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## **Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve – Official Grand Opening**

Frelinghuysen Township is excited to announce that the entirety of the Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve is now open to the public. The Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve (FFP) is comprised of over 280 acres of land between Route 94 and the Gnome Hollow Preserve. We have spent the last year and a half preparing the FFP North property located at 139 Lincoln Laurel Road, for public use. There was much safety remediation done during the first phase of this project, with all of the old, dilapidated and uncared for Kids Camp buildings demolished. We also were required by the State to seal many abandoned wells and comply with various other requirements in order to qualify for our Green Acres funding, which helped defray the cost of this property to the residents.

Our Land Managers, along with volunteers from the community and local Girl Scout troops have been clearing and blazing trails throughout the property. The trails are now clearly marked and color-coded. There is an approximately one acre pond on the property, and we have restored the dock so that anyone interested in fishing can get out there on the water. One Girl Scout is planting milkweed to help the Monarch butterflies as her Silver Award; another troop has cleared and blazed a trail around the vernal pond and is also placing bat boxes at the preserve.

In order to celebrate this historic event the Township will be hosting an official grand opening on Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of November 6<sup>th</sup>. The event will be from 11AM to 2PM at the new Township Recreation Center located at 139 Lincoln Laurel Road Blairstown, NJ. The event will feature guided hiking, a historical Native American Artifacts presentation and a Fly Fishing demonstration.

The Township Committee is excited to see this piece of land now open for public use. Preserving farmland, open space and our historic rural heritage has been a major policy objective of the last decade for Frelinghuysen. The FFP property gives us the platform to introduce another generation of youth to the joys of outdoor activities. This property is a significant environmental resource that is now open for everyone to use for hiking, fishing, picnics and events. The lodge building will be the engaging new location open to all non-profit organizations in the town to use.

We look forward to seeing you at the Grand Opening!