

EAST COAST GREENWAY ----- NEWSLETTER

January/February, 2008

Like the song says “It was a very good year”. Here is a listing of some of our accomplishments:

TRAVELER’S GUIDE IS HERE!

The New Jersey edition of the East Coast Greenway is now available and receiving rave reviews from those who’ve seen it. It’s been so popular that we’re already planning a second printing. Our sincere thanks to the folks at New Jersey Transportation’s Bike/Ped program for their wonderful work. To receive your free copy, e-mail bikeped@dot.state.nj.us or write to:

**Bike/Ped Program Program Coordinator
1035 Park Avenue
P. O. Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625**

FIRST KIOSK ON THE TRAIL HAS BEEN BUILT

On November 23rd, a group of energetic volunteers worked off some of their Thanksgiving Day calories by helping to build our first kiosk in East Millstone. We plan to build another at Landing Lane and Johnson Drive and have already applied for funds to eventually construct another ten along the trail.

SECOND SUMMIT MEETING HELD

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority offered to host a summit meeting for the north Jersey counties to follow-up on the first meeting in June of 2006 and to review the current status of the trail. The meeting drew 40 officials representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

For a detailed summary of the meeting, go to Recent Events on our website www.greenwaynj.org and click on Summit Meeting Summary.

THE DODGE FOUNDATION

In December, we received some happy news from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Not only did they grant our request for \$10,000, but they upped the amount to \$15,000! They cited our “seemingly tireless state committee”. So kudos to all our volunteers!

SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS, OUR MID-ATLANTIC TRAIL COORDINATOR HAS A FEW WORDS TO SAY -----

I wanted to introduce myself to all New Jersey supporters and friends of the East Coast Greenway. I have been working with the ECG as the Mid Atlantic Trail Coordinator for the past year to advance the completion of the ECG from Washington DC to New York. This is an exciting portion of our route because of the recent release of the NJ ECG user map and the recent approval to produce a similar map for Delaware and Pennsylvania which will be released in the fall of 2008. I have enjoyed working with volunteers throughout the Mid Atlantic but this year volunteer efforts will be even more imperative to advance projects along the ECG. The NJ committee and myself are looking for volunteers to work with us on projects ranging from installing signage, completing designations, to tabling at special events, and also reaching out to your local officials to support the ECG! If you are interested in getting involved please contact the NJ Committee or contact me directly at mike@greenway.org.

I look forward to working with all of you in 2008 and moving one step closer to a completed East Coast Greenway through New Jersey!

Michael Oliva, Mid Atlantic Trail Coordinator

OUR GOALS FOR 2008 -----

CONTINUE TO BUILD ADDITIONAL KIOSKS ALONG THE TRAIL

We have applied to the DEP Office of Natural Lands Management for funds to build an additional ten kiosks. So if you're handy with a hammer and would like to do some weekend work this spring, contact Mike Kruimer (732) 287-9447, or e-mail him at kliner54@optonline.net.

INSTALL WAYFINDING SIGNS ALONG THE ENTIRE ECG NJ ROUTE

Union County has been completely signed and Middlesex County has agreed to allow us to place ECG signs throughout the trail in their county. Once those signs are installed, we'll begin working on another county.

COMPLETE THE MERRILL PARK/ROOSEVELT PARK SEGMENT:

Several months ago, we received money from the Hyde and Watson Fund in order to purchase a laptop, projector and screen to make power point presentations. On February 6th, Mike Kruimer and Mike Dannemiller spoke to the Bike/Ped Task Force of Middlesex County's Transportation Coordinating Committee and the response was very positive. Not only did they agree to signs along the segment, but agreed to place ECG signs along the trail throughout their county. We'll be working with Tony Gambilonghi of the Middlesex County Planning Department – Transportation Division to complete this job.

COMPLETE ADDITIONAL TRAIL DESIGNATIONS

There are presently two additional segments of the trail that are ready to be designated:

Nomahegan Park Path

Black Brook Park Path

We'd like to complete these designations by March 15th in time to be reported at our meeting in Wilmington, DE. in May. So if you live in the area and would like to help out, contact Mike Oliva at Mike@greenway.org .

MORE SEGMENTS OF THE TRAIL BEING COMPLETED!

Although we have been focused on the Merrill Park Corridor, bit by bit, piece by piece other segments are being completed.

On February 12th, the Star-Ledger reported that Union County had received a state grant of \$500,000 to construct a new bike path in Lenape Park. The new path will be 1.2 miles long and will replace an existing path that runs along Kenilworth Blvd. It will be constructed on an existing roadbed much of which runs atop an elevated dike, and will connect with existing bike paths in Nomahegan and Black Brook parks.

Also on February 12th, the Jersey Journal reported that New Jersey Transit broke ground on a \$6.4 million waterfront footbridge that will link the transit hub with Newport. The bridge fills one more gap in the planned Hudson River Waterfront Walkway, an 18.5 pedestrian and bike path along the Hudson River and the East Coast Greenway's alternate route to the GW Bridge and NYC.

FYI – A LISTING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS ALONG THE GREENWAY IN NEW JERSEY:

Gary Johnson has compiled a listing of the congressional districts along the East Coast Greenway. This is an election year so we'll all be seeing and hearing from our congressmen this summer and fall. If you're in one of these districts, remember to mention the greenway to your congressman when he comes to speak in your town.

Steve Rothman (9th, D, Hackensack, rothman.house.gov) from GWB to aprox even with 70th St in North Bergen / Guttenberg area
Office: 25 Main St, Hackensack, NJ 07601 (201) 646-0808

Albio Sires (13th, D, West New York, www.house.gov/sires) from aprox even with 70th St in North Bergen / Guttenberg area (a few blocks south of North Hudson Park) south to Liberty State Park and west to University Ave in Newark
Office: 35 Journal Square - Suite 906, Jersey City, NJ 07306 (201) 222-2828

Donald Payne (10th, D, Newark, www.house.gov/payne) from University Ave in Newark to Morris Ave (East of Garden State Parkway) ... and then from Rahway River Park to the Rahway / Woodbridge Line, which doubles as the Union / Middlesex County line
Office: 50 Walnut St - Room 1016, Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 645-3213

Mike Ferguson (7th, R, Warren, ferguson.house.gov) from Morris Ave (East of GSP) to Rahway River Park ... and then Rahway/Woodbridge line at St Georges Ave to Wood Avenue at Thornall Street (Metropark Area, Woodbribge / Edison line) ... and then all of South Bound Brook
Office: 45 Mountain Blvd - Bldg D Suite 1, Warren, NJ 07059 (908) 757-7835

Frank Pallone (6th, D, West Long Branch www.house.gov/pallone) from Wood Avenue at Thornall Street (Metropark Area) to D&R Canal at Bennets Lane , which is the East border of South Bound Brook
Office: 504 Broadway, Long Branch, NJ 07740 (732) 571-1140 & 1-888423-1140

Rush Holt (12th, D, Hopewell holt.house.gov) from D&R Canal at Bennets Lane to South Bound Brook Line (East border of South Bound Brook) ... and from D&R Canal at West border of South Bound Brook to Calhoon Street Bridge in Trenton.
Office: 50 Washington Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550 (609) 750-9365

The Roosevelt Park to Merrill Park segment is in the districts of Ferguson (Woodbridge segment) and Pallone (Edison segment).

Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13th. The time and place will be on our website by March 1st. Everyone is welcome to join us.