Hackensack RiverWalk Plan

Hudson County Department of Public Resources
Division of Parks and Recreation

June 2003
The Hackensack RiverWalk is a planned eight (8) mile waterfront park extending from Newark Bay in Bayonne to Bellman’s Creek in North Bergen.

Completion of the Hackensack RiverWalk will provide a continuous pedestrian trail connecting parks, retail, office, commercial and residential areas of Hudson County.

The RiverWalk is also envisioned as providing links between communities outside of Hudson County.
City of Bayonne

Newark Bay Shoreline in Bayonne near North Forty Park
City of Bayonne

The Hackensack RiverWalk in Bayonne extends from Stephen R. Gregg Bayonne County Park north along Newark Bay towards the Hackensack River.

An extension of the RiverWalk is also being proposed south from Bayonne County park to Bayonne Municipal Park. This extension will link residential areas of the city with the County Park, Bayonne High School/Veterans Stadium and Bayonne Municipal Park.

Several proposed residential developments south of Bayonne Municipal Park (16th Street) include a waterfront walkway. To incorporate these projects an extension south of 16th Street along Avenue A is recommended.
City of Bayonne

Stephen R. Gregg Bayonne County Park is the southern terminus of the RiverWalk. The park provides walks and promenades along the waterfront.
An extension of the trail will proceed south along Avenue A and enter Bayonne High School near 30th Street. Continuing along Avenue A, the RiverWalk will link Bayonne Municipal Park and residential areas south of the park eventually leading to Kill Van Kull Park and the Bayonne Bridge.
City of Bayonne

Bayonne High School and Veterans Stadium

Bayonne Municipal Park on 16th Street
The RiverWalk will proceed north of the Bayonne County Park into a new park facility named North Forty Park. Once crossing the park to reach the waterfront, the RiverWalk will run along the Route 440 right-of-way towards the Jersey City border.
City of Bayonne

Route 440 Ramp

Route 440 near Bayonne/Jersey City Border

Hackensack RiverWalk Plan
Jersey City

Redeveloped Hudson River Waterfront in Jersey City
South of Lincoln Park

JERSEY CITY

Colonial Concrete Company
Public Works/Sewerage Authority
Society Hill
NJCU Athletic Complex
To Bayonne
See Exhibit 1

Hudson Mall

To West Hudson Park
See Exhibit 3

To Secaucus

SECAUCUS

NJ TRANSIT

Riverbend Wetlands Preserve
Malanka Landfill

Wittpenn Bridge

PSE&G

EXHIBIT 2

Terminus/Start Point
Existing Route
Alternate Route or Extension
Proposed Route
Future Construction
Major Constraints
From Bayonne, the RiverWalk continues north along Route 440. Once reaching the NJCU Athletic Fields, the trail connects with the existing promenade at Society Hill housing development. The promenade will extended northward towards Kellogg Street as part of the final phase of Society Hill.
The Colonial Cement Company located at the foot of Kellogg Street is a major physical obstacle for the RiverWalk. The commercial activity on the site will require the trail to cross private property by easement in order to reach the waterfront. Across the bay from Kellogg Street is Kearny Point marking the mouth of the Hackensack River.
Jersey City and the Jersey City Sewage Authority own a number of properties along the river north of Kellogg Street. These properties extend 2,900 from JCSA to the rear of Hudson Mall and then onto Communipaw Avenue. Once under Communipaw Avenue, the RiverWalk enters West Lincoln Park.
Communipaw Avenue has been identified as the Hackensack River crossing point for the Proposed Liberty-Water Gap trail. Extensions from the RiverWalk will run into Lincoln Park and connect to the existing trail system. Another spur of the RiverWalk will continue north along the river’s edge.
The RiverWalk continues north along the Hackensack River and under the Pulaski Skyway. Easements would be required north of Duncan Avenue and across Holy Name Cemetery property. The trail becomes more difficult to delineate as it approaches the Route 7 river crossing also known as the Wittpenn Bridge.
NJDOT is replacing the Wittpenn Bridge. The new facility will provide enough space for a trail. Large shifts in tidal levels at this location also add to the dilemma of providing a trail at this location. Once beyond this point, the RiverWalk encounters another large physical limitation, the PSE&G plant.
The coal power plan effectively blocks any potential route along the river. Security concerns since 9/11 preclude the trail from being placed on any portion of the PSE&G site. As a result, the RiverWalk must turn inland along existing roadways and existing rail easements to circumvent the power plant. The RiverWalk follows the rail easements north of the plant to the Secaucus border just east of the Malanka Landfill.
Town of Secaucus and North Bergen Township

Mill Creek Marsh in Secaucus
EXHIBIT 4

- Terminus/Start Point
- Proposed Route
- Existing Route
- Future Construction
- Alternate Route or Extension
- Major Constraints

- Meadowlands Parkway
- New Jersey Turnpike
- Hackensack Meadowlands Conservation and Wildlife Area
- To Secaucus/Jersey City
  See Exhibit 3
- Snipes Park
- Medical Center
- Trolley Park
- Mill Creek Trails
- Mill Creek Point
- To James J. Braddock North Hudson County Park

Source: NJDOT and T&M Associates

Hackensack RiverWalk Plan
Town of Secaucus & North Bergen Township

Secaucus, with assistance from the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) has planned for a contiguous multi use trail system throughout the community. The Hackensack RiverWalk complements and supplements efforts already undertaken by Secaucus and the NJMC.

It is the County’s intention to maintain a walkway along the riverfront wherever it is feasible to do so. Therefore, the plan calls for the continuation of the RiverWalk along the Hackensack River and to incorporate the Secaucus/NJMC plan as an extension of the RiverWalk project.
Once in Secaucus, the trail splits. One path follows the rail easement while the other goes along the river. Both routes bypass the Malanka Landfill and converge near the southern entrance of Laurel Hill County Park near the NJ Turnpike overpass.
There are two possible extension of the RiverWalk leaving Laurel Hill Park.

