



UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF **TRAILS** IN NEW JERSEY

Trail networks are valuable assets that strengthen communities and support regional vitality. They provide options for walking, biking, and rolling, connecting people to key destinations and fostering a sense of place. Beyond transportation, trails promote health, sustainability, and economic development, offering benefits that extend across urban, suburban, and rural landscapes. In New Jersey, investing in these essential networks not only addresses mobility and safety challenges but also creates healthier, greener, and more connected communities.

SUCCESSFUL TRAILS START WITH STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS Transportation and Open Space Agencies Working Together

The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) can accelerate trail development by:

- Developing a formal partnership to sponsor federal or state grant applications for designated regional trail corridors and provide greater early design funding to support project development.
- Developing a regional trail corridor designation process to support the development of multi-county projects, similar to what is employed in Pennsylvania.
- Growing the project pipeline for trails by sponsoring applications for multi-county projects and providing early funding to help projects initiate more quickly.



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PARALLEL PATHS TO PROGRESS

What Each Agency Can Do to Advance Trail Programs

➔ NJDOT

Adopt a Plan

Make it easier for residents to travel without a car by incorporating a connected, statewide trail network plan into the NJDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

Create Opportunities

Increase technical assistance and capacity support for local project sponsors by adding NJDOT regional active transportation and trail coordinators or expanding the scope of the NJDOT on-call consultants.

Provide Guidance

Develop and publish a checklist, pursuant to the NJDOT Complete Streets Policy, of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit accommodations for new and retrofit transportation facilities.

➔ NJDEP

Work with Local Partners

Develop a high-profile trail corridor in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's southwestern region of NJ to complement the state's investments in the Essex-Hudson Greenway in the northeast region of the state.

Streamline Trail Funding

Develop easy-to-use checklists and resources for completing grant applications and provide pre-application assistance to municipalities and counties seeking to utilize these funds.

Update Plans & Priorities

Update the NJ State Trails Plan, pursuant to the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, to emphasize and prioritize active transportation facilities.

Additional details on the recommendations above can be found in the reports [Moving the Circuit Forward to Reach 500 Miles by 2025](#) and [Funding Opportunities and Programmatic Insights for Advancing Shared Use Paths, Trails, and Greenways in New Jersey](#).

Questions? Additional information?

Contact [Zeke Weston](#),
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