



Open Space and Recreation Planning



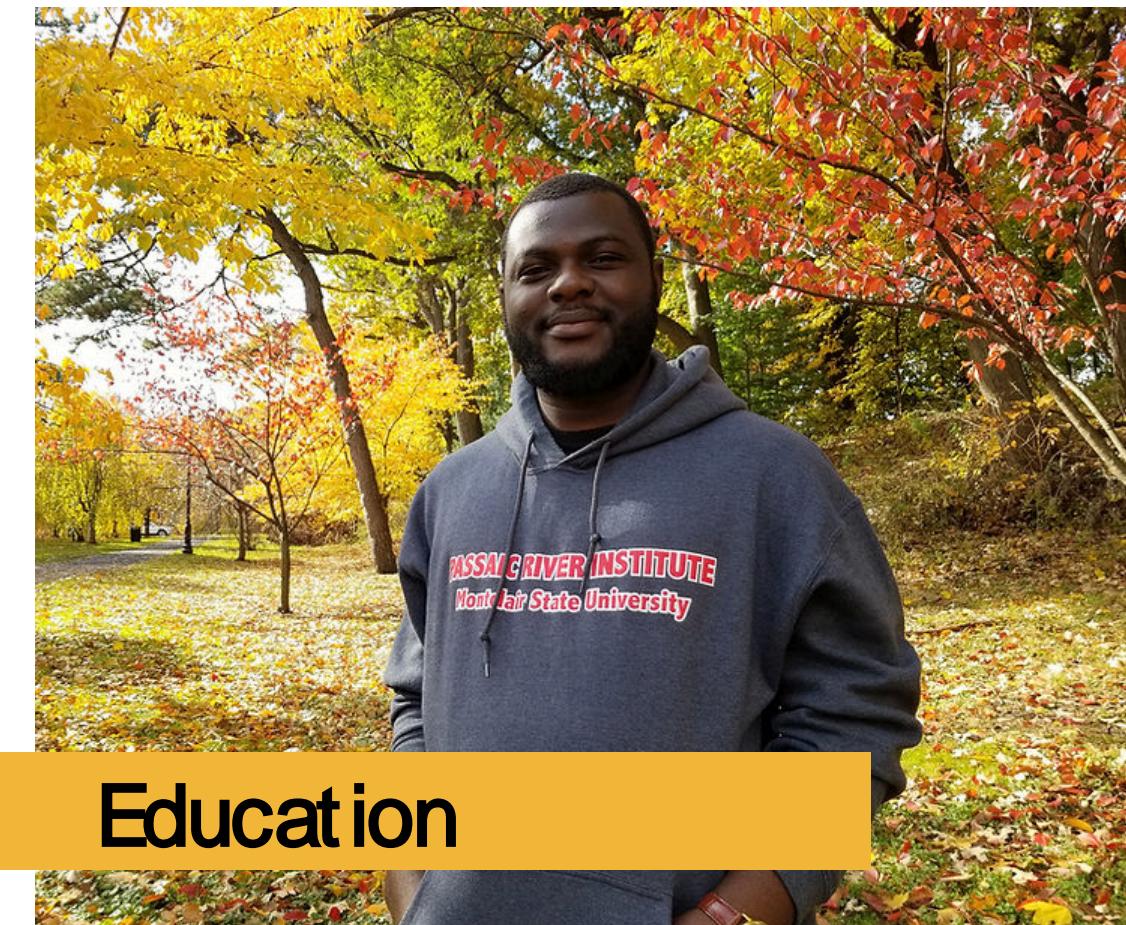
Sparta Township Environmental Commission

August 10, 2023

WHO WE ARE

THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY

We preserve, restore, and care for land and water resources, inspiring and empowering individuals and communities to protect open space.



Statewide Impact

- ❖ 200 land conservation plans completed
- ❖ 100 Open Space Plans
- ❖ \$255 million in grants for towns to fund acquisition projects
- ❖ 75 municipalities in 13 counties have completed plans with TLCNJ

