

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island



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PRESS RELEASE

Years of Ryan Park Trail Improvements are Complete
Cross Country Trail to be Named for Longtime NKHS Coach This Month

North Kingstown, RI — Four years of continual permitting and improvement work since it accepted a RI Department of Environmental Management Green Space Recreational Trail Grant for \$88,000, the Town of North Kingstown and Department of Recreation have completed all aspects of the phase one work.

Ryan Park Trail improvements were extensive, first consisting of the creation of a middle school cross country loop. Chris Cole, the primary Fields Maintenance Division operator on the project, worked through the winter and with North Kingstown School District coaches to improve the paths and plan for the safety upgrade keeping runners from colliding. These efforts will be highlighted at the end of this month when a resident-led effort supported by the NKHS booster club to dedicate the cross country trail to Paul Tetreault, NKHS track and cross country coach for over 40 years, will occur; the official trail dedication will be at the trailhead at 6:00 p.m. on June 25.

The North Kingstown Recreation Department enlisted the insight of Town Historian, G. Tim Cranston, to add historical signage to park trails, educating hikers and walkers as to the park's history and surrounding natural elements. These signs are complimented by three new color coordinated kiosks with trail maps and trail markers along the trails. Kiosks are located at the trail entrance near the fish ladder, near the boat ramp, and at the main trailhead off Lafayette Road.

These improvements were complimented by additional work to add accessible walkways and parking to the trail head near the fish ladder; regrading of existing paths and walkways; creation of accessible walkways with stone dust; the installation of boulder retaining walls at the dam.

Improvements to the Ryan Park trails were approved by Town Council in January 2021, and based on the Master Plan, designed by [Kevin M. Alverson Landscape Architecture](#) firm.

The recently completed improvements are part of a multi-phase Ryan Park Trails improvement plan. The Town of North Kingstown will continue to seek funding and grant opportunities to build on phase one upgrades, but are excited to have these improvements open and accessible for public enjoyment. Photos of completed improvements can be found here: <https://bit.ly/ryanparkphaseoneimprovements>

For questions, please contact Kate Glass, Director of Communications & Executive Assistant/Office of the Town Manager, at kglass@northkingstownri.gov.