The Greenway: NJ's Newest State Park

Maggie McCann-Johns
Administrator, Office of Urban State Parks & Initiatives
What is the Greenway?

A 9-mile former rail line, the Greenway is owned and will be managed by DEP as a State Park with a focus on equitable access, community connectivity, and public safety.
Future of the Greenway

A safe, publicly-accessible multi-modal recreation corridor with seamless walking, biking, and complimentary transit opportunities connecting its host communities.
Direct Community Engagement

DEP and its partners hosted 26 community engagement sessions ranging from pop-ups at farmer's markets and block parties to formal listening sessions at public libraries and parks.
Direct Community Engagement

Engagement focused around 4 main themes:

- Relax
- Play
- Gather
- Connect
Online Survey

This survey focused on reaching a wide audience and had just under 600 responses!

The survey asked participants a variety of questions surrounding programming, amenities, project goals, and project concerns.
Recurring Themes from Outreach
Initial Greenway Development & Construction

Each proposed segment for the initial phase of development earned a series of scores to evaluate its suitability.

Ease Criteria
Which segments are easiest to build in the near term?

- Remediation Ease
- Stormwater Infiltration Potential
- Timeline Feasibility
- Bridge Restoration
- Community Partnerships

Impact Criteria
Which segments have the greatest potential impact?

- Remediation Need
- Stormwater Need
- Economic Development Potential
- Park Access Need
- Social/Demographic Index
- Population Density

1 More difficult, less impactful
5 Easier, more impactful
Initial Greenway Development & Construction

• Initial construction of the Greenway is comprised of three segments totaling nearly two miles through Newark and Kearny

• DEP selected a segment that creates a one-of-a-kind amenity for both the surrounding community and visitors alike
Initial Greenway Development & Construction

Overall Stats
Length: 10,249 feet (1.9 miles)

West:
Branch Brook Park to Broadway, Newark
Length: 4,347 feet

Central:
Passaic Ave to Forest Street, Kearny
Length: 3,602 feet

East:
Forest Street to Meadowlands Edge, Kearny
Length: 2,300 feet
Connections

Provide a continuous experience highlighting the unique landscape character of their surroundings
Closer Look: Branch Brook Park Connection
Overlooks

Greenway rooms that provide an intriguing glimpse into future extensions, connections and experiences
Closer Look: Branch Brook Park Overlook

- Branch Brook Bridge: Future Greenway West
- Overlook
- Connection to Branch Brook Park
- Fast Path
- Ice Seating

Branch Brook Bridge: Future Greenway West
Hubs

Serve as the centralized hubs of social, cultural and recreational programming
Closer Look: Newark Central Hub
Closer Look: Newark Central Hub
Want to engage with the Greenway project?

• Join NJDEP and its consultants for workshops coming up in Newark and Kearny
  • Subscribe to our newsletter and follow our Instagram (@njdep.greenway) for updates
• Join Maggie on May 18th at the NJ Bike & Walk Summit in Edison, NJ
• Visit the Greenway website: [https://dep.nj.gov/greenway/](https://dep.nj.gov/greenway/)
Thank you!

Maggie McCann-Johns
maggie.mccann-johns@dep.nj.gov