



# TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4 , 2018

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## **TOWN OF RIVERHEAD TO START EXPANSION OF THE EPCAL ATHLETIC TRAIL**

(Albany, NY) – The Town of Riverhead Alternative Transportation Committee has announced that construction will begin this month on a four-mile extension of the multi-purpose athletic trail around the Calverton Enterprise Park.

A groundbreaking ceremony will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 8 near the River Road entrance to the EPCAL facility. Limited Parking will be available at the EPCAL parking lot and overflow parking on the side of the street along River Road will begin near the DEC kiosk across the street.

Construction on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Trail began in 2008 with the aid of state grant funding, including \$100,000 in grant funding from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to complete an approximate 3.2 mile portion of the trail. Since that time the Town of Riverhead secured \$200,000 in Suffolk County funding provided through the work of Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski and \$500,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

This combined \$700,000 in grant funding will extend the trail to a length of approximately seven miles. The non-motorized diverse trail to be completed around Calverton Enterprise Park will be constructed over an abandoned gravel vehicular path cleared and developed in the 1950s by the Grumman Corporation as a perimeter security road. It is hoped that a pending grant application for \$150,000 in state funding can be used to complete the trail.

“I’m pleased that the NYS Regional Development Council has recognized the value of the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Trail at EPCAL,” Senator LaValle said. “When completed, the Trail will be a well-utilized asset for the entire community and draw visitors to eastern Long Island.”

Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo said, “The EPCAL trail will have tremendous positive impact on New York State residents and visitors. Specifically, the path will provide state residents access to a diverse range of recreational opportunities and activities at no cost. I am excited that construction on its expansion will now commence.”

Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski, who helped secure a \$200,000 grant from Suffolk County for the project, said “I am gratified to see this important recreational project come to fruition. As traffic on the East



End continues to grow year after year, it is essential to provide the residents of Riverhead and Suffolk County an off road site where they can safely bike, roller blade and hike. Congratulations to Riverhead Town and to the Alternative Transportation Committee who all worked so diligently to move this project forward.”

Long Island Regional Economic Development Council (LIREDC) Co-Chairs, Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz and Long Island Association President Kevin Law, said: “The LIREDC is proud to endorse a \$500,000 grant for the EPCAL Vietnam Veterans Recreational Trail, which will allow residents and visitors alike to experience the natural beauty of Riverhead and the Long Island region and help grow the local economy.”

Deputy Director for the Long Island Region of State Parks Brian X. Foley said, “The EPCAL trail will provide much-needed space for cyclists, runners and walkers to get out and safely explore the outdoors – or simply get around town. I am grateful to the town of Riverhead and Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council for supporting this tremendous recreational resource.”

Supervisor Laura Jens-Smith said, “The Vietnam Veterans Memorial trail will have significant public recreational benefit. It will offer a safe atmosphere for bicycling, walking, running and other activities. Furthermore, it will provide safer, dedicated off-road connections for existing bicyclist and pedestrian trail networks, as well as encourage increased bicycling and pedestrian activity and remove cars from our roads. I also want to thank the Alternative Transportation Committee, who have been working tirelessly on this since 2006. We owe them a debt of gratitude for seeing this through for our community.”

Councilwoman Jodi Giglio, the Riverhead Town Board liaison for the Town of Riverhead’s Alternative Transportation Committee, said she was “extremely appreciative to see the multipurpose trail move towards completion.” She expressed her appreciation for the “diligent efforts of Senator Kenneth LaValle and Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo for advocating for the EPF funding and previous state funding that will allow for the expansion of this trail.” Giglio also acknowledged Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski for providing a \$200,000 match in county funds towards the overall project that provided a critical match with no direct cost to Riverhead taxpayers.

Giglio said the Riverhead Alternative Transportation Committee has been tirelessly working on securing funding from state and county government, as well as applying for permits from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation over the last seven years. “Biking, walking and running are no cost, family friendly activities,” Giglio said. “The trail will significantly benefit Riverhead families by providing a safe outlet to participate in healthy activities, while increasing users’ appreciation of the natural environment in the scenic Pine Barrens and provide a sense of place.”

The grant application funding under the Environmental Protection Fund had widespread community support, as evidenced by letters of support from Congressman Lee Zeldin, NYS Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, NYS Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo, Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski, former Riverhead Supervisor Sean M. Walter, Brookhaven Supervisor Edward P. Romaine, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training charity training program, the Greater Long Island Running Club, Island Running Club, Hampton Running Club, Suffolk Bicycle Riders’ Association, the Town of Riverhead Open Space Committee, the Town of Riverhead Senior Citizen Services Department, the Town of Riverhead Recreation Department, the Town of Riverhead Senior Citizen Advisory Council and the Wading River Civic Association.