Master Plan Element Section VIII Open Space and Recreation Plan

Adopted November 28, 2018 Township of West Windsor







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<u>Open Space and</u> <u>Recreation Plan</u>

Township of West Windsor Mercer County, New Jersey

Prepared for the Township of West Windsor Planning Board

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Contents

Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
What is Open Space?	4
What are the Types of Open Space?	5
What are the Benefits of Open Space?	5
What is an Open Space and Recreation Plan?	6
2. Goals and Policies	8
3. Inventory	
Table VIII-1: Open Space and Recreation Inventory	
State-Owned Resources	
County-Owned Resources	
Municipally-Owned and Operated Resources	
Privately-Owned Resources	17
Summary of Resources	
Table VIII-2: Existing Township Park Recreation Facilities	
Table VIII-3: County, State, and Local School Recreation Facilities	
Table VIII-4: Private Recreation Facilities	20
4. Needs Analysis	
National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)	
Table VIII-5: NRPA Recreation, Park, and Open Space Guidelines	22
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)	23
Table VIII-6: SCORP Balanced Land Use Guidelines	23
2003 Open Space Utilization Task Force Report	24
2011 Individual Parcel Plans (IPP's)	
Table VIII-7: 2003 Open Space Utilization Task Report Active Recreational Needs	25
Table VIII-8: 2003 Open Space Utilization Report Environmental Conservation Recreation	
5. Action Plan	
Table VIII-9: Action Plan Update	
Table VIII-10: Open Space Acquisition and Utilization Table	
6. Relationship to Other Plans	47
The State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP)	47
The Mercer County Open Space Plan	49
Municipality of Princeton	
Goals and Policies of the Princeton Open Space and Recreation Plan	52
The Township of Plainsboro	55

Township of Plainsboro Open Space and Recreation Goals and Policies	55
The Township of East Windsor	
Goals and Policies of the East Windsor Open Space and Recreation Plan	
The Township of Robbinsville	62
Township of Hamilton	65
Township of Hamilton Open Space and Recreation Goals and Policies	65
The Township of Lawrence	68
Township of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan Goals and Objectives	68
7. Public Participation	73
Appendix 1: Copy of the Policy for the Naming of Township Lands and Facilities	74
Policy for the Naming of Township Lands and Facilities	75
Appendix 2: List of Open Space and Recreation Facilities	76
Statewide	77
Mercer County Facilities	77
Township Facilities	
Private Facilities	
Appendix 3: Trails	
Mapping	81
Map 1: Existing Township Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Map 2: County and State Parks and Educational Facilities	83
Map 3: Private Recreation Facilities	84
Map 4: WWT Preserved Open Space Lands	85
Map 5: Open Space Acquisition and Utilization by Ownership	86
Map 6: Open Space Acquisition and Utilization – Farm Preservation Priority	87
Map 8: Open Space Acquisition and Utilization – Parks and Recreation	89
Map 9: Greenbelt	
Map 10: Composite Map	

Executive Summary

The Township of West Windsor's 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines and requirements as set forth by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP's) Green Acres Program. This new 2018 OSRP is ultimately an update of the Township's prior 2002 OSRP. It incorporates the baseline information provided in that previous plan, provides updates on open space, recreation, and other land development issues, and offers current goals and policies as well as a new action plan.

West Windsor's dedication to open space and recreation dates back to 1976, when the Township adopted its extensive Greenbelt Plan. The Township subsequently adopted its first OSRP in 1994, and its latest OSRP was adopted in 2002. Since that time, West Windsor has acquired an additional 498 acres of land to be utilized as open space, recreation, and farmland preservation. The Township has also provided numerous improvements to many of its existing recreational facilities in order to continue to meet the needs of its residents.

This 2018 OSRP represents a continuation of the Township's long-standing tradition of embracing open space and recreation. The purpose of this 2018 OSRP is to provide an up-to-date blueprint to assist the Township in identifying its existing open space and recreation needs, where its existing facilities are in need of additional capacity, and future potential open space and recreation acquisitions.

In order to better determine the Township's present and future needs, this 2018 OSRP was prepared through a collaboration with various community entities, including the Township's staff and experts, the Department of Community Development, the Division of Land Use, the Division of Recreation and Parks, the Board of Recreation Commissioners, the Environmental Commission, and the Township Planning Board.

Through this collaborative effort, the following overarching goals have been identified. These goals will serve as the basis for shaping the Township's open space and recreation policies and action plan.

- 1. Continue the Township's tradition of preserving open space for the future;
- 2. Establish and maintain sufficient open space and recreation facilities that meet the needs of West Windsor Township presently and hereafter;
- 3. Preserve and enhance the social and ecological environment for the inhabitants of West Windsor Township;
- 4. Balance the provision of open space with other land uses, and;
- 5. Develop a means of supplemental funding for recreation development and maintenance.

1. Introduction

Open space has always been an essential component in the fabric of West Windsor, ever since its beginnings as a small farming community. Even as the Township has grown into a bustling, robust and diverse community, open space has continued to be an invaluable part of day-to-day life. Indeed, the Township has a long history of not only recognizing the value of open space and recreation, but of also implementing strategies to preserve and enhance these features for current and future generations to enjoy. Below is a recap of just some of these efforts:

1976	The West Windsor Environmental Commission develops the Greenbelt Plan, in which seven stream corridors forming the nucleus of a largely forested interconnected open space network were identified for preservation.
1993	Township voters approve a Municipal Open Space tax which establishes an initial tax of one cent.
1994	The Township adopts its first Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).
1995	Residents vote to increase the initial open space tax to two cents.
1998	Mayor Carole Carson establishes the Mayor's Open Space Task Force of West Windsor Township to prepare a report identifying the projected needs for open space acquisition and use in West Windsor for the next five to ten years. Residents vote to increase the open space tax from two cents to seven cents, with a minimum of 90% of revenue collected to be utilized for acquisition and a maximum of 10% to be utilized for development and maintenance.
2002	The Township adopts an updated OSRP and incorporates it as an element of its Master Plan. A second Open Space Task Force is convened.
2003	Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh's Open Space Utilization Task Force Interim Report is completed.

2005	Residents vote to reduce the open space tax from seven cents to five cents.
2006	The Township undergoes a revaluation of its property assessments. Residents vote to reduce the open space tax from five cents to three cents. The maximum amount of collected revenue to be utilized for development and maintenance is increased from 10% to 25%.
2011	In collaboration with the Friends of West Windsor Open Space (FOWWOS), the Township develops detailed work plans for nine (9) Environmental Recreation and Conservation (ECON) properties, as well as a tenth broader plan that covers Township Greenbelt Properties.
2012	Residents vote to reduce the open space tax from three cents to two cents. The maximum amount of collected revenue to be utilized for development and maintenance is increased from 25% to 35%.
2018	Based upon a recommendation from its 2018 Reexamination Report of the Master Plan, the Township adopts its new Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Through these efforts, the Township has managed to provide its residents with state, county, municipal, public and private educational, and privately-owned parks, recreational facilities, and nature preserves. Today, nearly 49.95% of West Windsor is preserved.

Nevertheless, the Township is facing significant changes and accompanying new challenges. Chief among them are a changing landscape and increased development pressures. Since 2000, the Township's population has increased by over 12,000 people. By 2025, it is estimated that the Township will have a population of nearly 35,030. This estimated population increase is due in part to a court-mandated requirement to provide increased affordable housing units in the community.

It is therefore imperative that the Township continue to take a proactive stance in preserving and enhancing its open space and recreation resources. The following 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) provides an inventory of the Township's existing resources, an analysis to determine its future needs, goals and policies to better guide the Township's efforts, and an action plan to provide concrete and realistic steps to obtain these goals. The 2018 OSRP is largely an extension of the previous efforts undertaken by the West Windsor community, and seeks to ensure that future generations may continue to enjoy the quality of life offered by the Township.

What is Open Space?

Simply put, open space is undeveloped land. Open space can come in a variety of different forms and types. It can be small or large, active or passive, land or water, flat or mountainous, and publicly or privately owned. Below are just some examples of the many forms open space may take:

Forests	Lakes	Public art	Athletic fields
Fields	Ponds	Scenic views	Playgrounds
Meadows	Historic sites	Gardens	Trails
Yards	Cultural centers	Orchards	Greenways

The Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL), which provides the statutory basis for planning and zoning across New Jersey, provides a more detailed insight into what open space is:

Open space means any parcel or area of land or water essentially unimproved and set aside, dedicated, designated or reserved for public or private use or enjoyment or for the use and enjoyment of owners and occupants of land adjoining or neighboring such open space; provided that such areas may be improved with only those buildings, structures, streets and off-street parking and other improvements that are designed to be incidental to the natural openness of the land or support its use for recreation and conservation purposes.

As outlined above, one of the main components of open space is that it must be "set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved." In other words, open space must be generally safe from any development that is not incidental to the use of that space.

What are the Types of Open Space?

While open space can be found in a variety of different forms, it typically falls under four general categories:

Active

Recreation

Active recreation consists of activities that require equipment. These activities generally take place at prescribed places, sites, or fields. They may be formally organized and performed with others.

Farmland Preservation

Farmland preservation is a joint effort by landowners and local governments. The goal of farmland preservation is to set aside and protect a region's agricultural areas for future use, education, and enjoyment.

Environmental Conservation Recreation

Environmental recreation and conservation includes activities which require little to no organization. They may also be relatively inactive and less energetic.

Greenbelt

A greenbelt is an interconnected network of undeveloped and typically forested areas. Greenbelts maintain clean water and air resources. They also help protect flora and fauna, and create natural buffers between land uses.

What are the Benefits of Open Space?

Open space is vital for both the physical and mental well-being of a community. Its benefits are wide-ranging and affect nearly every facet of everyday life. Some of these benefits include the following:

Quality of Life

Open space can exist in a variety of forms, including forests, fields, meadows, trails, waterways, greenways, and other vistas. In addition to their natural beauty, these spaces offer mental and physical health benefits to its users, and provide a valuable break from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Ecological Benefits

The preservation of open space protects and preserves important environmental features, such as wetlands, floodplains, and steep slopes. Furthermore, these areas often contain delicate ecosystems filled with unique wildlife and vegetation species.

Recreational

Open space provides recreational opportunities for community members of all ages and backgrounds. Athletic fields and facilities may be varied, and can accommodate tennis, baseball, basketball, hockey, football, soccer, cricket, running, boating, and general exercise – just to name a few. No matter the activity, recreational fields can act as gathering spaces that may bring together the community.

Economic

Open space is also an investment into a community. By promoting attractive and desirable places, open space can attract new businesses and residents to nearby areas. Proximity to open space amenities can also increase nearby property values and provide tourism opportunities.

Transportation

One of the often-overlooked benefits of open space are its transportation benefits. Interconnected parks, trails, and greenways provide for an alternative means of transportation, one that is both environmentally friendly and traffic reducing.

What is an Open Space and Recreation Plan?

As established by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP's) Green Acres Program, an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP):

"...articulates a local government's vision of open space and recreation. It should establish a philosophical and practical justification for the protection and preservation of open space and recreation opportunities. The purpose of an OSRP is to provide a framework for implementation. Through an OSRP, you identify and examine open space and recreation resources important to you and lay out ways to protect and enjoy them."

Put simply, an OSRP is a blueprint that recognizes the benefits of open space. It provides for an identification of a community's resources, and a strategy to preserve, enhance, and expand upon those resources to ensure that future generations may continue to enjoy them. While every OSRP is specifically curtailed to the needs of the municipality for which it is prepared, they nevertheless address the same requirements and guidelines as established by the MLUL and the Green Acres Program.

N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28 of the MLUL outlines the contents of a municipal master plan, which is intended to guide the use of lands within a municipality in a manner which protects public health and safety and promotes the general welfare. Recreation plans and conservation plans are identified as optional master plan elements.

The MLUL establishes that the recreation plan element is intended to show:

"...a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation."

Likewise, the MLUL further establishes that a conservation plan element should provide for:

"...the preservation, conservation, and utilization of natural resources, including, to the extent appropriate, energy, open space, water supply, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, harbors, rivers and other waters, fisheries, endangered or threatened species wildlife and other resources, and which systematically analyzes the impact of each component and element of the master plan on the present and future preservation, conservation and utilization of those resources."

The Green Acres Program provides more detailed guidelines for the preparation of an OSRP. Created in 1961 to meet the state's growing recreation and conservation needs, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP's) Green Acres program provides guidelines to assist local governments in the preparation of their OSRPs. These guidelines establish ten items which are required to be addressed in an OSRP in order for a municipality to participate in the Green Acres Planning Incentive (PI) funding category. This category awards 50% matching grants to local governments to preserve lands identified in their OSRP. These ten required items are summarized as follows:

1. Executive Summary

The Executive Summary should include a concise summary of the Plan's origin, purpose, planning processes and findings, major goals it establishes, and actions it proposes.

2. Goals and Policies

Goals and polices should clearly state the community's philosophy of open space and recreation and be responsive to identified needs.

3. Inventory

The OSRP should document the public and private resources that provide existing recreation and open space opportunities for the community. This inventory should include the size, location, ownership, and usage of these resources.

4. Needs Analysis

A needs analysis should be conducted to determine the adequacy of the municipality's current open space and recreation system to satisfy present and projected public recreational needs.

5. Resource Assessment

The OSRP should provide an assessment of those public and private land and water resources that have the potential for providing open space or recreation opportunities.

6. Action Plan

An action plan should be developed which provides direction for the orderly and coordinated execution of the OSRP.

7. General Open Space System Map

The OSRP must contain a map of the open space and recreation system which shows the location and general configuration of all existing public and private open space and recreation resources and sites identified as having open space and recreation potential.

8. Additional Parcel Data Requirements

To coordinate efficient open space planning in New Jersey, all plans throughout the state are entered into the Green Acres Program GIS, which utilizes ArcGIS Software. As such, a copy of the Township's GIS information pertaining to open space and recreation must be submitted electronically.

9. Public Participation

The OSRP is to include a discussion of the public participation process that was used to gather citizen input and to assess community open space and recreation needs.

10. Plan Adoption

Finally, the Planning Board must adopt the OSRP as an element of the local master plan.

2. Goals and Policies

The purpose of this 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is to continue the Township's tradition of preserving and enhancing open space and recreation amenities for future generations. It therefore largely maintains and builds upon the goals and policies established by the previous 2002 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

These goals and policies are established as follows:

Goal A:

Continue the Township's tradition of preserving open space for the future **Policy 1**: Public acquisition of at least an additional 96 acres of significant recreation open space (as documented in Section 4) to meet the standards of the New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan's (SCORP) "Balanced Land Use Guideline", as well as the unique needs of West Windsor Township.

Policy 2: Acquire additional land beyond the SCORP standards to satisfy open space goals beyond recreation, such as environmental protection, farmland preservation, and environmental education.

Policy 3: Fully acquire control of West Windsor Township Greenbelt lands to prevent the development of these environmentally valuable areas.

Policy 4: Acquire the majority of open space lands in the near future while they are still undeveloped.

Policy 5: Supplement the West Windsor Township Municipal Open Space Tax funds with other funding sources such as state, county, and nonprofit programs including but not limited to: State Green Acres Program; Green Trust; Mercer County Trust Fund Tax Acquisitions; and the State Farmland Preservation Program.

Policy 6: Foster acquisition of open space by private donations.

Policy 7: Recognize the rural heritage of West Windsor and the importance of open space to the Township's quality of life.

Policy 8: Recognize the economic benefits of preserving open space, which includes increasing property values and providing linkages between residential, shopping, and employment areas.

Goal B:

Establish and maintain sufficient open space and recreation facilities that meet the needs of West Windsor Township presently and hereafter **Policy 1**: Expand park lands with active recreation facilities to meet the present and future needs of West Windsor as articulated by the Township and its community organizations. Develop linear linkages between parks that promote alternative transportation opportunities between neighborhoods.

Policy 2: Adequately maintain existing facilities to provide for long term use.

Policy 3: Promote a wide range of publicly and privately owned recreational activity with appropriate, adequate, and equal access by all age, ability, gender, and user groups throughout the Township.

Policy 4: Foster the continued cooperative use of facilities and open space with the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education.

Policy 5: Foster continued and expanded cooperation with private commercial landowners and residential communities to utilize open space for shared recreation activities.

Policy 6: Periodically survey and update the recreation inventory and needs analysis to anticipate needs rather than react to deficiencies.

Policy 7: Continue to forge the sense of a single community out of the many separate parts that comprise the Township's recreational amenities.

Policy 8: Connect the Township's residential, institutional, recreational, and commercial areas to foster a greater sense of community, link neighborhoods together, and decrease dependence on automobiles.

Policy 9: Explore opportunities to integrate green infrastructure with existing and future recreation facilities.

Goal C:

Preserve and enhance the social and ecological environment for the inhabitants of West Windsor Township **Policy 1**: Preserve Township Greenbelt lands to maintain sustainable natural ecosystems and counterbalance land development.

Policy 2: Establish an enclave or district(s) for the preservation of farmland and farm families.

Policy 3: Develop recreational facilities for both active and passive activities for all user age groups to maximize social interaction, community pride, and leisure activities.

Policy 4: Carefully consider the impacts of recreational development relative to natural ecosystems and the sustainability of these areas.

Policy 5: Design and construct recreation development according to all required environmental regulations and practices appropriate to preserve environmentally sensitive areas, as well as to maintain and enhance those environmental qualities.

Policy 6: Minimize the clearing of sustainable woodland and trees for recreation development by situating facilities in open areas.

Policy 7: Simplify and standardize Township Greenbelt mapping and terminology.

Policy 8: Promote respect and knowledge of the Greenbelt and its importance to the community.

Goal D:

Balance the provision of open space with other land uses **Policy 1**: Consider the interrelated efforts of the Township, county, and state master plans.

Policy 2: Balance open space and recreation facilities throughout the Township in order to provide adequate access and opportunity to all residents of West Windsor, as well as to enhance the overall welfare of the community.

Policy 3: Foster cooperative efforts to preserve regionally significant areas with the county and adjacent municipalities.

Policy 4: Explore the potential to coordinate Township farmland with State and County preservation efforts.

Policy 5: Promote the continued development of miniparks near village and multi-family neighborhoods.

Goal E:

Develop a means of supplemental funding for recreation development and maintenance **Policy 1**: Develop a long-term park maintenance program and budgets based upon the present inventory and anticipated growth of the park system.

Policy 2: Foster positive community input and support for recreation development near residential neighborhoods.

Policy 3: Develop a more symbiotic relationship between the Township, Friends of West Windsor Open Space, and local organized sports groups to help plan and fund the future development and maintenance of recreation facilities.

3. Inventory

Significant portions of the Township have been established as parks, recreational facilities, farmlands, and nature preserves, all of which are owned by a variety of different entities, including the state, county, West Windsor, schools, and private organizations. The following table provides a summary of these resources.

As shown, the Township presently contains a total of 8,318 acres of open space and recreational lands. Over one-quarter (28.9%) of these lands in the Township are owned and operated by Mercer County. The largest such county-owned facility is Mercer County Park, which is located in the southwesterly portion of the Township and encompasses approximately 2,200 acres. Lands owned and operated by the State of New Jersey, which include the Delaware & Raritan State Park Canal, account for an additional 1.5%.

Municipally-owned environmental recreation and conservation lands comprise an approximate 21.3% all open space and recreation lands, while municipally-owned recreational facilities account for an additional 5.3%. Greenbelt easements on private property which do not overlap on another land resource account for approximately 15.0%. When considering all Greenbelt lands (i.e. those Greenbelt lands that overlap with other land resources), nearly 2,898 acres have been preserved through easements.

