



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Peter Punzi Executive Director
ppunzi@tenafllynaturecenter.org
(201)568-6093

Tenaflly Nature Center and Tenaflly Environmental Commission Complete Trail Inventory Assessment for the ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant

Physical location (TENAFLY, NJ) (1-15-2016) – a partnership between Tenaflly Nature Center (TNC) and Tenaflly’s Environmental Commission has resulted in the successful completion of a trail inventory assessment of TNC’s seven miles of trails. The project was made possible by a \$1,500 grant award from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC). The work was conducted by the NY/NJ Trail conference and volunteers. The trail inventory assessment is the first phase of a larger Trail Master Plan that will offer a comprehensive overview of the entire existing trail network and a roadmap on how to move forward with tangible improvements.

In May and June of 2015 the Trail Conference conducted GPS inventory/assessment training workshops at the TNC. Working together with trained Trail Conference staff, nine volunteers participated in the fieldwork that will result in the GIS* (Geographic Information Systems) inventory for TNC’s trail system. According to Peter Punzi Executive Director of the TNC “This is a win-win situation because in addition to the GIS Inventory we have also trained future trail volunteers”.

The trained volunteers walked the trails and recorded the conditions and points of interest in GIS coordinates. The information recorded included trail locations in need of repair, significant trees and vegetation and downed trees near to trails. After the fieldwork was completed, the NY/NJ Trails Conference compiled the data and delivered a GIS database to the TNCA, the Tenaflly Environmental Commission and the Borough of Tenaflly. Tenaflly’s Environmental Commission Chair Jon Warms observed that “The new trail maps and programs using the trail maps will result in greater interest and enjoyment of the nature center’s ecology.”

This project is the first phase of a larger Trail Master Plan that TNCA is conducting which will take stock of existing trail systems and infrastructure (the subject of this grant), identify opportunities for change and improvement, and suggests strategies for implementing actions that will improve the trail experience. The end result of the Trail Master Plan will be a comprehensive overview of the entire existing trail network and a roadmap on how to move forward with tangible improvements.

Peter Dolan New Jersey Program Coordinator for the NY/NJ Trail Conference remarked “Tenaflly Nature Center has an excellent network of trails, and having a full assessment of every foot of trail will make it easier than ever to plan future improvements. With this information we can host workshops, volunteer days, and other events right where they’re needed to do the most good. We hope that local trail enthusiasts come out to learn and volunteer with us!”

The users of the TNC trails can help in the Master Plan process by participating in a trail survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MSMQKFX>

***ABOUT GIS** A mapping technology that allows the user to create and interact with a variety of maps and data sources. GIS integrates databases with georeferenced spatial data (maps tied to specific known locations)

ABOUT TENAFLY NATURE CENTER A non-profit, independent, member-supported nature preserve located in Bergen County, New Jersey. We protect nearly 400 wooded acres, all of its inhabitants and teach the next generations to do the same. TenaflyNatureCenter.org

ABOUT ANJEC A non-profit organization, helps New Jersey environmental commissions, individuals, local and state agencies preserve natural resources and promote sustainable communities. anjec.org

ABOUT TENAFLY'S ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION The Environmental Commission promotes an environmental, ecological conservation and natural resources program for the Borough of Tenafly. tenaflynj.org/content/7630/7920/

ABOUT NY/NJ TRAIL CONFERENCE A non-profit organization that partners with parks to create, protect, and promote a network of over 2,100 miles of public trails in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region. The Trail Conference organizes volunteer service projects that keep these trails open, safe, and enjoyable for the public. nynjtc.org