

120-Acre Kids Camp Preserved in Frelinghuysen

On Friday, December 19, 2014 the Township of Frelinghuysen, in partnership with Warren County and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, purchased the 120-acre Kids Camp property along Lincoln Laurel Road. Containing a small pond and existing trail network, the preservation of this “hole in the donut” property will create a 412-acre greenway by connecting with the 131-acre Gnome Hollow Preserve and the 161-acre Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve. With the generous support of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, and funding from its local Open Space Trust Fund, Frelinghuysen Township permanently protected land that creates a spectacular greenway extending from Route 94 to the Paulinskill Valley Trail. Plans will be put in place to connect existing trails on the property to other trails on adjoining properties, providing easy access to the County’s regional trail system.



Mayor David Boynton thanked the Township Committee and the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders for “realizing the importance of this acquisition for our community, and for continuing to support our open space initiatives.”

Deputy Mayor Kuhn agreed, “As a lifelong outdoor recreation enthusiast, I firmly believe the acquisition of this property for wildlife conservation, outdoor recreation and the completion of the Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve Greenway represents a major step in implementing Frelinghuysen Township’s Open Space and Recreation Plan. I and the rest of the Township Committee look forward to meeting with the residents, our Recreation Committee, Open Space Committee and Environmental Commission to implement a forest stewardship and use plan on the property.

Preservation of The Kids Camp property also provides the Township much needed recreation space. There are no indoor facilities for recreation in Frelinghuysen. The small meeting room in the Township’s municipal building doubles as a space for recreation! Accessible and in good condition, the Lodge on the camp property includes meeting space and will be utilized for many Community activities. There is an existing paved circular path on the property that can be used for walking and a blazed nature trail that identifies tree species. There is a paved basketball court and two small fields that may be used for practice fields or possibly for archery or other activities in the future.



"Warren County is happy to help Frelinghuysen Township acquire this unique property," stated Corey Tierney, Director of Warren County's Department of Land Preservation. "We look forward to seeing this Preserve enjoyed by our residents. We appreciate the Township and nonprofits coming together and working so hard to preserve this site."

The property has been a camp since 1926. In 2010 the Trust for Public Land and Warren County preserved adjacent land, known as Gnome Hollow. Now owned by the Ridge and Valley Conservancy, it is managed as a preserve with a focus on trails and wildlife management. In 2011 Frelinghuysen Township and The Land Conservancy worked with Warren County to preserve two properties now known as the 161-acre Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve. Preservation of The Kids Camp culminates a multi-year effort to complete the Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve Greenway and secures the property for public recreation, watershed protection, and wildlife habitat. It is a beautiful forested property and a critical link in the greenway.



The land is now owned and will be managed by the Township of Frelinghuysen. If it had not been preserved, the property could have been developed with more than a dozen homes. Instead, the Township, Land Conservancy, and County stepped in and prevented fragmentation of the forest and consolidated municipal recreation lands. The Township now has the ability to create an impressive and central Township trail system utilizing all three properties: Gnome Hollow, Frelinghuysen Forest Preserve and Kids Camp.

Sandy Urgo, The Land Preservation Director at The Land Conservancy of New Jersey commended the Township and the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders for their vision and their commitment to this Greenway. "Clearly the elected leaders in Warren County are

committed to preserving and celebrating Warren County's uniquely rural environs. In a County like Warren, a regional trail network is a significant asset. It makes sense to utilize available preservation funding to secure it, and we commend the Freeholders and the Frelinghuysen Township Committee for their vision, forethought, and dedication to this project.”

Warren County contributed \$200,000 to Frelinghuysen Township towards the acquisition of Kids Camp. The Township will fund a portion of the project from its Open Space Trust Fund. Once the unusable camp buildings are removed and the facility is secured and set up for public use, the Township anticipates receiving funding up to half of the acquisition cost from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres program, as well as the Ridge and Valley Conservancy and The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.