A summary of these state, county, municipal, and privately-owned resources is provided on the following pages:

Land Resource	Acreage	Percentage
State of New Jersey*	124	1.5%
Mercer County	2,405	28.9%
Municipal Active Recreation	437	5.3%
Municipal Environmental Recreation and Conservation	1,777	21.3%
Preserved Farmland: Municipal	273	3.3%
Preserved Farmland: Private	184	2.2%
Homeowners Association	1,165	14.0%
Private Recreation	269	3.2%
Recorded Greenbelt Easements**	1,244	15.0%
Educational Facilities	440	5.3%
Total	8,318	100.0%

Table VIII-1: Open Space and Recreation Inventory Township of West Windsor, New Jersey

* Includes D&R Canal Owned Properties

** Only includes those recorded Greenbelt easements that do not overlap with another land resource

State-Owned Resources

The following state-owned resources are located in the in Township:

The Delaware and Raritan Canal

The Delaware and Raritan Canal (D&R Canal) is a state park which establishes a linear greenway along the northwesterly bounds of the Township. This park is predominantly used for recreation – i.e., walking, jogging, biking, canoeing, and fishing. It also provides a valuable wildlife habitat corridor.

Capital to Coast Statewide Trail

The Capital to Coast statewide trail is a 55-mile cross-state multi-use trail that is designed to span the width of New Jersey, from the Delaware River in Trenton to the beach front town of Manasquan on the Atlantic Ocean. When finished, the trail will be the third longest in the state. The trail path traverses the Assunpink Creek Trail in the Township. On August 20, 2018, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to open a 2.5-mile section of the trail in the Township, off Old Trenton Road.

Millstone River

The State of New Jersey purchased a small parcel of land along the Millstone River, near the Plainsboro border. This lot is part of a potential greenway along the banks of the river. The rivershed offers tremendous potential for recreational and environmental enhancement.

Crossroads of the Revolution Statewide Trail

The Crossroads of the Revolution statewide trail is intended to connect Revolutionary War sites throughout New Jersey. It is intended to travel along the Millstone River as it runs from Monmouth Battlefield outside of Freehold to the Princeton Battlefield, Washington Crossing, and Washington's headquarters in Morristown. The Township has provided trails within the Millstone River Preserve, which corresponds to the State's Crossroads of the Revolution trail.



Figure 1: D&R Canal in West Windsor, at the Intersection of Alexander Road and Canal Road

County-Owned Resources

The following county-owned resources are located within the Township.

Mercer Oaks Golf Course

The Mercer Oaks Golf Course is located along Village Road West to the north of Mercer Lake. It features two public eighteen-hole golf courses.

Mercer County Park

Mercer County Park is located along Old Trenton Road in the southwesterly corner of West Windsor, immediately adjacent to the Township's shared borders with the Townships of Hamilton and Lawrence. Consisting of over 2,500 acres (approximately 2,200 acres of which are located within West Windsor), the park includes softball, soccer, cricket, baseball, indoor and outdoor tennis, pickleball, an ice skating rink, a lake and marina, basketball courts, bicycling and jogging paths, and picnic pavilions. The park is also home to a United States Tennis Association (USTA) facility as well as the (Olympic) Caspersen Rowing Center.

Princeton Country Club

The Princeton Country Club adjoins the Delaware and Raritan Canal along the northwesterly extent of the Township. It has a public eighteen-hole golf course.



Figure 2: Mercer County Park (Source: visitprinceton.org)

Municipally-Owned and Operated Resources

The Township contains numerous municipally-owned and operated resources which offer a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities.

West Windsor Community Park

This 123-acre park is the main active recreational facility in the Township. The park includes a playground, walking-jogging paths, two basketball courts, a dog park, a skate park, two pickleball courts, football/lacrosse fields, and two tennis courts. It is home to the West Windsor Water Works Family Aquatic Center. The park also offers a pavilion, little league baseball and softball fields, a Babe Ruth field, a cricket pitch, and soccer fields utilized by various Township sports organizations.

Rogers/Millstone River Preserve

Located along the Big Bear Brook, the Rogers Preserve features two walking and hiking trails, which traverse through a varied habitat including an old tree nursery, an upland oak forest, and a wetlands and floodplain along Big Bear Brook. In the center of the old tree nursery is an open area suited for picnicking or bird watching.

The Millstone River Preserve is located on the south side of Millstone Road near the Plainsboro border. It also includes several walking and hiking trails which traverse through varied habitat, including an upland oak forest, a wetlands/floodplain area along Millstone River, and 30'-40' high bluffs overlooking the river suited for picnicking or bird watching. The river can be accessed for canoeing or kayaking near the Millstone Road Bridge.

Conover Park

This complex includes a number of sports fields, including: seven soccer fields, five baseball fields, and one softball field. These fields are all maintained and utilized by the Township. West Windsor had previously leased this land from the Mercer County Park Commission; however, the Township now owns it.

Lewis B. Chamberlin Park

Located on Slayback Drive and Park Hill Terrace in the Princeton Ivy East Development, this neighborhood park features an open field, picnic tables, and playground equipment.

Van Nest Park

Van Nest Park includes a picnic pavilion with grills and tables, playground equipment, a dock and canoe launch, bathroom, and passive open space. The Grovers Mill Pond aquatic habitat was restored in 2009 by the Township, in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NJDEP. Also on display is a memorial to the panic that surrounded the historic War of the Worlds broadcast, which occurred in the hamlet of Grovers Mill.

Ron Rogers Arboretum

The Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum is dedicated to the late Ronald R. Rogers, who is remembered as West Windsor's Forester. This honor is reflective of the tremendous time and effort he volunteered to promote and implement community forestry in the Township.

The arboretum is a 25-acre parcel of land that consists of approximately 12 acres of open field and 13 acres of mature woodland. The purpose of the arboretum is to present the wondrous strength, beauty, and benefit of many species of Quercus and oak trees on the property, as well as other ecologically related tree species that grow in West Windsor and its environs. The arboretum is also the site of the September 11 memorial, as well as a gazebo, paved walking paths, and woodland trails.

Duck Pond Park

Duck Pond Park includes over 120 acres, half of which is devoted to a nature preserve. The park includes three illuminated soccer fields, two tennis courts, two basketball courts, and one beach volleyball court, as well as nearly one mile of walking paths, picnic areas, and a pond.

Dey Forest Park

This one-acre neighborhood park is located just off of Cranbury Road on Carlton Place. It is named in tribute to Larry and Lollie Dey, who once farmed this land and its surrounding area. Today, it is planted with a grove of pine trees.

Zaitz Park

Consisting of nearly 120 acres, Zaitz Park features five recreational soccer fields which are utilized by the West Windsor-Plainsboro Soccer Association. The park also features walking trails and a nature preserve, as well as the Schenk Farmhouse, Schenk Farm museum, and Parsonage School. A time capsule was buried at the park in 1997 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the formation of West Windsor from the Township of Windsor.

Crawford Woods

Consisting of 8.6 acres, Crawford Woods is located between Scott Avenue and Harris Road. This naturally wooded area provides a scenic respite in the historic Berrien City neighborhood.

Trolley Line Trail

In cooperation with the NJDEP, the Township constructed a paved pedestrian/bicycle path that extends from Rabbit Hill Road to Penn Lyle Road. The path traverses through Community Park as well as several residential neighborhoods within the PSEG right-of-way.

Hendrickson Drive Tennis Complex

Located on Hendrickson Drive, adjacent to Route 571, this complex has five lighted tennis courts, a playground and a practice wall.

Nash Park

Nash Park, dedicated October 2017 to honor former, long time neighborhood residents, Nobel Laureate John Nash and mental health activist Alicia Nash, whose lives were illustrated in the movie "A Beautiful Mind." This 1.5 acre park, located on Alexander Road near the intersection of Princeton-Hightstown Road, is being developed as the "town green" for the Princeton Junction neighborhood and business district. The park will conceptually consist of several landscape gardens and paths that border and centrally form the traditional American town green lawn space, which is sized to accommodate informal recreation or court games. The gardens are being developed in eastern or Asian garden design themes and include: a Zen garden (Japan); a charbagh garden (India); and a pagoda roof "Beautiful Pavilion" and garden, with a future pond (China). The gardens are connected by a meandering path with present or planned: benches; picnic/game tables; flowering and evergreen plants; rock outcrops; sculptural elements; a zig-zag bridge; a faux canal; and a modern moon gate. It is intended that the park design will develop and evolve over time, via inputs by the community, mostly volunteers or clubs, with elements, spaces, landscape, and activities that celebrate the cultural diversity of West Windsor Township.



Figure 3: Community Park

Privately-Owned Resources

Private recreation in the Township includes several pools, tennis courts, and other court games associated with residential communities. An indoor tennis facility is also located along Washington Road. Some of the corporate campuses in the Township, most notably Carnegie Center, also provide active and passive recreation for their tenants and sometimes Township residents. The Cranbury Golf Club is a private golf course located on Southfield Road. The Windsor Athletic Club is a privately-owned cultural center which contains a number of indoor recreational amenities. Nine (9) outdoor tennis courts are also located on site.

Finally, the West Windsor Township Little League operates Ward Fields located off of Post Road.



Figure 4: Ward Fields

Summary of Resources

Table VIII-2: Existing Township Park Recreation Facilities Township of West Windsor, New Jersey

Activity/Sport	Chamberlin Park	Community Park	Conover Park	Hendrickson/ RR Arboretum	Van Nest Park	Zaitz Park	Duck Pond	Twp. Mini- Parks	TOTAL
Active Recreation									
BR/AL Baseball – 90'		1							1
LL Baseball – 60'		1	5						6
T-Ball									0
Softball		2	1						3
Soccer		2	7			5	7		21
Tennis Courts		2		5			2		9
Tennis/Handball Walls				1					1
Basketball (outdoor)		2					2		4
Basketball (indoor)									0
Football		3							3
Field Hockey									0
Lacrosse		5							5
Swimming Pools		1							1
Golf Course (Full Size)									0
Golf Course (Par 3)									0
Golf Course Practice									0
Volleyball							1		1
Pickleball		2							2
Cricket		1							1
Ice Hockey									0
Roller/Street Hockey									0
Passive Recreation									0
Playground	1	1		1	1	1		5	10
Picnic Pavilion		1			1				2
Canoeing/Boating					1				1
Fishing (a.)					37				37
Jogging/Walking (Mi.)		4		3	0.1	3	2.5		12.6

Activity/Sport	Maurice Hawk	Grover School	Village School	Dutch Neck School	W.W.P. High South	Princeton Country Club	Mercer Co. Park	D&R Canal (NJ)	TOTAL
Active									TOTAL
Recreation									
BR/AL Baseball – 90'					1		2		3
LL Baseball – 60'	1	1							2
T-Ball									0
Softball		2			2		8		12
Soccer		3	1		2		15		21
Tennis Courts					6		28		34
Tennis/Handball Walls	0						1		1
Basketball (outdoor)	2	2	2	3	4		7		20
Basketball (indoor)	1	2	1	1	2				7
Football					1				1
Field Hockey					1				1
Lacrosse					1				1
Swimming Pools					1				1
Golf Course (Full Size)						1	2		3
Golf Course (Par 3)									0
Golf Course Practice						1	1		2
Volleyball					1		3		4
Ice Hockey							1		1
Roller/Street Hockey									0
Cricket							2		2
Badminton									0
Воссе							2		2
Disc Golf							1		1
Passive Recreation									
Playground	2		2	1			4		9
Canoeing/Boating							1	1	2
Fishing (ac.)							200+		200+
Jogging/Walking (Mi.)							16.1	3	19.1
Picnicking (sites)							2		2

Table VIII-3: County, State, and Local School Recreation Facilities Township of West Windsor, New Jersey¹

¹ Mercer County Community College was not included due to limited availability to the general public.

	Carnegie Ctr.	Princeton Tennis	Cranbury Golf Course	L.L. Wards Fields	Windsor Green Golf Center	Homeowners Association	Windsor Athletic Club	TOTAL
Active								
Recreation								
BR/AL Baseball – 90'				2				0
LL Baseball – 60'				2				2
T-Ball Softball				1				0
				1				
Soccer (Full Size)								0
Soccer (Small)						27		0
Tennis Courts Tennis/Handball		6				27	9	42
Walls						1		1
Basketball (outdoor)	2					3		5
Basketball (indoor)							1	1
Badminton (indoor)							1	1
Fitness Center							1	1
Football								0
Field Hockey								0
Lacrosse								0
Golf Course (Full Size)			1					1
Golf Course (Par 3)								0
Golf Course Practice			1		1			2
Golf Course Mini					1			1
Volleyball	1							1
Ice Hockey								0
Roller/Street Hockey								0
Bocce Ball						2		2
Shuffleboard						6		6
Rec. Building						11		11
Pool						13	1	14
Passive Recreation								0
Playground						22		22
Community Garden						2		2
Canoeing/Boating								0
Fishing								0
Jogging/Walking	Y							Y
Picnicking (sites)								0

Table VIII-4: Private Recreation Facilities Township of West Windsor

4. Needs Analysis

In order to determine the future open space and recreation needs of a community, a "needs analysis" must be conducted. Such an analysis can be conducted using a variety of different methodologies. To determine the future open space and recreation needs of West Windsor, three such methodologies were employed:

- 1. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Minimum Guidelines for a "Core" System of Developed Open Space;
- 2. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): Balanced Guidelines Land Use Guidelines, and;
- 3. The Open Space Utilization Task force May 2003 Interim Report

Each of these are summarized below:

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation, and conservation. In 1983, the NRPA published its Recreation, Park and Open Space Guidelines. These guidelines were intended to provide a framework for acquiring and developing open space and recreation amenities. Generally, the NRPA's guidelines recommend 6.25 to 10.5 acres of open space and recreation for every 1,000 population.

The Township's prior 2002 OSRP had predicted that the community would have a maximum buildout of 30,000 people. Utilizing the NRPA's guidelines, the 2002 OSRP estimated that the Township would need approximately 188 to 308 acres of open space. The 2002 OSRP further estimated that the Township would have 421 acres of open space by that time. The estimate assumed the:

"...full build out of all recreation lands presently owned by Township and presently readily available for development; Community Park Uplands (55 acres), Zaitz Park Uplands (6 acres), and Conover Park (15 acres), Bear Creek Parks (80 acres), Parcel 35 (60 acres) Parcel 83 (78 acres) Parcel 84 (6 acres)."

Since this calculation, several multifamily developments have received approvals and are expected to begin construction shortly. In addition, as a result of a settlement agreement signed between the Township and the Fair Share Housing Center (FSHC), several sites throughout the community will be rezoned for multifamily inclusionary developments in order to address West Windsor's affordable housing obligation.

These additional projected units will increase the maximum population buildout potential of the community. As a result, the Township's open space and recreation needs as guided by the NRPA's guidelines will also increase.

The following table provides an update to these needs, as guided by the NRPA.

Table VIII-5: NRPA Recreation, Park, and Open Space Guidelines Township of West Windsor, New Jersey

		Recommended Active	Township Parkland
Year	Population	Park Area (ac)	(ac)*
2016	27,988	175 to 279	272
2025	35,030	219 to 350	272 to 342**

* Includes upland areas only, and not total lot area

** Range includes non-developed parkland area. Please see note 2 below.

As estimated by the US Census's latest American Community Survey (ACS), the Township has a population of approximately 27,988 people. When applying the NRPA's standards, it is estimated that the Township has a recreation need of approximately 175 to 279 acres. Based solely upon the uplands acreage of the Township's existing active recreational areas (i.e. those areas unencumbered by wetlands), it is estimated that the Township is essentially meeting this present need.

By 2025, it is estimated that the Township will have a population of approximately 35,030 people. When applying the NRPA's standards, it is estimated that the Township will have a recreational need of approximately 219 to 350 acres. Based upon that estimate, the following two scenarios are noted:

- 1. If no additional recreational facilities are constructed between now and 2025, it is estimated that the Township's upland recreational acreage will still fall within the established range established by the NRPA's standards.
- 2. If the Township develops the uplands area of Bridegroom Run Park North (70 acres), it will have approximately 342 acres of upland active recreational space. Under this scenario, it is estimated that the Township's upland recreational acreage will fall within the range established by the NRPA's standards.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

NJDEP's Green Acres Program's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as the state's strategic plan for open space preservation and recreation planning. The SCORP offers the Balanced Land Use Concept for calculating open space and recreation needs for communities. The Balanced Land Use Guidelines recommend that at least 3% of the developed and developable area of a community be dedicated as public open space.

The following table utilizes the Balanced Land Use Guidelines. As shown, these guidelines recommend that 368 acres should be permanently dedicated as public open space and available for public recreation uses. When solely considering the uplands acreage of the Township's existing active recreational areas, the SCORP guidelines suggest that the Township has a need for an additional ninety-six (96) acres of active recreational space.

Description	Acreage
A. Total Area of Township	16,830
B. Wetlands and Slopes over 12%	4,400
C. Federal and State Open Space	132
D. Developed and Developable Lands (a-(b+c))	12,298
E. Municipal Recreation Land Set Aside(3% of developed and developable area of municipality)	368
F. Present Municipal Recreation Lands (upland area)	272
G. Municipal Open Space Needed	96

Table VIII-6: SCORP Balanced Land Use Guidelines Township of West Windsor, New Jersey

2003 Open Space Utilization Task Force Report

The guidelines offered by the NRPA and the SCORP serve as a useful starting point in offering municipalities a general understanding of how to approach their present and future open space and recreation needs. Nevertheless, both guidelines are intended to be general in nature; neither one is necessarily specific to a community's landscape or unique needs. As such, a more in-depth analysis is typically required.

In the spring of 2002, Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh convened the Mayor's Open Space Utilization Task Force to study the present and future use of open space in West Windsor. The results of this study formed the basis for the Open Space Utilization Task Force Interim Report. This report analyzed current and future open space needs based upon data from sports organizations, senior citizens, environmental groups, schools, and recreation programs. Based upon that information, the report established recommendations for the use of future open space lands.

The following tables summarize the open space and recreation needs of the Township, as determined by that 2003 Report. They are organized by "Active Recreational Needs" and "Environmental Conservation Recreation." As shown, they identify the projected needs and recommendations proffered by the 2003 Report. Based upon input and feedback from the Township's Manager of Recreation and Parks Kenneth Jacobs, the following tables also provide an update on those needs and recommendations.

2011 Individual Parcel Plans (IPP's)

In collaboration with the Friends of West Windsor Open Space (FOWWOS), the Township developed detailed work plans for nine (9) Environmental Recreation and Conservation (ECON) properties, as well as a tenth broader plan that covered Township Greenbelt Properties. These properties included:

Rogers Preserve
Millstone Preserve (East & West)
Zaitz Preserve
Crawford Woods
Chamberlin Park

Van Nest Park Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum (including woodland) Millstone Farm (aka ID #35) Bridegroom Run Park South Township Greenbelt

The IPP's offered a series of maintenance and management tasks for these properties with specific budget recommendations. Such tasks include the following:

Trail establishment and maintenance Park furnishing (e.g. picnic tables, etc.) Property bounds demarcation and/or survey Landscape improvements Arboriculture and woodland management Environmental education

The Township has utilized the IPP's to help formulate annual budgets and complete some of the specific tasks. FOWWOS has initiated efforts to provide additional assistance with the implementation of tasks for these and similar open space properties.

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
<u>Baseball – Babe</u> <u>Ruth</u>	Irrigate existing Community Park field	Develop irrigation system Community Park field	• The Township has a field at Community Park.
	 1 New Fenced, Irrigated and Illuminated Regulation Size Field 	 1 new fenced, irrigated and illuminated field in Township Park 	• This field has been irrigated.
			• There is presently no need for an additional field.
<u>Baseball/Softball</u> <u>– Little League</u>	 3 illuminated major league size fields Irrigate existing fields 	 Explore potential to illuminate existing little league fields at Community Park Construct 1 to 3 new little league fields at Duck Pond Park 	Fields at Community Park have been irrigated and illuminated
			The Township has money from the Mercer County "Mercer Play" program to improve its fields at Conover Park.
			 No fields have been constructed at Duck Pond. There is presently no need for additional fields.
<u>Badminton</u>	Use of Township controlled gymnasium	Construct Township Recreation Center that will include gymnasium to serve this need	High School South gymnasium is currently being used for badminton.
			• A recreation center has not yet been constructed but remains a goal.
<u>Basketball</u>	Construct 2 to 4 outdoor basketball courts in a Township Park	Construct outdoor basketball courts at Duck Pond Park	Two basketball courts have been constructed at Duck Pond Park.
			• Two basketball courts have also been constructed at Community Park.

