



Hilltop at Falls Ridge



Parking Lot under Twin Bridges



Adaptive Reuse at Sherman Mills

TOUR NOTES

EAST FALLS HISTORY

Settled by the Lenape Native American tribe, this area was called Ganshewahanna, meaning “noisy water”. Fisheries were plentiful in the early European settlements and mills dotted the Schuylkill River and Wissahickon Creek. Homes of wealthy East Falls industrialists are now stewarded by Philadelphia University, and many mill buildings have been converted to apartments and mixed use artist space.

EAST FALLS OF TODAY

The Schuylkill River and the Wissahickon Valley cradle this urban neighborhood, providing a mix of recreational activities and commercial vibrancy. Housing stock is quite varied, including traditional Philadelphia rowhomes and twins, a unique Tudor Revival Historic District (pending), two subsidized housing communities, and several new large residential developments. Buses and two SEPTA regional rail lines serve East Falls, the R6 and R8, which makes this neighborhood convenient for commuting, as well as an attractive place to live. The historic Falls Bridge provides an important recreational connection to Philadelphia’s famed Art Museum and is a beloved community landmark. A variety of community groups in East Falls promote a strong sense of civic involvement and spirit.

CURRENT PROJECTS

The mission of the East Falls Development Corporation (EFDC) focuses on community-based revitalization. EFDC is involved in many projects, such as:

Schuylkill River Valley Trail: East Falls is one of many neighborhoods supporting the effort to fill the gaps between segments of existing recreational paths to create a contiguous ribbon of trail along the River

Model Stormwater Project: Creating a sustainable community by showing how a river town can help improve water quality.

Twin Bridges Public Art: Aging sports themed mural on the base of the Twin Bridges piers will be replaced with fresh public art from Philadelphia’s Mural Arts Program.

Bathey House: Located between Ridge Avenue & Kelly Drive, this small historic building will be renovated to benefit recreational users and visitors with bathrooms and trail information.

Gateway Pedestrian Island & Street Lights: Creating a gateway at Midvale Avenue & Kelly Drive, adding pedestrian scaled street lights, and possible traffic directional change, at East River Road.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Gina Snyder is the current Executive Director of the East Falls Development Corporation. She’s also the Vice-President of the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations and sits on the board of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. Ms. Snyder is a graduate of Cornell University, Cornell Law School, and has a Masters degree in Real Estate from Johns Hopkins. She practiced law for ten years in the area of affordable housing.

LEARN MORE @

East Falls Development Corporation
www.eastfalls-pa.org

Sherman Mills

<http://shermanmills.com>

Dobson Mills

www.dobsonmills.net

Hilltop at Falls Ridge

www.westrumhomes.com/hilltop/