The first heads west and crosses over the Hackensack River at the abandoned Conrail bridge. The trail would pass just south of the Saw Mill Creek State Wild Life Preserve and link Laurel Hill Park with points west including West Hudson County Park located in Kearny.

The second extension leads out of Laurel Hill Park to New County Road. From here the trail follows the existing road system. One spur of this extension will lead to the Secaucus Transfer Station while the other will run parallel to New County Road towards Meadowlands Parkway.
The RiverWalk will parallel the New County Road/Meadowlands Parkway trail. Continuing north from Laurel Hill Park, the route will run along the river past the New Jersey Transit Main Line and Anderson Creek Marsh to Harmon Cove.
Portions of the RiverWalk from Snipes Park to Secaucus High School are either developed or proposed for construction. Private developers have played an important role in implementing the RiverWalk in Secaucus. Hess, Red Roof Inn and Embassy Suites have provided waterfront promenades with their developments in accordance with Secaucus development regulations.
Baker residential, a luxury residential development located at the foot of Meadowlands Parkway, will provide a riverfront promenade from Born Street to Trolley Park and then onto Secaucus High School. There are several small properties that interfere with the delineated route.
Once at Secaucus High School, the existing environmental walkway will be replaced by the Baker project. The RiverWalk once again diverges at this point. The proposed Baker route will take the trail along the high school property line to Mill Ridge Road. There it will follow Mill Ridge Road past Schmidts Woods Park and into Mill Creek Point. The other route will continue along the river and directly link the high school with Mill Creek Point.
Beyond Mill Creek Point, the RiverWalk will continue north into North Bergen. A final termination point for the walkway will have to be determined.
One option is to connect the RiverWalk to 71st Street to provide access to residential areas of North Bergen via the 69th Street overpass.

The RiverWalk could terminate on 69th street or continue north on Tonnelle Avenue to 79th Street. From 79th Street, the trail can head east and enter James J. Braddock North Hudson County Park at the intersection of 79th and Bergenline Avenue.

This route would provide a connection between the Hackensack River waterfront and the Hudson River waterfront. It also provides the residents of North Bergen, Guttenberg and West New York with a nearby access route to the Hackensack RiverWalk.
HACKENSACK RIVERWALK

EXAMPLES OF RIVERWALKS and WATER FRONT PROMENADES

HUDSON COUNTY EXAMPLES
LINCOLN PARK WEST

HUDSON COUNTY

LINCOLN PARK WEST WAS A SCHEMATIC MASTER PLAN FOR A RECREATIONAL FACILITY THAT IS ON THE HACKENSACK RIVER. THE FACILITY CONSISTED OF A GOLF DRIVING RANGE, GREAT LAWN, PARKING, RESTROOM BUILDINGS, PATH SYSTEM AND A RIVER PROMENADE ALONG THE HACKENSACK RIVER.
SECAUCUS HIGH SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENTAL WALKWAY

TOWN OF SECAUCUS
MILL CREEK MARSH TRAIL
NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION

TOWN OF SECAUCUS
STEPHEN R. GREGG
BAYONNE COUNTY PARK

CITY OF BAYONNE
STEPHEN R. GREGG
BAYONNE COUNTY PARK

CITY OF BAYONNE

RENOVATIONS ALONG PORTIONS OF THE BAYONNE WATERFRONT PROMENADE IN BAYONNE COUNTY PARK TOOK PLACE IN 2001.
LAUREL HILL COUNTY PARK

TOWN OF SECAUCUS
HACKENSACK RIVER FRONT

TOWN OF SECAUCUS

REQUIREING PRIVATE DEVELOPERS TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE WATERFRONT IS ESSENTIAL IN LINKING COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL AND RECREATIONAL USES ALONG THE HACKENSACK RIVER.
JERSEY CITY WATERSFRONT

HUDSON COUNTY
JERSEY CITY WATEFRONT

HUDSON COUNTY

Hackensack RiverWalk Plan
HACKENSACK RIVERWALK

EXAMPLES OF RIVERWALKS and WATER FRONT PROMENADES

OTHER EXAMPLES
RED BANK RIVERWALK

BOROUGH OF RED BANK

THE GOAL OF THE RIVERWALK IS TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC ACCESS PROMENADE ALL ALONG THE NAVESINK RIVER, NEARLY 2 MILES IN LENGTH. THE DESIGN AND PLANNING TOOK INTO ACCOUNT LOCATION, COMMUNITY INTERACTION, COMMERCIAL COMPATIBILITY, RESTRICTIONS, SEATING, ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPING, ETC.
THE NEW CAMDEN WATERFRONT PARK AND FISHING PIER IS A PORTION OF A LARGER WATERFRONT PROJECT ALONG THE DELAWARE RIVER. THIS PIECE OF THE WATERFRONT HAS EXCELLENT VIEWS OF PHILADELPHIA.
THE NEW CAMDEN WATERFRONT PARK AND FISHING PIER ALONG THE DELAWARE RIVER. THIS PHASE OF THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED IN JULY OF 2002.
OTHER EXAMPLES

OCEAN PLACE PROMENADE
CITY OF LONG BRANCH

MANASQUAN RIVER RESERVOIR BOAT FACILITY
TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL

RIVERSIDE GARDENS PARK
BOROUGH OF RED BANK
OTHER EXAMPLES

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS HARBOR

EAST LACEY ROAD PARK
TOWNSHIP OF EAST LACEY

KEANSBURG BAYWALK
BOROUGH OF KEANSBURG