



**Monmouth County Park System
Henry Hudson Trail – Popamora Point to
Atlantic Highlands Marina
Superstorm Sandy Damage Update
October 2013**



**Central RR of New Jersey Operating on the Site of the Present
Henry Hudson Trail – Hilton Station Vicinity (1950)**



Monmouth County Park System

Henry Hudson Trail – Popamora Point to Atlantic Highlands Marina

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Introduction

This section of the Monmouth County Park System's Henry Hudson Trail is 1¼ miles long and runs from the County-owned Popamora Point at the western border of Highlands to the Municipally-owned Atlantic Highlands Marina. Occupying the railroad bed of the former Central Railroad of New Jersey, this multipurpose rail-trail is used by pedestrians, joggers, bikers, fishermen and other recreational users. The trail transverses along the toe of coastal bluffs adjacent to Sandy Hook Bay and is believed by many visitors to be the most scenic portion of the entire Henry Hudson Trail.

Issue

This section of the trail was severely impacted by Superstorm Sandy. The surge from Sandy destroyed boardwalks and bridges along the trail, removing surfacing and depositing debris. The trail is currently closed to the public due to safety concerns and impassible areas.

The Situation

It is the Monmouth County Park System's intent to re-establish and open the trail. Park staff had removed approximately 50% of the debris until halting work when the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection determined that portions of the work were not in accordance with the original permit. The Park System has been meeting with the NJDEP and is working to resolve these issues. Clean-up may proceed and the trail could be re-established as per the permit.

Short Term

By the end of November 2013, with the assistance of the Boroughs of Atlantic Highlands and Highlands, the Park System anticipates having the debris removed and safety concerns addressed. Barriers will then be removed and the trail re-opened to the public. Trail conditions will be "primitive" in terms of uneven surfacing and wet and/or muddy areas as per local conditions.

Long Term

The Park System met with and will continue to work with the NJDEP to develop a plan to re-establish the trail in a way that will reduce damage from storms such as Irene and Sandy, while protecting critical natural resources. This will require revising and reapplying for NJDEP permitting. A better designed and constructed trail will make this a mitigation project eligible for FEMA funding.

For Additional Information Contact

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**Henry Hudson Trail – Atlantic Highlands
Trail and Henry Hudson Spring Bridge (Before Sandy)**



**Henry Hudson Trail – Atlantic Highlands
Trail and Former Location of Henry Hudson Spring Bridge (After Sandy, June 2013)**



**Henry Hudson Trail – Atlantic Highlands
Long Bridge Section (Before Sandy, May 2012)**



**Henry Hudson Trail – Atlantic Highlands
Long Bridge Section (After Sandy, October 2012)**



**Henry Hudson Trail – Atlantic Highlands
Long Bridge Section (Partial Cleanup, October 2013)**



**Henry Hudson Trail – Atlantic Highlands
Typical “Primitive” Trail Conditions (After Cleanup, October 2013)**