Table VIII-7: 2003 Open Space Utilization Task Report Active Recreational Needs Township of West Windsor, New Jersey

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
<u>Court and Lawn</u> <u>Games</u>	Development of court and lawn games in several Township parks near picnic grounds and/or specific locations as requested by users	 Plan for the development of court and lawn games at Community Park, Duck Pond Park and in Princeton Junction Continue to promote development of Court and Lawn games in new planned developments 	 The Township's zoning standards currently require recreational amenities for new multifamily developments. The Township should revisit these standards to ensure that these regulations are consistent with the desires of future residents. An informal space for outdoor court games has been created in Nash Park.
<u>Cricket</u>	Discussed as a court/lawn game	See above	 The demand for cricket has increased over the past decade. A cricket pitch was installed at Community Park. Additional pitches could potentially be installed in the future.
<u>Football</u>	 1 dedicated game day field (non-illuminated) 1 illuminated practice field Practice/cheerleading areas associated with new fields 	 Construct new game field to be shared with Lacrosse at Community Park west grounds Construct new practice field to be shared with lacrosse at Duck Pond Park Develop practice areas with new fields 	• Two illuminated and irrigated fields have been installed at Community Park, as well as a non- illuminated game field.

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
<u>Golf</u>	1 Par 3 or Executive Course (9 or 18 holes) – 50 to 100 acres	Explore potential to construct a Par 3 or Executive Golf Course as a private/public partnership on private or public lands, possibly in connection with large scale development projects	 No such golf courses have been constructed. The expanded county- owned and semi-private golf facilities in the Township are meeting this present need.
<u>Lacrosse</u>	 1 illuminated and irrigated game field, could be shared with football 4 to 7 fields that are not shared with other sports 	 Construct new game field to be shared with football at West Windsor Community Park west grounds Construct new practice field to be shared with football at Duck Pond Park Develop or dedicate 2 to 5 lacrosse fields at Community Park or Conover Park 	 No lacrosse fields have been installed at Duck Pond or Conover Park Five lacrosse fields have been installed at Community Park. There is presently no need for additional fields.
<u>Recreation</u> <u>Center (Indoor)</u>	 50,000 to 75,000 square foot building for an athletic field and court game gymnasium, fitness center and aerobic exercise/dance studio and classrooms 15,000 to 20,000 square foot building for a 50-meter indoor pool w/spring board diving and locker rooms 	Explore potential to develop a recreation center in association with a large Township Park (Community Park or Duck Pond Park) in close proximity to population centers	 No such indoor recreation center has been constructed. This remains a need for the community. Parcel ID #96 (Block 15 Lot 1) was purchased by the Township. This property is known as the Censoni tract and is located across the street from the municipal building. The Township should explore recreation opportunities for this tract.
<u>Roller</u> skating/hockey	1 roller hockey rink1 skate park	Construct skate park and hockey rink at Community Park or Duck Pond Park adjacent to parking lot constructed for other uses	 No rinks have been installed at Community Park or Duck Pond. There is presently no need for any new rinks or skate parks.

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
<u>Soccer</u>	 4 WWSPA blocks – irrigated and illuminated 3-4 multi-purpose practice fields 	 Construct 4 WWPSA blocks dedicated to soccer use at Duck Pond Park Construct 1 full sized field (non-illuminated, possibly irrigated) at Zaitz Park Construct 1-2 WWPSA blocks as multi purposed fields at Conover Park Construct 1-2 full sized fields at Community Park 	 Three soccer fields have been installed at Duck Pond One multi-purpose field which can accommodate soccer has been installed at Zaitz Park Space for seven fields have been installed at Conover Park. There is presently no need for additional fields.
<u>Softball – Slow</u> <u>Pitch</u>	 2-3 slow pitch ball fields 1 illuminated slow pitch ball field Fence and irrigate fields at Community Park 	 Fence, irrigate and illuminate one or two fields at Community Park Construct infield and backstop for 2 or 3 fields on West Grounds of Community Park 	 All fields at Community Park are irrigated and illuminated. The additional fields have not yet been installed. However, there is presently no need for any additional fields.
<u>Softball – Fast</u> <u>Pitch</u>	 Fence and irrigate fields at Community Park Construct 2-3 new fields 	 Fence and irrigate fields at Community Park Construct 2-3 new fields at Community Park west side 	 All fields at Community Park are irrigated and illuminated. One additional field has been installed. There is presently no need for any additional fields.

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
<u>Tennis/Pickleball</u>	 Renovate deteriorating courts at Hendrickson Drive 2-4 new illuminated courts 1 practice wall 	 Renovate fence and surface at Hendrickson Drive Construct 2-4 new illuminated courts and 1 practice wall at Duck Pond Park Construct 1-2 new courts at Community Park 	 Four pickleball courts exist at Mercer County Park. The tennis courts at Hendrickson Drive have been renovated. Two courts have been installed at Duck Pond. No practice wall has been installed at Duck Pond. There is presently no need for such a wall. Two tennis courts at Community Park have been renovated. Two pickleball courts have been installed at Community Park. There is presently no need for additional tennis courts.
<u>Volleyball</u>	Use of Township controlled gymnasium	Construct Township Recreation Center that will include gymnasium to serve this need	 A Township Recreation Center has not yet been constructed. This remains a goal of the community. An outdoor sand volleyball court was installed at Duck Pond Park.

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
<u>Boating/Canoeing</u>	 Improve public access to navigable waters Parking at launch locations Improve Grovers Mill Pond 	 Improve Grovers Mill Pond Establish launch points for Millstone River and Assunpink Creek (Bastien Millstone Farm #35 and Yeager Property #94) 	 An aquatic habitat was restored in 2009 by the Township, in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NJDEP. A launch point was installed at Millstone Preserve East.
<u>Camping</u>	A 10 to 50 acre parcel with woodland and water	 Explore the potential for a tent camping area on or near open space parcels #24, #26, #47, and #49 A Township park such as Community, Zaitz, or Duck Pond could also be considered for this use 	 No such camping areas have been established. The Recreation Division has conducted campout and movie night events in Community Park. This remains a goal of the Township.
<u>Dog Park</u>	3 acre site with access to water and adequate parking	 Promote development of an organizing group or business to create a dog park Explore potential for Dog Park at Community Park, Van Nest Park, Duck Pond Park or another open space parcel 	• A small dog park and a large dog park were installed in the West Windsor Community Park.

Table VIII-8: 2003 Open Space Utilization Report Environmental Conservation Recreation Township of West Windsor, New Jersey

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
<u>Equestrian Trails</u>	One or two trails with a range of 2-10 miles	 Explore potential to develop equestrian trails on Township Open Space near private stables Properties #5-12 or #35 with connections to Mercer County Park and nearby horse farms could be considered. 	 Equestrian trails have yet to be established. This remains a goal of the Township.
<u>Fishing</u>	 Improved access and small parking areas at preferred sites Improved boat launch facilities 	 Develop plans for improved access to preferred sites for bank fishing and boat launch Consider access and/or launch in association with the SRI property development at the Sheep Wash area Grovers Mill Pond restoration 	 A fishing dock is proposed for Duck Pond Park. No such launch has been constructed at the SRI property. An aquatic habitat was restored in 2009 by the Township, in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NJDEP.
<u>Gardens – Gardening –</u> <u>Arboretum</u>	 A small garden park in the Princeton Junction Business District should be considered The need for some gardening areas near apartment and townhome communities should be examined 	Allocate space for a small park in Princeton Junction and near apartment/townhome neighborhoods	 Nash Park is being developed in Princeton Junction. Community garden plots have been established at the municipal complex.

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
<u>Greenbelt – Nature</u> <u>Preserve</u>	 Protect the planned Greenbelt Designate appropriate open space parcels or portions of these parcels for Greenbelt and/or nature preserve uses 	 Delineate Greenbelt "use" for the portions of open space parcels that occur within the planned Greenbelt Preserve designation for areas that contain significant environmental quality or unique features Explore the potential to develop a nature preserve to promote observation and interaction with nature in concert with an organizing group. Potential properties include: Bastien Millstone Farm, Duck Pond Run Woods, Bridegroom Run Farm, Grovers Mill Pond or Zaitz Park Woodlands Review NJDEP data and local knowledge to investigate significant areas worthy of special protection 	 2,898 acres of land have been preserved through Greenbelt easements on private property. Nature preserves have yet to be established at Bastien Millstone Farm or Bridegroom Run Park and Farm. Nature preserves are presently located at Millstone River, Zaitz Park, and Duck Pond. Nearly one-half of Duck Pond is devoted to a nature preserve.

<u>Jogging/Walking/Bike</u> <u>Trails</u>

- Development of an integrated system of paths and trails through all Township Parks connected to residential neighborhoods and business centers
- Coordinate with State efforts to develop State wide trails (i.e. Capital to Coast, High Point to Cape May, and Crossroad of the American Revolution)
- Explore development of a nature trail along the Millstone River Corridor on property #86. This trail may fit into the State Crossroads of the American Revolution trail.
- Explore development of a nature trail along the Assunpink Creek Corridor across several properties. This trail may fit into the State Capital to Coast trail.
- Consider small parking lots at appropriate trail head locations.
- Expand trails at Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum
- Continue to develop trails with Township park development
- Explore a potential path along PSEG ROW connecting Township neighborhoods and parks

- Trails and a trailhead with parking have been developed at Millstone Preserve East.
- On August 20, 2018, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to open a 2.5-mile section of the trail in the Township, off Old Trenton Road.
 - In cooperation with the NJDEP, the Township constructed a paved pedestrian/bicycle path that extends from Rabbit Hill Road to Penn Lyle Road. The path traverses through Community Park as well as several residential neighborhoods. The trail runs mostly, although not completely, through the PSEG right-of-way. It deviates from the right-of-way in Community Park, crosses Route 571 at Slayback Drive, and continues on private property along the front and side of the Dataram property, alongside the PSE&G right-of-way, until it crosses South Mill Road and re-joins the PSE&G right-of-way.
- Additional trails have been developed or expanded at Community Park, Rogers Preserve, Zaitz

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
			 Park, and Duck Pond Park. The expansion of trails remains a goal of the Township. Future trail development should occur where appropriate, including Millstone River Preserve West and an
			 accessible trail near Princeton Junction. Continue to evaluate the need and benefit of exercise equipment and technologies along existing and future trails.
			 Explore ways of improving existing and adding additional educational markers along trails.
Nature Center	 1 nature center – size to be determined based upon anticipated programs 	 Explore potential to develop a nature center at one of the Township parks or open space sites near a stream and woodland. Options would include use of an existing house or barn, use of space in Township Recreation Center building, or development of a less formal pavilion Potential sites include properties #24 and #25, Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum, Duck Pond Park, Community Park or a Township School 	 An environmental educational exhibit was established at the Schenk Farm. Set up as a 1930s general store, the center contains Native American artifacts and other additional environmental educational items to teach visitors about the Township's farming and environmental history. It also includes several natural history and environmental educational exhibits.

Category	2003 Projected Needs	2003 Recommendations	2018 Update
Playgrounds	 Construct playgrounds at new park sites Maintain existing facilities Consider new equipment such as rock climb walls 	 Construct new large playground at Duck Pond Park Explore options to construct new playground or renovate existing at Community Park Develop schedule for maintenance and renovations/updating existing facilities 	 The Township initiated a playground replacement program in 2003. A new replacement program should be explored for the future. There are plans to install a playground, restroom, and pavilion at Duck Pond. A new playground was installed at Zaitz park. The playground at Van Nest Park was replaced. A playground at Community Park was replaced. Playgrounds at several pocket parks were replaced.

5. Action Plan

The following table provides an implementation strategy for helping to achieve the goals and objectives of this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). It builds upon the recommendations offered by both the prior 2002 OSRP, as well as those identified by the 2003 Open Space Utilization Task Force Report.

This Action Plan is intended to provide guidance for the Township on all levels, including its municipal leaders, the Planning Board, the Division of Recreation and Parks, local organizations, and the general community as a whole.

As shown, the Action Plan summarizes the property recommendations that were offered by the 2003 Task Force Report. It then provides updates and new recommendations for these properties.

In addition, this Action Plan also provides an update to the Township's Open Space Utilization and Acquisition Plan, which is provided on Table 9.

Table VIII-9: Action Plan Update Township of West Windsor, New Jersey

Name	Location	2003 Recommended Uses	2018 Update and Recommendations
<u>Bastien/Millstone</u> <u>Farm</u>	Cranbury Road	 To install equestrian trails, farming, fishing, greenbelt jogging/walking/bike trails 	 This property is still utilized for farming. No improvements have been installed. This Plan offers the same recommendations for this property.
<u>Bridegroom Run</u> <u>Park South</u>	Old Trenton Road/Windsor Road & South Lane	 To install equestrian trails, farming, greenbelt, jogging/walking/bike trails 	 The land area of Bridegroom Run Park South has been expanded. This property is still utilized for farming. No improvements have been installed. This Plan offers the same recommendations for this property.
<u>Bridegroom Run</u> <u>Park North</u>	Old Trenton Road	 Par 3 or Pitch and Putt Golf Jogging/Walking 	 There is presently no need for additional golf amenities. However, the Township should hold this property for possible future recreation development. The Township could potentially install cricket fields at this location. Walking trails are also recommended.
<u>Chamberlin Park</u>	Slayback Drive and Park Hill Terrace	• To maintain existing uses	 A playground was installed on site. The Township should maintain the existing fields on site and monitor the condition of the playground as parts of its continuing playground replacement program.

Name	Location	2003 Recommended Uses	2018 Update and Recommendations
<u>Community Park</u>	Princeton Hightstown Road	 1 Baseball – Babe Ruth 4 to 8 Court and Lawn Games & 1 new playground 2 to 3 acre dog park 1 football game field and 1 football practice (shared w/soccer) 3-5 miles jogging/walking/bike trails 2 to 4 lacrosse 1 roller skating park & 1 roller hockey rink 3 soccer (small sided/shared with football practice 3 softball fields 	 There is presently no need for an additional baseball field at Community Park. Pickleball has been added at Community Park. A dog park was installed. A walking path has been installed. Lacrosse/football fields were installed. A skate park was installed. There is presently no need for a roller hockey rink. Two soccer fields exist on-site. There is presently no need for additional soccer fields. A fast pitch softball field was installed. A cricket pitch was installed. There is presently no space for additional athletic fields at Community Park. The Township should continue to maintain its existing fields and monitor the condition of the playground as part of its continuing playground replacement program. Review the maintenance, seating, lighting, and shading of the dog park. Examine the need for lighting near the basketball courts.
<u>Conover Park</u>	Conover and South Post Roads	 3 to 5 multipurpose soccer/lacrosse/football fields 2 softball fields Expanded parking and access drive 	 The Township now owns Conover Park. Additional parking has been added near Conover Road. There is a need to improve the existing baseball fields, add lighting, and add a picnic pavilion. The Township is planning to add restrooms and other improvements, including possibly a sidewalk along Conover Road to Ginnie Lane. Evaluate the need for shade structures.

Name	Location	2003 Recommended Uses	2018 Update and Recommendations
Crawford Woods	Alexander Road	 Nature preserve and informal or wood chip jogging/walking trails, remove existing house 	 The house was removed. The path has not yet been constructed. The need for a path should be revisited in the future.
<u>Duck Pond</u>	Meadow Road	 2-3 Baseball – Little League; Court and Lawn Games 1-Football and Lacrosse Greenbelt/Nature Preserve, Jogging/Walking/Bike Trails, Potential Nature Center in Recreation Center Playgrounds; 1 Softball fields 4 Soccer; 2 to 4 Tennis Courts; Gravel Parking, Stormwater basins, 2-comfort stations; Amphitheater; Potential recreation center/gymnasium/indoor pool 	 The Township has not installed baseball fields on site. There is presently no demand for additional fields. A beach volleyball court and two tennis courts have been installed. A football/lacrosse field has not been installed. There is presently no demand for an additional field. A walking path has been installed. A playground has not yet been installed. A softball field has not been installed. Three full sized soccer fields have been installed. Two basketball courts have been installed. The Township plans to install a playground, pavilion, and bathrooms.
<u>Little Bear Brook</u> <u>Park</u>	Bear Brook Road	 Neighborhood Park – play lawn, playground, court games 	 This site has not been developed. This remains a goal of the Township. Recreation facilities have been developed in nearby housing. There are currently no plans to develop Little Bear Brook Park.

Name	Location	2003 Recommended Uses	2018 Update and Recommendations
Penn Lyle Park	Penn Lyle Road	 1 football/lacrosse field, 1 football practice area 2 softball fields, 2 soccer (small sided) Gravel parking area Nature preserve areas A partnership with the Board of Education should be considered for this parcel 	 These facilities have not yet been installed. The Township will hold this property for possible future recreation development.
<u>Nash Park</u> (formerly <u>Princeton</u> Junction Park)	Alexander Road	 Court and lawn games Gardens or gardening 	 This site was dedicated as Nash Park on October 28, 2017. A 100 square foot town green has been developed for informal recreation including lawn or court games A Zen garden, Charbagh (four quadrant) garden, moon gate, pavilion, and picnic tables have been implemented. Future improvements, as well as the evolving use of the park, should continue and reflect community interests.
Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum and Hendrickson Drive Tennis Complex	Princeton Hightstown Road	 Expand woodland trails Re-furbish tennis courts & playground 	 The trail system on-site was expanded, and the tennis courts and playground were refurbished. The Township should continue to monitor the condition of the playground as part of its ongoing playground replacement program.
<u>Van Nest Park</u>	Cranbury Road	 Renovate playground to meet new standards Improve boat/canoe launch Renovate restroom enclosure and pavilion 	 The playground was replaced. A canoe launch was developed. A bathroom was installed. The Township should improve the existing path on site and monitor the condition of the playground as part of its ongoing playground replacement program.

Zaitz Park Southfield Road • 1-2 Soccer (Full/Small Size) • The fields have been installed. • Expanded Parking • The parking lot was expanded. • Greenbelt/nature preserve • A system of trails was installed. • Walking/nature trails • No additional improvements are	Name Location		2003 Recommended Uses	2018 Update and Recommendations
proposed at this time.	<u>Zaitz Park</u>		Expanded ParkingGreenbelt/nature preserve	The parking lot was expanded.A system of trails was installed.No additional improvements are

Ð	Block	<u>Lot(s)</u>	Address	Acreage	<u>Ownership</u>	Classification	<u>Farmland</u> <u>Preservation</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Greenbelt</u> <u>Preservation</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Parks and</u> <u>Recreation</u> <u>Priority</u>
1	11.01	15 and 20	966 Alexander Road	8.7	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space			•
2	19	9	207 Princeton Hightstown Road	8.9	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition			•
3	33	2.01	229 Village Road East	100.5	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		٠	
4	33	3	209 Village Road East	21.9	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
5	33	5	172 South Lane	37.1	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
6	33	7	133 South Lane	51.4	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
7	33	8	1235 Windsor Road	27.3	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
8	33	42	1247 Windsor Road	15.0	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
9	33	38	1255 Windsor Road	74.2	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
10	33	9	1771 Old Trenton Road	107.4	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
11	33	18.01 and 18.02	Windsor Road	42.7	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
12	33	24.04	1309 Windsor Road	26.3	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
13	29	5	1201 Old Trenton Road	56.7	Private	Preserved Farmland: Private	•		
14	29	4.01	Old Trenton Road	24.2	Private	Preserved Farmland: Private	•		
15	29	3	Cubberly and Line Roads	47.1	West Windsor	Preserved Farmland: Municipal	٠		
16	29	7	1393 Old Trenton Road	25.7	Private	Preserved Farmland: Private	٠		
17	29	2.01	37 Cubberly Road Rear	29.4	West Windsor	Preserved Farmland: Municipal	•		
18	30	4	1627 Old Trenton Road	54.2	West Windsor	Preserved Farmland: Municipal	•		
19	30	5	Cubberly Road	58.4	West Windsor	Preserved Farmland: Municipal	•		
20	23	42	1500 Old Trenton Road	26.2	West Windsor	Preserved Farmland: Municipal	•		
21	23	40	1550 Old Trenton Road	25.7	West Windsor	Preserved Farmland: Municipal	•		
22	30.03	3	1550 Old Trenton Road	37.9	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
23	30.03	2	Robbinsville Road	32.1	West Windsor	Preserved Farmland: Municipal	•		
24	32	8	274 Robbinsville Road	96.2	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	

Table VIII-10: Open Space Acquisition and Utilization Table Township of West Windsor, New Jersey

♦ denotes a Primary Use; □ denotes a Secondary Use; Highlighted properties for acquisition.

