

Morris County Bicycle & Pedestrian User Guide

The Morris County Bicycle & Pedestrian Element

In 1998, Morris County launched the Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the Morris County Master Plan to improve conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians. The plan, advanced by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Public Advisory Committee (BPED PAC) and other community representatives, has the following objectives:

- To develop an integrated system/network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities for both recreation and commuting purposes.
- To increase the safety of bicycling and walking.
- To encourage bicycling and walking through community planning and encourage local facility investment.
- To promote bicycling and walking as alternatives to driving.

This plan identifies Morris County's bicycle and pedestrian facilities by region and lists the resources available to people who bicycle and walk for recreation or commuting purposes. Safety and education issues were revealed to be very important for everyone.

Recommendations and resources are provided for bicycle and pedestrian safety education and for communities planning new and proposed facilities, including bike lanes, sidewalks, trail extensions, and multi-use trails.

TRAILS IN MORRIS COUNTY

The Morris County Park Commission along with various other local government agencies regularly improves and develops multi-use paths and trails within the County. Major trails include Patriots' Path, the Traction Line Recreational Trail, Loantaka Trail and Columbia Trail.

Upcoming Bicycle & Pedestrian Projects

- It is anticipated that the following projects will be undertaken in Morris County over the next few years:
 - The completion of the Patriots' Path System will be undertaken at various locations by the Morris County Park Commission.
 - The New York, Susquehanna & Western (NYS&W) Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail follows the NYS&W rail line (parallel to Route 23) from Riverdale to Mountain View Rail Station in Wayne (Passaic County). For further information, contact the Morris County Division of Transportation Management.
 - The West Morris Greenway heads northeast from Chester Township to Jefferson Township. For further information, contact the Morris County Park Commission.
 - The Chatham Township - Long Hill Township Riverwalk follows the Passaic River through these Townships.
 - A 1.5 mile trail project in Randolph that will link all public schools and parks with County College of Morris and Father's Path.
 - Roxbury will construct phase one of the Horseshoe Lake multi-use path, which will be a three-quarter mile path solely on Horseshoe Lake property.
 - The High Point to Cape May State Bicycle Route will provide cyclists with a signed north-south statewide signed route.

Adopt-a-Trail

The Morris County Park Commission welcomes volunteers to build and maintain trails. Equipment, tools and training are provided. Individuals, families, or groups and organizations are welcome to adopt-a-trail. For details about this program, call 973-326-7884.



PATRIOTS' PATH

Patriots' Path is a network of bicycling, hiking, and equestrian paths and trails. It links numerous federal, state, county, and municipal parks, watershed lands, and historic resources across Morris County. Additional sections of Patriots' Path are being developed on an ongoing basis.

Length Approximately 20 continuous miles are open through Morris Township, Mendham Township, Mendham Borough, and Harding Township; 8 mile section in Chester Township; 4 mile section in Washington Township

Surface Crushed stone and gravel, earth and rock, short paved sections in Morristown and Morris Township, cinder and gravel beds of old railroad lines (7 miles)

Activities Bicycling, walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, and horseshoe riding



Access/Parking

- Spessell Avenue, Morristown
- Lake Valley Road, Morris Township
- Hamere Road, Morris Township
- Washington Valley Road, Morris Township
- Old Re. 24, Sunrise Lake, Lewis Morris Park, Morris Township
- CR 513, Chester Township
- Old Re. 24, Washington Township
- Fairview Avenue, Washington Township
- Springtown Road, Washington Township
- Pleasant Hill Road, Chester Township

Highlights

- Fishing along Black River and South Branch of Rantan River
- Benbow Brook Outback Education Center
- Garden trails at Frelinghuysen Arboretum
- Diemal Harmony Natural Area
- Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area
- Willowood Arboretum
- Ford Mansion
- George Washington's Headquarters
- Cooper Gristmill
- Fosterside Living Historical Farm
- Historic Speedwell

TRACTION LINE RECREATIONAL TRAIL



The Traction Line Recreational Trail is a paved, multi-use path for bicycling, walking, and jogging. It is located in the Morristown National Historic Park, which commemorates the two winter encampments of General George Washington and the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The path parallels the NJ Transit rail tracks from Morris Avenue in Morristown to Convent Road in Morris Township.

