Welcome to Chester County’s southern segment of the Schuylkill River Trail.

We invite you to utilize the trail to explore the natural and cultural history of the Schuylkill River, Phoenixville and Spring City area. The Black Rock Sanctuary and Schuylkill River Trail are owned and maintained by Chester County Parks and Recreation for education and recreational use. Visit www.chesco.org/ccparks for more information.

Spring-Ford Area Historical Society

With transportation and commerce expanding along the Schuylkill River, new industries grew in the riverside towns. The early foundries, dedicated to producing cast-iron products such as stoves, were eventually joined by glass works, knitting mills and other businesses creating vibrant, diverse industrial communities. The Spring-Ford Area Historical Society examines the history of two of those communities: Spring City and Royersford Boroughs.

Black Rock Sanctuary

Consisting of 123 acres of wetlands, woodlands and meadows, Black Rock Sanctuary is dedicated to wildlife habitat and public use. One of many desilting basins found along the Schuylkill River in Berks, Montgomery, Chester and Philadelphia Counties, the Sanctuary offers a wonderful opportunity to relax and discover the history, geology, wildlife, plant life and habitats of the basin. The fish ladder, constructed by Exelon at the Black Rock Dam, enables American shad and other migratory fish to travel freely upstream past the dam.

Lock 60 at Schuylkill Canal Park

Look 60 is the only remaining operating canal structure on the Schuylkill River. The Locktender’s Home provides a glimpse into the past, when the river and its canal system provided a crucial means of shipping products to and from the furnaces, mills and factories.

Schuylkill River Heritage Center

The Schuylkill River Heritage Center is a gateway to both the iron and steel region and the history of the Schuylkill River. Located in the Phoenixville Foundry, the Center’s videos, artifacts and murals illuminate the former Phoenix Iron and Steel Company and the Schuylkill River’s industrial history.

Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area

Thriving as an industrial and manufacturing center for steel, iron, apparel and pottery, like many American towns, Phoenixville owes its growth to the river. Centered at the confluence of the French Creek and Schuylkill River, it was the transportation hub that defined commerce to the west. Located two blocks north of Bridge Street’s central shopping and dining district, the Historical Society offers exhibits and collections that tell the town’s story. The Center features pieces of American Moplota made in Phoenixville in the late 1800s, and historical artifacts from Phoenixville’s diverse ethnic past.