Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation

Parks and Open Space Master Plan

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FOREWORD

A strong economy has been the catalyst for unprecedented growth in Burlington County over the past few decades. The rural landscape has changed dramatically in many regions of the County, from farm fields, barns and wooded lots, to one dominated by office buildings, tract housing and retail space.

To date, growth has occurred in a largely uncontrolled manner, and the resultant sprawl has brought traffic snarls, noise, and over-crowded schools. The environment has also suffered from poorly planned development. The quality of our waterways has been compromised, significant wildlife habitat has been lost, and air quality has been degraded. But most importantly, we are in jeopardy of losing our sense of place. Development pressure has not lessened. We must act quickly to ensure that the rural character of our County is more than just a memory.

The Freeholders recognize that in order to preserve the quality of life that attracts people to Burlington County, a balance between growth and preservation must be sought. This is reflected in the planning initiatives undertaken by the County, from its highly successful farmland preservation program, to the smart growth planning studies in the Route 130 and Route 206 corridors.

We need to do more. Environmentally sensitive lands must be protected. Also, the Freeholders must address the recreation needs of the growing population. The residents of the County agree and have shown their support through the overwhelming approval of two referenda creating a dedicated fund for the preservation of farmland and open space and the development of a County parks system.

So, here we are. We have an opportunity to create something very special. Our open space inventory consists of 1,500 preserved acres and our parks system is largely comprised of our historic sites – Smithville Mansion and the Historic Prison Museum. The Freeholders are committed to creating a first-rate parks system. We have actively engaged the public in the planning process so that the vision for the parks is one that is shared by all.
The master plan outlined in the subsequent pages will provide a parks and open space system designed to preserve and protect our critical environmental, cultural, historic, and scenic resources while expanding passive recreational opportunities for all residents.

See you in the parks!

William S. Haines, Jr.
Freeholder

SECTION I: ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders has directed that this Parks and Open Space Master Plan be prepared to set forth a short- and long-term strategy for the acquisition of open space and the development of a parks system that will meet the region's recreational needs.

To be effective, this "blueprint" must create a vision for the communities of Burlington County and recommend policies, actions, and strategies to be implemented by not only the County, but also by local, state and federal governmental agencies, as well as the private and non-profit sectors. This vision and the recommendations must reflect input from all of those entities, the communities at large, and the general public.

To that end, the Freeholders initiated a planning process that began by obtaining resident feedback through a public opinion survey. This survey assessed residents' desires for the development of a County parks system. This information has been augmented by public outreach meetings conducted during the compilation of this plan and interviews with community leaders, non-profits, and other government officials. The strategic plan in the subsequent text is a product of this effort to actively engage the public in the creation of a vision for Burlington County.

In Section III, the plan sets forth four key goals that resulted from the dialogue with the public:

- *Create a County parks system that expands public access to diverse, passive recreational facilities,*
- *Aggressively protect the County's significant natural resources,*
- *Preserve and enhance the culture and heritage of Burlington County, and*
- *Coordinate park system development and open space preservation with compatible growth, preservation and recreation initiatives.*

In order for the County to implement these goals, it must partner with other public and private land conservation agencies, to preserve land areas. Unfortunately, the resources of the County and its conservation partners are not without limit. Suitable resources must be used efficiently so that lands are preserved and the parks system is developed in a meaningful manner.

With this in mind, the goals listed above have been used in this planning process to identify project areas that will be the near-term focus of the County's preservation and parks development efforts. These areas are:

- **Rancocas Creek Greenway** — A 20-mile long interconnected, predominantly off-road trail system is envisioned along the Rancocas Creek. The trail will run from the Delaware River to Smithville Regional Park and beyond. At several locations, "hub" sites will be developed with various passive recreational amenities.

- **Delaware River Greenway** — In cooperation with the National Park Service, riverfront municipalities, and non-profit organizations, Burlington County will help develop the Delaware River Heritage Trail - a 50-mile loop trail in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Burlington County will also seek to acquire properties for hub park development and improve public access to the Delaware River.

- **Barker's Brook Project Area** — This project area is predominantly in Springfield Township, the core of the County's "Farm Belt," and encompasses Arney's Mount, the highest point the Burlington County. Activities will focus on the promotion of the County's agricultural heritage and may include acquisition of land that would serve as a permanent home for the County Farm Fair, and a "working farm" to promote greater appreciation of the County's agricultural industry. Corollary to its Farmland Preservation efforts, the County will provide recreational access to the Farm Belt through trail development (i.e. abandoned railroad rights-of-way and roadway improvements for bicycle compatibility). Potential hub site development includes the Arney's Mount region of Springfield Township.