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민	Block	Lot(s)	Address	Acreage	Ownership	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Farmland</u> <u>Preservation</u> Priority	<u>Greenbelt</u> <u>Preservation</u> Priority	Parks and Recreation Priority
25	32	18	1300 Windsor Road Rear	8.8	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		۲	
26	32	5	1300 Windsor Road	15.5	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
27	32	4.03	1262 Windsor Road Rear	15.6	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
28	32	23	1240 Windsor Road	19.4	Private	Preserved Farmland: Private	•		
29	32	24	1220 Windsor Road	33.8	Private	Preserved Farmland: Private	•		
30	32	1	1202 Windsor Road	14.5	Private	Preserved Farmland: Private	•		
31	34	5	129 South Lane	18.3	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		۲	
32	28	106.54	Old Trenton Road	61.7	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		•	
32A	28	106.30 and 106.53	Old Trenton Road	50.4	Private	Homeowners Association		•	
33	9	45	112 Bear Brook Road	3.6	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
34	19	24.02	227 Hightstown Road	35.0	Mercer County	County Open Space			•
35	20	5 and 6	458 Cranbury Road Rear	68.5	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
36 ²	14	6	315 Cranbury Road	17.6	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
37 ²	14	5.02	247 Cranbury Road	31.2	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
38	15	3	217 North Post Road	96.1	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
39	15	47.03	113 North Post Road	29.2	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		•	
40	15.14	29	768 Village Road West	33.3	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		•	
41	15.14	28	794 Village Road West	21.3	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		•	
42 ²	16.12	23	18 North Post Road	24.5	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition			
43 ²	15.03	46	19 North Post Road	12.4	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition			
44	24.07	2.02	Conover Road	9.0	Private	Preserved Farmland: Private	•		
45	5	42 and 55	Millstone Road	18.0	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
46	5	16	Millstone Road, rear	26.8	New Jersey	State Open Space		•	
47	5	15	Millstone Road, rear	21.9	New Jersey	State Open Space		•	
48	16	24	Penn Lyle Road, rear	22.4	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition			•

² Also identified in the 2018 Reexamination Report as a potential site for a public school.

♦ denotes a Primary Use; □ denotes a Secondary Use; Highlighted properties for acquisition.

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Q	Block	<u>Lot(s)</u>	<u>Address</u>	Acreage	Ownership	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Farmland</u> <u>Preservation</u> Priority	<u>Greenbelt</u> <u>Preservation</u> Priority	<u>Parks and</u> <u>Recreation</u> <u>Priority</u>
49	15.14	52	794 Village Road West	17.3	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		۲	
50	20.07	12	205 Southfield Road	24.1	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition			•
51	10	31	Meadow Road	26.6	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		۲	
52	8	15	Meadow Road	18.2	New Jersey	State Open Space		•	
53	9	9, 10, and 43	Bear Brook Road	48.2	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
54	9	29	118 Bear Brook Road	7.8	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
55	6	1.01	Mather Avenue	6.2	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
56	9	22	Bear Brook Road	3.7	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
57	9	56	110 Bear Brook Road	5.1	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
58	9	55	106 Bear Brook Road	4.4	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
59	9	15	102 Bear Brook Road	6.8	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
60	9	27	98 Bear Brook Road	5.5	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
61	9	66	96 Bear Brook Road	5.0	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
62	10	16	163 Clarksville Road	8.8	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
63	15	6	174 Clarksville Road	6.4	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
64	15	5	180 Clarksville Road	33.7	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
65	15	48	157 North Post Road	11.3	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
66	15.11	35	Clarksville Road, rear	11.5	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
67	15.11	51	Village Road West	4.1	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
68	16.11	10	112 North Post Road	15.4	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		۲	
69	16.11	16	125 Penn Lyle Road	10.4	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		۲	
70	16.11	15	119 Penn Lyle Road	8.8	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		۲	
71	16.11	14	111 Penn Lyle Road	6.7	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		•	
72	6.2	22 (portion)	64 Hightstown Road	5.0	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
73	19	51	213 Hightstown Road	13.1	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	

♦ denotes a Primary Use; □ denotes a Secondary Use; Highlighted properties for acquisition.

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Ð	Block	Lot(s)	Address	Acreage	Ownership	Classification	<u>Farmland</u> <u>Preservation</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Greenbelt</u> <u>Preservation</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Parks and</u> <u>Recreation</u> <u>Priority</u>
74 ³	32	4.02	1260 Windsor Road	4.4	Mercer County	County Preserved Open Space		۲	
75	32	3	1256 Windsor Road	5.7	Mercer County	County Open Space		٠	
76	32	20	1252 Windsor Road	5.3	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
77	32	10	1250 Windsor Road	5.6	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		۲	
784	34	4	1203 Windsor Road	2.1	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space			•
79	34	21	143 South Lane	7.9	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition	•		
80	34	3	South Lane	14.4	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition	•		
81	5	65	100 Joanne Street	8.0	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		•	
82	27	7.01-7.03	Old Trenton Road	10.8	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
83	8	48	Meadow Road	123.5	West Windsor	Municipal Recreation		•	
84	9	33	Bear Brook Road	15.2	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space			•
85	5	8.04 and 8.05	Washington Road, Rear	164.9	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
86	20	46	498 Cranbury Road	8.0	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
87	44	6	Washington Road	3.2	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition			•
88	1	1	Harrison Street	26.5	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
89	22	3.01 and 3.02	353 Hightstown Road	28.9	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition			•
90	44	17-24, 26	353 Highstown Road	3.9	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition			•
91	12	3	425 Clarksville Road	12.7	West Windsor	Municipal Open Space		•	
92	8	14.01	121-31 Clarksville Road	27.4	West Windsor	Municipal Preserved Open Space		•	
93	33	27	South Lane	0.5	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
94	14	1	26 Millstone Road	21.8	New Jersey	State Open Space		•	
95	21.31	31	280 Hightstown Road	12.5	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
96	15	1	Censoni	16.9	Municipal	Municipal Open Space			•

³ Parcel 74 was previously owned by the Township. It was swapped with Mercer County, which is now planning on putting in a canoe launch.

⁴ Parcel 78 was recently approved as a subdivision. A portion of the site will be dedicated to the Township upon completion.

♦ denotes a Primary Use; □ denotes a Secondary Use; Highlighted properties for acquisition.

Ū	<u>Block</u>	Lot(s)	Address	Acreage	Ownership	Classification	<u>Farmland</u> Preservation Priority	<u>Greenbelt</u> <u>Preservation</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Parks and</u> <u>Recreation</u> <u>Priority</u>
97	15	66	N. Post Road Woods	5.9	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		۲	
98	8	20	Upper & Lower Branch Duck Pond Run	9.3	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
99	11.06	20	North Post Road	4.6	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		۲	
100	18	3	57 North Mill Road	2.92	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	
101	8	13	81 Clarksville Road	25	Private	Proposed Property Acquisition		•	

6. Relationship to Other Plans

The following section explores the relationship between the Township's 2018 OSRP and the state's and county's broader open space recreation goals. In addition, it also examines how the 2018 OSRP relates to the plans of the Township's neighboring municipalities. These plans include the following:

- 1. The State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP);
- 2. The Mercer County Open Space Plan;
- 3. The Municipality of Princeton
- 4. The Township of Plainsboro
- 5. The Township of East Windsor;
- 6. The Township of Robbinsville;
- 7. The Township of Hamilton, and;
- 8. The Township of Lawrence.

Ultimately, the Township's 2018 OSRP is consistent to these statewide, county-wide, and localized planning documents. This consistency will help to ensure that the Township's open space and recreation efforts are complementary to other such efforts throughout the region.

The State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP)

Recognizing that the state must plan for its future in order to preserve and maintain its social, cultural, economic and natural assets, the New Jersey Legislature adopted the State Planning Act (NJSA 52:18A-196 et seq) in order to better:

"...conserve [the State's] natural resources, revitalize its Urban Centers, protect the quality of its environment, and provide needed housing and adequate public services at a reasonable cost while promoting beneficial economic growth, development and renewal..."

In an effort to realize these goals, New Jersey adopted the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP) in 1992 with the aim of providing a blueprint for future development and redevelopment on an integrated and coordinated statewide basis. The main objective of the SDRP is essentially two-fold:

1. To guide future development, redevelopment and economic growth in areas that already contain (or are anticipated to contain) the public services, facilities and infrastructure necessary for such growth, and;

2. Discourage development where it may impair, encroach or destroy the state's natural features and environmental assets.

The SDRP seeks to curb development in rural areas and other relatively undeveloped areas of the state and encourage growth within New Jersey's predeveloped corridors, including along transportation corridors, older cities, suburbs with adequate infrastructure, and concentrated rural centers. While it does not take power away from planning and zoning at the municipal level, the SDRP is used as a general guide for a variety of decisions made from the state to the local level.

To better guide future growth throughout the state into compact, ecologically designed forms of development and redevelopment as well as to protect the environment of New Jersey, the SDRP establishes eight (8) overarching goals.

Goal 7 of the SDRP is to "Preserve and Enhance Areas with Historic, Cultural, Scenic, Open Space and Recreational Value." To help better realize this goal, the SDRP establishes the following strategy:

Enhance, preserve, and use historic, cultural, scenic, open space and recreational assets by collaborative planning, design, investment and management techniques. Locate and design development and redevelopment and supporting infrastructure to improve access to and protect these sites. Support the important role of the arts in contributing to community life and civic beauty.

Under this goal, the SDRP provides additional insights into greenways, trails, and walkways, as well as scenic, open space and recreation resources. In regard to greenways, trails, and walkways, the SDRP notes the importance of cooperation of levels of government, as well as public and private landowners, in establishing comprehensive regional linkages. Likewise, the SDRP also recognizes the variety of entities owning and maintaining the state's scenic, open space and recreation resources, including municipal governments, nonprofit agencies, counties, and the State.

In addition to the above, the SDRP also establishes statewide policies that are designed to improve both the planning and coordination of public policy among all levels of government. These policies provide guidance for municipal, county, regional and state planning initiatives. One such statewide policy is "Open Lands and Natural System." Specifically, this policy seeks to:

Protect biological diversity through preservation and restoration of contiguous open spaces and connecting corridors; manage public land and provide incentives for private land management to protect scenic qualities, forests and water resources; and manage the character and nature of development for the protection of wildlife habitat, critical slope areas, water resources, and for the provision of adequate public access to a variety of recreational opportunities. The goals and policies of the Township's 2018 OSRP are consistent with the goals and policies established by the SDRP, particularly in regard to their shared emphasis on greenways and providing adequate public access to a variety of recreational opportunities.

The Mercer County Open Space Plan

The Mercer County Planning Board adopted its Open Space Element on September 8, 2010, and most recently amended it in May of 2016. The plan summarizes the lands that the County has preserved since 1992, and also identifies ways to meet future open space needs. Ultimately, the vision of the Plan is to provide open space to protect the environment, serve the people, ensure public health, and provide for a sustainable economy.

To accomplish this, the County's plan outlines the following policies:

- 1. Preserve lands of regional significance for environmental protection and recreation, through partnerships and financial leveraging for the benefit of Mercer County residents;
- 2. Preserve open space and recreational lands that are accessible and connected to where people live and work;
- 3. Recognizing the financial limits in this area, provide active and passive recreational opportunities through well-designed parks, preserves and greenways. Invest in historic structures especially as they support recreational opportunities;
- 4. Provide active and passive recreation that is accessible to all, located in or near population centers, and;
- 5. Maintain and protect the environment when developing all open space.

Ultimately, based upon the following policies as well as a needs analysis conducted for the County, the plan establishes the following action program areas which leverage funding and provide for the most efficient use of all resources available for land preservation and development.

- County regional open space preservation project areas, which are identified as being large areas for preservation that will protect lands in a largely natural or undeveloped state, and provide regionally significant recreational opportunities. These project areas are to be owned by the County and maintained by the Mercer County Park Commission in cooperation with the municipalities, as public parkland, regional greenways, stream corridors and greenbelts;
- 2. Regional cooperative open space projects and green corridors, which rely upon a variety of funding sources including State, County, and local money, as well as leveraging public dollars with private funds;

- 3. A local municipal/nonprofit assistance program to provide a distribution of grants for land preservation to local non-profits and municipalities;
- 4. An urban open space initiative and brownfield remediation program which recognizes the importance of supporting the need for recreation and open space in the urbanized and under-served areas of the County;
- 5. Coordinated county wide trail system and connections;
- 6. A county farmland preservation program, and;
- 7. Specified development project areas, which include Mercer County Park Northwest, Baldpate Mountain, Crosswicks Creek Greenway, Roebling Park/Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh, and regional trails and access improvements.

The policies advocated by Mercer County and their accompanying action areas are consistent with the Township's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Both documents place an emphasis on providing accessible active and passive recreation and open space, as well as encouraging regional efforts to preserve open space.

Municipality of Princeton

The latest master plan prepared by the regional planning board of the Township and the Borough of Princeton (herein referred to as the municipality of Princeton, as these two municipalities were subsequently merged into one) was adopted on December 12, 1996. As established in its Strategic Overview section, one of the overarching values of the Princeton Community Master Plan is environmental protection. The plan notes that:

> Open spaces are intentionally retained as part of the community resource base in the form of public lands and preserved areas within new development. The community's long-standing goal has been to preserve 25% of its land as open space. Open spaces are considered to have inherent values including ecological functions and recreation. They should not be regarded as leftover land unsuited for development.

Linkages between all open spaces with the right of public access is a high priority. The vision is to have a continuous public open space system that meanders through Princeton with access from many neighborhoods.

Infrastructure and facilities, including recreation, are also identified as a value. Specifically, the plan notes that:

Active recreational spaces and facilities should be provided within neighborhoods to increase the supply of recreation opportunities and to encourage community interaction and gathering. Recreational resources include well-maintained informal play areas for passive uses as well as facilities for active uses.

As part of its Community Plan, the municipality adopted an Open Space and Recreation Element which is intended to "define a comprehensive system of parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas including wildlife habitat, ground water and aquifer recharge areas, wetlands, and environmentally sensitive areas." It contains the following goals: Goals and Policies of the Princeton Open Space and Recreation Plan Municipality of Princeton, New Jersey

Goal: Provide the necessary fields and facilities to meet	Policy : Provide athletic fields, open playfields, and other active recreational facilities to meet the needs of the Princeton Community through acquisition, partnering with appropriate organizations, or optimizing the utilization of current fields and facilities.			
the recreation needs of the Princeton Community.	Policy : Work with the schools, governing bodies and Recreation Department to develop indoor recreation facilities.			
	Policy : Provide equal recreation opportunities for men and women during the planning/development of new facilities and during the rehabilitation of existing facilities in the spirit of compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.			
Goal:	Policy : Preserve, where possible, environmentally sensitive areas such as the Stony Brook, Harry's Brook and its various branches, Alexander Brook, Mountain Brook, the Ridge, and Lake Carnegie – areas that are characterized by the presence of wetlands, steep slopes, stream corridors, flood plains, boulder fields, and/or unique ecology.			
Preserve additional land area as public open space, private open space, or				
parks.	Policy : Preserve important visual amenities, placing special emphasis on the preservation of woodlands, vistas, corridors, agricultural lands, waterways, and other scenic resources.			
	Policy : Preserve and protect areas with large and contiguous tree canopy. Reforest areas that have had their tree canopy removed or disturbed.			
	Policy : Preserve and protect open spaces as a setting, or for historical context around important historical, architectural, and cultural sites.			
	Policy : Identify strategies for preserving properties.			
	Policy : Identify and preserve landscapes of exceptional landscape design and visual interest, where appropriate, through acquisition or easements.			

Policy: Encourage siting buildings and improvements in such a way as to maximize contiguous woodland areas, preserve wildlife corridors, and protect stream corridors, grasslands, and scenic vistas.

Policy: Weigh the constant natural additions to the tree inventory and institute forest management practices to prevent encroachment on natural, recreational, and historic sites.

Goal:

Enhance public access to Princeton's open spaces.

Policy: Develop a network of linkages that connects existing and proposed open space areas within Princeton as well as with lands in adjoining towns.

Policy: Obtain access easements, including utility easements, over private lands, to provide public access to existing and proposed open space areas.

Policy: Encourage public use of the community's passive recreation areas.

Policy: Develop a pathway system that connects existing and proposed open space areas and provide an alternative means of transportation to those areas.

Policy: Provide transit and/or alternative means of transportation to existing and proposed open space areas.

The open space, recreation, and conservation map contained in the municipality's element shows that the majority of the land immediately adjacent to the Township of West Windsor is private open space which is open to the public. This largely coincides with the Delaware and Raritan Canal. A portion of Block 11301 Lot 12 is identified for a potential open space acquisition.



Figure 5: Municipality of Princeton Open Space and Recreation Plan Map

The Township of Plainsboro

Adopted on January 20, 2009, the Township of Plainsboro's Master Plan includes an Open Space and Recreation Plan Element. This element identifies the following goals and policies, which are separated by "open space" and "recreation."

Township of Plainsboro Open Space and Recreation Goals and Policies Township of Plainsboro, New Jersey

Open Space Goals and Policies

<u>Goal</u>: Maintain and protect Plainsboro's rural heritage and open spaces;

Goal: Conserve and protect as many environmentally sensitive areas as possible;

Goal: Maintain preserved areas and make them accessible to all members of the public, where appropriate.

Policy: Pursue land set-asides through various tools and secure lands either under terms of preservation or public control. This results in land being protected from development and left available for passive or active recreation.

Policy: Use zoning powers to minimize overall densities by emphasizing a more diverse balance in housing types and utilizing other zoning tools, such as clustering, to achieve open space and farmland preservation.

Policy: Establish partnerships with other governmental funding sources to aggressively pursue funding for open space preservation through partnerships by participating in other government programs, such as the County/State Farmland Preservation Program, the County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, and the New Jersey Green Acres Program.

Policy: Establish a dedicated source of municipal funding for the purpose of open space preservation through the establishment of a dedicated open space tax, which would be the equivalent of 1¢ per \$100 of assessed value of taxable property, and establish a permanent municipal fund for open space preservation and recreation development and maintenance. These funds should also assist in leveraging other governmental funding sources.

Policy: Enhance the interaction of Township residents with the environment by acquiring lands for public park use which in turn preserves the most important natural resources of the Township.

Policy: Preserve existing and potential outdoor recreation areas and institutional land uses which serve to protect the Township's natural features.

Policy: Extend park and recreation open space corridors to permanently protect significant portions of the Township's natural features.

Recreation Goals and Policies

Goal: Provide diverse recreational opportunities for all segments of Plainsboro's population.

Goal: Provide recreational facilities that are diverse, well maintained, and accessible to all segments of Plainsboro's population.

Goal: Determine through extensive public outreach, the recreation program services and facilities desired by the public so that the Township may respond effectively to these needs.

Goal: Cultivate active community involvement in the planning, development, and the provision of programs and services.

Goal: Development or enhancement of programs and services that reflect needs generated by population changes.

Policy: Maintain and expand municipal park and recreation facilities in a comprehensive manner without exceeding the limits of the Township's financial capabilities.

Policy: Improve the character of residential neighborhoods through park and recreational development.

Policy: A number of recreational facilities and programs exist in the Township which are not publicly owned and operated but constitute a significant portion of park and recreational resources. These programs and facilities should be encouraged to develop in a comprehensive manner.

Policy: Maintain the safety and security of all park facilities.

Policy: Development of park facilities should keep in mind reasonable flexibility of use, ease of maintenance, protection of natural features, and should minimize adverse effects on neighbors.

Policy: All programs and facilities should be accessible to handicapped and elderly residents. At least a portion of the programs and facilities should encourage family recreation and participation.

