






# Summary of Recommendations

Recommended Time Frame for Initiating Action:



 Ongoing	 1-2 yrs.	 3-5 yrs.	 6-10 yrs.
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## 1 - TRAILS FOR ALL




### Needs Assessment:

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|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1) Conduct a Statewide Trail Needs Assessment continuing the work of the Plan through a general public survey to statistically validate priorities (Trails Council, Consortium of Trails Groups) |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|




### Trail Development Priorities:

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|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2) Prioritize trail development to address facility supply deficiencies based on needs assessment (State, Counties, Municipalities)      |   |  |  |  |
| 3) Accelerate ROW acquisition and development of multiple use trails, especially on rail rights of way (State, Counties, Municipalities) |  |  |   |  |

### Expanding Trail Development Opportunities:



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|---|--|---|---|--|
| 4) Identify opportunities to provide sustainable trail access on publicly preserved open space (Counties, Municipalities) |  |   |  |  |
| 5) Incorporate potential trails use into the Farmland Preservation Program (State)  |  |  |   |  |
| 6) Encourage private landowners to make land available for public use (Trails Organizations)                              |  |   |   |  |

### Facilities For All Trail Activities:




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|--|---|---|--|--|
| 7) Increase trails accessible to the mobility and sensory impaired throughout New Jersey (State, Trails Council, Trails Organizations)                                   |  |   |  |  |
| 8) Collaborate to establish water trails facilities throughout New Jersey and raise awareness of water trail opportunities (State, Trails Council, Trails Organizations) |   |  |  |  |
| 9) Collaborate to establish OHV riding facilities, education programs and registration programs (State, Trails Council, Trails Organization)                             |   |  |  |  |

## 2 - COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Trail Development Priorities:

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|---|---|--|--|--|
| 1) Complete key linkages to establish trails continuity (State, Counties Municipalities)  |  |  |  |  |
| 2) Acquire rights of way and provide trails that connect residential areas with community destinations – parks, trails, schools – and that connect neighborhoods and communities (Counties, Municipalities) |  |  |  |  |

### Expanding Trails Opportunities:




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|---|---|---|--|--|
| 3) Establish state regulatory or legislative means to expedite establishing trails on unused rail rights-of-way and utility corridors (State) |   |  |  |  |
| 4) Encourage use of trails in the NJ Safe Routes to School Program (State)  |  |   |  |  |
| 5) Include trails in development, redevelopment and transit proposals (Municipalities, Builders and Developers, NJ Transit)                   |  |   |  |  |

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### 3 - TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS



**Trail Maintenance Policies, Priorities and Funding:**

1) Prioritize and fund maintenance and enforcement programs continuity (State, Counties Municipalities)				
2) Provide “roving” trail crews and targeted funding for state trail maintenance (State Park Service)				
3) Prioritize improvements that enhance trail accessibility (State, Counties Municipalities)				

**Trail Guidelines and Rating System:**







4) Adopt/endorse maintenance guidelines and a Universal Rating System (challenge level) for trail providers and users (Consortium of Trails Groups)				
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**Volunteer Programs:**





5) Expand Volunteer Programs to assist in trail maintenance (State, Counties)				
6) Support the development of a statewide volunteer awards program (State, Counties, Municipalities)				

### 4 - FUNDING FOR TRAILS

**State, County and Local Funding:**

1) Increase the capacity of the State Trails Program with additional staff/staff support/resources (State)				
2) Fund trails planning and development; provide stable and dedicated funding for operations, maintenance and enforcement (State, Counties, Municipalities)				
3) Allocate funds and resources to expand the NJ Trails System; provide incentives in state-managed funding sources; fund management plans for eligible trails (State, Recreational Trails Program)				
4) Conduct a needs assessment and prepare a financial plan for trail facilities on state parks and forests (State Park Service)				
5) Provide funding incentives for multi-jurisdictional trails (State, Counties, Municipalities)				
6) Consider taxing authorities, bond initiatives and land development strategies to develop trails and community pathway networks (Municipalities)				




