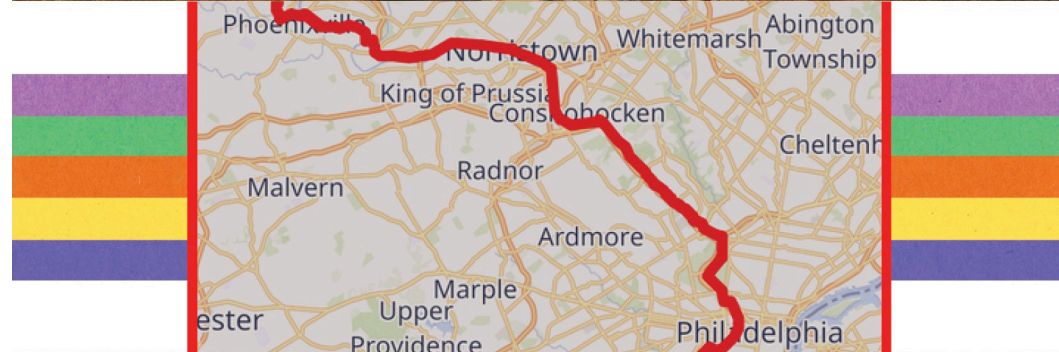


september 2025

say hey if you see me out there 👉

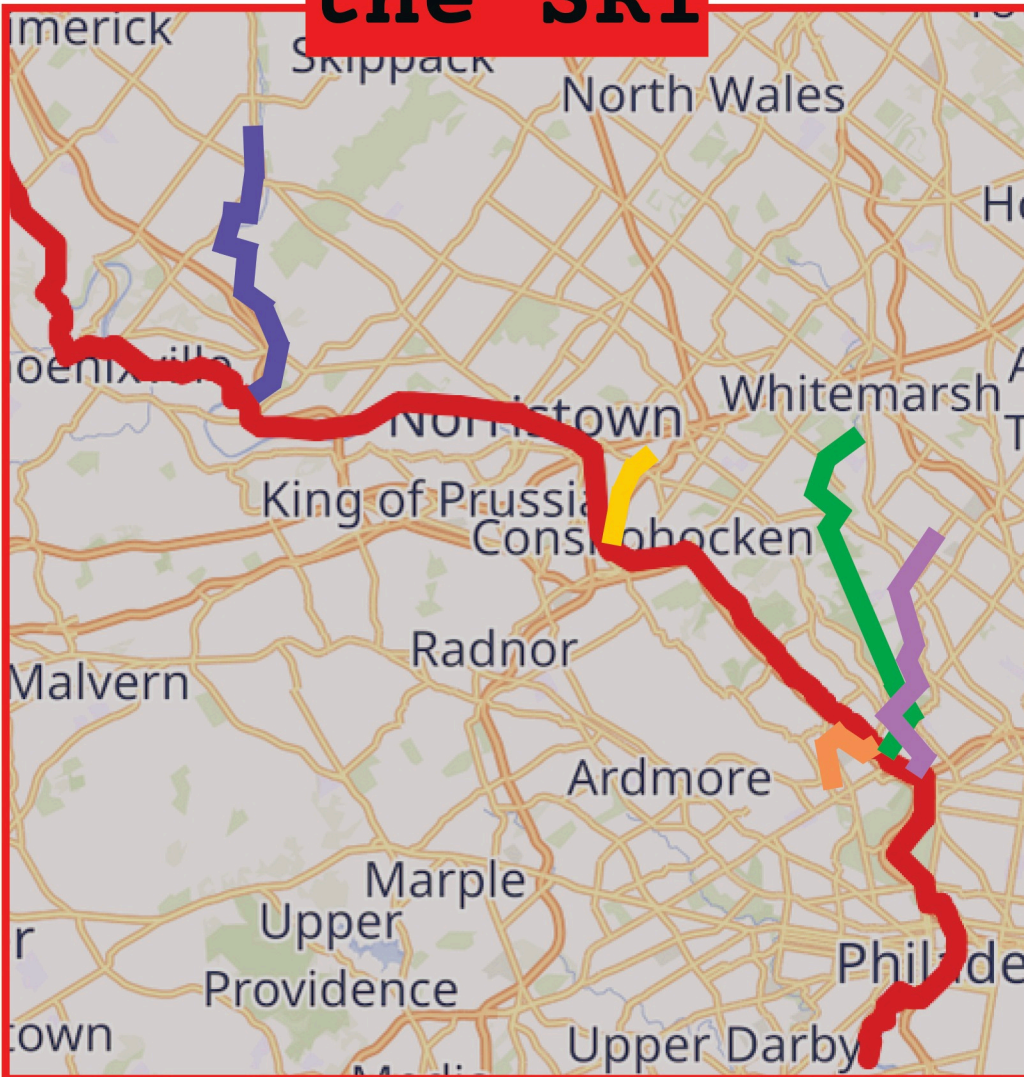
SRT Options

Alternate routes to spice up your rides on the Schuylkill River Trail



Zine by Bryan Patrick
Great Joy Collective

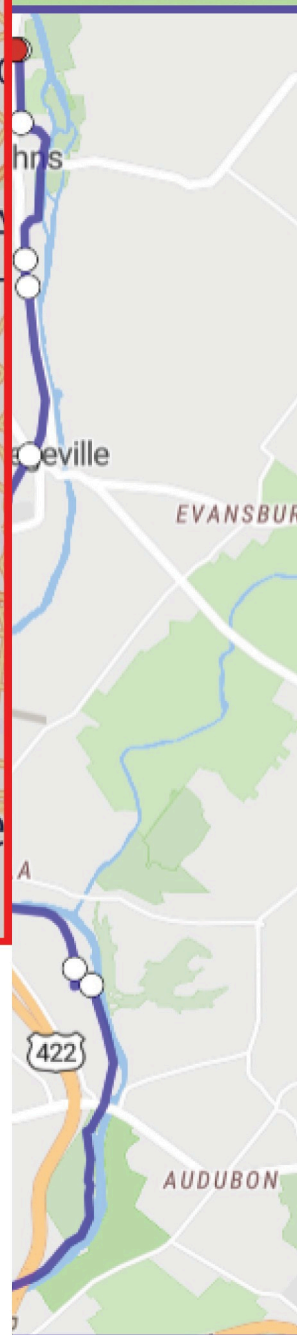
the SRT



ascension gain light gravel

after collegeville, you'll keep following the trail until you see vincent's pizzeria. there are picnic tables and bike racks outside so you don't have to stink up the place.