Policy: Facilities should be designed as a system of parks and recreational open spaces interconnected, where possible, easily accessible to a broad spectrum of the community and easily identified.

Policy: Encourage the location of new public facilities, such as parks, where they will be within effective service radii of the older village area and other developing areas.

Policy: Assessment of public recreational facilities to maximize potential community benefit.

As noted by Figure 12 in Plainsboro's OSRP, the majority of lands immediately adjacent to the Township of West Windsor consist of either public parks and open space, private open space, or preserved farmland.

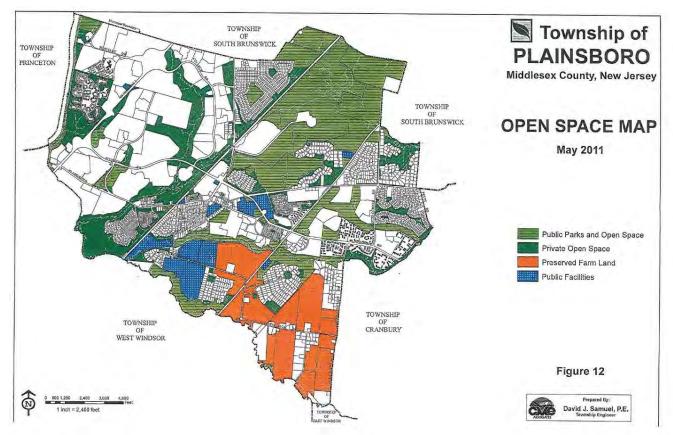


Figure 6: Township of Plainsboro Open Space Map

In regard to West Windsor, Plainsboro's OSRP notes that the West Windsor-Plainsboro Soccer Association (WWPSA) has expressed an interest in partnering with Plainsboro to develop a soccer complex. The plan establishes the following criteria for a successful soccer complex:

> "capacity for a minimum of 4 permanent soccer fields plus ancillary improvements; minimum usable site area of 10 acres based upon a per field area of approximately 2.5 acres including the playing surface, buffer zone, pedestrian areas, parking, site drainage and water retention; capacity for hydro and irrigation; and site characteristics which permit grading for permanent soccer fields."

The Township of East Windsor

The Township of East Windsor adopted its latest Open Space and Recreation Plan in February of 2001, and last amended it on September 7, 2004. This plan establishes the following goals

Goals and Policies of the East Windsor Open Space and Recreation Plan Township of East Windsor, New Jersey

Goal: **Policy:** Acquire parcels with development potential to maintain a balance between developed land and undeveloped land. Preserve open space to Policy: Give priority to acquisition of residentially maintain the character of zone land to provide more open space near and adjacent to existing residential development. the Township as a community with large **Policy:** Promote the State Farmland Preservation Program in rural areas of the Township to tracts of open space and preserve existing farms. farmland. Policy: Request developers to contributed to an Open Space Fund for the acquisition and preservation of open space. Policy. Request developers to donate land to the Township as part of the site plan approval process, especially stream corridor and wooded land. Policy. Request Mercer County to acquire land in the Township which meets County criteria for open space acquisition. Goal: Policy: a. Consistent with the Township's Greenway Plan as part of the Township Master Plan, acquire land along stream corridors to provide contiguous greenways throughout the Protect and preserve Township. stream corridor land in the Policy: Implement the Township's Stream Township. Corridor Protection ordinance enacted in 2000 which requires that stream corridors "remain in their natural state." The ordinance prohibits the destruction of vegetation and the construction of new structures within stream corridors Policy: Support Mercer County's plan to preserve land along the Bear Brook corridor which extends into neighboring West Windsor and Washington Townships.

Goal:

Protect environmentally sensitive lands in the Township. **Policy**: Consistent with State wetlands regulations, preserve wetlands areas in the Township.

Policy: To the extent practical, preserve wooded areas including those in upland areas not within protected wetlands as part of the site plan approval process. Give priority to the protection of areas with large stands of mature trees. Encourage the clustering of residential units to achieve this goal if necessary and the siting of commercial buildings and parking areas away from wooded areas.

Policy: To the extent practical, allow areas to remain in a natural state as part of the site plan approval process.

Policy: Limit public recreational activity in environmentally sensitive areas to passive recreational activity such as hiking and, in some cases, bicycling. Minimize the clearing of land needed for new pathways, especially the cutting of large trees. Utilize existing cleared land, such as on utility easements, for pathways to the extent practical.

Goal:

Provide open space for active and passive recreation.

Policy: Acquire additional land for active and passive recreation, especially in the vicinity of residential areas.

Policy: Provide active and passive recreational opportunities convenient to all residential areas of the Township. Priority for recreational improvements should be given for land near newer residential areas which are underserved by recreational facilities.

Policy: Provide public access where appropriate along stream corridors for passive recreational use. Provide pedestrian paths and bikeways within stream corridors.

Policy: Coordinate plans for recreational improvements with nearby Township residents to better meet the recreational needs of those most likely to utilize the recreational improvements.

Policy: Provide active recreational facilities on larger parcels of cleared, relatively flat land appropriate for the specific sport(s) intended to be played. The East Windsor Speedway site along Airport Road is one such parcel which could be considered for active recreational use.

As noted above, one of the policies of East Windsor is to "Support Mercer County's plan to preserve land along the Bear Brook corridor which extends into neighboring West Windsor and Washington Townships." The plan notes that:

Township already has extensive parkland along the main branch of the Bear Brook and recently acquired land along the entire south branch in East Windsor. There is an opportunity to extend existing parkland along the main branch of the Bear Brook up to Route 130. This section of the stream corridor is entirely wooded.

The plan highlights the suitability of the linear stream corridor along the Bear Brook corridor for the development of trails and bikeways. As such, the plan identifies several properties in the Bear Brook area for acquisition. These properties, which consist of a total of 15.6 acres, include Block 58.12 Lots 43 and 21. These properties were subsequently acquired by East Windsor; however, they are not located immediately adjacent to West Windsor.

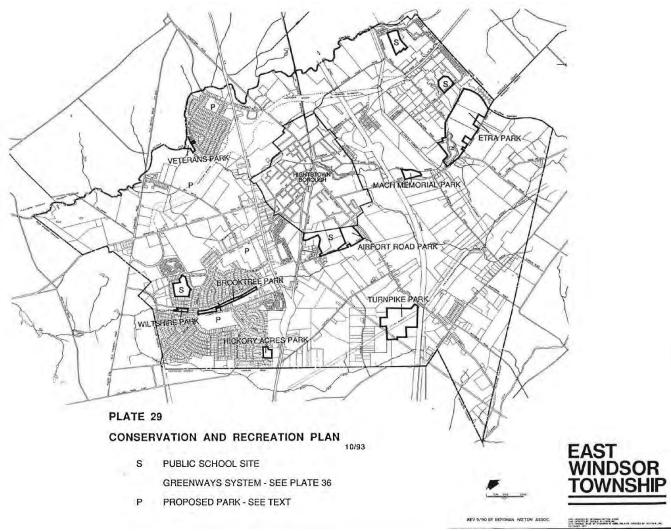


Figure 7: Township of East Windsor Conservation and Recreation Plan Map

The Township of Robbinsville

The Township of Robbinsville adopted its latest Master Plan in December of 2000. The Robbinsville Master Plan contains an Open Space Plan, as well as a Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan. These plans are discussed separately below. As it can be seen, both the Open Space Plan and the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plans are consistent with West Windsor's Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Open Space Plan contains the following goals:

Heritage

The goal of preserving the rural characteristics of the Township is, perhaps, the most fundamental reason for this Master Plan. It is essential to preserve the natural open space, stream corridors, wetlands, and forests. It is also essential to plan the pattern of future development so that traffic does not adversely affect the open character of the rural roads.

Linkages and Edges

This Goal, which accompanies the goal of preserving the community's heritage and rural character, is realized by connecting many parts of the community through a network of green walkways and bikeways. This network will consist of every available type of open space in the community: stream corridors, the railroad right-of-way, the areas preserved with residential cluster developments, the large conservation areas, and the open areas for recreation and schools. Thus, the linkages can readily connect the centers with each other, the neighborhoods and workplaces with shopping, and the residential areas with schools and recreation.

Community

Connecting the various residential, institutional, recreational, and commercial areas, by means which do not always require the use of an automobile, will help promote a sense of community with the whole Township. It will permit people to move between the areas of the Township; it will link previously isolated neighborhoods; it will make the (future) Town Center the focus of the Township. The creation of trail and sidewalk connections is an essential part of this Goal.

Commerce

Although the goal of directing commerce may initially appear unrelated to the preservation of open spaces, there are indeed important connections between the two objectives. The preservation of larger open spaces gives direction to where developments of all kinds can take place. Greenways will also provide linkages between residential, shopping, and employment areas.

Infrastructure & Sustainability

The creation of a network of green open spaces, including walkways and bikeways is undertaken in part to reduce the area of land that is covered by buildings and roads. Such a network makes important use of lands so that they are not included in the sewer service area. It will also encourage pedestrian movement in the Township. This network is an essential part of this Goal, and requires public investment in a sustainable pattern of land uses. As shown in the accompanying map, the 2000 Master Plan identifies several properties located adjacent to the Township of West Windsor as "proposed priority open space acquisition/preservation lands." Since that time, several of these properties have in fact been acquired by the Township of Robbinsville. In addition, the 2000 Master Plan also identifies several roadways with scenic values – including Robbinsville-Edinburg Road – and encourages the preservation of lands around them which requires the maintenance of adjacent farmlands, the creation of planning and design standards for future developments, and the establishment of roadway design criteria to prevent excessive widening.

In addition to the above, the Parks and Recreation Facilities Plan contains the following goals. No specific facility recommendations are recommended which immediately border West Windsor.

Heritage

Open space of all kinds, including those for recreation and public parks, contribute to the rural and open space quality of the Township.

Commerce

Recreational facilities can and will serve people who work in the Township, just as they will serve the residents. The development of village and highway center commercial uses will make the working areas integral with the life of the community, and will therefore give them more convenient access to the parks and recreation facilities that are offered.

Linkages and Edges

Connections between the areas of the Township will be used to make functional linkages, as well as to offer recreational opportunities. Publicly accessible parks located in various residential neighborhoods will encourage movement between neighborhoods. A pattern of development which makes linkages easy will also promote walking and biking to schools, the library, shops, and employment.

Infrastructure & Sustainability

Sustainability relates to many issues; in this case it includes the promotion of means of transportation other than the automobile, and therefore supports the overall health of the Township residents. It is part of the "green" movement that seeks a healthy way of life which is integral with the natural systems of a community. A trail and park system that is part of recreation planning also serves to connect the various parts of the township; not only will it help reduce reliance on the automobile, it will help the residents better appreciate their rural landscape as they move through it on foot or bicycle.

Community

The desire to create a single community out of many separate parts related directly to the recommendations for both playing fields and trailers. The trails will link all of the Township's distinct areas, and the parks and the recreation areas will create places where people of all ages can meet. As new residential development takes place, therefore, open spaces and trails that are available to all in the Township should be included within those developments.

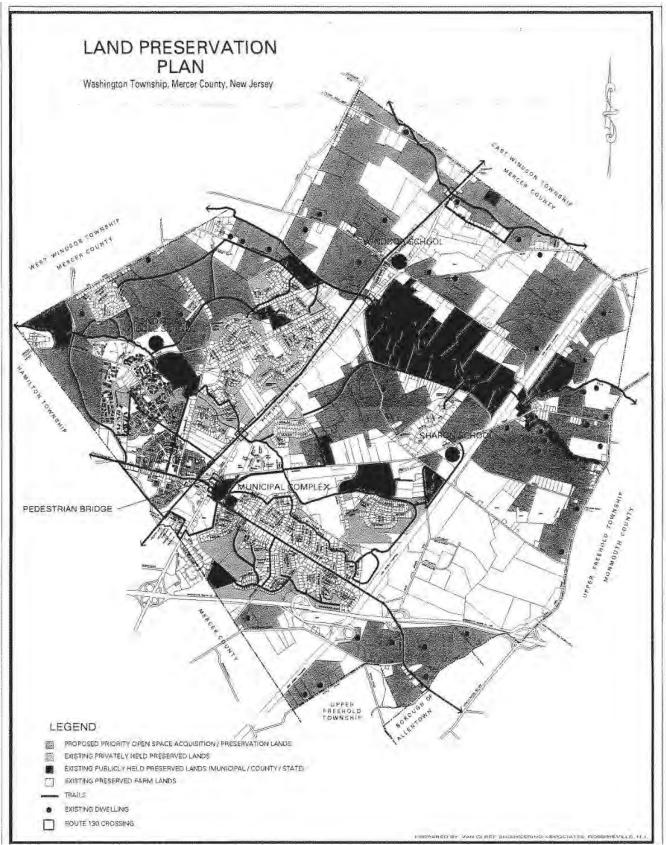


Figure 8: Township of Robbinsville Land Preservation Plan

Township of Hamilton

The Township of Hamilton adopted its latest Master Plan on June 16, 2011. Hamilton's Master Plan includes an Open Space and Recreation Plan, which outlines the following goals and objectives:

Township of Hamilton Open Space and Recreation Goals and Policies Township of Hamilton, New Jersey

Goal:

Preserve open space sufficient to meet the current and future needs of Township residents. **Policy**: Acquire land which would help meet perceived needs for future recreational opportunities.

Policy: Acquire lands for environmental protection and to satisfy open space objectives such as farmland and/ or rural preservation. Lands in need of environmental protection include greenways, wetlands, steep slopes, stream corridors, floodplain, floodways, aquifer recharge areas, and the like.

Policy: Supplement Hamilton Township Municipal Open Space Funding with other funding sources such as State, County, and non-profit programs including but not limited to: State Green Acres Program; Mercer County Trust Fund Tax Acquisitions; and the State Farmland Preservation Program; the Infrastructure Trust Monies for stream corridor acquisition; and nonprofit agencies and private donations.

Goal:

Develop open space and recreational facilities sufficient to meet the current and future needs of Township residents. **Policy**: Expand park lands with active recreational facilities to meet the present and future needs of Hamilton Township. Develop linear linkages between parks, historic properties, and from residential neighborhoods which promote alternative transportation.

Policy: Enhance existing community parks to reflect the needs of the local community.

Policy: Promote recreational activity with appropriate and adequate access by all age and user groups throughout the Township.

Policy: Foster continued cooperative use of facilities and open space with the Hamilton Township Board of Education.

Policy: Foster continued and expanded cooperation with private commercial landowners and residential communities to utilize open space for shared recreational activities.

Policy: Periodically review and update the recreation inventory and needs analysis to evaluate and provide for estimated needs.

Policy: Explore modifications of the Township Open Space Plan to achieve symbiosis with State, County, nonprofit groups, and adjacent Community Greenway Plans, and to include passive recreational activities (i.e. public access, nature trails, picnicking).

Policy: Encourage pride and a sense of ownership of park facilities by Township residents through facilities which are well maintained and serve the needs of its users.

Goal:

Balance the provision of open space with other land uses.

Policy: Reinforce the planning efforts of the Township, County, and State Master Plans.

Policy: Balance open space and recreational facilities throughout the Township relative to neighborhoods to provide adequate access and opportunity to all people of the Township, and enhance the wellbeing of residents.

Policy: Promote the development of mini-parks within neighborhoods where there is consensus they will enhance surrounding property values.

Policy: Foster cooperative efforts to preserve regionally significant areas with the State, County, and adjacent municipalities.

In addition to the above, Hamilton's Open Space and Recreation Plan references an online survey conducted during the Master Plan process, in which 77% of respondents said Hamilton needs more nature education, 66% indicated Hamilton needs more biking trails, and 63% indicated Hamilton needs more hiking/walking trails. Accordingly, the Open Space and Recreation Plan makes reference to a system of greenways established throughout the Township, and notes that the development of such a greenway system should be done in coordination with the surrounding area.

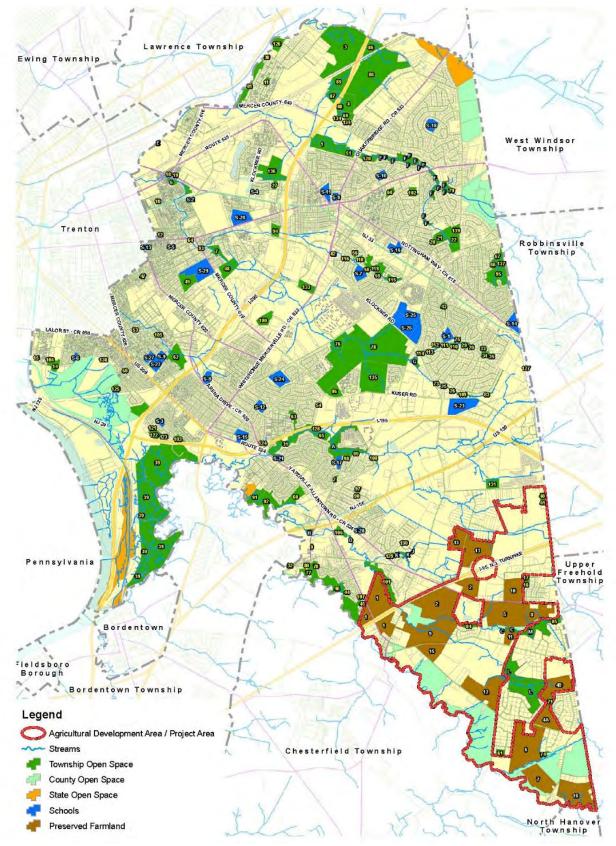


Figure 9: Township of Hamilton Open Space and Recreation Map

The Township of Lawrence.

The Township of Lawrence adopted its most recent Open Space and Recreation Plan in August of 2018. The plan reiterates several of the goals and objectives from the Township's 1995 Master Plan pertaining to open space and recreation. These goals and objectives are as follows:

Township of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan Goals and Objectives Township of Lawrence, New Jersey

Goal:

Foster a well-balanced, diverse community with a mix of residential housing types, institutional, commercial, and limited industrial uses along with ample open space and public facilities. **Objective**: Preserve undeveloped open space, maintain agricultural activities and the rural landscape in appropriate locations, and promote the visual enjoyment of the land.

Objective: Direct new development and redevelopment to places in relation to their transportation and environmental capacities.

Goal:

Open space for conservation and recreational purposes should be enhanced through public and private efforts. Adequate active recreation facilities should be maintained through governmental action and citizen participation; new trends in sports and the evolving needs for recreation should be periodically reviewed.

Objective: Establish a Greenway Network to connect existing and planned open space parcels.

Objective: Enhance existing community parks to reflect the needs of the local community.

Goal:

Critical natural features and resources of Lawrence such as woodlands, steep slopes, wetlands, floodplains and bodies of water are worthy of protection to provide natural ecological balance and as a counterpoint to the built environment. **<u>Objective</u>**: Utilize natural features to distinguish the permitted intensity of land development.

Objective: Preserve and enhance stream corridors through the development of a Greenways Network incorporating pedestrian and bicycle linkages in appropriate locations and integrating existing or proposed open space land.

Objective: Improve water quality of storm water runoff within the Township through application of stormwater management regulations.

Objective: Establish controls on the permitted disturbance of natural features, including tree clearance, during land development.

Objective: Restrict development on steep slopes so as to reduce any negative effects from the clearing of the vegetation on stream bank stability and the control of erosion.

Goal:

Establish policies governing the development or redevelopment of land which will promote the retention of rural character and historic streetscapes in the community. Establish design guidelines for the preservation of significant views from public rights-of way

Objective: Use transfer of development credits for targeted areas to promote the retention of farmland and rural character.

Objective: Use rural development design techniques and standards to promote and encourage appropriate low intensity development in identified areas.integrating existing or proposed open space land.

Goal:

Protect the integrity of the historic centers of Lawrenceville, Port Mercer, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal as well as local landmarks outside of these districts which contribute to the heritage and positive image of the municipality.

Goal:

Establish and maintain a level of community facilities and public services sufficient to satisfy the needs of present residents and to allow for the well-planned expansion of facilities to meet future needs.