Length 2.5 miles

Surface Paved (asphalt), 10 feet wide

Activities Biking, walking, rollerblading, jogging, cross-country skiing, and nine parcourse exercise stations

Access/Parking

- Morris Avenue, Morristown
- Howell Place, Morristown
- Convent Road, Morris Township
- Danforth Road, Madison

Highlights

- Convent Station Railroad Station
- College of St. Elizabeth
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Ford Mansion
- George Washington's Headquarters
- Jockey Hollow Encampment
- Temp's Work House
- Morris Museum
- Scholer-Hamilton House
- Museum of Early Trades and Crafts



Sharing the Path:

For Bicyclists and In-line Skaters:

- Always yield to pedestrians.
- Give an audible warning when you're passing another bicyclist or other path/trail user.
- Remember to stay single file in congested areas, places with reduced visibility, or anywhere else that may be dangerous.

For Pedestrians and Joggers:

- Watch and listen for other path/trail users.
- Be especially alert when running.
- Let faster path/trail users safely pass you.

For Everyone to keep in mind:

- Share the path/trail and be courteous to other users!
- Stay to the right, pass on the left.
- Respect other people's property.
- Keep dogs on a leash no more than 8 feet in length, and clean up after them.

SOME TIPS FOR SHARING THE PATH, TRAIL, AND ROAD

General safety guidelines are provided below. For specific information on New Jersey Bicycle Laws, contact the NJ Division of Motor Vehicles at 888-486-3339 and request a copy of the Bicycle Manual. For further information on bicycle or pedestrian safety, refer to the "For More Information" section of this guide.

For Pedestrians and Joggers:



Cross Safety: Cross at intersections and obey traffic signals. You have the right-of-way in a crosswalk but you must still be careful and alert. If you are not at a crosswalk, yield to vehicles.

Sharing the Road:

For Bicyclists:

Wear A Helmet: It's the law for bicyclists 14 and under, but EVERYONE should ALWAYS wear one!



Ride With Traffic: Ride on the right side of the street in the SAME direction as traffic is moving. Ride single file and stay about a car door's width away from parked cars. Watch for cars using the shoulder as a travel lane.

Follow The Rules:

The same traffic laws apply to bicyclists and drivers. Obey all signs and signals, and follow lane markings. Keep your eyes on the road!

Use Signals:

Clearly show your intentions when making turns and changing lanes.



Stay Alert:

When turning or crossing the street, make sure that drivers see you by making eye contact. Watch out for hazards like storm grates, slick or uneven pavement surfaces, and other potential road obstructions.



Lock Up: Always lock your bike.

Sidewalks and Bicycles:

Pedestrians have priority on sidewalks. Young children can ride on sidewalks, except where there are a lot of people walking. As a rule, adults shouldn't ride their bikes on the sidewalk unless alternatives are unsafe.



Riding At Night:

Minimize night riding, but DO outfit your bike with lights and reflectors as required by NJ State Law.



Be Prepared To Stop:

Don't ride one-handed and always be ready to brake with two hands. If it's raining, you need to allow more time to stop.



WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

"Walkable" Communities have sidewalk networks, safe crossing opportunities, and destinations that are within walking distances. The pedestrian environment is safe and attractive. Morris County has many towns and villages in which it is a pleasure to walk. Active town centers with shopping and dining opportunities are enhanced by many historic sites and lovely neighborhoods. Most of the older communities in Morris County, as well as many of the newer ones, have good sidewalk systems. Communities can become more pedestrian friendly. Citizens and officials can evaluate their communities, plan for improvements, and adopt the policies and programs to make walking easier and more pleasant. The Partnership for a Walkable America can help with various tools, including the Walk Our Children to School Information Kit. The FHWA has developed a Pedestrian Safety Road Show through which interested citizens and community leaders can learn how to improve local conditions for walking. See "For More Information," for contacts to bring these programs to your community.

Morris County

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Second Edition

Users of this guide bear full responsibility for their own safety, assume the risks encountered, and are advised to use good judgment and obey traffic laws on all paths/trails and roads, regardless of their designation on this map. The guide is not intended to represent all recreational paths/trails in Morris County, but rather, to serve as a reference for many of the paths/trails available for public use. The developers of this guide do not take responsibility for changes or updates to paths/trails listed, the conditions of the paths/trails, or injuries resulting from their use.

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This Guide was prepared by the Morris County Department of Planning & Development, Division of Transportation Management (MCDOTM) in collaboration with:

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COLUMBIA TRAIL



This wide earthen trail on the abandoned bed of the High Bridge Branch of the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey spans Morris County and Hunterdon County. The section of the trail located in Hunterdon County is in operation while the Morris County portion is being developed. This trail is a source of community pride. The Boy Scouts High Bridge Council has annual maintenance outings and a Camporee here.

