



**Monmouth County Park System
Henry Hudson Trail Extension and Pedestrian Safety Improvements
(Freehold Borough Project Area)**

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The County Park System's acquisition of property in downtown Freehold provides an opportunity to extend the Henry Hudson Trail into the county seat of Monmouth County. The trail follows a former rail line and will be extended from its current terminus at County Route 537 (East Main Street) to the Freehold Hub Site, a 19-acre property in downtown Freehold acquired as a hub for the Henry Hudson Trail. **See below for project location and plan.**

Construction is scheduled for 2023 and includes land clearing, demolition of existing rails and ties, grading, installation of trail base and surfacing, a steel pedestrian bridge over Center Street, signage and landscape restoration.

Future plans include development of recreational facilities at the Freehold Hub Site.

REASON FOR PROJECT:

The Henry Hudson Trail is the County's longest and most heavily used multi-use regional trail. Developed on a former railroad right-of-way, the paved trail is 24 miles long and 10 feet wide. The Henry Hudson Trail begins at Popamora Point in Atlantic Highlands in northeastern Monmouth County and proceeds west along the Raritan Bay through the Bayshore communities of Middletown, Keansburg, Hazlet, Union Beach, Keyport, and Aberdeen before turning south toward Freehold. The trail currently ends at Route 537 at the edge of Freehold. The Henry Hudson Trail has been designated part of the National Rail-Trail Network. Trails are the most used recreational element of the Park System.

DESIGN APPROACH:

The trail will be paved and match the 10-foot width of the rest of the Henry Hudson Trail. For pedestrian safety, a steel pedestrian bridge will be constructed over Center Street.

PROJECT STATUS:

French & Parrello Associates of Wall Township, NJ. are the Project Engineers for the trail extension into Freehold Borough. The construction contract was awarded to Capela Construction of Medford, NJ. and on-site construction began in Fall 2023. The bridge over Center Street has been installed and paving of the trail will begin, weather permitting, in late April/early May. The project is expected to be completed by the end of May. The Park System will announce the opening of the extended trail.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Project Plan (2023) for Henry Hudson Trail Extension into Freehold Borough