extend the ride: keep riding the perkiomen past the pizzeria and you'll eventually end up at green lane park, a perfect spot for a bikepacking adventure. there are some glorious looking country-ish roads off the trail that i've never ridden but are probs pretty amazing.



there's one SUPER steep hill wayyy up the trail toward green lane park. you been warned.

Fall Up for Gelati
Forbidden to the Fort
Climbing to Cynwyd
Ikea Glizzy Run
Pizza on the Perkiomen

Pizza on the Perkiomen

8.2 miles

400ft elevation

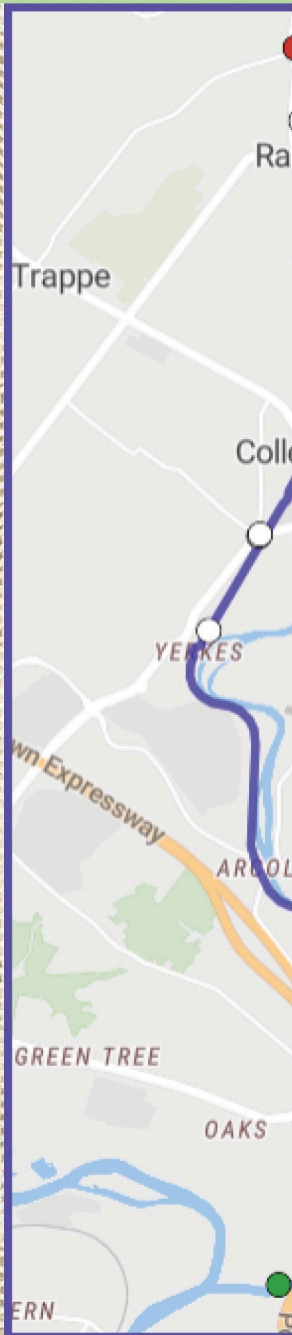
a straightforward route on a gorgeous trail perfect for getting a metric century if riding out from the city.

