

## HACKENSACK RIVER GREENWAY ADVISORY BOARD

Annual Report to Council  
September 2021

The following is a description of each section of the greenway trail and updates on projects:

**Terhune Park** – no report

**Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail** – Rain barrel and shed have been installed for access to water for native plants in garden. A bench was donated by the Kahn Family in memory of Lou Kahn, who was active on Friends of Greenway and PPRAB. A rain barrel was donated by Beverly Luchfeld to Hawthorne School, which no longer needed multiple barrels and she offered it to the greenway. Board of Education transported the barrel to 640 River Road. Matt Billow, Billow Garrett Group, Architects and Planners, provided architect drawings for the shed, which were approved by engineering and building departments. USA Home Improvements constructed the shed with funding from the Township. The shed also provides space for a 3D map of river greenway with Braille descriptions and an information board for educational materials.

Recent storm has caused severe damage to ADA trail. Tahawus, who constructed the trail was contacted and will come and give an estimate to repair trail to ADA compliance.

**Riverside Drive Trail** –Bergen County is planning the replacement of Anderson Street Bridge at north entrance of Riverside Trail at Cedar Lane. Input was given at public hearings requesting a walkway under bridge that would connect Riverside Trail with FDU trail. Bridge Plan is at engineering drawing stage and will need to go to bid and then for state approval. It has not been determined if under bridge walkway will be included in plans.

Jordan Wouk, one of the founders of the Greenway, passed away. Council has approved renaming of Riverside Drive Trail, which Jordan helped acquire, as the *Jordan Wouk River Walk*. Plans are being made with his family for a spring dedication.

HRGAB has requested from Council that a 50 ft buffer along the River at the Burial Ground and the adjoining lot be designated as part of the Greenway. Documents are available that show the riverfront at these locations was created by landfill from 1940's. A trail along the river would open the site to visitors away from the actual burial site. Meeting was held with Meadowlands Commission that has jurisdiction of Burial Ground site. They would like to see Township provide a plan for site that includes a river walkway.

**FDU trail** – HRGAB and Friends have been working with Township Attorney to have February 2004 Developers' Agreement finalized. The Developers Agreement between FDU and township has been signed by FDU, but never by Township. At this point, Teaneck only has a license to use the Greenway on FDU campus. A license can be terminated at any time. A completed Developers Agreement is a permanent commitment.

**Camperdown Trail** – Drain pipe near river is badly cracked and land around it has been rapidly eroding. Manager and engineer have been informed. It is becoming more of a hazard for walkers along trail.

**Indian Pond Trail** – DPW in fall of 2020, was able to improve trail using 3-inch stone and gravel all around pond especially in gap at southwest corner of trail that had been heavily eroded. However, stones and gravel are washing into pond and river near sewer cap in southwest corner. DPW has been asked if a Gabion wall could be constructed to stop erosion.

**Andreas Park** – no report

**Upper Brett Park**- Working with Bergen County Audubon with Frank Chapman Trail. New signage has been put up by Audubon regarding the return of the Bald Eagle.

**Lower Brett Park** - Drain pipe near river is cracked and land around it has been rapidly eroding. Manager

and engineer have been informed. HRGAB is working with Historic New Bridge Landing Commission to have a plan to clear invasive plants and open view to river as well as controlling flooding. National Parks Service provides grant funding under American Battlefields Protection Grants, which may be able to help fund improvements to Lower Brett. Applications will be open in November 2021. 1A survey by HNBLC was done and shared with Teaneck regarding historic significance of site. We have recommended that Teaneck do a 1B survey to determine the meets and bounds of Brett Park and then compare these with deeds and HNBL statutes. Once meets and bounds are established Teaneck can begin coordinating with HNBLC for rehabilitation of park with regard to removing invasive plants and controlling flooding.

**Cleanups** scheduled throughout the year with Friends of the Hackensack River Greenway are listed below. Bergen County Clean Communities provided equipment and supplies. Their Mini-grants were applied for and awarded. \$300 in grant money has been received by Friends for purchase of native plants.

April 11 Terhune Park

April 17 Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail

May 2 Riverside Drive

May 15 Camperdown

June 6 Indian Pond

June 19 Upper Brett Park

July 17 Terhune Park

August 1 Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail

August 14 Riverside Drive

August 29 Camperdown

September 18 Indian Pond

October 10 Andreas Park

October 16 Upper Brett Park

November 7 Lower Brett Park

November 20 Terhune Park

December 5 Mary S. Topolsky Garden and Trail

December 18 Riverside Drive

### **PSE&G Diversion Project**

Open Space Plan and the Greenway – HRGAB recommended to Council to designate/purchase the following to meet 3.7 addition of open space that PSE&G Project requires:

- 50 ft buffer along river at DPW yard
- Acquiring property adjacent to 1500 River Road on north side that is an historical Lutheran Burial ground and former church property
- Acquiring vacant lot east of Riverside Drive southern entrance on Cedar Lane

HRGAB recommended to Council to consider the following projects using the \$1.9 million funds from PSE&G Diversion Project.

- Provide funding for Burial Ground for signage and sitting area
- Help fund rehabilitation of Brett Park with HNBL
- Refurbish the Carriage House at Andreas as a Trailside Museum
- Use funds to increase Greenway by purchasing homes that go up for sale along the river, placing an easement for 50' buffer and reselling property with easement or working on purchasing easements from willing property owners.

HRGAB strongly recommends to Council that the ROSSI be updated and approved so that Greenacre Funds will be available for future projects.

### **MPAP – Municipal Public Access Plan**

In 2013, HRGAB worked with EC, PPRAB and Planning Board to have this plan from NJ DEP approved, which would demonstrate Teaneck Township's commitment to providing access to Hackensack River to

the public. It has been awaiting approval from the Planning Board since it was submitted in 2014. HRGAB recommends to Council that they request MPAP approval from current Planning Board and register the plan with NJ DEP.

**Our appreciation**

HRGAB appreciates all the support received from Township – Manager, Council, Engineering and Building Departments and particularly the DPW, who have helped maintain the trails by mowing removing fallen tree along the trail, with cleanup pickups of debris and numerous other projects such as Indian Pond trail. Many community volunteers have helped with cleanups and planting. The Greenway is a treasured resource for our community, and we are proud to be a part of it.

Marie Warnke, Chair HRGAB