

New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

***Project Priorities for
AmeriCorps
per
Land Managers and Trail Chairs***





Connecting People with Nature since 1920

156 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Contents

Introduction.....2

Background/Order of Operations2

 The Process2

Considerations.....3

 Updated Approval Process- per Nancy Stoner4

Sterling Forest Priorities5

West Hudson Priorities.....5

Fahnestock Priorities.....6

Highlands Priorities.....7

Highlands Priorities.....8

New Jersey Priorities8



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

156 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Introduction

The following is a list of project priorities, comments on those priorities, and action taken. The priorities were generated from the respective Land Managers, and/or Trail Chairs etc. as indicated on each tabulated list. In NY if a park has a Trails Plan, the plan should be consulted: <http://nysparks.com/recreation/trails/documents.aspx>, <http://nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx>.

Background/Order of Operations

The Process

1. See these documents
 - 1.1. New Trail and Trail Rerouting Guidelines (<O:\Trails\Corps\Trail Specs>)
 - 1.2. <O:\Trails\Corps\Trail Specs\OPRHP tech documents\Trails Technical\TrailProjectApprovalProcess.pdf>
 - 1.3. The other technical, and assessment files from the OPRHP in the folder above
 - 1.4. Nancy Stoner's comments under Sterling ("Updated Approval Process")
2. (Land Manager) sets priorities
3. (All parties) discussion of priorities
4. (Field Manager with invitation to All Parties) Scouting of Priorities and discussion of possible solutions
 - 4.1. GPS, flag, create work log for small repairs
 - 4.2. take reference photos for new trail design or major reroutes
5. (Field Manager) Present Solutions to Land Manager
6. (Land Manager) Review solutions and approve or provide feedback for changes
7. (Field Manager with invitation to All Parties) If changes are needed, reassess solutions
8. (Field Manager) Resubmit updated solutions
9. (Land Manager) Approve updated solutions or take the matter up the chain of command to Jim Hall and Ed Goodell
10. (Field Manager) Work logs are provided for approved solutions
11. (Land Manager) Approve work log
12. (Field Manager) Schedule of the work season submitted to Land Manager once work logs are approved
13. (Trail Crew) Construction
14. (Land Manager) Inspect work



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

156 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Considerations

<p>Types of Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those that fall within a trails plan. In NY: http://nysparks.com/recreation/trails/documents.aspx, http://nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx • Maximum of one major reroute/new trail design • High visibility project (close to trailhead/parking area) • Variety of types of work (stairs, crib wall, tread, paving, new trail etc.) • Variety of projects with short and long hike in times • Variety of multi week projects, week, and day projects • Variety of skill level projects 	<p>Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many people using the trail - current vs. potential • What types people are you trying to attract/currently attract • Stakeholders • Single use vs. multi use • Pedestrian/bike/horse/ski/snowshoe/ABA • ATV/dirt bike issues in the area • Bike/horse poaching in the area • Events/races • Geocaching
<p>New Design/Major Reroutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property/corridor boundaries • Positive control points • Negative control points 	<p>Ecological</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands/water crossings • Archeological sites • Invasive species • Endangered/threatened species • Permits; SEQR/EIS (Environmental Impact Statement)
<p>Character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backcountry/front country/rustic/primitive • Trail Development Matrix (see TC matrix beta) 	<p>Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting seasons/boundaries • Fire access • Rescue access



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

156 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Updated Approval Process- per Nancy Stoner