the most confusing part is the start: coming down the big ramp near the philly expo center, turn LEFT to get onto the perkimon trail.

tbh, this trail is well-marked, well-maintained, and easy to follow. keep your eye out for signs as you ride and enjoy the sights.

the most confusing part is turning onto upper indian head rd about 2 miles in to re-catch the trail up the hill. don't go straight on lower indian head rd: that's a dead end.

mile 5-6 cuts through collegeville with plenty of food and bev options.



the schuylkill river trail is a multi-use path that will someday extend 120 miles from philly to frackville (schuylkill county).

i love riding the SRT but i find myself getting bored just going to valley forge and back or down the banks and back so here i present some "options" for you to try as you trek the mighty SRT.

the routes start as offshoots and end with food or a great view. i'll also give extension ideas for those craving more adventure.

these routes require confidence riding bike-lane-less roads.

ride with common sense and try to follow all the laws/rules you usually do.

OO OVERALL OO

ride as if yr invisible.
cars/drivers notice you
far less than you notice them.
be safe and have fun.

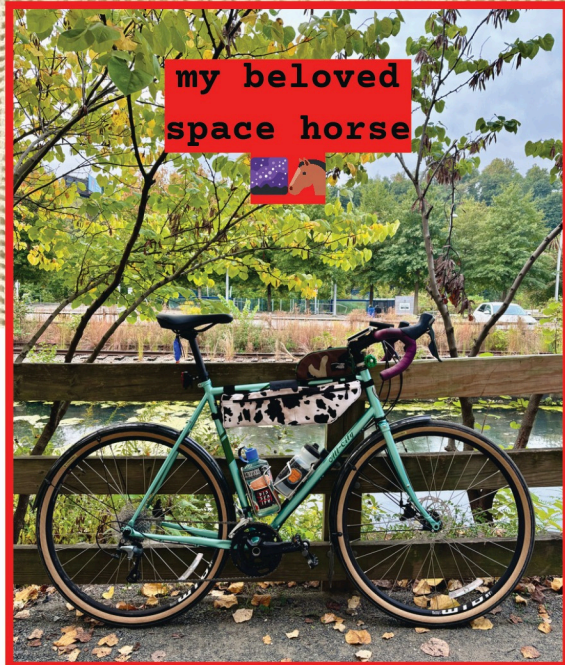


some notes!

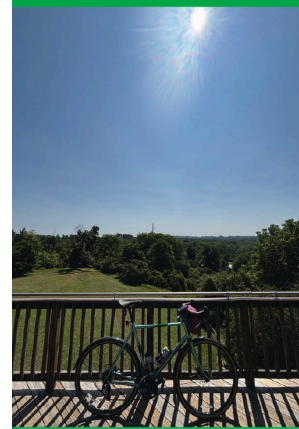
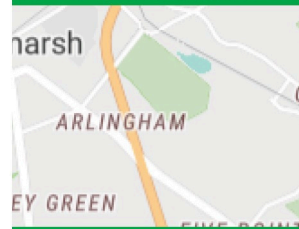
these routes assume you are starting in philly heading out toward reading on the SRT.

i tried to pick routes that are relatively straightforward that can be figured out on the fly in case you forget specific turns.

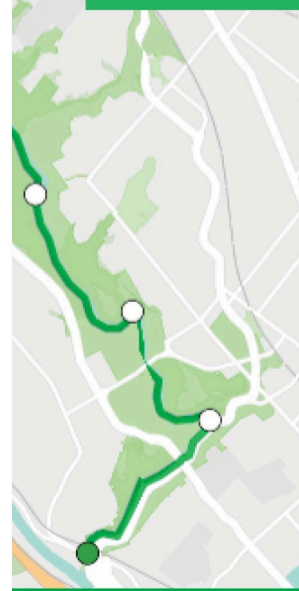
i ride a bike with 700c x 42 tires and feel fully comfortable on all these routes. i've ridden the gravelly routes on 31s and felt mostly okay but, as always, wider = comfier.



in chunky gravel; wide tires



glorious view
at the end



the trail is a mix of paved and unpaved portions. you'll cross valley green rd and continue along the creek, hitting one particularly steep but short hill.

the trail eventually splits and you'll to go left toward militia hill in fort washington state park.

you'll emerge on st park rd for a nice climb up to the hawk observation deck.

fill yr bottle and use the bathroom at the pavilion then enjoy the views!

extend the ride: fort washington state park has much to explore; you can play disc golf, hit some other hills, or go back to the trail and continue up the trail toward germantown academy and ambler.