Goal:

Preserve the existing housing stock and provide the opportunity for the development of a wide variety of housing types to meet the needs of varied income and age levels, family compositions, and life styles. **Objective**: Encourage planned unit developments providing for an integrated residential and nonresidential neighborhood to incorporate the best features of design, layout and materials in relationship to the natural environment.

Objective: Promote the clustering of housing on sites with environmentally sensitive areas and on sites lacking public infrastructure to retain open space, farmland, and the natural environment to the greatest extent feasible.

Goal:

Provide for the efficient movement of people and goods within and through the Township in a manner compatible with the objectives of the land use element and retention of rural, suburban, and urban character in their respective places. **Objective**: Recognize and preserve the scenic characteristics of local roadways in order to promote a positive community identity.

<u>Objective</u>: Discourage the widening of existing two lane arterial roads in rural areas.

Objective: Designate bikeways in the Master Plan for development and construction.

Objective: Implement the Township's Complete Streets Policy, which is intended to provide safe access for all users through design and operation of a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options.

Goal:

Provide for the continuation of high quality development and the retention of the remaining rural character in Lawrence by using the Master Plan as a guide and resource. Maintain the predominantly residential nature of the municipality.

As shown on the accompanying map, the only open space and recreation parcel in Lawrence which borders West Windsor is Mercer County Park.

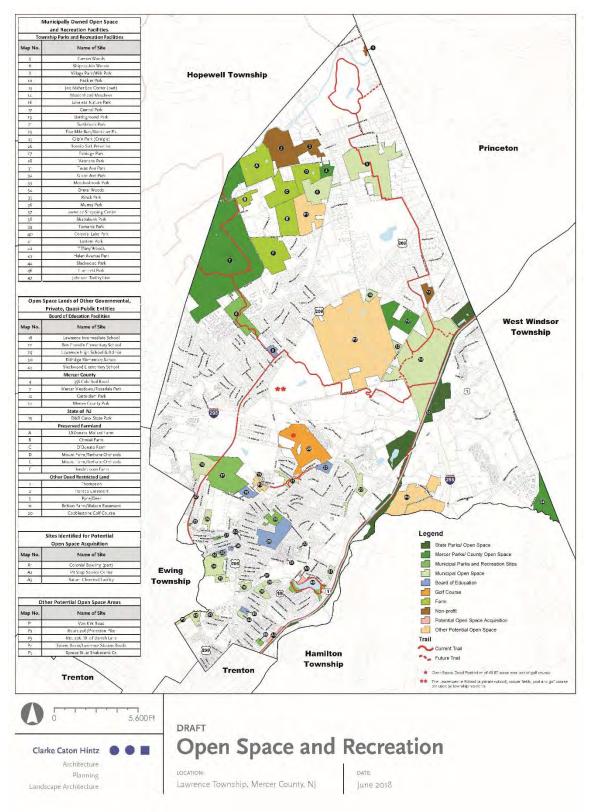


Figure 10: Township of Lawrence Open Space and Recreation Plan Map

7. Public Participation

As noted in the introductory section of this Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP's) Green Acres program provides guidelines to assist local governments in the preparation of their OSRPs. These guidelines establish ten items which are required to be addressed in an OSRP in order for a municipality to participate in the Green Acres Planning Incentive (PI) funding category. One such requirement is public participation. Specifically, Green Acres notes that:

> "The OSRP is to include a discussion of the public participation process that was used to gather citizen input and to assess community open space and recreation needs."

Accordingly, this section discusses the public participation process utilized to formulate this plan.

In order to better determine the Township's present and future needs, the background of this 2018 OSRP was initially prepared through a collaboration with various community entities, including the Township's staff and experts, the Department of Community Development, the Division of Land Use, the Division of Recreation and Parks, and the Board of Recreation Commissioners.

A workshop meeting was held with the Township's Planning Board on October 17, 2018 in which the Board and members of the public were invited to provide questions and comments on the draft version of the OSRP. Subsequently, a public meeting was held on November 8, 2018 with the Township Environmental Commission to gather additional public input. Finally, another public hearing was held on November 28, 2018 with the Planning Board in which the OSRP was adopted.

Appendix 1: Copy of the Policy for the Naming of Township Lands and Facilities

Policy for the Naming of Township Lands and Facilities

There are four (4) different classifications for lands under the ownership or control (deed restrictions/easement) of West Windsor Township. This document establishes a policy for a consistent method of applying a name to these properties. The naming of these properties shall enable efficient and coordinated communication by having a commonly accepted title. All names shall provide a historical reference and/or characteristic description of the property and its use. The following shall apply for each of the four classifications:

1. **Farms and Farmsteads**: Lands owned or restricted by the Township to be predominantly preserved and maintained in agricultural use.

All farm properties will be given a family named followed by "Farm" or "Farmstead" (e.g. Smith Farm). The family names shall be noted on historical Township maps and/or based upon the records of the Township Historian.

2. **Parks and Recreation Facilities**: Lands or facilities owned by the Township developed or reserved for public recreation.

All park lands and facilities shall be given a name by the Mayor of the Township. The Mayor may choose to have the name selected by contest (Township-wide or school related), or in dedication to a person or family that served the community. The selected name shall be followed by the word "Park" for lands or by the particular types of use for facilities (e.g. Chamberlin Park, Ron Rogers Arboretum, Conover Fields).

3. **Greenbelt Lands**: Lands owned or restricted by the Township and predominantly established for environmental conservation.

A volunteer group, board or commission as directed by the Mayor shall select the name. A distinguishing or characteristic natural feature shall be the inspiration for the selected name. The selections shall be followed by forest, woods, meadow, brook, stream, pond, creek, or hill, and the word "Preserve" (e.g. Red Oak Forest Preserve).

4. **Municipal Facilities**: Lands or facilities that are owned by the Township and provide for municipal services other than farming, recreation, or preservation.

The Mayor of the Township shall give a name to all municipal facilities. The Mayor may choose to have the name selected by contest (Township-wide or school related), or in dedication to a person or family that served the community.

Appendix 2: List of Open Space and Recreation Facilities

<u>Statewide</u>

Name	ID	Location	Description
The Delaware and Raritan Canal	N/A	Northwest boundary of Township	The Delaware and Raritan Canal (D&R Canal) is a state park which establishes a linear greenway along the northwesterly bounds of the Township. This park is predominantly used for recreation – i.e., walking, jogging, biking, canoeing, and fishing. It also provides a valuable wildlife habitat corridor.
Millstone River	N/A	Near the Plainsboro Border	The State of New Jersey purchased a small parcel of land along the Millstone River, near the Plainsboro border. This lot is part of a potential greenway along the banks of the river. The rivershed offers tremendous potential for recreational and environmental enhancement. This property is also jointly owned by Mercer County and the Township of West Windsor.
Capital to Coast Statewide Trail	N/A	Old Trenton Road	The Capital to Coast statewide trail is a 55-mile cross-state multi-use trail that is designed to span the width of New Jersey, from the Delaware River in Trenton to the beach front town of Manasquan on the Atlantic Ocean. When finished, the trail will be the third longest in the state. The trail path traverses the Assunpink Creek Trail in the Township. On August 20, 2018, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to open a 2.5-mile section of the trail in the Township, off Old Trenton Road.
Crossroads of the Revolution Statewide Trail	N/A	Millstone River Preserve	The Crossroads of the Revolution statewide trail is intended to connect Revolutionary War sites throughout New Jersey. It is intended to travel along the Millstone River as it runs from Monmouth Battlefield outside of Freehold to the Princeton Battlefield, Washington Crossing, and Washington's headquarters in Morristown. The Township has provided trails within the Millstone River Preserve, which corresponds to the State's Crossroads of the Revolution trail.

Mercer County Facilities

Name	ID	Location	Description
Mercer Oaks Golf Course	N/A	Village Road West	The Mercer Oaks Golf Course is located along Village Road West to the
			north of Mercer Lake. It features two public eighteen-hole golf courses.
Princeton Country Club	N/A	Wheeler Way	The Princeton Country Club adjoins the Delaware and Raritan Canal along
			the northwesterly extent of the Township. It has a public eighteen-hole
			golf course.
Mercer County Park	N/A	Old Trenton Road	Mercer County Park is located along Old Trenton Road in the
			southwesterly corner of West Windsor, immediately adjacent to the
			Township's shared borders with the Townships of Hamilton and Lawrence.
			Consisting of over 2,500 acres (approximately 2,200 acres of which are
			located within West Windsor), the park includes softball, soccer, cricket,
			baseball, indoor and outdoor tennis, pickleball, an ice skating rink, a lake
			and marina, basketball courts, bicycling and jogging paths, and picnic
			pavilions. The park is also home to a United States Tennis Association
			(USTA) facility as well as the (Olympic) Caspersen Rowing Center.

Township Facilities

Name	ID	Location	Description
Bastien/Millstone Farm	35	Cranbury Road	This property is partially located in the Greenbelt and is presently utilized for farming. The Action Plan recommends that the Township install equestrian trails, farming, fishing, greenbelt jogging/walking/bike trails.
Bridegroom Run Park South	5-12, 31	Old Trenton Road/Windsor Road & South Land	This property is partially located within the Greenbelt and is presently utilized for farming. The Action Plan recommends that the Township install equestrian trails, farming, greenbelt, jogging/walking/bike trails
Bridegroom Run Park North	N/A	Old Trenton Road/Windsor Road & South Land	The Action Plan recommends that the Township should hold this property for possible future recreation development. The Township could potentially install cricket fields at this location. Walking trails are also recommended.
Censoni Tract	96	Clarksville Road	Located across from the Township's municipal building, this property could potentially accommodate a community center in the future.
Community Park	N/A	Princeton-Hightstown Road	This 123-acre park is the main active recreational facility in the Township. The park includes a playground, walking-jogging paths, two basketball courts, a dog park, a skate park, two pickleball courts, football/lacrosse fields, and two tennis courts. It is home to the West Windsor Water Works Family Aquatic Center. The park also offers a pavilion, little league baseball and softball fields, a Babe Ruth field, a cricket pitch, and soccer fields utilized by various Township sports organizations.
Conover Park	N/A	Conover Road/South Post Road	This complex includes a number of sports fields, including: seven soccer fields, five baseball fields, and one softball field. These fields are all maintained and utilized by the Township. West Windsor had previously leased this land from the Mercer County Park Commission; however, the Township now owns it.
Crawford Woods	1	Between Scott Avenue and Harris Road	Consisting of 8.6 acres, Crawford Woods is located between Scott Avenue and Harris Road. This naturally wooded area provides a scenic respite in the historic Berrien City neighborhood.
Dey Forest Park	N/A	Carlton Place	This one-acre neighborhood park is located just off of Cranbury Road on Carlton Place. It is named in tribute to Larry and Lollie Dey, who once farmed this land and its surrounding area. Today, it is planted with a grove of pine trees.
Duck Pond Park	83	Meadow Road	Duck Pond Park includes over 120 acres, half of which is devoted to a nature preserve. The park includes three illuminated soccer fields, two tennis courts, two basketball courts, and one beach volleyball court, as well as nearly one mile of walking paths, picnic areas, and a pond.
Hendrickson Drive Tennis Complex	N/A	Hendrickson Drive	Located on Hendrickson Drive, adjacent to Route 571, this complex has five lighted tennis courts, a playground and a practice wall.
Lewis B. Chamberlin Park	N/A	Park Hill Terrace/Slayback Drive	Located on Slayback Drive and Park Hill Terrace in the Princeton Ivy East Development, this neighborhood park features an open field, picnic tables, and playground equipment.
Little Bear Brook Park	84	Bear Brook Road	The 2003 Open Space Task Force Report recommended that this site be utilized as a neighborhood park. No such improvements have been installed. The Action Plan notes that recreation facilities have been installed in nearby multifamily developments.
Nash Park	N/A	Alexander Road	Nash Park, dedicated October 2017 to honor former, long time neighborhood residents, Nobel Laureate John Nash and mental health activist Alicia Nash, whose lives were illustrated in the movie "A Beautiful Mind."
Penn Lyle Park	N/A	Penn Lyle Park	The 2003 Open Space Task Force recommended that a number of fields be installed on this property. No such improvements have been installed. The Action Plan recommends the Township hold this property for future potential development.
Trolley Line Trail	N/A	Rabbit Hill Road to Penn Lyle Road	In cooperation with the NJDEP, the Township constructed a paved pedestrian/bicycle path that extends from Rabbit Hill Road to Penn Lyle Road. The path traverses through Community Park as well as several residential neighborhoods within the PSEG right-of-way.

Name	ID	Location	Description
Rogers/Millstone River Preserve	N/A	Big Bear Brook	Located along the Big Bear Brook, the Rogers Preserve features two walking and hiking trails, which traverse through a varied habitat including an old tree nursery, an upland oak forest, and a wetlands and floodplain along Big Bear Brook. In the center of the old tree nursery is an open area suited for picnicking or bird watching.
			The Millstone River Preserve is located on the south side of Millstone Road near the Plainsboro border. It also includes several walking and hiking trails which traverse through varied habitat, including an upland oak forest, a wetlands/floodplain area along Millstone River, and 30'-40' high bluffs overlooking the river suited for picnicking or bird watching. The river can be accessed for canoeing or kayaking near the Millstone Road Bridge.
Ron Rogers Arboretum	N/A	Clarksville Road	The Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum is dedicated to the late Ronald R. Rogers, who is remembered as West Windsor's Forester. This honor is reflective of the tremendous time and effort he volunteered to promote and implement community forestry in the Township. The arboretum is a 25-acre parcel of land that consists of approximately 12 acres of open field and 13 acres of mature woodland. The purpose of the arboretum is to present the wondrous strength, beauty, and benefit of many species of Quercus and oak trees on the property, as well as other ecologically related tree species that grow in West Windsor and its environs. The arboretum is also the site of the September 11 memorial, as well as a gazebo, paved walking paths, and woodland trails.
Van Nest Park	N/A	Cranbury Road	Van Nest Park includes a picnic pavilion with grills and tables, playground equipment, a dock and canoe launch, bathroom, and passive open space. The Grovers Mill Pond aquatic habitat was restored in 2009 by the Township, in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers and the NJDEP. Also on display is a memorial to the panic that surrounded the historic War of the Worlds broadcast, which occurred in the hamlet of Grovers Mill.
Zaitz Park	N/A	Southfield Road	Consisting of nearly 120 acres, Zaitz Park features five recreational soccer fields which are utilized by the West Windsor-Plainsboro Soccer Association. The park also features walking trails and a nature preserve, as well as the Schenk Farmhouse, Schenk Farm museum, and Parsonage School. A time capsule was buried at the park in 1997 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the formation of West Windsor from the Township of Windsor.

Private Facilities

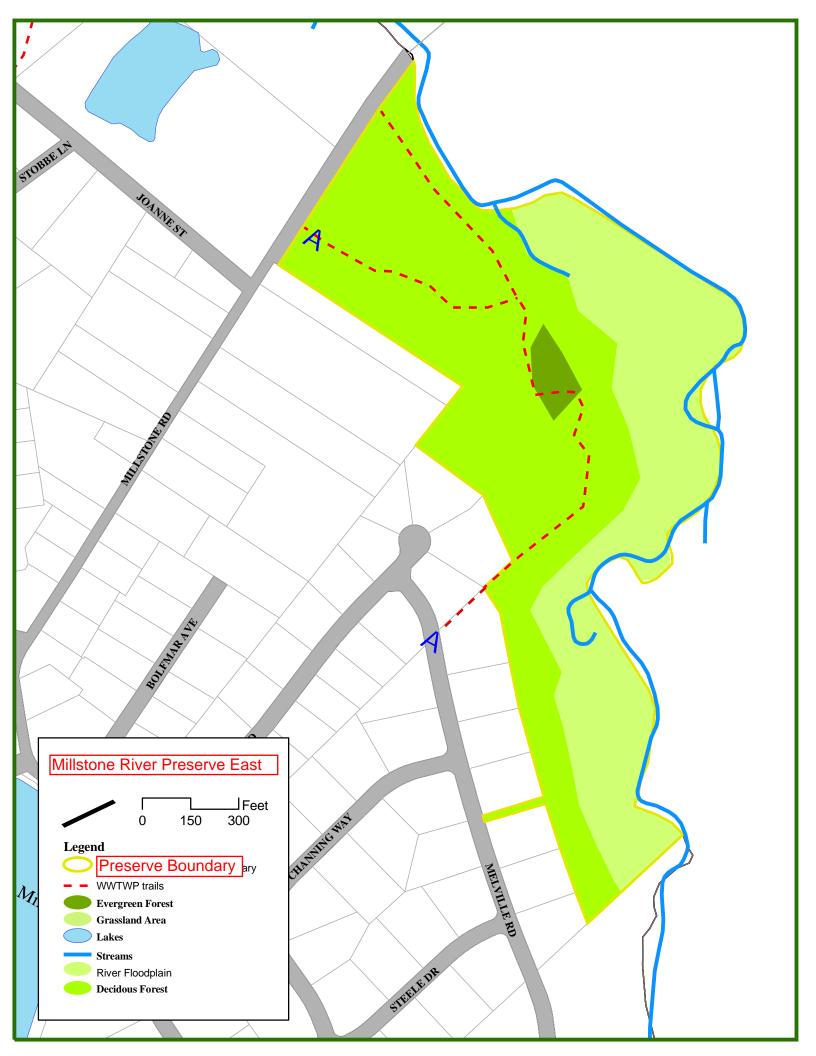
Name	ID	Location	Description
Princeton Tennis Center	N/A	Washington Road	Princeton Tennis Center is an indoor tennis facility located along
			Washington Road.
Cranbury Golf Course	N/A	Southfield Road	The Cranbury Golf Club is a private golf course located on Southfield
			Road.
Ward Fields	N/A	Post Road	The West Windsor Township Little League operates Ward Fields located
			off of Post Road.
Windsor Athletic Club	N/A	99 Clarksville Road	The Windsor Athletic Club is a privately-owned cultural center which
			contains a number of indoor recreational amenities. Nine (9) outdoor
			tennis courts are also located on site.