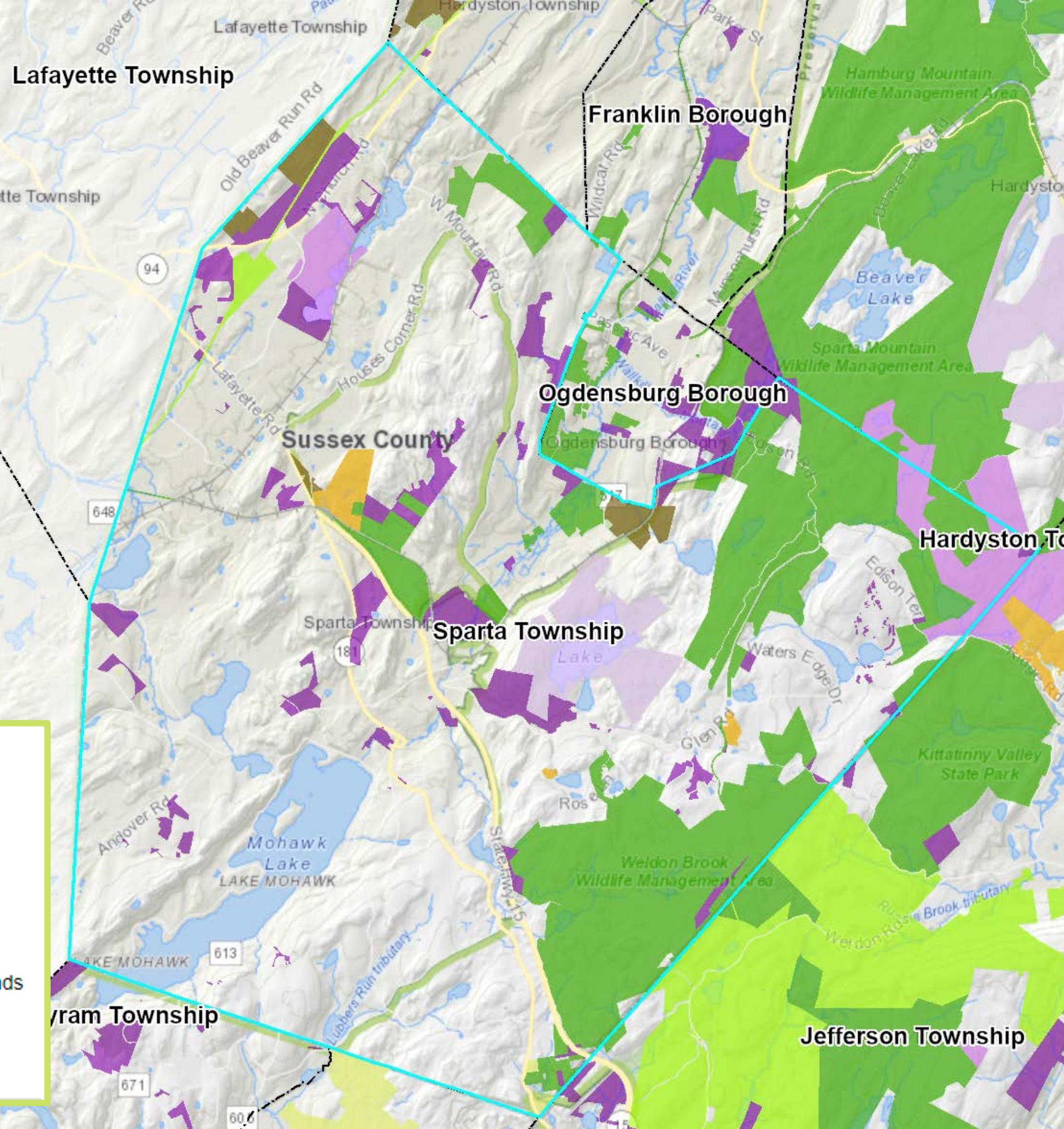
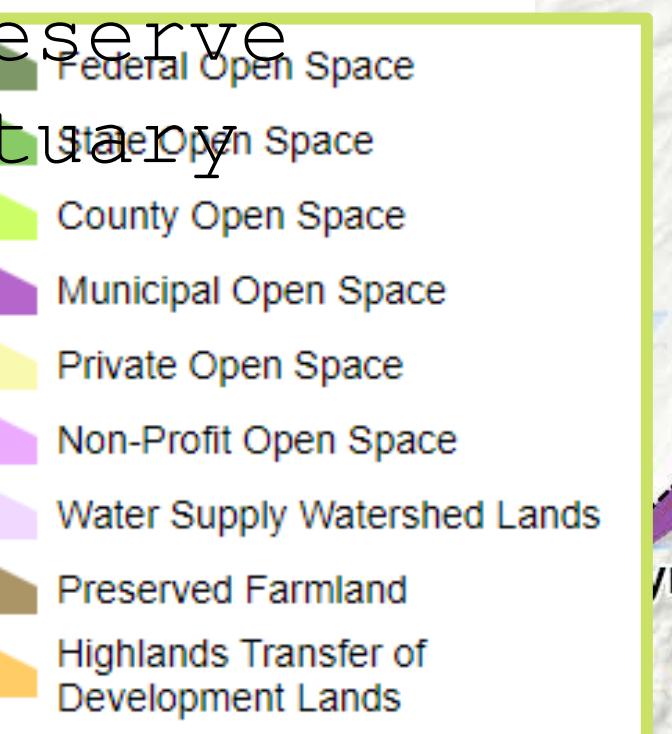
Sussex County

- ❖ Completed Sussex County's:
 - ✓ 2003 and 2016 Open Space Plans
 - ✓ 2008 Farm Plan
- ❖ In Sussex County TLCNJ has written:
 - ✓ 18 Open Space Plans
 - ✓ 4 Farm Plans
 - ✓ 4 Trail Plans
 - ✓ 1 Environmental Resource Inventory
 - ✓ 1 Watershed Plan

Sparta Township

home to:

- Weldon Brook WMA
- Sparta Mountain WMA
- Pimple Hills State Park
- Kittatinny Valley State Park
- Sparta Glen Park
- Wildcat Branch Preserve
- Russia Brook Sanctuary
- Wallkill Preserve
- Lockburner Estate
- Mohawk Lake
- White Lake
- Morris Lake



Why update the Open Space Plan?