Forbidden to the Fort

11 miles

800ft elevation gain

ready to CLIMB??

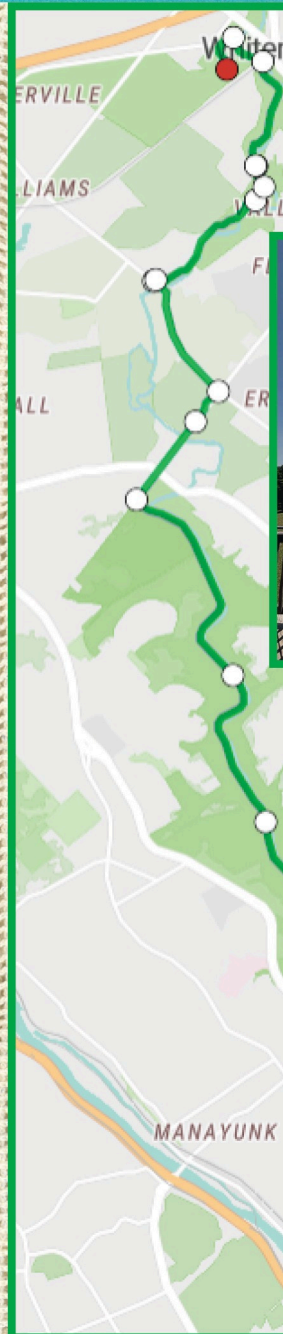
cross ridge ave at the transportation center and follow the trail across from lincoln drive till you bear left onto forbidden drive at the parking area.

forbidden drive is a treat; follow it all the way up till you get to northwestern ave.

be careful as you cross germantown then hop on the paved trail on the left as you pass morris arboretum.

turn left on stenton and be wary of cars coming over the hill behind you. once you get to valley green rd, hop onto the green ribbon trail.

ride the trail and make a left onto the wissahickon trail that follows the creek. if you cross a bridge, you've gone too far.



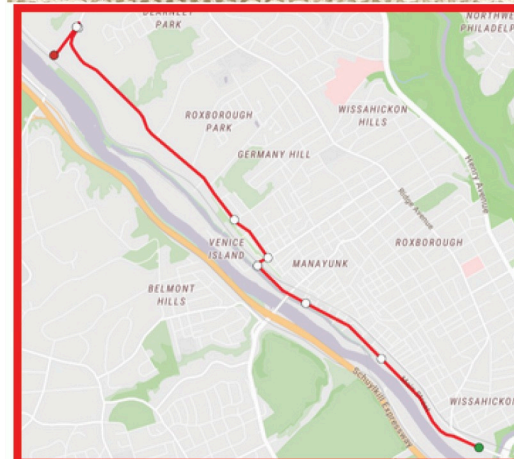
stuff that could goof ya

manayunk:

the SRT doesn't currently extend all the way through manayunk. many folx opt to ride on main st. i usually hop onto the towpath at lock st/chloe's corner (the big flamingo) to avoid the traffic.

umbria st:

some people like to ride main st all the way up then turn and hit the hills on umbria st to avoid the gravel/muddy section of the srt. either works. ride umbria then turn left on shawmont to fly down the hill back to the SRT.



here's the map for main st and umbria. bout 3.4 miles and a hilly but fun option if you wanna avoid the mud & gravel.

