

1974

Found that trails should be established in natural, scenic areas and in and near urban areas to promote public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of outdoor, natural and remote. Declares it to be state policy to achieve this by instituting a Statewide system of recreational and scenic trails.

Authorizes the creation of the New Jersey Trails Council to study and devise a plan for a coordinated system of trails throughout the state. Trails Council serves as lay advisory board to NJDEP and NJDOT

1975

1982

- Defined the trail use categories to be addressed
- Described the (then) current situation with regard to trains
- Identified the supply of trails resources, based on an extensive inventory process;
- · Described user needs
- Discussed key issues related to or influencing trails development
- Proposed numerous policies and recommendations, both statewide and locally
- Proposed eleven initial components of a State Trails System
- Identified the following for potential inclusion in the State Trails System
 - Existing trails
 - Proposed trails
 - Abandoned railroad rights-of- way
 - On-road bicycle touring routes
 - Beaches
 - Canoeable waterways
 - Connecter trails

1992

Reforms the Trails Council, having it continue to serve as lay advisory board in the development and implementation of a State Trails System. Specifies 11 members to consist of interest groups, state government agencies (NJDEP/NJDOT) and user groups, which may include, but not be limited to, hiking, canoeing, bicycling, and horseback riding.



The 1996 New Jersey Trails Plan

20

UTra Update

1996 -

- Focused on the implementation of the State Trails System
- Administered a survey of existing trails to:
 - Ascertain the number, type and location of existing trails
 - Determine which were of "statewide significance."

• Evaluated trails in terms of:

- Scenic quality
- Accessibility
- Length
- Maintenance Costs
- Public Support
- Environmental Impact
- Recommended the Appalachian Trail and 25 others for the State Trails System.
- Identified 18 trails potentially eligible for the State Trails System, pending review
- Identified 23 potential trail routes that would meet existing and future demand for trails.
- Discussed 16 key trails issues and needs
- Presented a brief Action Plan to implement the State Trails System
 - One-year action items
 - Three-year action items
 - Five-year action items
 - Ongoing action items

NJDEP readopts State Trails System Rules, which required completion of a management plan for the trails right of way. Eight trails were designated as parts of the State Trails System.

2006/2009

The New Jersey Trails Plan Update will...

- Readopt the more comprehensive approach of the 1982 Plan
- Present a detailed look at County Trails
- Address needs at all levels, including especially urban trails and ADA considerations
- · Address an expanded list of issues
- Evaluate user needs in terms of detailed trail user profiles and the "ideal" trail experience
- Consider emerging and
- potential user trendsAdult tricycles
 - Recumbent bicycles
 - Bicycle trailers
 - Hand cycles
 - Wheelchairs
 - Kick scooters
 - Segways

Consider emerging and

- potential social trends
 - Suburbanization/sprawl,
 - along with reurbanization

 Aging population more
 - leisure time
 - Limited public funding
 - High costs for right-of-
 - way acquisition

 Continued NIMBY resistance

