

# RANDOLPH TRAILS NEWSLETTER FALL 2022



The Fall is a wonderful time to get out on the trails. Whether you hike, bike or walk your dog, the cooler weather and colorful leaves make the Randolph Trails a great place to be. In this issue the September 11 National Memorial Trail is highlighted. There is also an update on the Trails Master Plan. And, of course, there is a report on the good works done by our local scouts.

## September 11 National Memorial trail

The September 11 National Memorial Trail is a 1,300-mile multi-use route that links the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Flight 93 Memorial.

The first trail blazes of Randolph's section of the September 11<sup>th</sup> National Memorial trail were dedicated and installed on the Morris County Park Commission's signature Patriots' Path trail in Randolph in 2017.

Working closely with local, state and federal governments, federal agencies, fellow trail organizations and dedicated individuals, the 1,300-mile vision is gradually becoming a reality.

In 2012, Randolph joined a team of twelve project leaders to create the September 11th National Memorial Trail and the key member was the honored with the distinguished Golden Spike Award from the 911 Memorial Trails Alliance.



The Randolph Section of the trail is accessed from the end of Dolly Bridge Road.

## Randolph Trails Master Plan Update

Did you know that the maintenance and expansion of the Randolph Trail system is guided by the Trails Master Plan developed in 2016? You can read it by accessing the Parks & Recreation/ Trail System link on the Township website.

The Randolph Township Council commissioned a general Township-wide open space and recreation plan in July 2016. A survey conducted as part of that plan found that 71% of respondents identified walking and hiking trails as the most needed facilities in the Township's parks. These findings led to the formation of a Township committee to explore the development of a trails master plan. The Randolph Trails Master Plan (RTMP) has been created to explore the many options available

for maintaining the core trail network, improving the utility of that network, and building on the existing trail system to bring its benefits to as many neighborhoods as possible. The Township also looked to take advantage of opportunities to tie its trail network to other trail systems, such as Morris County's Patriots' Path and to trails in neighboring communities.

A number of new trails or trail connections were identified that can substantially expand the Randolph Trails network. There were 22 potential new trail segments that were proposed and were ranked by priority and timeframe for development.

In 2021, the Trails Advisory Committee undertook a project to review and update the potential new trail segments proposed in the original plan. The new look took into account work already done, new development in the township and current feasibility of the original list.

The updated list of new trail segments was presented to the Township by the Trails Advisory Committee for consideration. The highest priority for consideration included:

- **Old Tye Trail.** Proposed trail enhancing the development of the Habitat for Humanity project on Bennet Avenue.
- **Old Shunpike Road/Patriots Path connector.** New trail from the end of Old Shunpike Road to connect with Patriots Path leading to Clyde Potts Reservoir.
- **Sussex Turnpike to James Andrews Park.** A new trail from the proposed Mark's Corner to the trail system in James Andrews Park.
- **Hedden Park Apartments to Hawthorne Avenue.** A short connector trail over a sewer right-of-way connecting the apartment complex to Hedden County Park.

The complete list can be found in the next update of the Master Plan.

## Scouts Corner

The Randolph trail system provides opportunities for community-based projects that improve and enhance the trails. Eagle Scout, Ryan Borinski, proposed posting informational signs to inform people on the trail which direction schools or other parks may be. For example, at the intersection across Millbrook Ave from Freedom Park, a sign is posted to either Cohen's Farm or to Brundage Park.



## Community Events



The Trails Committee had a table at the Healthy Mind, Healthy Body Expo which was very well attended.

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