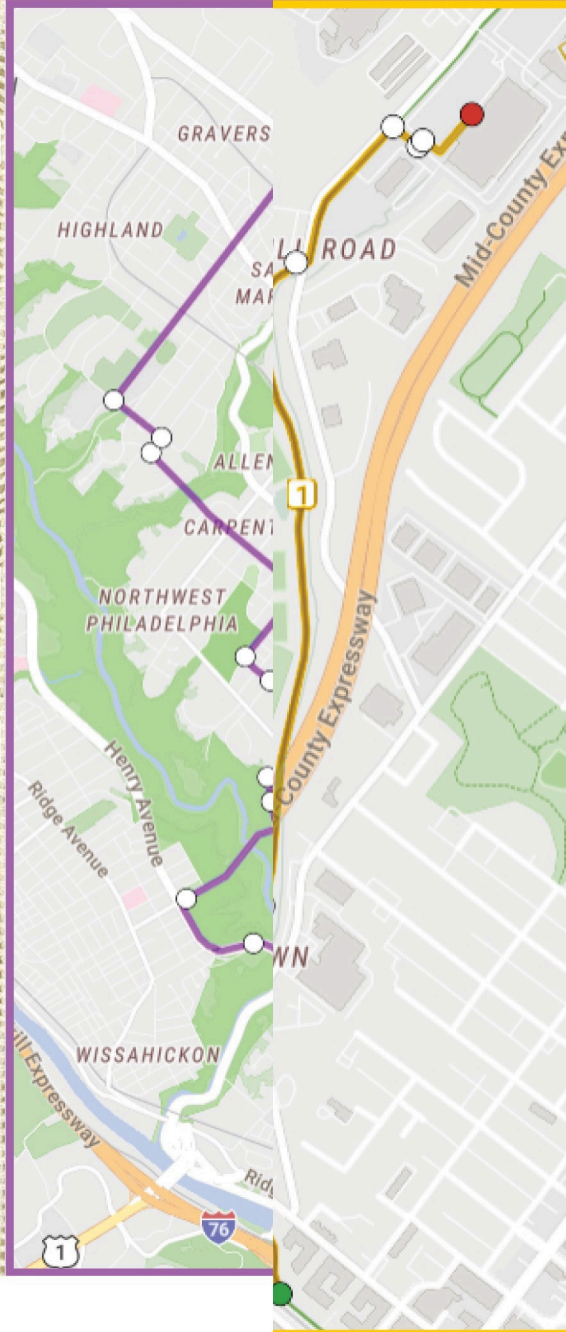
Fall Up for Gelati

7 miles

400ft elevation gain

paved all the way

use the bike lane to climb midvale then turn left at east falls presbyterian (vaux). follow vaux to schoolhouse then cross henry and hop on the opposite sidewalk (which is a bike lane) in front of tj university. you can use the bike lane till you get to walnut ln. cross the bridge and be careful as you go around the traffic circle to park line dr. follow that and ride up hortter then be extra careful as you cross wissahickon ave to hortter on the other side. hortter will spit you out on walnut ln and its bike lane. wayne ave winds a bit and features a light climb that leads to sedgwick st.



bike rack; thanks, swedes



not much else to this route
re: extensions.

you could ride to the end
of the trail and go up
germantown to butler pike
toward ambler but riding
on those pikes is SCARY.

enjoy yr glizzy then go
back to the SRT to go
back to the city or out
toward norristown.

Ikea Glizzy Run

1.5 miles

90ft elevation gain

paved all the way

another ultra simple route
with a delicious reward:

ikea glizzies 🤤

as you ride past conshy
train station, follow the
right trail to begin the
cross county trail.

this trail is pretty shady
and, in my experience,
underutilized because it
kinda just dies at the end.

the trail is a straight shot
to ikea following plymouth
trail, passing under 476 and
past some fields.

note: be careful crossing
alan wood rd; cars whip
around the curve there.

there's a bike rack outside
ikea so lock up and head
inside for a plant-based
glizzy; it's the best non-
meat dog i've ever had and
it only costs like 95 cents.



you could maybe cut through
carpenter's woods but i've
never been brave enough so i
go up sedgwick till turning
left onto mccallum.

mccallum before allens ln is
fine; after it's TIGHT. be
careful and then cross into
the cherokee apartments:
partially a shortcut to
cherokee st and partially a
place with cool sculptures.

turn right at the ice rink and
yr on willow grove ave which
takes you to rita's.

be careful crossing germantown
(cobblestones), near the train
station (awkward), and across
stenton (people are wild).

then: order a frickin' gelati!

extend the ride: hit some
hills around rita's or explore
chestnut hill/germantown.

