

PLAN OF ACTION

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BASED ON THE PLAN

Making any plan useful is sometimes the most difficult part of the planning process. Recommendations must be transformed into specific actions, and specific individuals, groups, or agencies must take responsibility for performing those activities. Implementation at the state level is completely dependent upon at least one full-time staff person assigned responsibility for statewide trail planning, coordination with various public agencies and trail interests, and acting as liaison to the New Jersey Trails Council.

The following schedule lists actions to be taken to implement the trails system and address issues within a five-year period. Many activities to be performed are on going, occurring at various times throughout the five-year implementation period. For example, acquisition efforts, monitoring of designated trails, and coordination with the New Jersey Trails Council will continue as long as staff is present to perform these activities. These actions are not listed within a specific time frame.

Unless noted otherwise, all recommendations are to be performed at the state level.

Within One Year of Adoption of the Plan:

- Begin the process of designating eligible trails to the State Trails System. This is the responsibility of the Division of Parks and Forestry. However, requests for designation from individuals, groups or other governmental agencies can be made at any time and reviewed and recommended by the New Jersey Trails Council. Develop one plan for adoption to the system.
- Develop a uniform marking system for trails in the State Trails System. This will be a logo to be displayed at trailheads, parking areas, and major trail and road intersections.

Within Three Years of Adoption of the Plan:

- Develop management plans for half of the trails or trail systems included in this plan for designation, in addition to those already completed. Plans are completed for the

Appalachian, Sussex Branch, and Paulinskill Valley Trails. As part of the planning process, determine the suitability of each trail for disabled access and include facilities for the disabled in the recommendations.

- Establish a monitoring system that will ensure an inspection of a designated trail at least every other year.
- Provide recommendations on acquisition of land for trails, and incorporate into government acquisition programs.
- Develop guidelines with the assistance of trail clubs for locating motorized trails while maintaining environmental integrity and safety.
- Work with federal agencies to re-enact legislation similar to the National Recreational Trails Act for continued federal funding of trails and trail facilities.
- If funding is available, conduct a needs assessment of trails and trail users.

Within Five Years of Adoption of the Plan:

- Continue development of management plans for designated trails to the system.
- Examine the 1995 Trails Plan and update as needed, using monitoring data on existing designated trails and determining new issues.
- Review management plans completed in the first two years for current applicability.

Ongoing:

- Acquire abandoned railroad rights-of-way and other routes for trails. In those cases where acquisition is not feasible, acquire easements on property for use as trails. If lines are also recommended for railbanking by the Department of Transportation, develop shared use plan and cooperative management agreements. The Division of

Parks and Forestry will cooperate with other agencies to pursue acquisition of significant routes for trails when appropriate.

- The Division of Parks and Forestry and the New Jersey Trails Council will establish an education program to inform the general public about the plan and the State Trails System.