The Township's current Open Space Plan (1996) is out of date.

Completing an Open Space Plan yields 10 points towards Sustainable Jersey Certification.

The Plan identifies locally important lands for conservation and protection.

The Update will keep the municipality current for 10 years for matching funds through the Green Acres program.



Photo: Bear Creek Preserve, View of Jenny Jump Ridge

The goals of the Township's 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan were largely informed by a public survey conducted in 2008. Residents identified protection of their water and rural landscape as priorities for the open space program. These goals have been adapted for this 2023 Update, and are distinguished by the following three categories:

PROTECT AND CONNECT

Connect greenways of preserved lands and public open spaces to reduce fragmentation of wildlife habitat and the forested hillsides.

Support the farmer, their farm, and the locally grown products they provide.

Expand the bicycle and trail system, where appropriate, to offer safe, healthy alternatives for accessing and enjoying the public parklands.

STEWARD

Recreational lands with an eye towards improving stewardship of undeveloped public lands to ensure their sustainability and resiliency.

Unique natural areas and water resources for their wildlife habitat value, their recreational opportunities, and to safeguard water quality and water supply lands.

SUSTAIN

Four season tourism opportunities.

The town's capacity for receiving outside **funding** for open space.

Municipal funding for future **acquisitions**.

Historic and cultural sites that form the backdrop of the town's scenic beauty.

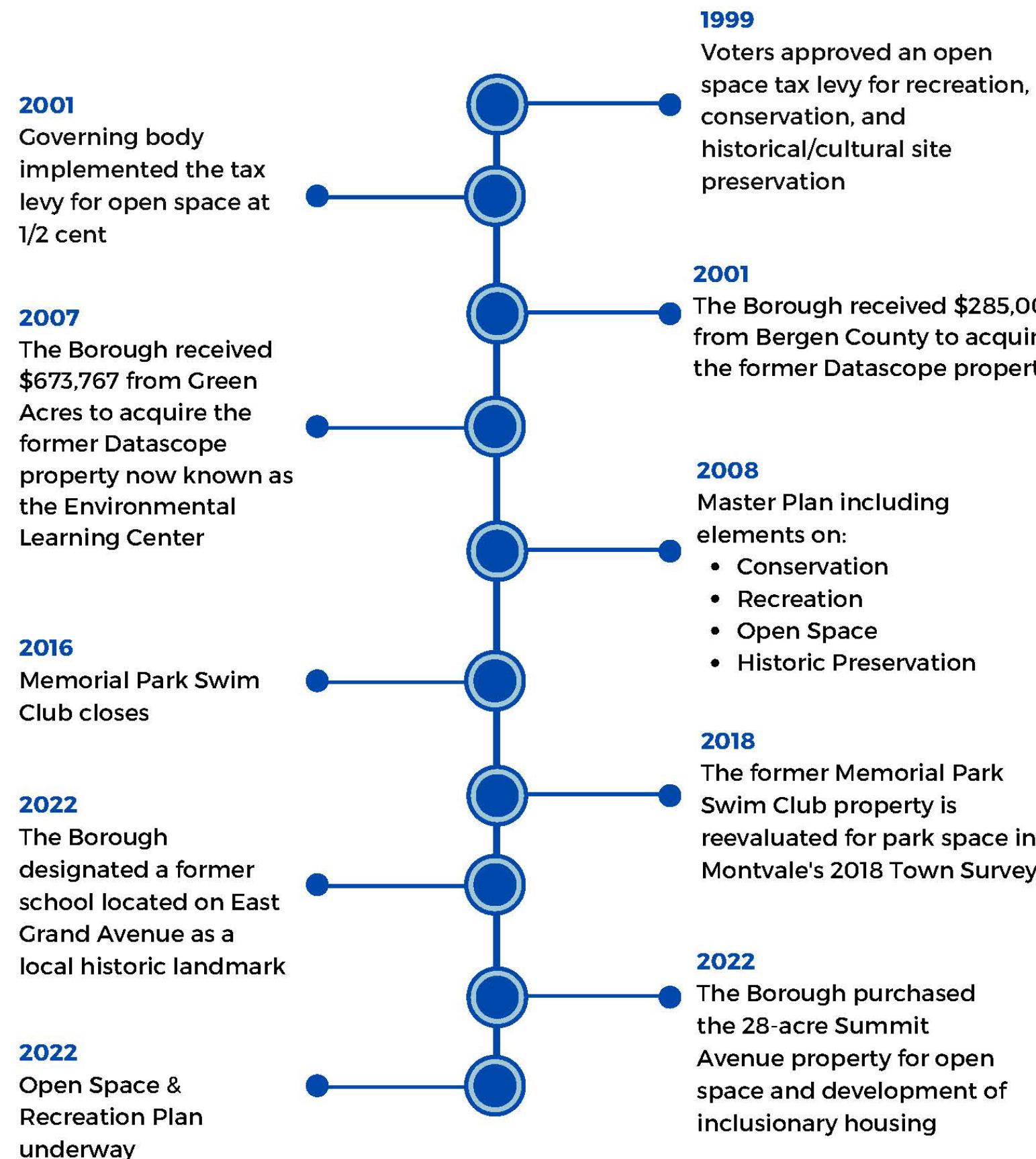
Goals of the Open Space Program

An outline of the community's open space vision for conservation and preservation.