Climbing to Cynwyd

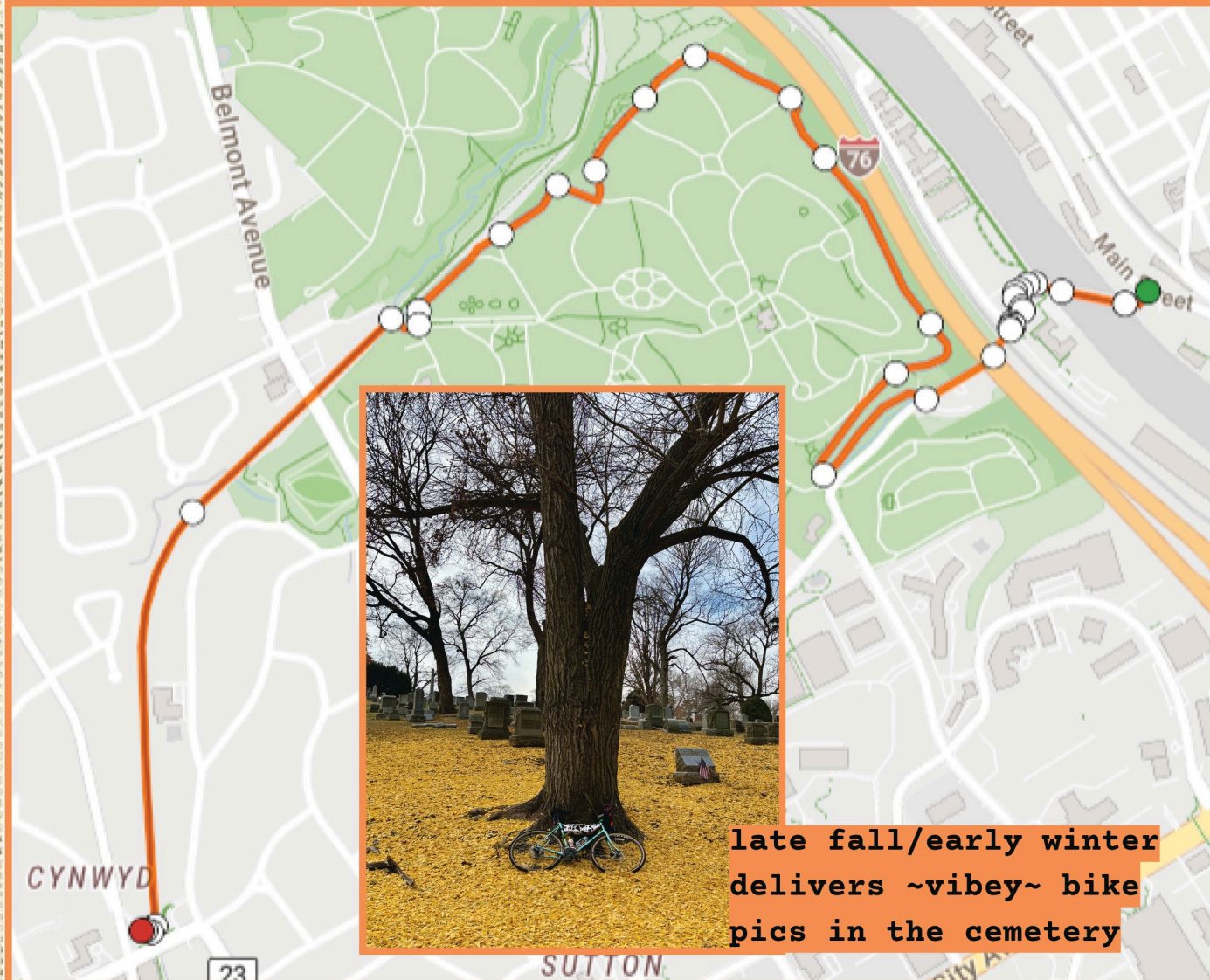
2.5 miles

400ft elevation gain

paved all the way

this is a simple route with many possible variations. turn off main st to cross the bridge at the end of the movie theater lot. pass through the parking lot and head under the short tunnel that goes under 76 and you'll immediately hit righters ferry. this rd is steep and narrow and cars fly down so be careful and turn into the cemetery at yr first chance on yr right. there are many ways to weave through the cemetery: i like the edges for the views of manayunk and the rolling hills and trees. exit the cemetery via barmouth ave at the gate and turn left up the cynwyd heritage trail.

at the top yr rewarded with platform z. get some poke and a thai milk tea.



late fall/early winter delivers ~vibey~ bike pics in the cemetery

extend the ride: bala has tons of great roads that cross montgomery and lancaster to bring you to ardmore. blast some of them then get the tamago dan and tempura at maido.