OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

BARNEGAT BRANCH TRAIL

DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING, ENGINEERING AND PARKS & RECREATION



CNJ Waretown Passenger Station. Photo: July 1954

Ocean Historical Society

WELCOME TO THE BBT

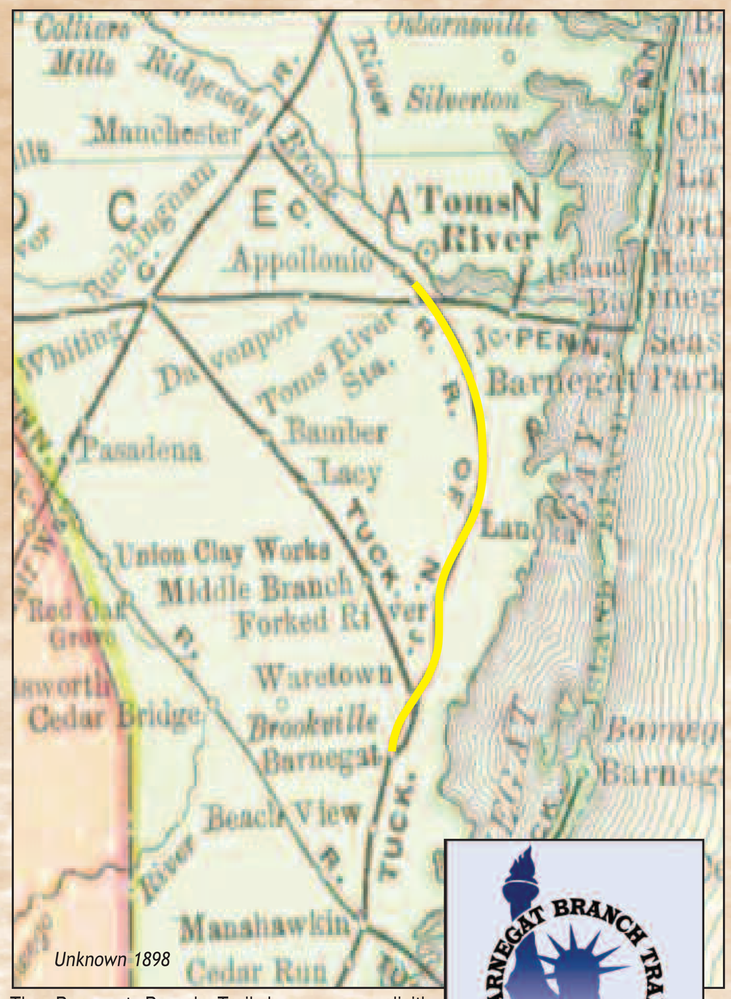


On October 15, 2007, Freeholder James F. Lacey announced the official opening of the Ocean County Barnegat Branch Trail (BBT). The BBT is constructed on the 15.6 mile right-of-way and wooden trestle bridges of the abandoned NJ Central Railroad from Toms River to Barnegat. Originally built as the Toms River and Waretown Railroad, later named the Toms River and Barnegat, and finally named the Barnegat Branch of the CNJ, these railroads were built during the national railroad boom of the post Civil War Era and died from many of the same pressures that doomed most short line railroads of the 19th century. In 1981, CNJ auctioned off the abandoned right-of-way between Toms River and Barnegat to a private investor, HAG Holdings, Inc. In 2003, Ocean County completed the multi-year effort to acquire the Barnegat Branch right-of-way, from Barnegat north through Ocean and Berkeley Townships. This was followed by the receipt of a 12-foot easement through Lacey Township. The development of this right-of-way into a "rails-to-trails" County Park has been a specific goal set forth in the Ocean County Comprehensive Master Plan.



Collection of Ocean County

For more information, please visit:
www.oceancountyparks.org



Unknown 1898

The Barnegat Branch Trail logo was explicitly designed with history in mind: Lady Liberty's silhouette is reminiscent of the Central Railroad of NJ (CNJ) logo, adopted by the railroad in 1944 to reflect the close proximity of the CNJ terminal in Jersey City to the Statue of Liberty. The BBT logo also includes a ghost locomotive, as well as Ocean County's most recognizable environmental features.