Realigning the Appalachian Trail at Bear Mountain:
The Process
## Department of Landscape Architecture
### Cook College
### Rutgers the State University of New Jersey

### Professors
- Jean Marie Hartman, Ph.D.
- David Tulloch, Ph.D.

### Students
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<th>Nicholas Ginther</th>
<th>Vlad Moskovski</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alison Beeghly</td>
<td>Galia Hanoch-Roe</td>
<td>Daniel P. Nichols</td>
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<td>Jason Berks</td>
<td>Elizabeth Hendrickson</td>
<td>Andrew O’Toole</td>
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<td>John Carluccio</td>
<td>Paul Johnson</td>
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<td>Benjamin Cassidy</td>
<td>Sara Krouskop</td>
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<td>Tyler Clark</td>
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<td>Chuck Gandy</td>
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<td>Olivier Giron</td>
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Partners in the Design Process

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- National Park Service
- New York/New Jersey Trail Conference
- Palisades Interstate Park Commission
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- Friends of Palisades
- Rutgers University
- Cook College
Drawing visitors from the largest metropolitan area in the U.S., Bear Mountain State Park welcomes 1.5 to 3 million people every year.
In 1923, the first portion of the Appalachian Trail opened in Bear Mountain State Park.

The miles through Bear Mountain are the most traveled of the trail’s total 2,174 miles.
Extensive use of the park... 

...has caused wear and tear on the trail.
Creatively rerouting and redesigning the trail was the challenge posed to the Landscape Architecture students from Cook College.
NY/NJ Trail Conference volunteers introduced students to the site and its trails.

Additional visits were made to collect data and record observations.
Ed Goodell and Karen Lutz visited Rutgers University to formally introduce the project to the students.
Large amounts of information was collected about the mountain and surrounding area.
The information collected was categorized...

Culture

History

Aesthetics

Transportation
The information collected was categorized...

Ecology

Geology

Land Form & Hydrology

Weather & Climate

Waiting for LIZ to tell me where pics are
First Charette: Site Inventory
November 14-15

- Students presented their inventory and analysis
- Participants commented on the materials

Rutgers University
Groups formed to discuss various concerns.

Each group presented a summary of their discussion.

Discussions were carried on through the evening over dinner...
Potential design scenarios were formed:

- Accessibility
- Amazing hiking
- The AT experience
- Connectivity
- Environment
- Environmental education
- History of area
- Many user groups
- Novice users
- Resort park
- Volunteerism
- Trail-building program
Design Themes

• Accessibility
• Education
• Ecotourism
• Volunteers
• Inviting the Novice
• The Great Escape

Design Considerations

• Treatment of Trailhead
• Park Arrival Sequence
• Trail Location
• Environmental Impact
• Sustainability
Second Charette: Site Design
December 5-6

Bear Mountain State Park
Students presented their design recommendations.
Designs were

- Reviewed
- Commented on
- Rated
Designs were rated on:

- Trail routing
- Overall treatment of site
- Trail user experience
- Park visitor experience
- Best in show
Participants:

- Discussed design preferences
- Met with students during break-out session
- Performed S.W.O.T analysis on each design
Group consensus building then began.
Participants and students worked in groups to pick the best components and form a synthesis design.
Students worked that evening to capture the consensus design.
The consensus design was presented for further discussion and review.
Third Charette: Final Design
December 20
The final design was presented to participants as a conclusion to the charette process and as a tool to initiate the next phase in redevelopment of Bear Mountain Park.
The charettes built consensus through participation.
In the upcoming years, professionals and volunteers will work together to realize the vision of the Bear Mountain charettes...

Pictures complements of Gene Wixson www.lclark.edu/~wixson