- **Mason's Creek/Rancocas Creek, Southwest Branch Project Area** — The focus in this region is linkages to existing and proposed public/private open space projects, supplemented by strategic hub site acquisition and development as necessary. Burlington County envisions the conversion of existing railroad rights-of-way to multi-use trails to connect the populace to all regions of the County.

- **Pinelands Project Area** — The state and several conservation organizations will continue to focus their resources here. The County will assume a supporting role with the intent of linking existing recreational facilities in the Pinelands.

Within these project areas, the County will examine and identify scenic views from roads and trails that should be preserved.

Burlington County's park system will be developed with predominantly passive recreational amenities at regional hub sites, with a focus on public access to waterways and connective "spoke" linkages from site to site. Interpretive signs and programs will incorporate the County's rich history and natural resources to "tell the story" of Burlington County. To accomplish this, park users can expect the following amenities to be developed within the County:

- Trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding
- Nature and wildlife viewing opportunities
- Picnic areas
- Water recreation opportunities
- Open air amphitheaters
- Horticultural garden facilities
- Play areas
- Low impact camping facilities

Unique recreational opportunities will be provided to the public at each hub park site. For example, in the

proposed amphitheater, Westampton

Rancocas Creek Greenway Project Area, Burlington County proposes to develop a system of interconnected trails around Smithville Lake, including a floating walkway at Smithville Regional Park in Eastampton Township. A non-motorized boat launch will be the central feature of the new regional park in Hainesport Township, creating a half-day boat trip opportunity on the Rancocas Creek between Smithville and this site. Bird and wildlife observation opportunities will abound in the County parks system, particularly at Pennington Regional Park in Delanco Township where several observation blinds are proposed. At the Orchard Ridge Regional Park in Delran Township, formal ornamental gardens are proposed. In addition, an open-air amphitheater in Westampton will provide exciting possibilities for arts and cultural programming.

Park system connectivity will also be a key factor in facility development. Interconnecting trails for a variety of recreational uses - and for transportation alternatives - are a high priority. To link park properties, Burlington County proposes the development of a trail network, including:

- Multi-use off-road trails, suitable for hiking and biking
- Bicycle compatible roadways
- Water trails

This trail system will connect with internal park paths to expand recreational options for park goers.

The construction of parks facilities is just the beginning of the County's commitment to a rewarding outdoor experience for visitors. Proper maintenance of park properties and trail linkages will be critical to the success of the park system. Thus, the County will rely on its regional planning experience and partnerships with municipalities, non-profit organizations, and other entities to maximize resources and more effectively and efficiently provide recreational opportunities to its residents.

SECTION II: **CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Burlington County: A Brief Overview

As the largest county in New Jersey, extending from the Delaware River to the Great Bay, Burlington County has a wealth of diversity.

Its wetlands, scrub pine and oak woodlands, and Atlantic white cedar forests shelter a wide variety of wildlife, while abundant creeks, estuaries and aquifers provide essential water resources. [1]

This vibrant environment has fostered a rich history and culture. The County's strong agricultural roots and the heritage of the Lenape and Delaware tribes are still evident, while the County's role in the American and Industrial revolutions is preserved in numerous landmarks including several national historic treasures. (See Appendix, Map 1)

Today, the County offers numerous cultural activities ranging from visual and performing arts groups to a multitude of festivals and special events attracting thousands of people from throughout the Philadelphia/South Jersey region.

The County's great environmental and cultural diversity continues to attract new residents. Burlington County's population has grown steadily in the last 20 years, rising from 362,542 in 1980 to 423,394 in 2000. By 2020, the County's population is expected to increase to 500,000. [2]

The County's population is also aging. The overall median age rose from 32.9 in 1990 to 37.1 in 2000. This is the highest increase in median age among all counties in New Jersey and nearly double the increase experienced statewide.

As the population grows, not only are natural resources threatened, but the demand for recreational facilities increases, while available land for new parks decreases. And an active, aging population with more leisure time will place even greater demands on the County's park system. Furthermore, about 75% of the County's population resides in the western half of the County, whereas most of the preserved pubic lands are in the sparsely populated pinelands region, making ready access to passive recreation difficult. (See Appendix, Map 2)

Meeting the Challenge: Preservation Programs and Planning Initiatives

How is the County meeting the challenge of protecting its ecology, preserving its history and culture and ensuring sufficient recreational opportunities in close proximity to all of its residents?