Welcome to the Township of
FRELINGHUYSEN
NEW JERSEY



HISTORY OF THE OPEN SPACE PROGRAM



History of the Open Space Program

A record of the municipal Open Space Trust Fund, open space and recreation grants received by the town, and past bond financing



BOROUGH OF
MONTVALE
NEW JERSEY

Municipal Open Space Trust Fund



Township of
East Hanover
New Jersey



Established by voter referendum in 1995

Tax levy is 1¢ per \$100 of assessed value

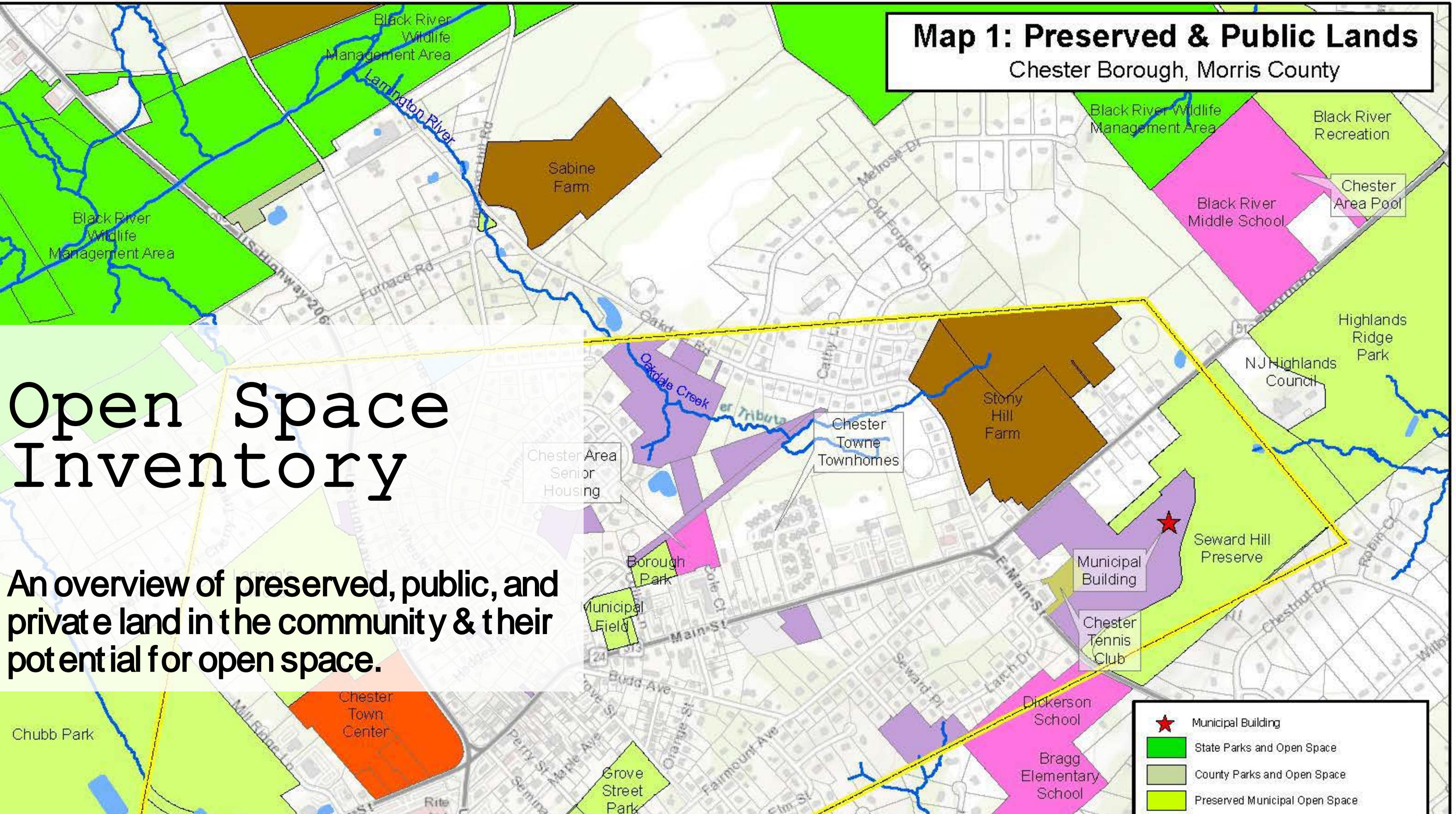
\$5,984,429 collected to date

\$5,795,182 expended to date

\$189,573 balance

498 acres preserved to date

Map 1: Preserved & Public Lands
Chester Borough, Morris County



Historic Sites on the State and National Registers in Chester Borough

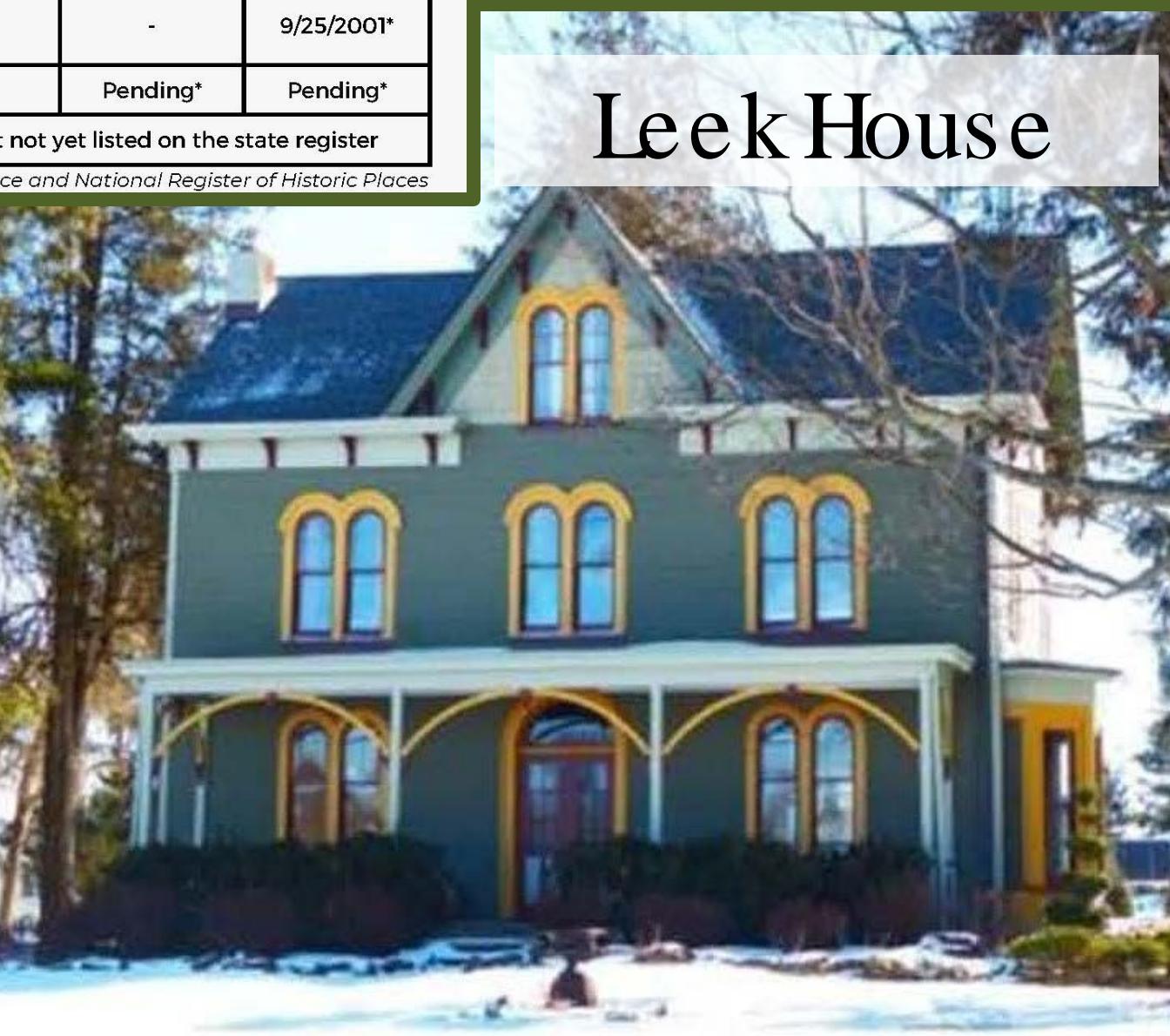
The following sites and those described below are listed on the state or national historic registers, indicating broader significance and opening opportunities for funding. Additional properties have been recognized as eligible by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) through the proposed Historic District, but some owners of those properties objected to their inclusion and prevented them from being listed.

Name	Location	National Register	State Register
Chester Historic District	NJ-24, Main Street, Maple Avenue, Grove Street, and Hillside Road	-	9/25/2001*
Chester House Inn	Main Street and Hillside Road	7/18/1974	11/26/1973
First Congregational Church	30 Hillside Road	8/10/1977	8/2/1976
First Presbyterian Congregation of Chester	220 Main Street	-	3/28/2005*
Isaac Corwin House (Larison's Turkey Farm Inn)	2 West Main Street	-	9/25/2001*
Rockefeller Center	Municipal Field	Pending*	Pending*

* acknowledged by the State Historic Preservation Office, but not yet listed on the state register

Source: NJ State Historic Preservation Office and National Register of Historic Places

