

PRESS RELEASE

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WOODBINE AWARDS TWO CONTRACTS FOR BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS IN OPEN SPACE ECO-PARK

Woodbine—Mayor William Pikolycky is pleased to announce the Borough of Woodbine at its May 21 Council meeting awarded two contracts totaling \$741,013 to be undertaken at the Open Space Eco-Park.

The first, in the amount of \$164,138, was awarded to Charles Marandino, LLC, for extension of the Woodbine Bikeway system from Monroe Avenue just south of Webster Avenue, southerly through the Open Space Park. This extension will continue the Borough's existing bikeway system past the Woodbine Elementary School (Community School) site through the Eco-Park to Sumner Avenue. Funding for this project was received from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The second contract, for a project, titled "Eco-Park Bikeway Safety improvements: Loop Path & Parking Lot Extension" was awarded to C. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc, in the amount of \$576,875. This second project, funded under Phases 2 and 3 of the County Open Space grant is for further improvements at the Eco-Park including the remaining the pedestrian/bikeway loop path. This loop is part of the 25-acre wooded Eco-Park project which is an Open Space recreational area and environmental educational park. The project will also include additional parking. This continues a multi-phase project that will ultimately total well over \$2 million.

The bikeway system will provide an interconnection with various destination points within the Borough. It is part of an overall plan to interconnect publicly owned sites within the Borough to NJ's High Point to Cape May bikeway system. The Borough's bike path system is used extensively by residents and visitors alike through organized walking groups. The Eco-Park and Recreation Area is immediately adjacent to the Cape May County Library Branch and the Woodbine Community School, which includes our community indoor gymnasium.

With the Open Space program funding, the Borough is now able able to preserve a 25-acre wooded tract adjacent to the Woodbine Elementary School and develop a facility which includes active and passive recreation opportunities with

a strong orientation towards environmental enrichment and enhancement of the area's ecological values as part of a campus already dedicated to education and recreation.

Major components of this project yet to be completed include environmental interpretative stations, a Jake's Law All-Inclusive Playground, a rain garden, fitness stations, bike racks, benches, picnic tables, and related amenities which will help to position Woodbine and the Cape May County Eco-Park and Recreation Area as a destination for cyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians. It will also serve as a setting for a "classroom in nature" for students and visitors who can appreciate the special qualities of this site.

"The surfacing of this bikepath will be make accessible to all users, whether pedestrian or bicycle, and even equestrian—walking, biking, and galloping, too!" added Mayor Pikolycky.