Burlington County has several initiatives to preserve farmland, support park and local open space projects and spur regional planning.

[1] "Natural Resource Inventory," a companion document to this report, provides a more detailed description of the County's environmental resources.

[2] See the companion document, "Population Characteristics."

Farmland Preservation Program –

The Freeholder Board created the state's first Farmland Preservation Program in 1985 and can be credited with preserving the first farm in the Garden State. The program's record of success is outstanding, and by all measures, is the most successful farmland preservation program in the state.

As of May 2002, Burlington County has preserved more farmland than any other county in New Jersey. With state and municipal assistance, the County has purchased the development rights of 105 farms comprising more than 14,300 acres. Within the Pinelands, an additional 3,125 acres of agricultural lands have been preserved through the purchase of Pinelands Development Credits. By preserving agricultural land, the program helps ensure that agriculture continues to be a flourishing industry in the County.

In 1998, the Freeholder Board adopted a Farmland Preservation Program Strategic Plan that targets over 40,000 acres of agriculturally viable farmland to be permanently protected. The plan recognizes that, in addition to helping to secure the future of the agricultural economy in the County, the benefits of farmland preservation include protection of environmental resources such as water, wildlife habitat, and air quality; prevention of the negative fiscal impacts of sprawling development; conservation of rural landscapes, and a better quality of life now and for future generations.

As is the case with open space preservation, the greatest challenge to the Farmland Preservation Program is time – preserving a critical mass of agricultural lands in a narrow, five- to ten-year window of opportunity.

Local Open Space Program –

Another County conservation initiative is the Local Open Space Preservation Land Grant Program. Under this program, Burlington County awards grants to municipalities and non-profit organizations to assist in the preservation of *locally* important open space, connected, recreational paths and greenways, woodlands, stream corridors, active or passive recreational areas, and environmentally sensitive areas such as wildlife habitat, flood-prone areas, and wetlands buffers. It does not fund projects relating to the permanent protection of agricultural lands.

Funded by a dedicated County trust fund, this program provides cost share funding toward the purchase price of a parcel of land, helping local governments leverage their own local open space tax dollars. The County's funding participation under the Local Program is currently projected to be equal to 25% of land acquisition cost.

Another significant and effective leveraging tool is the state Green Acres Program. Green Acres offers up to 100% of a project's cost through grants and loans. Under recent legislation, municipalities with a dedicated tax have the potential to receive a 50% grant from the Green Acres Program for each approved project location.

Burlington County encourages municipalities to apply for Green Acres funds to further leverage local and County preservation dollars.

As of 2002, the Local Open Space Program has helped nine municipalities and two non-profits preserve 25 parcels totaling 2,050 acres.

County Open Space Program –

In 1996, the Freeholders approved an Open Space Preservation Strategic Plan in conjunction with a public referendum to create a dedicated fund for preservation of farmland and open space. The plan called for creation of an open space system that dovetails with the Farmland Preservation Program.

Since 1996, Burlington County's open space preservation efforts have taken root and grown. The scope of the County's programs has expanded. The Open Space Strategic Plan was amended to reflect the magnitude of the preservation opportunities in Burlington County. As a result, more than 1,500 acres of open space have been preserved for future park development. This master plan supercedes the previously adopted Open Space Strategic Plan.

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."
- John Muir

County Park System –

The County park system presently consists of the historic and recreational properties at Smithville Mansion, acquired in 1975, and the Historic Prison Museum, which opened in 1966. The recently rejuvenated Prison Museum is a fine period example of innovative interior planning and infrastructure design, as well as a testament to reforms in criminal rehabilitation. Smithville, an early Victorian-era industrial village, is in the midst of a major revitalization. The Division of Parks within the Department of Resource Conservation is working on several projects at Smithville, including restoration of significant structures, streetscapes and landscapes, and construction of a new museum and visitors center to enhance the interpretation of this site.

Recent improvements include the installation of trails, fishing piers and picnic facilities at Smithville Regional Park, new handicapped lifts at the Prison Museum and Smithville Mansion, installation of a new exhibit at the Prison Museum and numerous restoration projects at Smithville. It is important to note that many of these projects were completed with the cooperation of the Friends of the Mansion at Smithville, H.B. Smith Industrial Village Conservancy and the Prison Museum Association, volunteer groups that further the County's preservation efforts.

