



Friends of Carson Road Woods, Inc.

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

DEDICATED TO THE
PRESERVATION OF
CARSON ROAD WOODS

Richard Bilotti, Publisher
The Times of Trenton
P.O. Box 847
Trenton, NJ 08605

August 29, 2005

Dear Mr. Bilotti:

We are writing to express our profound disappointment with your paper's reporting in last Sunday's edition. The article at issue, "Trail boosters lobby for funds," reads more like an op/ed than factual reporting and transparently promotes a specific point of view. Furthermore, none of the "small number" of those advocating a different viewpoint were consulted, much less contacted, for this story. **Accordingly, we respectfully request an equal opportunity to present our perspective before your readers.**

Boosters passes off as fact several subjective claims and entirely ignores several important points. In the course of writing this piece, there was no mention of Betty Wolfe's affiliation with the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, an organization, like our own, which does not support asphalt trails through natural areas.

According to Mayor Pam Mount, "the residents of Lawrence Township have a right to have access to that park." Absolutely! We could not agree more. This is why the Friends of Carson Road Woods have created, marked, and maintained more than 5 miles of hiking trails throughout the entire property, at our own expense. In addition, we have hosted school groups on walking tours and purchased advertising to promote public usage of the preserve.

Boosters also misrepresents the funding used to purchase Carson Road Woods in 2001. The \$3 million attributed to D&R Greenway was not *provided* by them, but *solicited* from hundreds of private residents. While D&R Greenway was instrumental in this preservation success story, most of the \$3 million were contributed by residents who were told—publicly—a Carson Road Woods preserve would remain undisturbed in perpetuity. Only when the ink dried on their checks was the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail made public.

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Richard Bilotti

Re: Trail boosters lobby for funds

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We understand *The Times'* editorial board has taken a firm position in support of the trail. We respect that. In fact, our organization's position is not very different from your own. We are not opposed to bike trails; we are unalterably opposed, however, to asphalt in a nature preserve.

We look forward to hearing from you and the opportunity to present our perspective on these issues.

Very truly yours,

<s>

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Cc: Brian Malone, Editor