

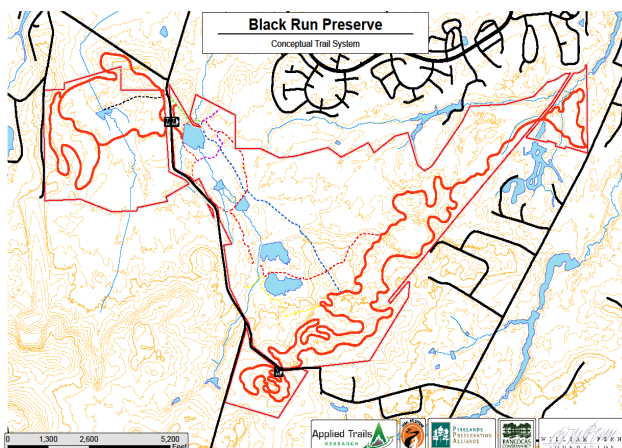
FBRP Presents Concept Plan at Evesham Township Meeting

On October 1st, the Friends of the Black Run Preserve (FBRP) presented a Concept Plan to Evesham Township officials and nearly 80 members of the Evesham and nearby communities who are interested in the future of the preserve. The culmination of a year's effort, this long-range plan identifies safety priori-

ties and outlines new trails for the 1,300-acre parcel of preserved Pine Barrens located in the southern end of the township. Utilizing grants from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) and the outdoor equipment company REI, the FBRP was able to engage professional trail designers to develop the Concept Plan.

In October 2013, the designers and FBRP held a public "Visioning" event to gather ideas about how best to preserve the unique features of this area and the types of nature study and recreational opportunities that the Preserve can offer.

The Concept Plan proposes the addition of new, sustainable trails as well as establishing safe access and parking at the trailheads. To see the complete Concept Plan, go to our website, www.blackrun.org, and look at our Black Run Blog page.



Conceptual Trail System map from the Concept Plan

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Our First Photo Contest Winner

Drumroll, please! The First Place winner of our first photo contest is Joe Mezik, whose winning photograph is called *Reflections Along Black Run* (right), with Sweet Pepperbush flowering in the foreground.

Joe won a \$50 gift certificate to L.L. Bean for taking First Place. See inside for more winners!



Join Us in Enjoying the Black Run Preserve

- We'd love to see you at the Black Run Preserve! Check out the recreation opportunities on page 3.
- Become a member of FBRP. See the information about our organization on the last page, and go to our website at www.blackrun.org.

Letter from John Volpa, Chair of Friends of the Black Run Preserve

December 2014

Dear FBRP Members,

Thank you for your support on October 1st. The almost eighty attendees of FBRP's Concept Plan put a public face on the enthusiasm, resolve, and community service demonstrated by our volunteer members over the past two years.

As a direct outcome of your support, FBRP was invited by Evesham Township to submit our top priority budget items for consideration in the upcoming January 2015 township budget hearing. Utilizing REI grant monies, FBRP has attached monetary commitments for the following:

- Closing off access to unauthorized motorized vehicles,

- Parking at new trailheads,
- Making trail sections Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.

We look forward to working with the Township to bring these plans to fruition. Once again we'll be asking for your attendance in January for this very important Budget Hearing. In addition, our Trail Crew will be constructing new trails, a proposed trailhead, and informational kiosk off Borton's Road in March 2015.

We are also pleased to announce FBRP is now an official 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and able to accept tax-deductible contributions. We hope you'll consider making a donation or becoming a member. Our next general meeting will be held in January or early

February. Please check our webpage for event updates, such as the Budget Hearing and our general membership meeting.

Thanks to the NJ voters for passing the Green Acres referendum! FBRP is hopeful this will enable us to partner with nonprofits devoted to conservation, education, and low impact recreation to acquire the whole Black Run Watershed and preserve it forever. We are part of a regional effort, the Greenway Network, to preserve and protect our interconnected watersheds.

Come out and enjoy the Black Run Preserve's beauty in all seasons. See you on the trail!

Sincerely,

John Volpa, FBRP Founder and Chair

A Big "Thank You!" to local Troop 49 Eagle Scout Candidates

Two local scouts have made a big difference to the Black Run Preserve on their way to achieving Eagle Scout, the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting.

In 2013, Colin Rogers earned Eagle Scout after constructing and marking the Orange Trail. The Orange Trail completes a loop around one of the former cranberry bogs at the Black Run, a visually colorful walk highlighting some of the unique features of the Preserve.

In 2014, James Transue designed and constructed an informational kiosk by the Black Trail. One side of the kiosk

welcomes visitors to the Black Run Preserve and provides general information. The other side points out the unique features of the Pine Barrens ecosystem of which the Preserve is a part.

Thank you, Colin and James!

At Right: James Transue and the Black Trail kiosk



Look for Artwork in the Black Run Preserve!

Have you noticed artwork made from natural materials along trails of the Preserve? DeMasi Middle school students under the direction of teacher Maureen Heenan have been utilizing the natural beauty of the Black Run Preserve as their canvas for the Voices From the Land Program. Students explore the Preserve and use natural materials to create an ephemeral work of art. They photograph their work and create a poem or prose relating to it. The artwork recycles into the environment but lives on as part of a poster or performance art.