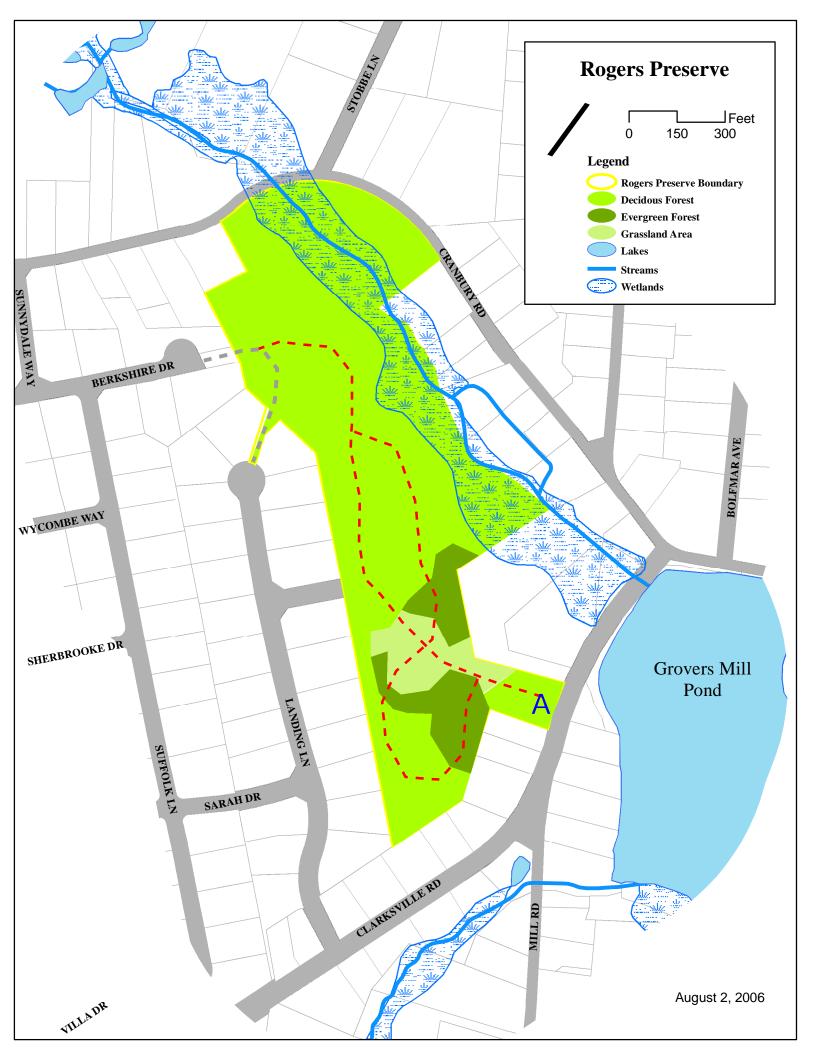
Appendix 3: Trails

Township of West Windsor 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan



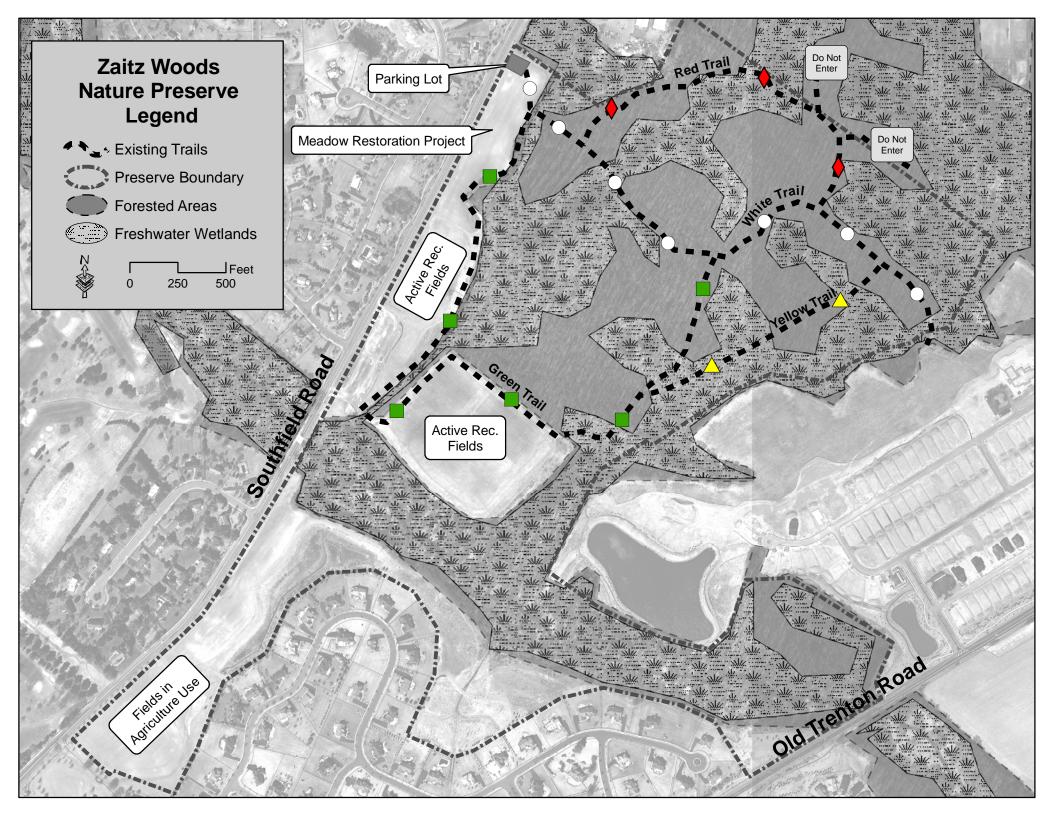
This sign is a part of the 2008 improvements to the West Windsor Trolley Line Trail completed by Troop 40 Boy Scout David Lee for his Eagle Scout Service Project.





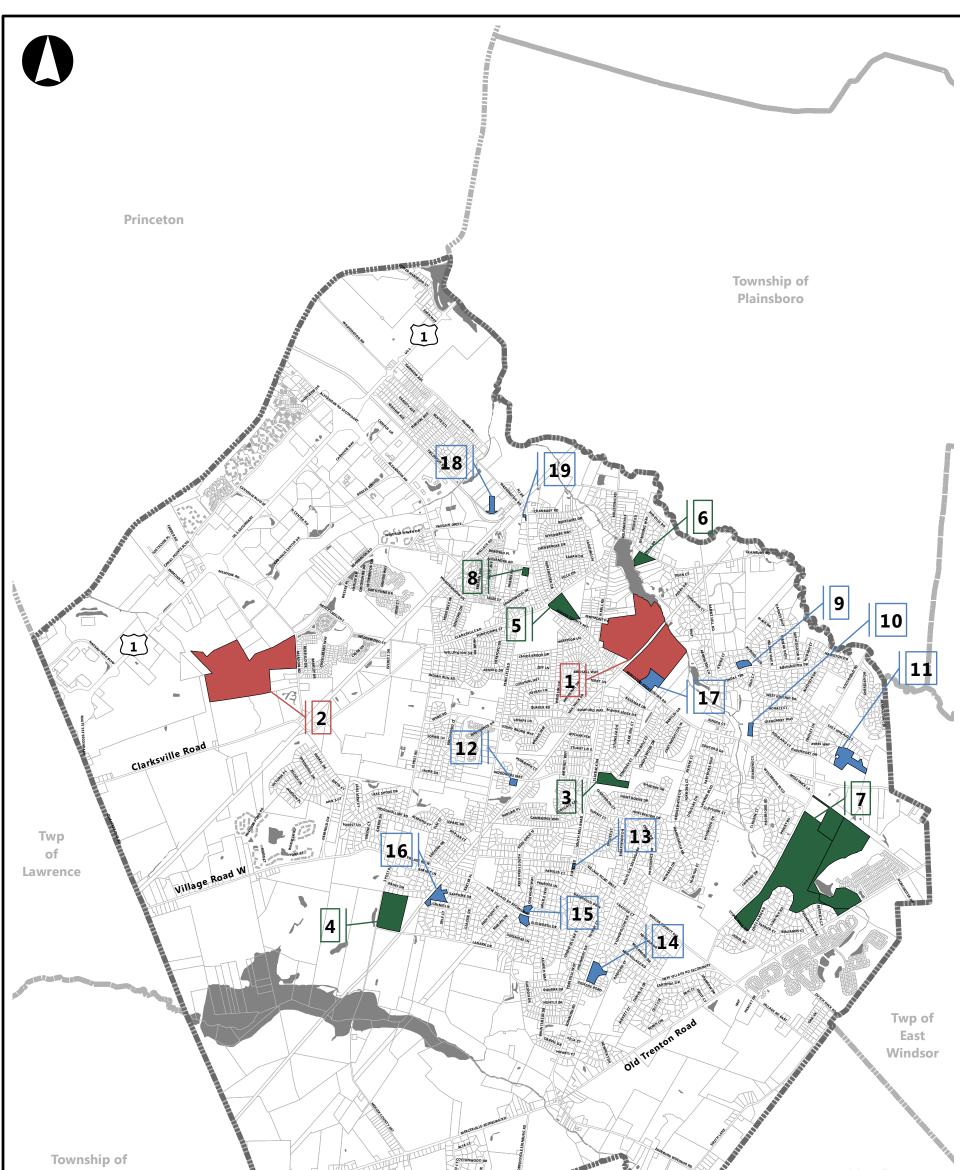




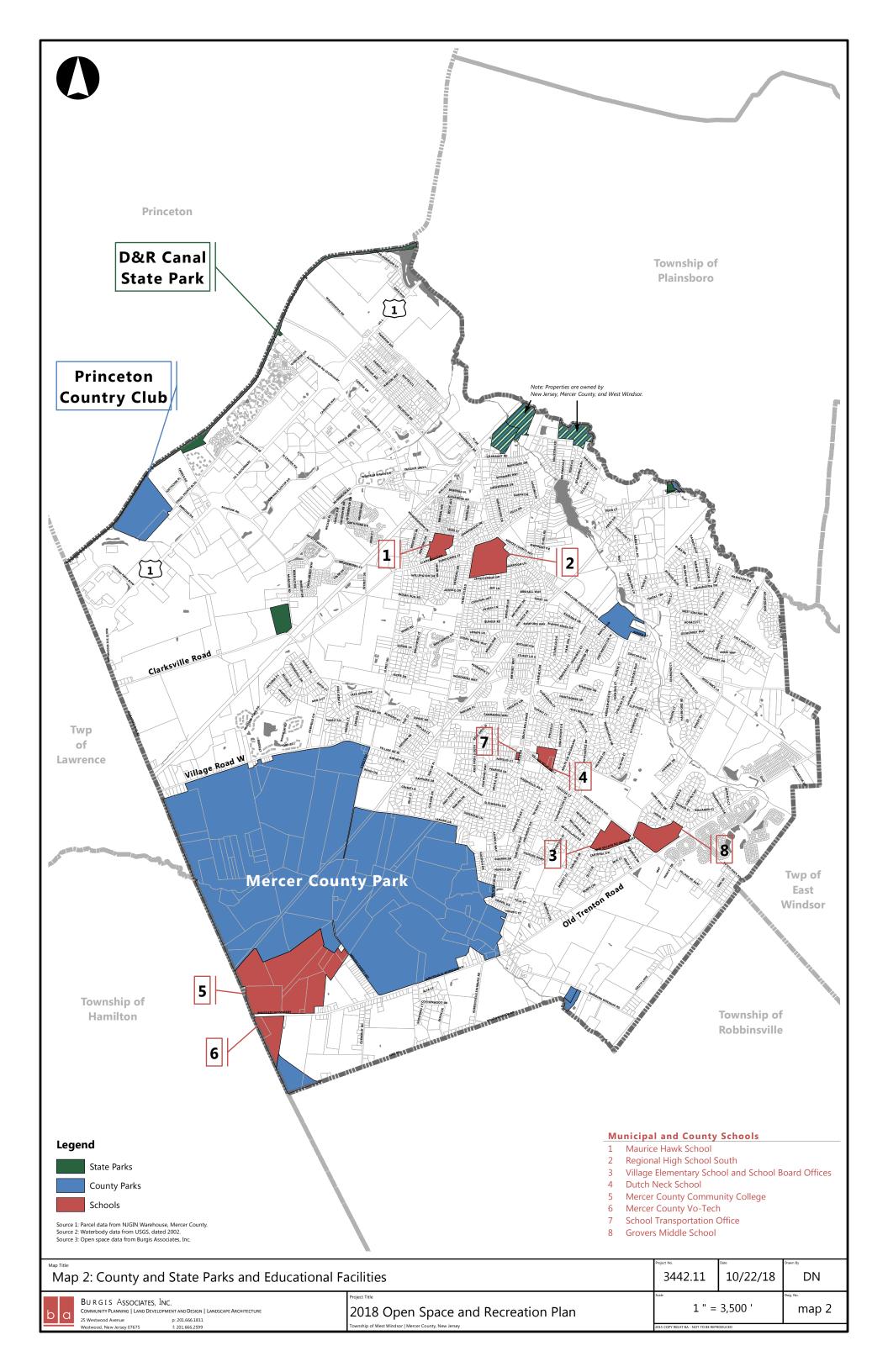


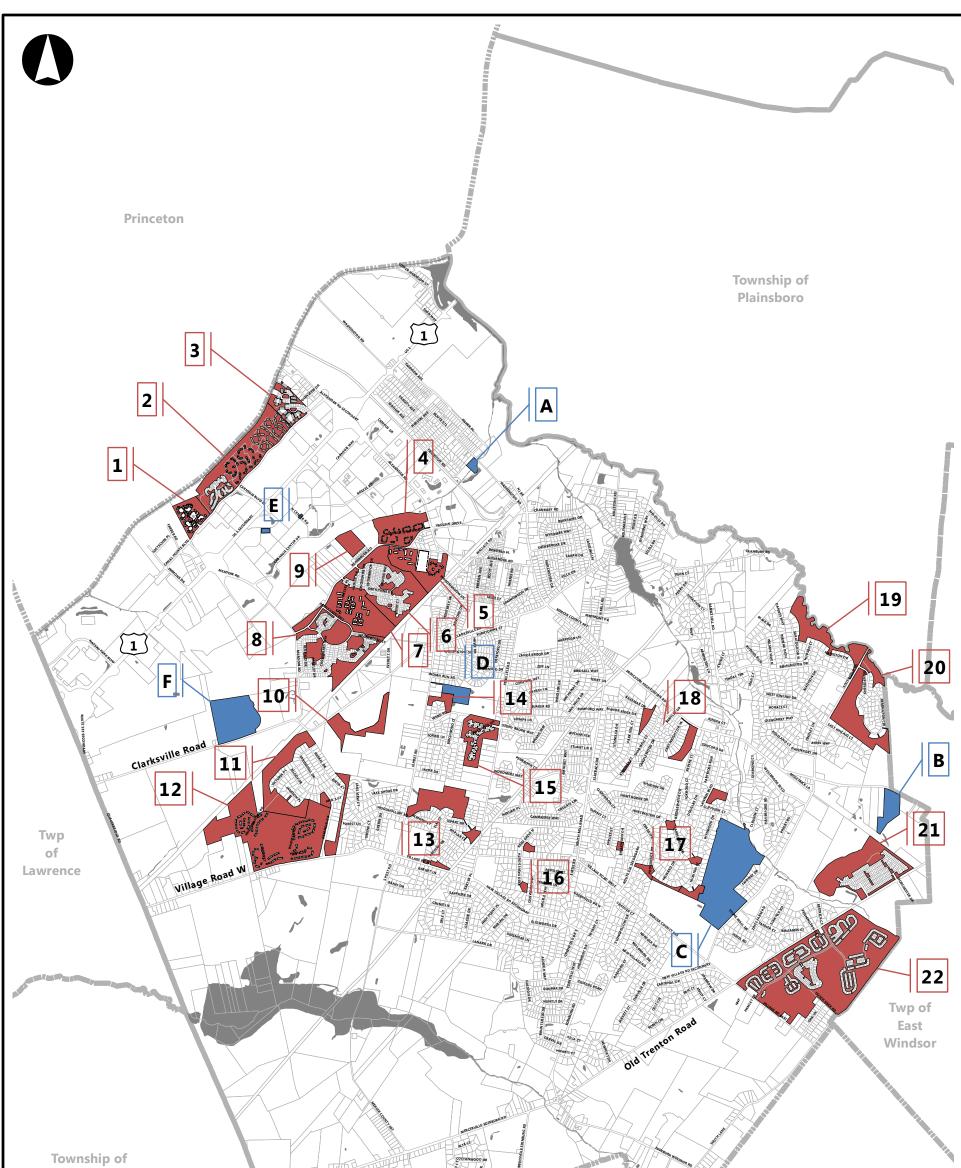
Mapping

Township of West Windsor 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan

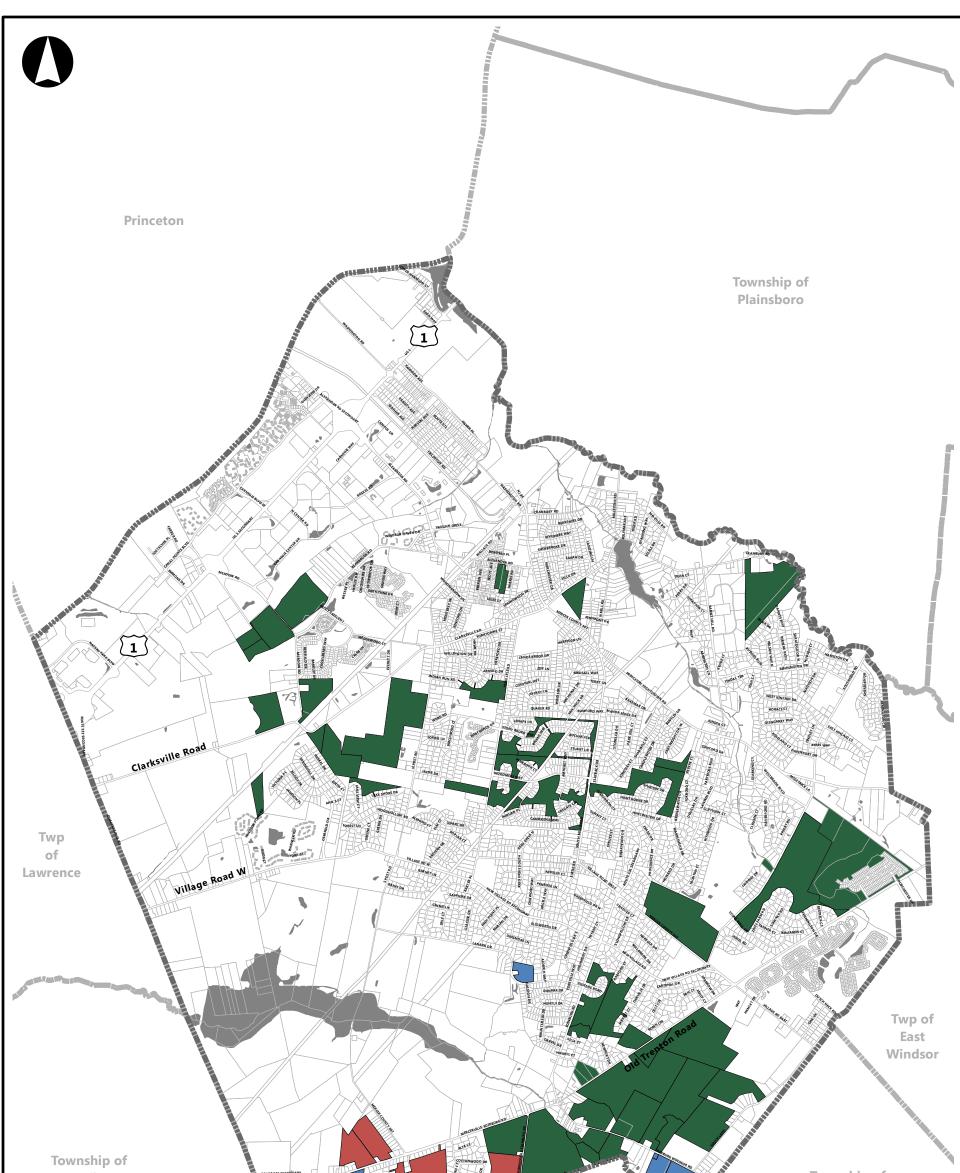


Hamilton				Township of Robbinsville	
Legend Municipal Community Park Municipal Neighborhood Parks Municipal Mini Park	Community Parks1Community Park2Duck Pond Park	Neighborha Chamberla Conover F Hendricksa Van Nest F Zaitz Park Nash Park	ain Park ields on Field Park	Mini Parks 9 Benningtor 10 Davenport 11 Endicott La 12 Woodmere 13 Dutch Neck 14 Edinburg R 15 Village Roa 16 Sapphire D 17 WaterWork	Drive ine Way k Park coad id rive
Source 1: Parcel data from NJGIN Warehouse, Mercer County. Source 2: Waterbody data from USGS, dated 2002. Source 3: Open space data from Burgis Associates, Inc.			Project No.	19 Gateway Pa * N	unction Park* ark <i>lot yet constructed</i> ^{Drawn By}
Map 1: Existing Township Parks and Recreation Facilities Bu R G I S ASSOCIATES, INC. COMMUNITY PLANNING LAND DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 25 Westwood Avenue	ace and Recreation Plan		3442.11 ^{Scale} 1 " =	10/28/18 3,500 '	DN ^{Dwg. No.} map 1