**Maximize Trails Funding Sources:**

7) Update Recreational Trails Funding Guidelines to support Trails Plan goals (State, Trails Council)				
8) Increase the share of Transportation Enhancements funding for trails development (State)				
9) Reestablish NJDOT funding program for pedestrian facilities and continue funding program for bicycle facilities (State)				
10) Ensure that trails are eligible for funding through corporate business taxes approved for recreation facility development				



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**Diversify Funding Sources:**

11) Include trails as an earmarked funding category under funding programs, such as Green Acres, Farmland Preservation Program, etc. (State)			
12) Apply funds from the (proposed) OHV registration towards OHV trails and parks, guided by an OHV Task Force (State)			
13) Explore non-traditional strategies for private, corporate and non-profit participation in trails (Consortium of Trails Groups)			

**Document Existing and Potential Funding Sources:**


14) Develop a NJ Trails Funding Plan that identifies all available and prospective funding sources (State, Trails Council)			
15) Develop a comprehensive trails funding guide with emphasis on non-traditional sources and strategies (State, Trails Council)			

**5 -TRAIL ADVOCATES AND THE TRAIL EXPERIENCE**

**State or Regional Conference/Workshops:**

1) Hold periodic trails conferences (Trails Council)			
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**Statewide Trail User Education:**

2) Establish a Task Force for Trail Education to address the needs of trail users and promote trail use etiquette; conduct a statewide media campaign (Trails Council)			
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**Statewide Trails Volunteer Program:**

3) Establish a statewide volunteer training and recognition program that can be replicated at regional, county and municipal levels (State, Trails Council, Consortium of Trails Groups)			
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**Specialty Technical Assistance:**

4) Establish a public/private partnership program to engage trails organizations in providing technical assistance to state, county and municipal land managers (State, Trails Council, Consortium of Trails Groups)			
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**6 -TRAIL INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION**

**Statewide Trails Inventory:**

1) Conduct a comprehensive inventory of trails (Trails Council, Consortium of Trails Groups)			
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**Trails Research and Studies:**

2) Conduct NJ-specific trails-related research and studies through partnerships among state agencies, educational institutions and non-profit organizations (State, Trail Organizations, Educational Institutions)			
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**Trails Clearinghouse:**









3) Develop a Web-based clearinghouse of trails information for trail users and providers; develop tools and resources for publication (Trail Organizations, Educational Institutions)			
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**Trails Promotion:**

4) Develop statewide map(s) of major trails representing all user groups (Trails Council, Consortium of Trails Groups)			
5) Establish a formal alliance of trail groups to lead a Statewide Promotion Campaign; hold a statewide trails event annually (Trails Council, Consortium of Trails Groups)			
6) Develop or expand programs to increase awareness of community pathways within cities and towns (State, Counties, Municipalities)			
7) Trail promotion should emphasize public health benefits; partnership between the public health and trails community should be encouraged from state to local levels (State, Trails Council, Trails Organizations)			

**7 - TRAILS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Trails Planning:**

1) NJDEP should be the steward, monitor, and prime implementer of the NJ Trails Plan, updating the Plan periodically (State)			
2) Include trails in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (State)			
3) Provide both single use and multi-use trails in state parks and forests based on environmental conditions and needs assessment, with an emphasis on establishing and protecting “wilderness” hiking trails on undeveloped lands (State)			
4) Amend the Municipal Land Use Law to require trails to be included in municipal master plans (State); include trails in master plans and strategic planning documents (State, Regional Agencies, Counties, Municipalities)			
5) Establish guidelines for county and municipal trails planning documents to promote consistency with NJ Trails Plan objectives (State, Trails Program)			
6) Develop a NJ specific resource guide with procedures for planning and developing trails (State, Trails Council, Consortium of Trails Groups)			
7) Establish an Interagency Trails Council to coordinate regulatory review of trail policies and to advise the legislature (State, Trails Council)			
8) Explore legislative opportunities and incentive programs for land developers to support trails as part of the development process (State, Counties, Municipalities)			

**New Jersey Trails System:**

9) Revitalize the State Trails System as the centerpiece of the New Jersey Trails Program; increase the number of designated trails (State)			
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