



Monmouth County Park System Freneau Woods Multiple-Use Trail & Bridges

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed trail system will be a 1.3 mile woodlands loop trail located in an undeveloped area bounded by Monastery Road to the west, Wilson Road to the south, private property to the east, and the JCP&L transmission line easement to the north. To access the proposed trail from the parking/facilities area, trail users will have to cross a deep ravine at the headwaters of the Birch Swamp Brook. To enable patrons to safely cross, the Park System will construct a ninety (90) foot long timber foot bridge to span the ravine.

REASON FOR PROJECT:

In 2016, the Monmouth County Park System purchased a 36.8 acres tract located in western Monmouth County, and subsequently purchased adjacent acreage from adjoining landowners to bring the total present-day land holdings of Freneau Woods Park to approximate 200 acres. It is the Park System's intent to utilize the newly established parkland for passive recreation by developing a series of unpaved multi-use trails for pedestrian hikers, off-road cyclists and equestrian riders.

DESIGN APPROACH:

The alignment of the proposed trail will traverse the woodlands tract avoiding removal of existing vegetation. The method of construction of the trail bridge will begin on side with access to the paved parking area; construction activities will be performed from the bridge deck as the work progresses across the ravine.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

All freshwater wetlands and riparian zones have been delineated on the site. The proposed alignment has been adjusted to minimize impact on these sensitive areas. To construct this project a Flood Hazard Area General Permit #12 (Construction of a Footbridge) and a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit # 17 (Trails and Boardwalks) will be required from the NJDEP.

PROJECT STATUS:

Flood Hazard and Wetlands Permits issued by NJDEP. Bridge construction completed in Fall 2019, and trail is open.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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