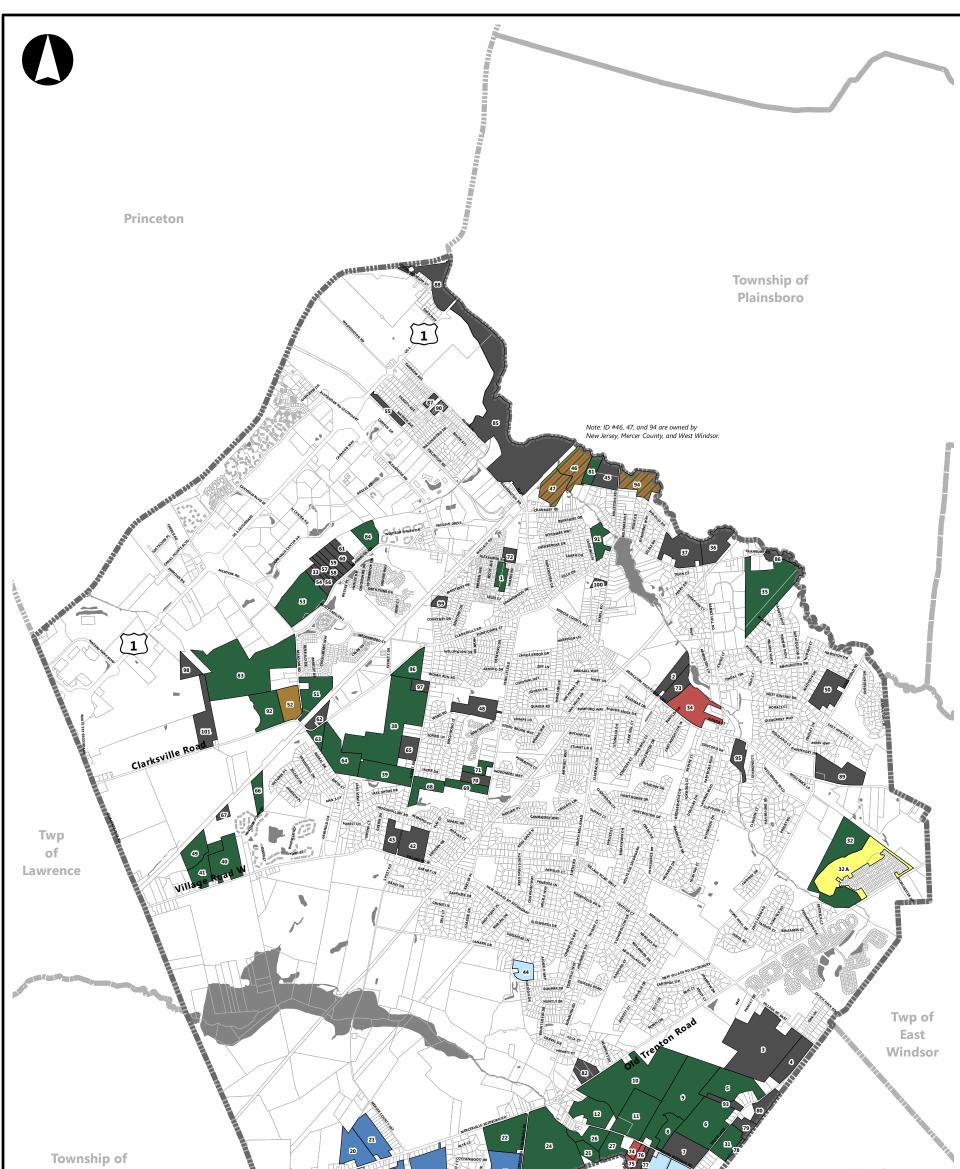




Hamilton					*	Township of Robbinsville	
	Но	meowners Associations				Private Recreat	tion
	1	Colonnade Point	12	Windsor Ponds		A Princeton Tennis	s Center
	2	Canal Pointe	13	Le Parc		B Windsor Green	Golf Center
	3	Princeton Greens Association	14	Sunrise		C Cranbury Golf C	ourse
Lenend	4	Windsor Havens	15	Westwinds		D Ward Fields	
Legend	5	Bear Brook	16	Le Parc II		E Carnegie Center	
Homeowners Association	6	The Estates at Princeton Junction	17	Lanwin		F Windsor Athletic	c Club
	7	Princeton Mews	18	Grovers Mill			
Private: Preserved Open Space; Private Recreation	8	Ascot Association	19	Princeton View			
Source 1: Parcel data from NJGIN Warehouse, Mercer County,	9	Walden Woods	20	Brookside			
Source 2: Waterbody data from USGS, dated 2002.	10	Avalon Princeton Junction	21		Windsor		
Source 3: Open space data from Burgis Associates, Inc.	11	Princeton Chase	22	Village Grande			
Title:					Project No.	Date	Drawn By
Map 3: Private Recreation Facilities					3442.1	1 10/01/18	DN
Projec	t Title				Scale		Dwg. No.
BURGIS ASSOCIATES, INC. COMMUNITY PLANNING LAND DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	18 Or	en Space and Recreation	Pla	n	1	" = 3,500 '	map 3
25 Westwood Avenue p: 201.666.1811	•	•	i ia	11			'
Westwood, New Jersey 07675 f: 201.666.2599 Towns	mp or west winds	or Mercer County, New Jersey			2015 COPY RIGHT BA - NOT	TO BE REPRODUCED	



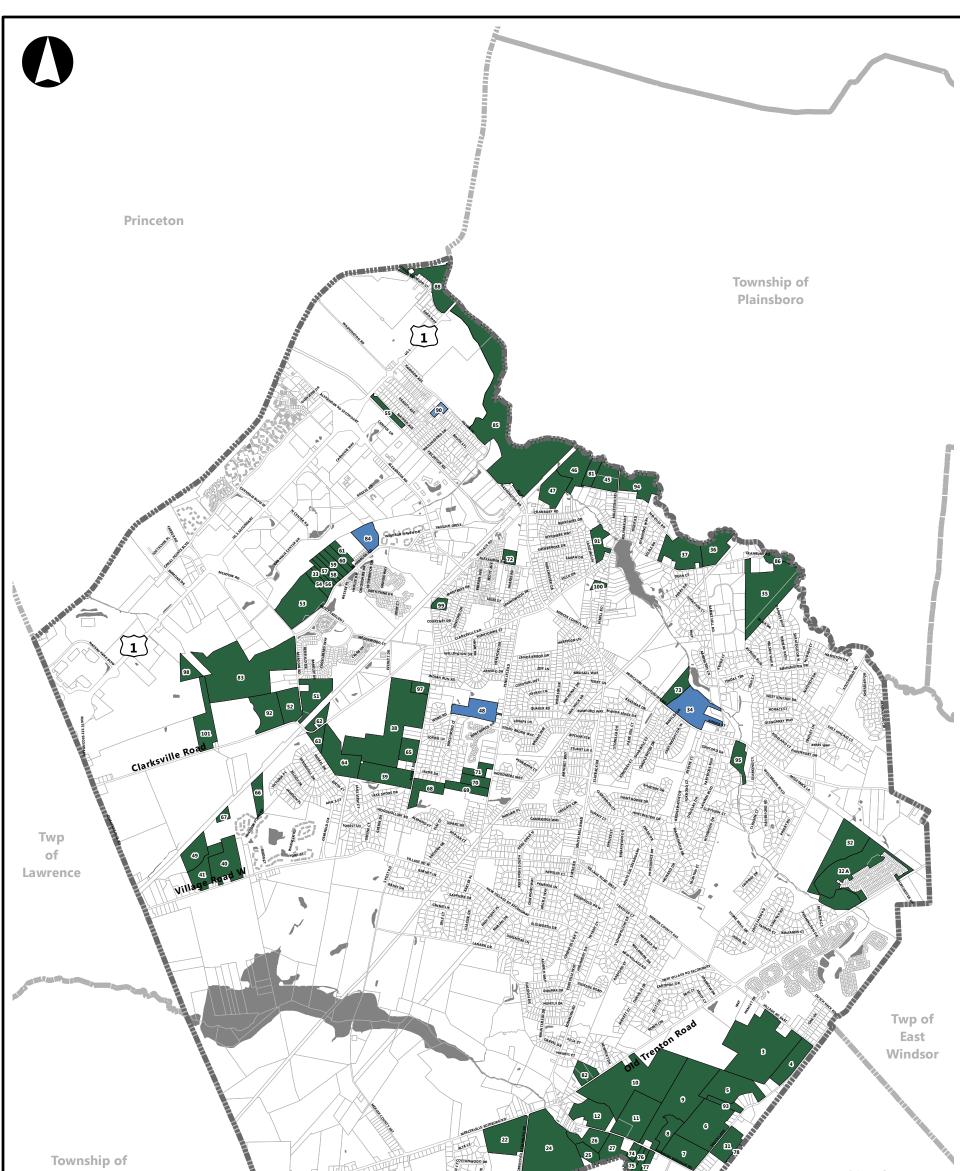
		-	
and Preserved Farmland	Project No. 3442.11	Dute 10/28/18	Drawn By DN
Project Title 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan	Scale 1 " =	•	map 4
	and Preserved Farmland	and Preserved Farmland Project Tile 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan If " =	and Preserved Farmland Yest Tele 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Yest Tele



		•	Township of Robbinsville	
West Windsor				
Mercer County				
State Open Space				
Preserved Farmland: Municipal				
Preserved Farmland: Private				
Proposed Property Acquisition				
Homeowners Association				
Source 1: Parcel data from NJGIN Warehouse, Mercer County. Source 2: Waterbody data from USGS, dated 2002. Source 3: Open space data from Burgis Associates, Inc.				
Map 5: Open Space Acquisition and Utilization	by Ownership Map	Project No. 3442.11	Dute 10/22/18	Drawn By DN
b a BURGIS ASSOCIATES, INC. COMMUNITY PLANNING LAND DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 25 Westwood Avenue p: 201.666.1811	Project Table 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan		3,500 '	map 5
Westwood, New Jersey 07675 f: 201.666.2599	Township of West Windsor Mercer County, New Jersey	2015 COPY RIGHT BA - NOT TO BE REP	RODUCED	



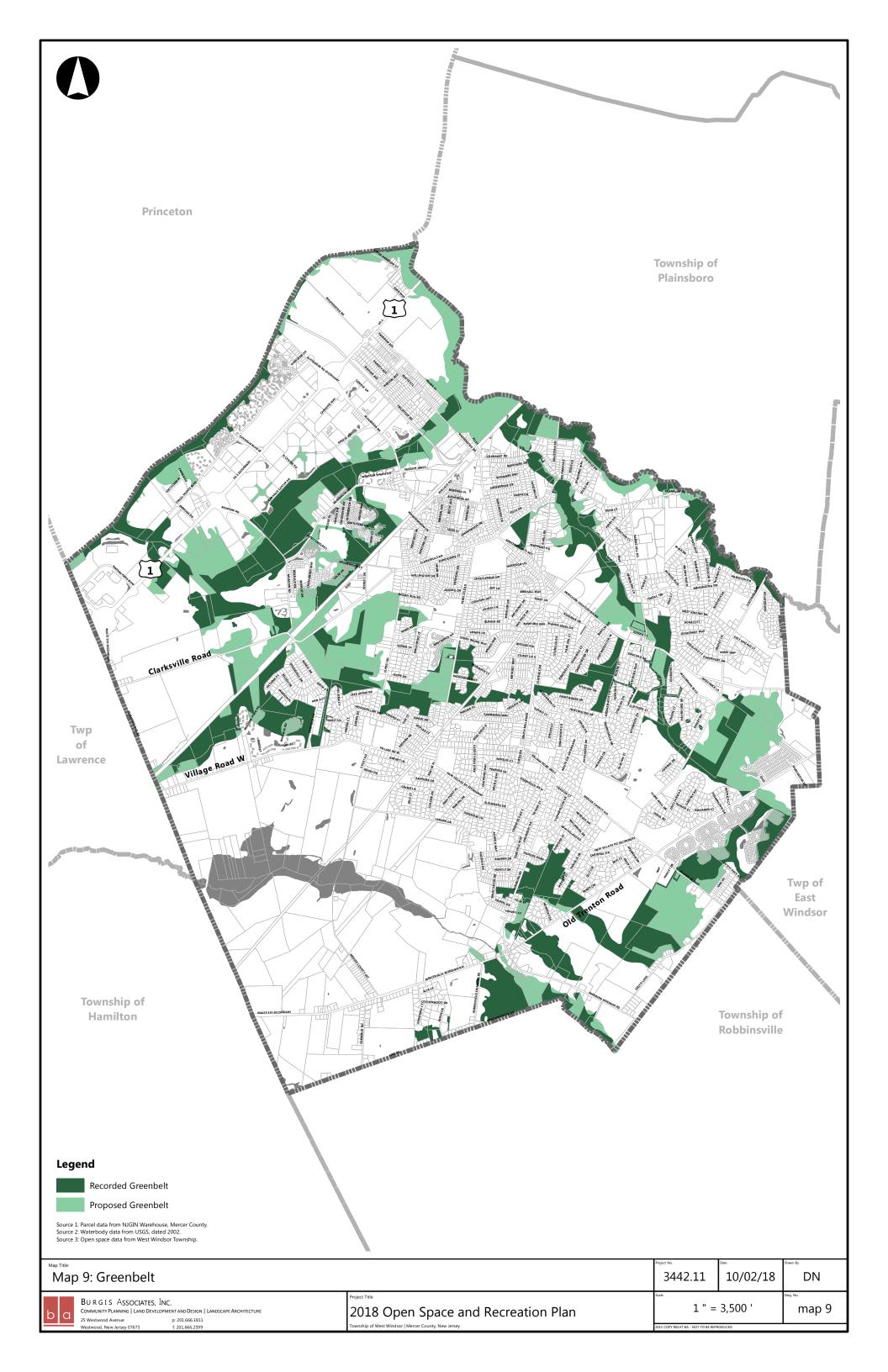
Hamilton		30.7	Township of Robbinsville	
Primary Source 1: Parcel data from NJGIN Warehouse, Mercer County. Source 2: Waterbody data from USGS, dated 2002. Source 3: Open space data from Burgis Associates, Inc. Map Title:		Project No.	Date 1.0.101.110	Drawn By
Map 6: Open Space Acquisition and Utilizatio	Dn Map - Farmland Preservation Priority	3442.11	10/01/18	DN Dwg. No.
b a BURGISASSOCIATES, INC. Community Planning Land Development and Design Landscape Architecture 25 Westwood Avenue p: 201666.1811 Westwood, New Jersey 07675 f: 201666.2599	2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan	1 " =	3,500 '	map 6

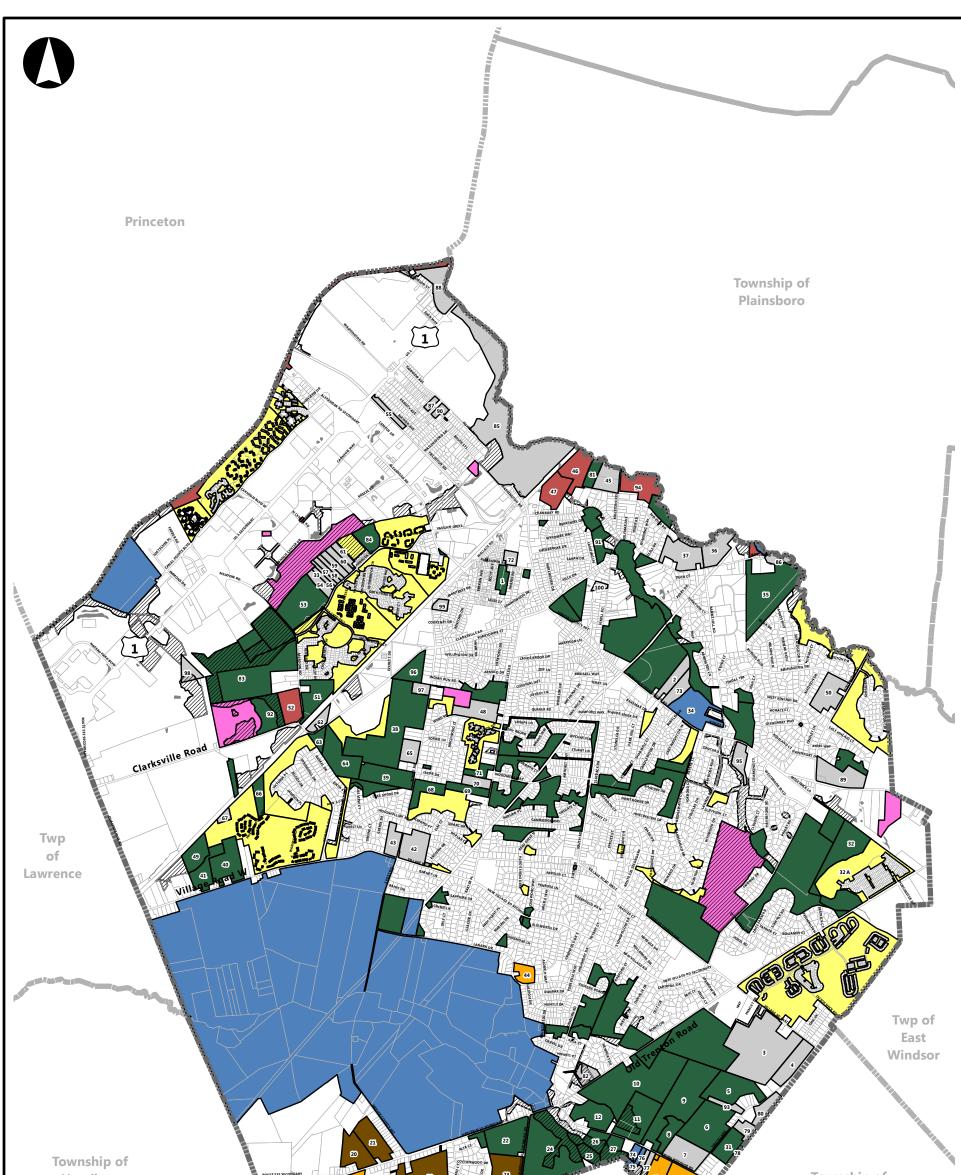


Hamilton			Township of Robbinsville	
Legend				
Primary Secondary				
Source 1: Parcel data from NJGIN Warehouse, Mercer County. Source 2: Waterbody data from USGS, dated 2002. Source 3: Open space data from Burgis Associates, Inc.				
Map 7: Open Space Acquisition and Utiliza	ation Map - Conservation/Greenbelt Priority	Project No. 3442.11	Date 10/22/18	Drawn By DN
BURGIS ASSOCIATES, INC. COMMUNITPLANNING LAND DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 25 Westwood Avenue p: 201666.1811 Westwood, New Jersey 07675 f: 201666.2599	Project Title 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Township of West Windsor Mercer County, New Jersey	Scale 1 " =	3,500 '	map 7



Hamilton			Township of Robbinsville	
Legend				
Primary				
Secondary				
Source 1: Parcel data from NJGIN Warehouse, Mercer County. Source 2: Waterbody data from USGS, dated 2002. Source 3: Open space data from Burgis Associates, Inc.				
Map Title: Map 8: Open Space Acquisition and Utilizat	ion Map - Parks and Recreation Priority	Project No. 3442.11	Date 10/22/18	Drawn By DN
BURGIS ASSOCIATES, INC. COMMUNITPLANNING LAND DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE 25 Westwood Avenue p: 201.666.1811 Westwood, New Jersey 07675 f: 201.666.2599	Project Title 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Township of West Windsor Mercer County, New Jersey	Scale 1 " = 2015 COPY RIGHT BA - NOT TO BE REF	: 3,500 '	map 8





Hamilton Legend			Township of Robbinsville	
West Windsor				
Mercer County				
State Open Space	the second s			
Preserved Farmland: Municipal				
Preserved Farmland: Private				
Homeowners Association				
Private Open Space and Recreation				
Proposed Property Acquisition				
Deed Restriction				
Source 1: Parcel data from NJGIN Warehouse, Mercer County. Source 2: Waterbody data from USGS, dated 2002. Source 3: Open space data from Burgis Associates Inc. and West Windso	r Township.			
Map 10: Composite Map		Project No. 3442.11	Date 10/02/18	Drawn By DN
BURGIS ASSOCIATES, INC. Community Planning Land Development and Design Landscape Al 25 Westwood Avenue pr: 201.666.1811 Westwood Avenue Jrsey 07675 f: 201.666.2599	RCHITECTURE Project Title 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan Township of West Windsor Mercer County, New Jersey	Scale 1 " = 2015 COPY RIGHT BA - NOT TO BE REPP	3,500 '	map 10