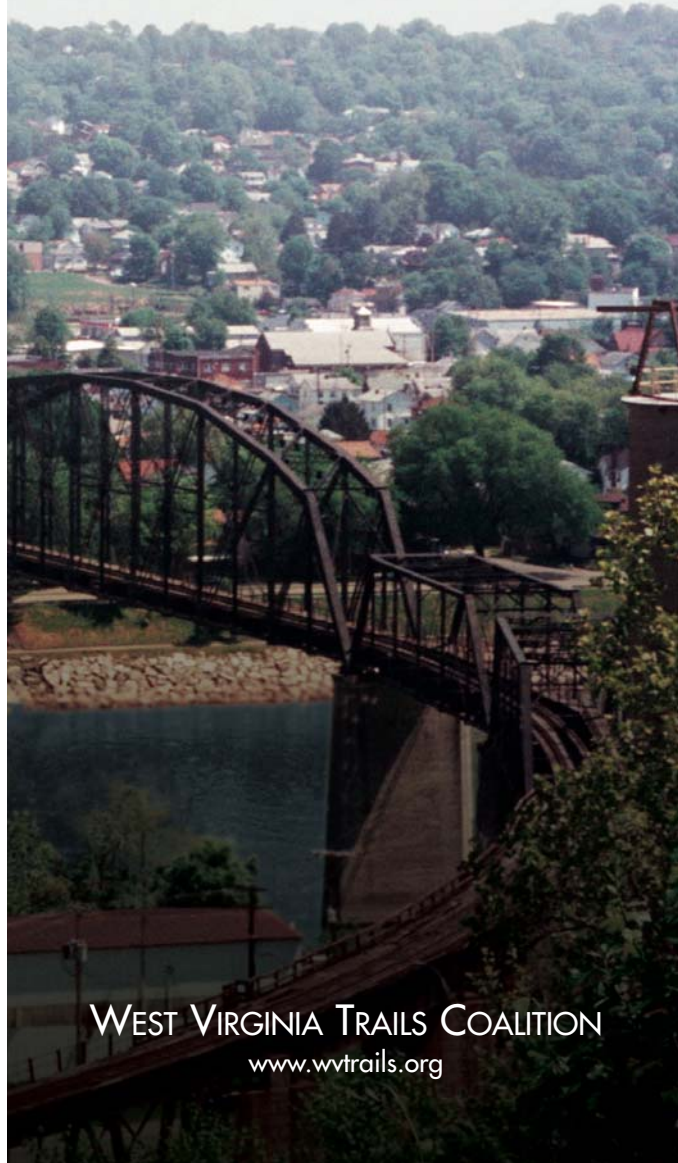


# KANAWHA TRESTLE RAIL TRAIL

Strengthening Communities  
through health and recreation



WEST VIRGINIA TRAILS COALITION  
[www.wvtrails.org](http://www.wvtrails.org)

# KANAWHA TRESTLE RAIL TRAIL

## BENEFITS

We believe by giving people healthy recreation options, we can promote stronger and healthier communities. Individuals must choose to get out and exercise, but we can make that choice easier by providing an attractive and safe network of sidewalks, bikeways, and trails for community use.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH

The impact the trail will have on community health is an obvious one. Walking and biking are the two most popular recreational activities for Kanawha County residents, yet it is often difficult and dangerous to participate in these activities. Giving individuals a safe, scenic alternative mode of transportation will encourage even those who are not currently active to get out and enjoy an evening jog, walk or bike ride.

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

According to a 2004 Marshall University study, a trail system increases the value of adjoining property. In addition, increasing health benefits decreases healthcare expenses. Companies seeking to relocate or establish a corporate headquarters have cited the availability of trails as a significant factor in their decision to choose one locale over another. The cities of Wheeling and Morgantown have developed trail systems that have attracted new business and increased tourism.

## PLAN

We will **preserve and restore** the trestle spanning the Kanawha River to link the Charleston and South Charleston areas. The result will be a safe, scenic trail for:

- Walking
- Jogging
- Biking
- In-line Skating

Systems have been successful in:

- Washington, D.C.
- Clearwater, FL
- Fairmont, WV
- Wheeling, WV
- Morgantown, WV

The Kanawha Valley has even more opportunity available for rail trail creation.

The Kanawha Valley can experience the same benefits these existing trails brought to their communities.

The Kanawha Trestle has the potential to be a high-profile catalyst for trail development throughout "Advantage Valley."

Imagine a vibrant community alive with the hustle and bustle of healthy, environmentally friendly foot and bicycle traffic!



# PHASE ONE

Phase One will involve restoration and conversion of one of the oldest and longest railroad bridges (trestles) in West Virginia. The conversion will create a multi-purpose link from Charleston's West Side to South Charleston that will be suitable for walking, biking or skating, and is accessible to all for recreation, transportation or emergency egress.

This historic and handsome 4,250 foot trestle was built in 1907 as an industrial link to the "outside" for coal, lumber, chemicals, etc. Its conversion is the first step of an urban trail system to provide safer pedestrian and bike access to community parks and sites of interest.

Phase one will link to the Kanawha Riverfront Trail and the Kanawha City Bikeway, allowing access to:

- Charleston's West Side
- Magic Island
- Haddad Riverfront Park
- Capitol Street Shops and Cafes
- Charleston's East End
- State Capitol Complex

# PHASE TWO

Phase Two is a safely fenced, multi-purpose Rail-with-Trail along a wide corridor through the West Side to the Elk River and the Elk River Bridge.