Historic and Cultural Resources

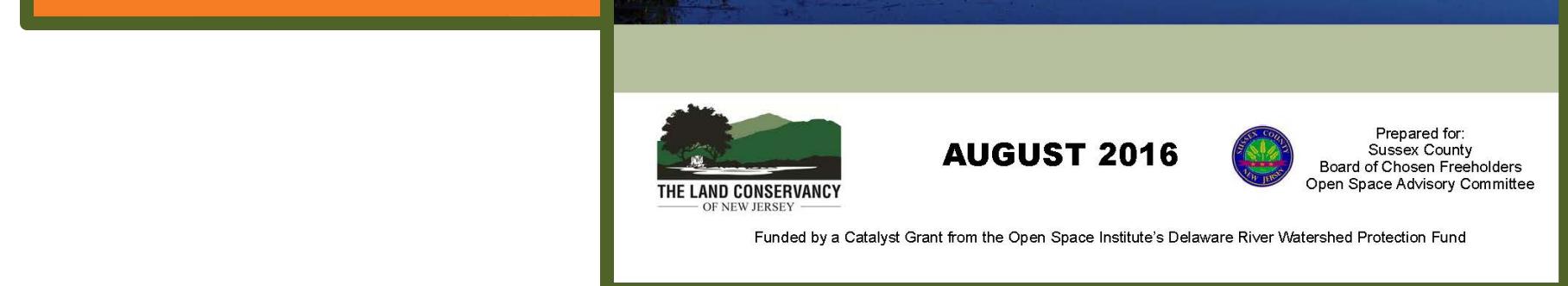
