
GREENWAYS NEWS

Volume 26, Issue 1

Winter 2021

2020 Update COVID-19 Pandemic

In May the Greenway reopened with the recommended use of masks and social distancing.

During the year the Greenway was used by many people to get outside and exercise. While other residents found places that were less busy to walk or bike. Such as nearby County Parks.

In 2020 Roosevelt Park re-opened the multi-use trail, which includes a new bridge over the Roosevelt Park Lake and ADA improvements, and parking by the lake.

Over at Spring Lake Park in South Plainfield, Middlesex County rebuilt all the paths, and installed new energy efficient lighting along the paths, and parking lots. The County also rebuilt the basketball courts, and tennis courts. One set of tennis courts have been striped for pickleball, a fast-growing sport. Thomas Edison County Park on Mill Rd. in Edison, behind Middlesex College offers a 1.5-mile-long path, and is less crowded during weekdays.

We are hopeful that as more residents receive vaccines, the restrictions will be lessened.

Woodbridge Ave. Intersection Improvement

In the fall of 2020 Middlesex County began to improve the intersection of Woodbridge Ave. and May St. next to where the Greenway crosses Woodbridge Ave. The project involves adding left turn lanes so traffic on Woodbridge Ave. can turn into May St, and into the driveway for the Marriott Courtyard hotel. The project will be finished in the spring of 2021.

Greenway users will see an improved crosswalk, and a countdown walk-don't walk light. No Greenway property was taken as part of the project.

Enbridge Gas Line Diversion

During 2020 Enbridge Pipeline company has been holding a series of hearings on the proposal to build a new Texas Eastern natural gas pipeline from an existing pipeline just east of Metuchen, and follow the AMTRAK powerline corridor, and under Route 1, and then under the Greenway to a pipeline interconnection by Pierson Ave.

The Greenway will remain open during construction as the pipeline trench will be under the Greenway Rt. 1 overpass. Construction is anticipated to be done in 2021.

The Middlesex Greenway Coalition recommended a new entrance at Pierson Ave. be built as part of the compensation for the diversion. However, Public Service who owns the property between the Greenway and Pierson Ave. said no, and Enbridge instead will make a contribution to the Middlesex County Open Space Trust Fund.

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ECO-TOURS of Edison

Organized by the Edison Greenways Group, Middlesex Greenway Coalition & The Edison Open Space Advisory Committee

We had planned a full schedule of Eco-Tours for the spring of 2020, but all were cancelled. We will schedule more when the conditions improve. We will see you then.

All local parks and natural areas are open for you to hike on your own.



1-13-2021

County Acquires More Open Space in Edison

In 2020 Middlesex County acquired a 13-acre property off of Woodland Ave. near the Edith Stevens Preserve. (Which we hike every year on the ECO-TOURS) Using a \$1.6 million grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program the County was able to preserve a portion of the Battle of The Short Hills battlefield. On June 26, 1777 a large battle between American and British forces occurred in this area. With this acquisition 130 acres of the battlefield have been preserved.

Greenway Archives Photo

We looked into the Greenway archives and came up with this photo to the right. It is from the first hike by the Middlesex Greenway Coalition in December 1991. We hiked the Greenway from Middlesex Ave. to Crows Mill Rd. In this view taken from the Lake Ave. bridge in Metuchen looking west. In 1991 the rails and ties were still in place. In 2021 there is a multi-use path where the tracks were.

. Windows of Understanding

The Middlesex Greenway was chosen by local artists as part of a public art project called the Windows of Understanding. In the fall artist visited the Greenway and spoke with Greenway supporters to get ideas for their art. The Greenway fit in the category of Climate Change. When you think about the how the Greenway transformed an old coal-powered, coal transporting corridor to an alternate transportation corridor, where walkers and bicyclists can get to places without burning fossil fuels. We have been combating climate change since 1991.

Windows of Understanding, a public art project rooted in social justice, returns Jan 18-Feb 28! Featured in storefronts in New Brunswick and Highland Park, the project has expanded to Metuchen with art on display at the Metuchen Public Library. Artists paired with non-profit organizations interpret the question "How do we see through hate?" and transform local businesses into windows of understanding. Learn More at WindowsOfUnderstanding.org

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, the art will be hung at the Metuchen Library gallery. At this time the Metuchen Library is closed, and the art will be shown online:

<https://www.facebook.com/metuchenarts/>

<https://www.metuchenartscouncil.com/>



Greenway Notes

Kahn's Crossing pedestrian bridge over the Greenway is still closed. Metuchen is applying for a new grant to replace the bridge. Metuchen is also working a grant from the National Park Service for technical assistance for the Greenway.

Amazon Smile

Help the Greenway by shopping at Amazon smile, and selecting Edison Greenways Group as the charity you support.

We can always use volunteers to help the Greenway. Contact us at www.edisongreenways.org if you want to help at an upcoming event or do a cleanup along the Greenway.



Reconnecting to Communities

Robert Takash

Edison Greenways Group

From time to time, our Nonprofit Group and our Volunteers reflect on the moving together to completing our projects. We actively "find" our voices and "connect" our work for accomplishing things that make things better in the communities we serve.

The financial supporters and volunteer staff operate above the distracting "noises", and hammer out our important work. We also safely engage our colleagues, friends, and "partners" in expanding the intertwined projects with total commitment.

We celebrate the "small wins" and highlight those health and trail benefits, even in these trying times. Everyone should love our greenway, parks, open spaces and wondrous environment with appreciation.

The bottom line is that we strive to be a strong influence and an active presence in our Region. Rest assured, we will keep reshaping and rebuilding to "weave" a better Path and strong, vibrant Communities.

Chris Mazauskas

The Middlesex Greenway Coalition has lost one of its biggest "behind the scenes" supporters due to COVID 19. Chris Mazauskas, Edison Township's grant writer, died on December 29, 2020. Chris coordinated Edison's Earth Day, and made sure we had a booth at the event. He worked with us on grants to help the Greenway and was working on the ADA parking lot and entrance on May St. Chris also provided his grant writing expertise to the Dismal Swamp Commission, securing State funding for a metes & bounds mapping of the swamp. Occasionally Chris would attend MGC meetings, updating us on Edison's green initiatives, and suggesting funding sources for our projects. He will be missed by all who worked with him.

Become a Member (\$10.00) and make a donation to help: (Total) \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: Edison Greenways Group Inc.

We are a non-profit tax-exempt IRS 501 c (3) organization.

Our Mailing Address: PO Box 10432, New Brunswick, NJ 08906

Your NAME: _____

Honoring: _____

Address: _____

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MIDDLESEX GREENWAY
COALITION MEETINGS 2021

Due to the COVID Pandemic
All our meetings are cancelled for now.
We may resume after June 2021.

For More Middlesex Greenway Information:

Find us on Facebook: Middlesex Greenway

Website: www.edisongreenways.org

Email: info@edisongreenways.org

Phone: 732-985-7071

See the progress of the Greenway.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/edisongreenways1/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B01Gw6UmlPY#t=13>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q89daPHnbkM>

Greenway Meetings Locations 2021

To be determined.

The GreenwayS News is published by the Edison Greenways Group, Inc. PO Box 10432 New Brunswick NJ 08906 We report on the status of the Middlesex Greenway and highlight other area greenways and open spaces and their potential linkage to the Middlesex Greenway. When the Middlesex Greenway Coalition was formed in 1993, we anticipated that it would be a key link in a growing system of greenways and trails. We are now closer to seeing this system become a reality.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

