

Morris Township's New Trails Plan Subcommittee Moves Forward Aggressively

By Tom Kenny, Morris Township Special Projects Coordinator

Morris Township Trails Plan Subcommittee Membership

William (Bill) Foelsch
Director
Parks & Recreation Department

Jeff Grayzel
Township Committee

Rick Haan
Chairman
Planning Board

David Helmer
Executive Director
Morris County Park Commission

Jeff Miller
Beautification Committee

John Storey
Open Space Committee
Environmental Commission

Barbara Davis
Andrew Szwak
Consultants
Morris Land Conservancy

Morris Township's Trails Plan Subcommittee, with assistance from the Morris Land Conservancy, is currently drafting a trails plan that will highlight points of interest, linkages with other municipal and county-owned parks, construction standards by trail use, and security measures. The trails plan will also include recommendations for the acquisition of property, if necessary, to complete the trails system, as well as stewardship and maintenance issues.

Following is the schedule to which the subcommittee is working hard to adhere:

- September 2007: Identification & tour of potential trail linkages
Public workshop for review of base map with preliminary trail design, including regional trails and known local trails
- October 2007: Review public input on preliminary trail design & partners
Modify trails map, as needed
Articulate trails vision statement
- November 2007: Distribute draft trails plan to various boards, staff, and committees for review and feedback
- December 2007: Review feedback and modify trails plan, as needed
- January 2008: Final trails plan delivered for adoption by Planning Board & Township Committee

Once formally adopted, the new Trails Plan will likely be made an element in the Township's Master Plan. For more information, please contact Tom Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator, at tkenny@morristwp.com or (973) 326-7427.

A Wildlife Management Plan Update

By Tom Kenny, Morris Township Special Projects Coordinator

Morris Township, with assistance from the Morris County Park Commission, embarked on its 3rd annual Canada goose roundup in June 2007. The total amount of geese found was down from prior years, likely due to poor weather conditions this spring as well as reduced population dividends now being realized from past efforts.



Our deer culling program, also in its 3rd year, runs parallel to NJ's deer hunting season, beginning in early September 2007 and ending in February 2008. The program is under the supervision and guidance of Township Patrolman Steven Summerer. If culling is to occur in your neighborhood, please be advised that flyers announcing such activity will be placed in your mailbox and bright, orange signs will be

posted to trees and poles warning residents that deer management activity is taking place in your area.

The goose egg adding phase of our Canada goose management program will take place in the spring of 2008. The Township is looking for volunteers to assist in this process which involves the physical removal of eggs from their nests and replacing them with counterfeit eggs. No prior experience is required for volunteers as the County Park Commission provides training.



If you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions about our Wildlife Management Plan, please contact Tom Kenny, Special Projects Coordinator, at (973) 326-7427 or tkenny@morristwp.com. You may also contact Steve Summerer at (973) 326-7450 or (973) 539-0777.

Beware of Parking Challenges For Wednesday Matinees

The enormous popularity of the NJ Transit Midtown Direct train service has placed a strain on the capacity of all the parking lots along the Morris & Essex Line in Morris County. Morris Township recently expanded the capacity of our Convent Station parking lot to the fullest extent possible by adding over 50 parking spaces, but still we find that regular daily commuters are almost filling the lot.

On Wednesdays, when many people use the train to go to Broadway matinees in New York City, the limited spaces available for people who don't have commuter permits tend to fill up quickly, and sometimes late-arriving people find they have no place to park.

So Wednesday matinee-goers, please be advised – if you plan to use the train station parking lot on Wednesdays without a commuter's permit, you must try to arrive as early as possible, or better yet, get a ride to the train station or share a ride with a friend to reduce parking congestion.

We want you to be able to take advantage of the wonderful public transit service offered by NJ Transit. Don't run the risk of ruining your day by being unable to find parking at the Convent Station parking lot!