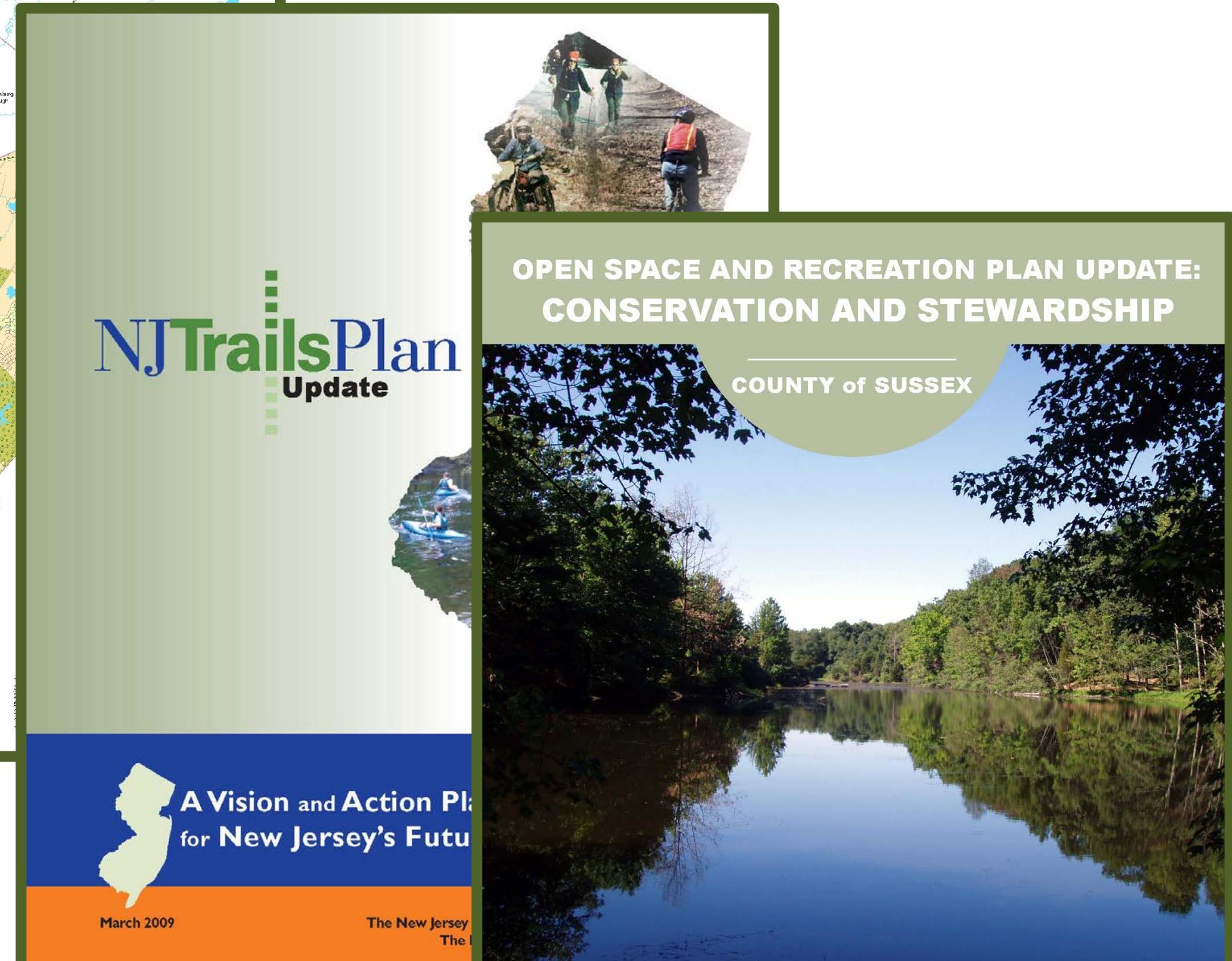
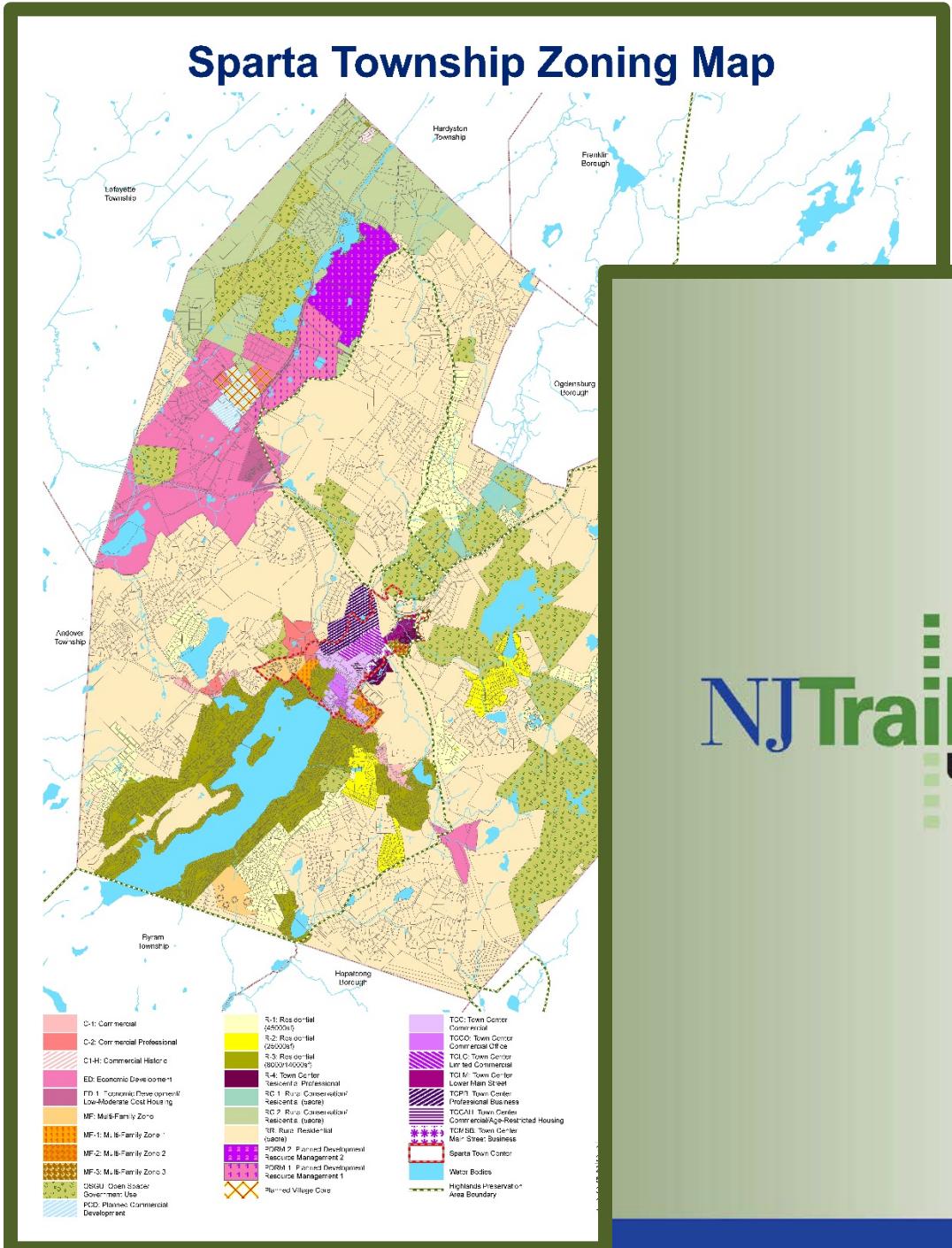


