

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Linkages

Interconnecting existing parks, open spaces, activity areas, and population centers with a trail and greenway network can provide residents with convenient access and expanded recreational opportunities within the Township and region. Existing and proposed trail routes and floodplain greenways are illustrated on Map 14. The floodplain greenways already exist naturally along stream corridors. Existing trails and areas that contain easements for the future installation of trails are identified. The potential routes that are intended to connect existing features are indicated on the map. These linkages follow paved roadways, utility rights-of-way, and floodplains. Points of interest including villages, historic features, schools, the library, and public buildings are also shown.

Greenway Corridors

A greenway is a linear open space area established along either a natural corridor, such as a stream valley or ridgeline, or along a manmade corridor such as a utility right-of-way, scenic road, or other route. Greenways can provide ecological benefits such as promoting wildlife and plant diversity and maintaining the natural character of an area. In addition to preserving natural resources, greenways may create safe, nonmotorized transportation routes to schools, commercial centers, residential developments, and recreational areas. A recreational greenway provides a system of paths that can accommodate different users such as bicyclists, hikers, and joggers. By linking individual parks together, linear trails can create a unified park system throughout a municipality and even beyond its borders. They can serve to extend parks and open space areas in a linear fashion to maximize visual and physical contact for park users.

As an active member in the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee (PACC), Bedminster is one of the eight municipalities that developed the *Pennridge Area Greenway Plan (2000)*. The Greenway Plan evaluates the feasibility of developing a greenway system throughout the Pennridge Area and serves as a basis for the Township routes. Recommended greenways routes incorporate streams, existing trails, floodplains, on-road bike routes, and off-road linkages. A number of areas in Bedminster Township already serve as natural greenways. These areas contain floodplains along stream corridors and are often forested, enhancing their aesthetic and resource value. While these resources are protected by natural resource protection standards, public access is generally restricted because they lie on private property and/or on preserved farmland.

Revised Greenway Text
To replace p.o. text in Chapter 11 (page 131)
May 13, 2008

This Plan does not differentiate between a natural greenway and a recreational greenway. The Township plans to evaluate alternative on- and off-road recreational linkages to implement the trail and greenway network on a case-by-case basis as development occurs. Successful implementation of trails within a greenway network will be dependent upon the cooperation of respective property owners since access easements on private properties would be voluntary.

Existing greenways and proposed trail linkages identified in the *Pennridge Area Greenway Plan* and refined by the Township are shown on Map 14 and described below.