Activities Bicycling, hiking, jogging, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding

Access/Parking

- West Valley Brook Road, Washington Township
- CR 513, Washington Township
- Fairview Avenue, Washington Township
- Naughton Ridge, Washington Township
- Four Bridges Road, Washington Township
- Bartley Road, Washington Township
- Schooley's Mountain Road, Washington Township

Highlights

- Peitt Chapel Farm
- AI-O Reintzher Farm and Stable
- Washington Township Historical Museum
- Bard Used Car Company (historic cars)
- Farms, woodland, and villages, including Long Valley Village

Length 16.2 miles

Surface Dirt, gravel, and cinder

BICYCLING TO WORK

Why Bicycle To Work?

Save Money: Bicycle commuting is 40 times less expensive than car travel. In addition, many insurance companies offer lower rates to those who do not use a car for commuting.

Save Time: Morning traffic congestion causes auto trip time to increase while travel time for cycle-commuters generally remains constant.

Improve Your Health: Cycling is excellent exercise and over time will help improve a person's cardiovascular system, improve muscle tone, and aid in weight loss.

Improve the Environment: It is estimated that 70% to 90% of local air pollutants are caused by motor vehicle travel. Bicycles produce no adverse environmental impacts – they are quiet, use no fossil fuels, and emit no pollutants.

Enjoy your commute: Cycle-commuters feel a sense of independence and accomplishment from moving under their own power.

How To Start?

Determine if your commute is within bicycling distance. The average distance that people travel to work is about 10 miles. More than half of the trips to work are 5 miles or less, which is considered an ideal distance for bicycle commuting.

Contact Transportation, a not-for-profit Transportation Management Association, dedicated to developing and providing mobility options for those who live or work in northern New Jersey. Transportation's matching system can register a bicyclist's skill level as novice or advanced, and then search a database for a likely bicycle route to work or find a "biking buddy".



BICYCLES & TRANSIT

Bike Aboard Program

NJ TRANSIT's Bike Aboard Program is designed to enable cyclists to bring their standard frame bicycles on-board trains during weekday off-peak hours and on weekends. This program is an effort on the part of Morris County, Bergen, Essex, Atlantic City, and Northeast Corridor lines (except between Princeton and Freeland Junction). Bicycles are not allowed on the Bortone and Passaic Valley lines. Colorable bicycles are permitted on all of the NJ TRANSIT rail lines at all times.

To obtain a permit, contact: 800-773-3006 (within New Jersey) and 973-691-9400 (outside New Jersey) www.njtransit.com/cv_ride_bike.shtml

Bicycle Parking at NJ TRANSIT Rail Stations

Station	Line	Bike Racks	Bike Lockers
Bortone	Bortone	5	0
Chatham	Morristown	2	10
Convent Station	Morristown	4	10
Deville	Morristown/Bortone	6	0
Dover	Bortone	4	0
Gillette	Gladstone Branch	3	0
Lake Hopatcong	Chatham	4	0
Lynch Park	Bortone	4	0
Madison	Morristown	8	0
Millington	Gladstone Branch	4	0
Morris Plains	Morristown	6	10
Morristown	Morristown	4	0
Mt. Olive	Morristown/Bortone	0	0
Mt. Tabor	Morristown	0	0
Mountain Lakes	Bortone	3	0
Newry	Bortone	3	0
Swiring	Gladstone Branch	2	0
Tinicum	Bortone	3	0

The Loantaka Trail stretches along the Loantaka Brook, through portions of the Townships of Morris, Harding, and Chatham. Loantaka means "the place of the cold winter" in Leni-Lenape, the language of a Native American tribe that once lived in New Jersey. It is a green haven in a heavily urbanized and densely populated area.

Length Paved section: 4 miles, Equestrian trail: 4 miles

Surface Pavement, dirt, and grass

Activities Biking, hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing

Access/Parking

- South Street, Morris Township
- Kitchell Road, Morris Township
- Woodland Avenue, Morris Township
- Green Village Road, Chatham Township
- Loantaka Lane, Chatham Township
- Loantaka Way, Chatham Township
- Spring Valley Road, Chatham Township

Highlights

- Picnic areas
- Shelters
- Athletic fields
- Satsum Playground
- Szeaton Hackney Stables-Horse Farm
- Helen Hartley Jenkins Woods