1. Standard maintenance practice - blazing, clearing brush, maintenance of erosion control structures; this is performed by maintainers and not in the scope of this contract/program; no approvals needed from OPRHP.
2. Trail Projects:
 - a. If a project is specifically identified in the trails plan and is occurring within the existing designated trail treadway, Jeff (or Evan) approves directly. If this is the case, but there are water resources involved, forward to Edwina and Jesse for review.
 - b. If a project is identified in the plan, but states that additional environmental review or assessments are needed or final alignment is to be determined (etc.), the *Trail Project Work Plan Approval Form* (including map of the proposed/flagged route, photos and general description of the project) need to be forwarded to Jesse and Edwina for review. Jesse and Edwina will contact other staff as necessary. This would include any significant reroutes and trail work within 100 feet of water body/wetlands (the DEC would need to be contacted as well).
 - c. If a project is not identified in the plan, *Trail Project Work Plan Approval Form* (and required documentation) need to be forwarded to Nancy Stoner, Jesse and Edwina for additional review. This may include a reroute that was not identified in the plan.
 - d. Bridge projects will additionally be forwarded to PIPC Regional engineering staff for review. Typically, Jeff provides initial design and works with volunteer to modify, then goes to Engineering for review and final approval. TC generally does not design bridges, but could provide basic specs (length, width) to Jeff.
 - e. Once a flagged route is approved, then TC develops a work plan as appropriate.
3. Nancy Stoner: "The word **"significant"** for reroutes needs to be determined on a case-by-case basis considering location and resources. If there are any questions, please contact Edwina and Jesse for guidance. There are many significant ecological communities and threatened, rare and endangered species within the park. We want to assure there are no/minimal impacts to these resources."
 - a. Jesse Jaycox (environmental): "we have some existing trails that are close to or in sensitive habitat. So, even though a trail improvement may seem minor, it's good for us to know about it to make sure a new alignment isn't being placed into a sensitive area (or perhaps we'd suggest it be moved out of a sensitive area if it's being re-routed)."
 - b. Michael Roets (historical): "Concerning what is a "significant" reroute I agree with Jesse."
 - c. Michael sees the avoidance of flat areas (or the use of side hilled or bench cut trails) as a low impact event for historical resources as humans rarely congregate in such locations: "the bench cuts proposed for these trails are on slopes much steeper than would be expected for major archaeological sites." Further, he felt if the trail is narrow the risk to resources is even smaller.



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

156 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Sterling Forest Priorities

	In progress Completed	SUBMITTED BY: Land Manger	NAME: Jeff Hutchinson EMAIL: Jeffrey.Hutchinson@parks.ny.gov MOBILE #: OFFICE #: 845-351-5907
	Trail	Location	Comments
	Listed By Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES		
1	Doris Duke		Phase I- South/Lower leg- completed; Phase II- NE leg- completed; Phase III- W leg- flagged, still in review- one archeological survey completed, waiting for other issues to be resolved
2	Sterling Lake Loop	Near Old Forge Road	Stepping stones through seasonally wet area- completed
3	Sterling lake loop	North end of lake	Beyond our scope, excavator needed
4	McKeags Connector	At 84 crossing	Improve access down to Co 84 with steps- abandoned due to seeps. Rerouted instead- completed.
5	Pine Meadow Conn.	At trail head parking	Stepping stones through seasonally wet area- completed
6	Fire Tower Trail/Sterling ridge	Wet area south of tower crossing low hollow	Stepping stones through seasonally wet area- two stones left to complete. Bog bridging may be added after reexamination in spring.
7	Eagle Mtn connector		Flagged with Red Back for a 7.5 mi loop. Pending approval.
8	Eagle Mtn proper	South east of em conn	To be scouted for flagging and review.
9	Clayhole		Flagged. Finalize alignment of eastern route and blaze/sign; consider water management measures in areas approaching Long Meadow Extension as noted in the trails plan. One bridge required- beaver.
10	Allis	Doris woods rd to power lines	To be scouted. 3-4 short wet sections- stepping stones and or bridges- pending stone availability.
11	Warbler	At lake	Fill and cover tread roots- completed

West Hudson Priorities

	In progress Completed	SUBMITTED BY: Other	NAME: Sona Mason EMAIL: smason@nynjtc.org MOBILE #: OFFICE #:
	Trail	Location	Comments
	Listed By Priority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES		
1	Hudson Highlands museum trail	into black Rock Forest	Flagged. Under construction by HHM.
2	Red trail	Minnewaska Preserve	To be scouted for flagging and review.