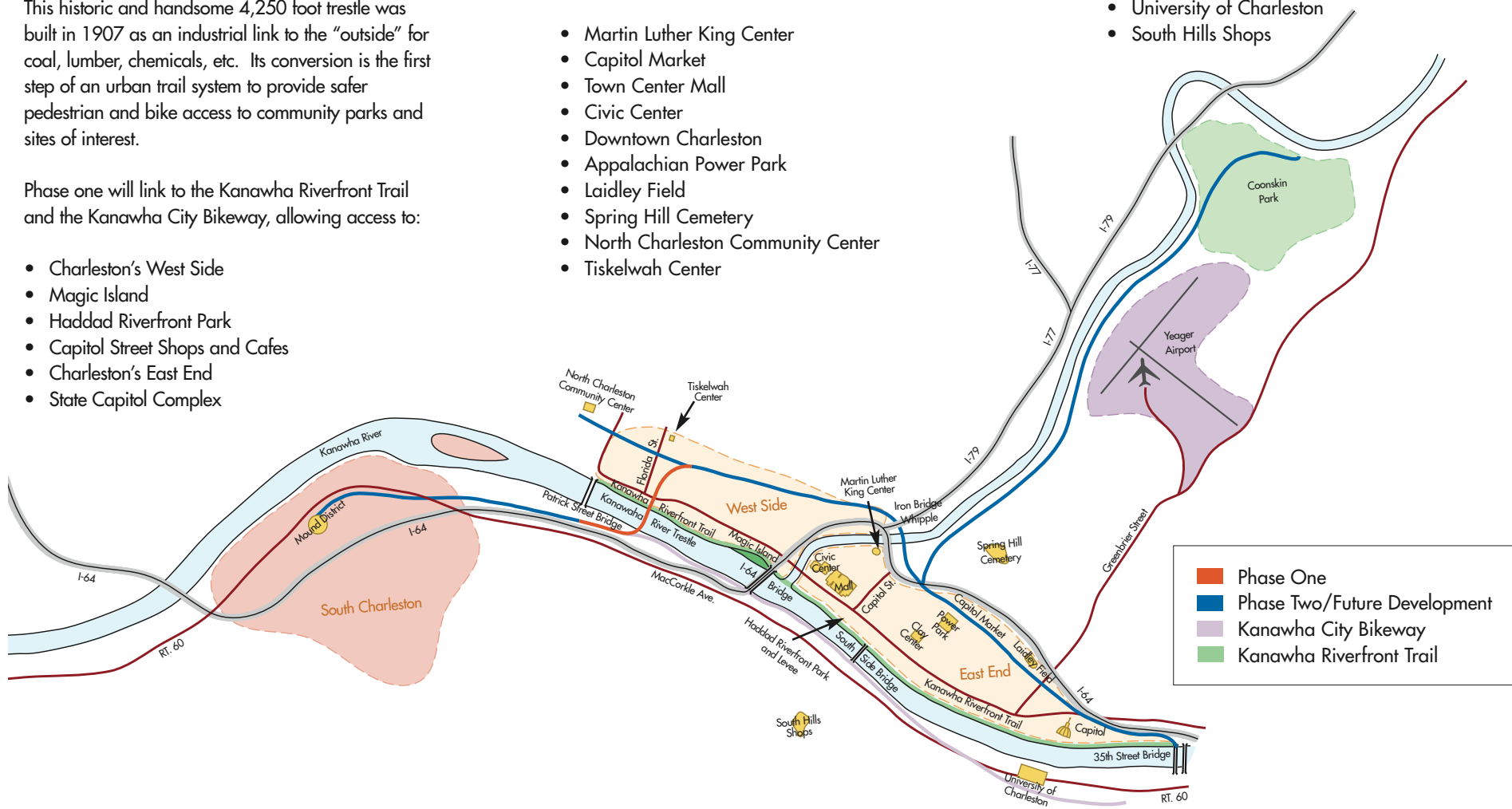
The Elk River Bridge is the country's first example of an "iron truss" bridge, built in 1883. Restoration and conversion of this landmark are also planned to provide safer pedestrian access to:

- Martin Luther King Center
- Capitol Market
- Town Center Mall
- Civic Center
- Downtown Charleston
- Appalachian Power Park
- Laidley Field
- Spring Hill Cemetery
- North Charleston Community Center
- Tiskelwah Center

# FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Future development of the trail system will likely link to the Elk River Rail Trail and the Historic Carriage Trail, enabling access to:

- Coonskin Park
- South Charleston Mound District
- Little Creek Park
- Kanawha State Forest
- University of Charleston
- South Hills Shops



The combined forces of the City of Charleston, the Kanawha County Commission, the West Side Neighborhood Association, the Charleston Area Alliance, the Elk River Rails to Trails Foundation, the West Virginia Land Trust, and many other organizations and volunteers are working together to make the Kanawha Trestle Rail Trail a reality.

Promoting stronger and healthier communities is our highest priority. If you are interested in joining our effort, visit our website at [www.wvtrails.org](http://www.wvtrails.org) or email us at [wvte@wvtrails.org](mailto:wvte@wvtrails.org) to find out more about how you can help us bring the trail to life!

I want to support the Kanawha Trestle Rail Trail Project by making a donation of:

\$25  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$500  \$1,000  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about volunteering to help the Rail Trail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My check/money order is enclosed (payable to WVTC).

Send donation to:

West Virginia Trails Coalition  
 P.O. Box 1731  
 Charleston, WV 25326

Donations made to the Kanawha Trestle Rail Trail project are tax deductible.