An inventory of local, state, and federally significant historic and cultural resources within the municipality or county.



Planning Consistency

A summary of municipal, county, and state plans relevant to the Open Space and Recreation Plan.



Funded by a Catalyst Grant from the Open Space Institute's Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund

A photograph of a playground in a park. In the foreground, a large green tree with dense foliage stands on the right. The playground equipment, including a red slide, blue swing sets, and a yellow climbing structure, is visible in the background. The ground is a mix of green grass and brown dirt. The sky is overcast with some clouds.

Recreation Resources

Existing recreation resources and facilities, programming, expected demand, and potential solutions for unmet needs



Preservation Recommendations

A System of Open Space

Community Benefits of Open
Space Preservation

Greenways



SHORT-TERM

To be completed within one year



LONG-TERM

ONGOING

Work with the County Chamber of Commerce to examine eco-tourism initiatives and "green" economic development.

Celebrate and publicize all successful open space projects with community events.

Continue to offer ongoing and diverse recreational programs for all Township residents.

Promote best management practices near environmentally sensitive lands, including rivers, streams and wetlands.

Continue to apply for and investigate grant opportunities to protect the Township's open space areas.

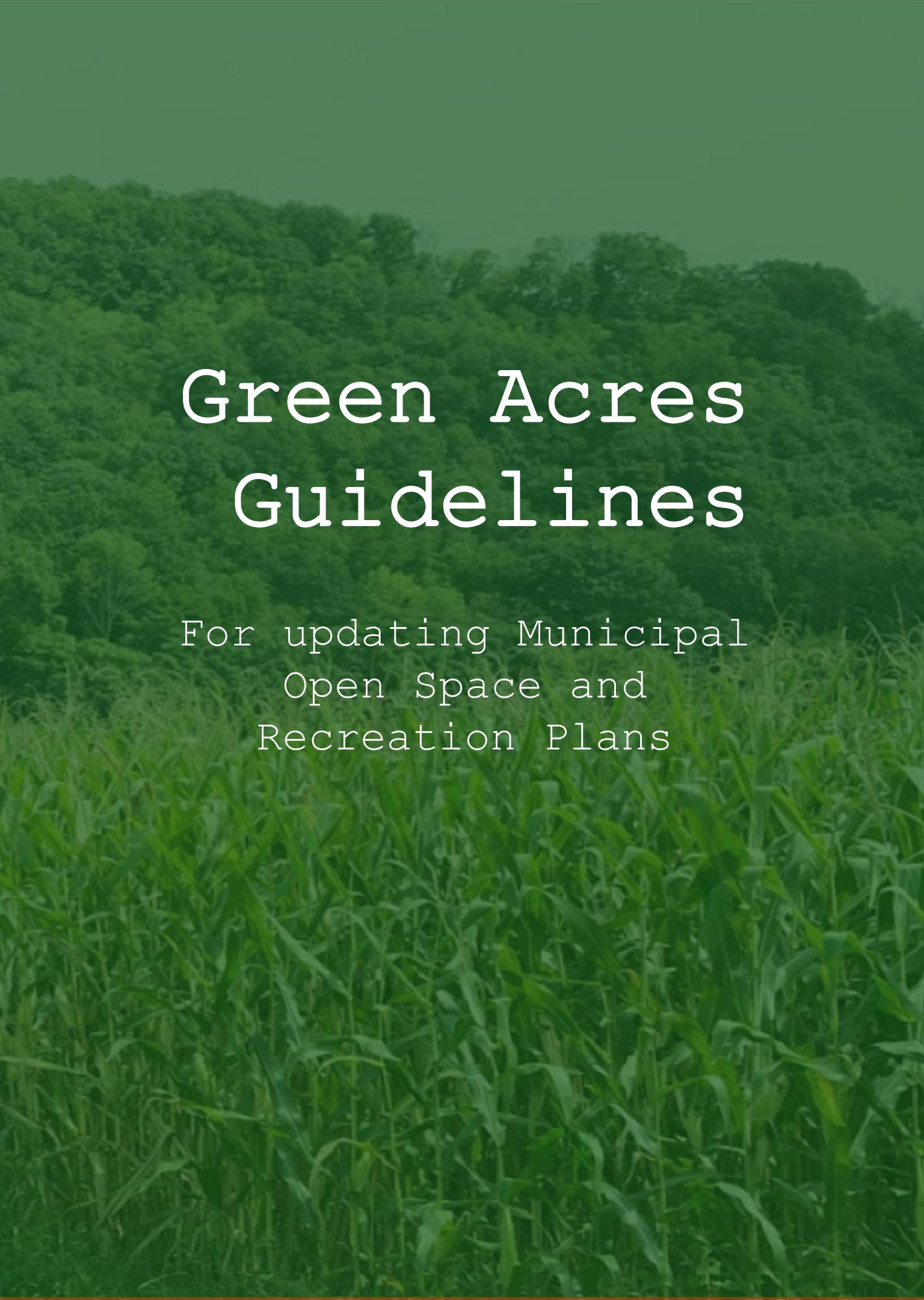


Action Plan

A set of strategies and a timetable to implement the goals and recommendations within 1-year, 3-years, and ongoing timeframes.

Schedule and Deliverables





Green Acres Guidelines

For updating Municipal
Open Space and
Recreation Plans



The Open Space Plan relies on the latest municipal data for revenues/expenditures and priorities for preservation.



The Township can apply for a grant from the Highlands Council to cover 100% of the cost to update the Open Space Plan.



An Open Space Plan allows the Township to qualify for Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant funding:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres>

Benefits of Open Space

- »»» Contributes to quality of life
- »»» Encourages physical activity
- »»» Contributes to a tourism and recreation economy
- »»» Enhances homeowner property value
- »»» Improves air quality
- »»» Provides storage of carbon in trees to combat climate change
- »»» Maintains wildlife habitat for plants and animals
- »»» Mitigates local flooding and improves water quality



Thank You

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