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

156 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Fahnestock Priorities

	In progress Completed	SUBMITTED BY: Trail Supervisor	NAME: John Magerlein (Gary Haugland-Chair); Evan Thompson and Bill Bauman EMAIL: jhmager@optonline.net MOBILE #: OFFICE #:
	Trail	Location	Comments
	Listed By Priority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES		
1	Canopus- Appalachian Way	Appalachian Access Trail	Phase I- Lake segment- completed ; Phase II- NE leg- Approved, construction in progress
2	School Mt. Road		Walked with Evan. Evan is taking care of bridge details. Evan wants a plan for erosion control and reroutes
3	School Mt. Road connection trail		To be scouted for flagging and review.
4	Round Hill Bypass Trail	from Fahnestock Trail to School Mt. Road	TC volunteer crew to build
5	Hubbard Loop		To be scouted.
6	Catfish Loop		TC volunteer crew to build
7	New trail	Candlewood Hill to Oscawana Lake	To be scouted. Property lines unknown.
8	Cabot Trail		To be scouted.

Other East Hudson Priorities

	In progress Completed	SUBMITTED BY: Trail Chair	NAME: Jim Haggett- Dutchess/Putnam Appalachian Trail Management Committee Chair EMAIL: jim.haggett@gmail.com MOBILE #: OFFICE #:
	Trail	Location	Comments
	Listed By Priority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES		
1	Appalachian	At 301 Canopus crossing	Dig kiosk holes
2	Nuclear Lake Loop	Near hwy 55	Investigate reroute



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

156 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Highlands Priorities

	In progress Completed	SUBMITTED BY: Trail Supervisor	NAME: John Magerlein (Gary Haugland-Chair); Evan Thompson and Bill Bauman EMAIL: jhmager@optonline.net MOBILE #: OFFICE #:
	Trail	Location	Comments
	Listed By Priority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES		
1	Breakneck Bypass (Highlands)	@ 900-1200' elevation	Scouted/flagged reroute denied for environmental concerns. Scouting another option.
2	Brook Trail	where detoured trail crosses stream	To be scouted. Puncheon bridge?
3	Breakneck Trail	Sunset Point Lookout	To be scouted. Rebuild steps?
4	Washburn Trail	bottom and quarry	Scouted and flagged lower and upper option. Revisiting with Evan.
5	Highlands Trail	Fishkill to Lonestar	Flagged, and approved. pending construction

	In progress Completed	SUBMITTED BY: Other	NAME: Erik Mickelson, per Trail Chair Andrew Seriup and Evan EMAIL: emickelson@nynjtc.org MOBILE #: 760-893-9331 OFFICE #: 201-5129012
	Trail	Location	Comments
	Listed By Priority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES		
1	Wilkinson Trail	@ 9D lower section	Erosion control completed. Reroute approved, pending construction this spring.
		Last 100 yards? leading up to Sugar Loaf Peak from 9D	To be scouted. Steps not desired.
		north face, just after starting to descend the peak	To be scouted. Replace a gouged scramble/slide. The reroute would provide an extended view of the valley towards Beacon. There is a short social trail or old line that needs to closed near this area/the peak



Connecting People with Nature since 1920

156 Ramapo Valley Road • Mahwah, NJ 07430 • T 201.512.9348 • F 201.512.9012 • www.nynjtc.org

Highlands Priorities

	In progress Completed	SUBMITTED BY: Other	NAME: Fred Stern EMAIL: fred@cantoolong.com MOBILE #: OFFICE #:
	Trail	Location	Comments
	Listed By Priority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES		
1	Cornish	Parallel to 9d south end	To be scouted. Wet. Being constructed for Accessible trail.
2	Brook Trail	south of junction with Undercliff	To be scouted. Erosion near intersection with Undercliff
3	Nelsonville Trail		To be scouted. J with Notch / Washburn and Lone Star Trail: Very eroded and rocky. To be scouted. Junction with Lone Star Trail - Split Rock Trail: Top is rocky and eroded.
4	Undercliff	south of intersection with Catskill aqueduct where trail switchbacks	To be scouted. Erosion and possible steps

New Jersey Priorities

	In progress Completed	SUBMITTED BY: Other	NAME: EMAIL: MOBILE #: OFFICE #:
	Trail	Location	Comments
	Listed By Priority: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES		
1	McMillian Reservoir	Ramapo Valley Reservation	Flagged, approved. Completed
2	Franklin Lakes		Flagged, approved. Pending construction
	Tenafly Nature Center		Create trails plan for TNC master plan.