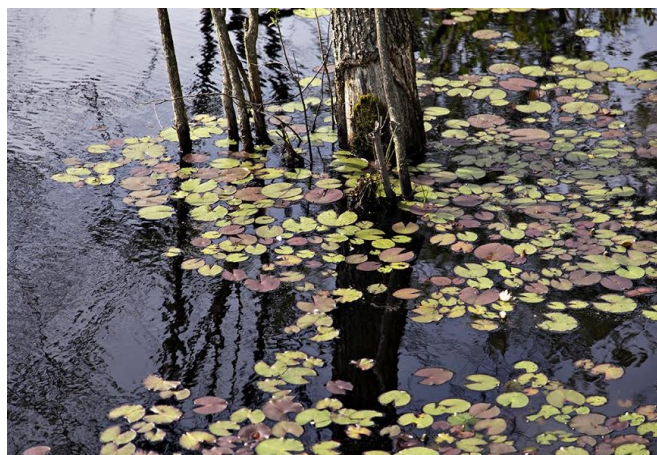
Thank You, REI!

Over the past two years, REI has awarded FBRP with two community grants totaling \$20,000. This money has funded the development of our Concept Plan, trail construction, and new signage. *Thank you, REI, for your support!*

More Photo Contest Winners: Scenes from the Black Run Preserve



Second Place Winner in our Photo Contest is Vicky Olsen, with her photo "On the Crest of New Fallen Snow." Vicki won a \$35 gift certificate to L.L. Bean.



Third Place in our Photo Contest goes to Matt Cohen for this beautiful shot of lily pads on the surface of a pond. Matt won a \$25 gift certificate to L.L. Bean. Congratulations!

Outdoor Recreation at the Black Run Preserve - Come and Visit!

The Black Run Preserve offers a wealth of opportunities for outdoor recreation and appreciating this unique natural area. Here are just some examples of ways to enjoy the Preserve:

Walking: The Preserve offers several miles of trails throughout the Preserve, including sandy roads and single track trails. Most trails are marked. Check out the [Black Run Preserve Trail Map](http://www.blackrun.org) on our website, www.blackrun.org, for more information.

Mountain Biking: The Preserve provides numerous sandy roads and trails suitable for mountain biking. Visitors

are encouraged to stick to flat and marked trails.



Eastern Box Turtle seen on Red Trail

Birdwatching: The Preserve is home to dozens of bird species.

Geocaching: Geocaching is a free real-world outdoor treasure hunt. Visit <http://www.geocaching.com/> to find locations of geocaches in the Preserve.

Nature Study, Photography, and Painting: Enjoy the natural beauty of the Preserve and its variety of habitats, and look for plants and animals native to the Pine Barrens.

Cross Country Skiing: Sandy roads provide excellent terrain for X-Country skiing or snowshoeing in winter.

Our First Annual 5K Trail Run Held in October

Almost seventy trail runners took part in our first 5K Trail Race on a cool October 12th. Thanks to the Marlton Rotary for their financial support and to the Evan's School Principal, Nick DiBlasi, for planning and organizing the event. For most of the runners it was their first time in the Black Run Preserve. Prizes were given to the top finishers.



Friends of the Black Run Preserve

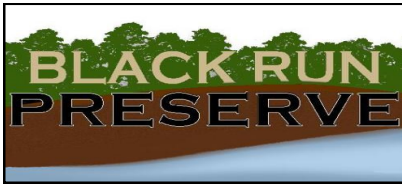
Trustees of FBRP

John Volpa, Founder and Chair
Jill Giulianelli, Vice Chair
Linda Van Etten, Treasurer
Michael Isham, Secretary
Keara Giannotti
Amy Golden
Joanne Maxwell
James Rosenthal
Thomas Whelihan

email us at foblackrun@gmail.com

Website: www.blackrun.org

Find us on Facebook Friends of the Black Run Preserve



Become a Member of FBRP

Help support the Black Run Preserve, a unique natural area in Evesham Township. FBRP is a volunteer organization formed in 2012. Our mission is to preserve and protect the natural beauty and Pine Barrens ecology of the Black Run Preserve for the benefit of all citizens. We strive to maintain the pristine quality of its natural resources while promoting healthy outdoor activities, environmental awareness and education.

To become a member, download the membership form on our website, www.blackrun.org, and mail it in with your contribution today. Thank you!

Volunteer with our Trail Crew

The FBRP Trail Crew, led by Joe Michiels, started the year with clean-up days along the trails of the Black Run Preserve. In August, the Trail Crew constructed wooden trail marker signs that provide the name of the trail, its distance and direction, and the direction to the trail head. Another great job by our volunteers!

In 2015, the Trail Crew plans to improve the current trails, build new trails and add more trail markers. It will be an exciting and active year for the Trail Crew! If you would like to participate in Trail Crew activities, please email your name and contact information to foblackrun@gmail.com.

How Did We Get Our Logo? And Who Made the Signs?

When the Friends of the Black Run Preserve group was formed in late 2012, we wanted to create a logo that would represent our name and this unique natural area to the outside world. We looked to the talented students of the Lenape School District to help us find just the right logo.

We received many unique and creative designs for a logo, but one of them really stood out. The winning logo by Elayna of Cherokee High School (3rd from left in photo) features the images and colors of the trees, land and water at the preserve and makes us aware of how they form the ecosystem that makes the preserve special. Thank you, Elayna!

Another talented Cherokee High School student, Kelly (3rd from right) created the wooden signs that mark the trails. Look for these beautiful carved signs the next time you visit the Preserve.



Members of the FBRP Trustees present Cherokee High School students with their awards for the winning logo and trail signs. From left to right: Linda Van Etten, Mike Isham, students Elayna and Kelly, John Volpa, and Jill Giulianelli.

The Black Run Preserve: Evesham's Gateway to the Pinelands

The Black Run Preserve is 1,300 acres of permanently preserved open space in Evesham Township. Located in the northwest corner of the Pinelands National Reserve, it is an ecological wonder of pristine Pine Barrens forest, wetlands, streams and old cranberry bogs, and hosts a variety of threatened and endangered plant and animal species.