



Morris Canal Greenway Feasibility Study

PROJECT FACT SHEET

The Morris Canal Greenway... a Trail through History

The Passaic County Planning Department is conducting a Feasibility Study to create a Greenway along the Morris Canal Historic District, which passes through the municipalities of Clifton, Little Falls, Paterson, Pompton Lakes, Wayne, and Woodland Park. The Morris Canal Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, to recognize the right-of-way used during the 19th century to transport boats along inclined planes from the Delaware River in Phillipsburg to the Passaic River in Newark, and eventually the Hudson River in Jersey City.

This Feasibility Study, funded by the Passaic County Open Space Trust Fund and a grant from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), is the first step toward the creation of a heritage trail throughout the County along the former Morris Canal and Pompton Feeder in Passaic County. The study will identify areas of open space that can be connected to form a contiguous recreational trail for bicycle or pedestrian use by Passaic County residents and visitors.

Goals for this effort include:

- *Preserve and restore open space throughout Passaic County.* Creating an inventory of existing open space and parks along the Canal. Identification of parcels highly deserving of preservation and those that should be restored to open space due to environmental sensitivity or location will be a priority. The Study will augment the County's Open Space and Recreation Master Plan, and follow the guidelines established by the Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee.
- *Devise a comprehensive strategy for creating a Greenway along the Canal that will allow residents to safely explore the Historic District on foot or bicycle.* The Plan will evaluate the entire length of the Morris Canal and Pompton Feeder to create fact sheets about potential locations where the Greenway could pass. The fact sheets will be narrowed to a list of priority locations for easements or acquisitions, design, and implementation in future phases of the Greenway project.
- *Protect environmental sustainability.* The plan will consider land use, brownfields, critical habitats, areas in need of floodplain restoration, and other environmentally sensitive areas to determine the most appropriate use and design for the Greenway at each given location.



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Additional goals include:

- *Promote cultural and heritage tourism.* The Greenway should interpret and celebrate the historic significance of the Morris Canal as a part of New Jersey's cultural heritage. This Feasibility Study will denote historically significant sites, as well as consider means to connect the Morris Canal to other historic and tourism destinations in Passaic County.
- *Develop multimodal transportation routes throughout the County.* The creation of a Greenway should improve pedestrian access and mobility to downtown shopping districts, community centers, recreation facilities, residential neighborhoods, and transit options.

Activities and Schedule


- Data collection including a review of available land use plans, open space plans, natural resources inventories, and historical research and documentation.
- Geographic information systems (GIS) mapping and inventory of land along the original Canal.
- Site visits to targeted parcels and locations.
- Monthly Project Team Meetings, community outreach, and public participation.
- Draft Feasibility Study anticipated in February, 2011; Final Study presented in April, 2011.

Join the Discussion

The planning process for the Morris Canal Greenway requires the input and consideration of all six municipalities, including residents, Environmental Commissions, Planning Boards, businesses, and additional stakeholder organizations. If you would like to participate in preserving the history of the Morris Canal for the future of Passaic County, we encourage you to become part of the discussion.

Here's how you can get involved:

1. Attend a public meeting, to be announced on www.passaiccountynj.org
2. Send an email to Jennifer Gonzalez: jenniferg@passaiccountynj.org
3. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com

 search for "Morris Canal Greenway"

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