



The Rail Park

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PRESS RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA'S FRIENDS OF THE RAIL PARK SELECTS KEVIN DOW AS FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New organizational leadership to ensure park's long-term success with highly-anticipated opening of the first section on June 14.

(PHILADELPHIA, May 10, 2018) Philadelphia nonprofit **Friends of the Rail Park** is pleased to announce the selection of **Kevin Dow** as its first Executive Director. In this new role, Dow will create and implement a community-focused comprehensive strategic plan to fulfill the organization's mission to bring Philadelphia's Rail Park to life.

The Rail Park is a vision for a three-mile linear park and recreational pathway connecting 10 distinct Philadelphia neighborhoods along the site of two abandoned historic Reading Railroad lines. The above and below grade site threads through several of Philadelphia's most important cultural institutions and offers an opportunity to create a world class public space driven by engaging communities from every corner of the city, through programming around arts and culture, health and wellness, education, and preservation of the built and natural environment.

Opening to the public on June 14, **Phase I of the Rail Park** is a multi-million dollar project transforming a quarter-mile section of the former Reading Railroad into a welcoming community greenspace, with pathways, low-maintenance perennial plantings, trees, ample seating, bench-style swings, local art, and elevated city views. The design preserves and restores much of the existing steel structure, while introducing materials of a similar industrial scale and character.

In partnership with Philadelphia's Center City District and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Friends of the Rail Park, now led by Dow, is part of a revitalization movement that is taking place in cities across the US and beyond. Following the success of New York City's High Line, the Rail Park is part of the **High Line Network**—a group of 19 infrastructure reuse projects that are redefining the next generation of public spaces across the country.

Supported by the Friends of the Rail Park Board, Dow will spearhead fundraising, community engagement, oversee park programming and stewardship, and work toward the completion of the organization's full three-mile vision for the Rail Park. Liz Maillie, Board Chair of the Friends of