

Regarding the Loop Trail

Loop Trail

The Loop Trail is a walking trail that was conceived in the early 1980s. It sought to provide a path around Mendham Borough connecting the west and east sides of Patriots Path. An original trail alignment, shown on Exhibit #5, Environmental Features and Loop Trail of the Master Plan 2006, is recommended to be replaced by the revised “Loop Trail Plan” prepared by Ferriero Engineering, Inc., dated and submitted in final form to, and accepted by, the Planning Board on May 9, 2011, following and reflecting a review by the Mendham Borough Planning Board of the previous draft at its regular meeting of April 11, 2011.

The updated Loop Trail Plan has been shaped by a Loop Trail Planning Team. Team members came from the Borough Environmental Commission, Association of Environmental Commissions, Mendham Borough Land Use and Open Space Officials, the Schiff Natural Land Trust, the Borough Department of Public Works, Borough Planning Board and West Morris Mendham High School.

A preliminary estimate of costs to fund trail improvements is provided in the Plan. It also provides standards related to the design, accessibility and maintenance of the trail. Its route consists of seven (7) identifiable segments as follows:

- A. Patriots Path to Cosma Place
- B. Cosma Place to West Field
- C. West field to Heather Hill Way
- D. Heather Hill Way to Talmage Road
- E. Talmage Road to Mendham High School
- F. Mendham High School to Main Street
- G. Main Street to Patriots Path

Various ground surfaces comprise the trail as detailed in the full Loop Trail Report of May 9, 2011. Surfaces traversed include existing paved roadways, sidewalks within public lands and rights-of-way, natural trail surfaces and hard surface paths through privately owned lands. Other ground features include existing and proposed gravel surfaces, ramped trail sections and terraced walkways to accommodate changes in grade. Also featured are a trailhead kiosk at the West Field, trail and traffic signage, and crosswalk safety improvements at Main Street for pedestrians and motorists.

The trail, a familiar system of local links and nodes of the Borough's geography, is a significant addition to the Recreation Plan Element of the Borough Master Plan. The Planning Board, as recommended by the Loop Trail Planning Team, incorporates the Loop Trail Plan (May 9, 2011 Report) into this Master Plan by reference as "Appendix C", together with its map changes by way of a Supplemental Exhibit 5 - Loop Trail Master Plan dated May 9, 2011. The Board also recommends that connectivity throughout the Borough be achieved as promptly and comprehensively as feasible

including both the identified Loop Trail segments and other non-vehicular connections which may be identified or become available in the future, in order to increase accessibility and encourage a walking community.

L:\Mendham Borough Planning Board\Master Plan\Draft Amendment to Master Plan for the Loop Trail.doc