In addition to the projects mentioned above, other capital improvements are underway. In Westampton, a new 500-750 seat outdoor amphitheater is slated to open in 2003 to provide a needed venue for arts and cultural events. Most notably, design and development of new park facilities is moving ahead.

When complete, this first round of new parks will increase developed park acreage from 50 to over 600 acres of county-owned passive recreation land and provide residents and visitors with much needed trails, canoe launches, picnic areas, play areas and other outdoor amenities.

Regional Planning Efforts –

It is clear that preserving farmland and open space while accommodating growth can be better accomplished through comprehensive land use planning. Regional planning can be an effective tool if it acknowledges New Jersey's "home rule" tradition, which gives each municipality sole authority to plan and zone its lands.

Burlington County has long been an advocate of consensus planning. Through the consensus planning process, the County brings together municipalities to formulate a regional strategic plan through discussion of mutual goals, constraints, development trends, resources and infrastructure. The strategic plan serves as a "blueprint" for the future growth of the region and sets forth recommendations for implementing the agreed upon goals.

Burlington County and 12 participating municipalities have prepared and are now implementing the Route 130 – Delaware River Strategic Plan, the first consensus plan to be approved by the New Jersey State Planning Commission. It is widely touted as a model for comprehensive land use planning in New Jersey. Spurred by this accomplishment, the County recently initiated the consensus planning process in the County's "Farm Belt" region for the development of a strategic plan for the northern Route 130 and Route 206 areas.

Building on Success: Master Plan Development

With this land use and conservation framework in place, the Freeholder Board sought a master plan for a County park system that will be used and enjoyed by all residents. To help meet this challenge, County residents were invited to participate in the plan development process. The public outreach efforts are summarized in this section.

Needs Assessment Survey – In 2001, a needs assessment survey was conducted to determine the views of County residents regarding leisure and recreational needs. Four thousand residences were randomly selected to receive a survey, of which 475 or 14% responded. Those surveys, and a variety of focus groups, yielded the following major findings:

- Creation of nature trails and biking paths are among the most important needs cited.
- Programs for the whole family are considered important.
- Conservation and preservation of open spaces is a high priority.
- There is high interest in aquatics and access to waterways.
- Preservation of county-owned historic resources is important.

Additional public outreach in the forms of public meetings and discussions with stakeholder groups also provided support for the goals and objectives of the plan.

Public Outreach Meetings – During the preparation of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, Burlington County reached out to the public for input and suggestions. In Fall 2001,

following completion of the data gathering and mapping phases of the master plan, pubic meetings were held in four regions in the County. A second round of public outreach meetings was conducted in June 2002 after the draft plan and parks concepts plans were completed. The meetings yielded valuable feedback on the draft plan, which has been considered in this final plan.

Stakeholder Meetings – During Fall 2001 and Spring 2002, Department of Resource Conservation staff met with various groups to obtain additional feedback on recreational and open space needs. Four distinct stakeholder groups were identified: municipalities, park user groups, land preservation agencies, and arts and cultural organizations. The County hopes to partner with many of these stakeholders not only to further its preservation goals, but also to further the development and maintenance of the parks system. Therefore, their insight and participation in the preparation of this master plan was critical.

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."
- Aldo Leopold

School children were invited to create posters as part of the County's public outreach efforts.

SECTION III: ***GOALS AND OBJECTIVES***

In developing this plan, an overarching objective was to engage the pubic every step of the way. The public outreach efforts, detailed in Section II, generated valuable insights.

While residents, municipal officials, conservationists and developers voiced diverse opinions regarding lands that should be preserved or acquired for parks, and the types of amenities that should be offered, it was relatively easy to discern common threads.

All agreed the County is a special place with diverse ecosystems and a rich history shaped in large part by its unique environment. In addition, all conceded there is limited public access, and our natural resources are at risk due to poorly planned development. These shared values yielded four primary goals that are the basis of this plan. This section describes those goals and delineates specific objectives based on those goals.

GOAL ⇒ Create a County park system that expands public access to diverse, passive recreational facilities.

GOAL ⇒ Aggressively protect significant natural resources.

GOAL ⇒ Preserve and advance the County's culture and heritage.

GOAL ⇒ Coordinate park development and open space preservation with compatible growth, preservation and recreation initiatives.

Based on these goals, the specific objectives of this plan are to:

- **Ensure that all residents have easy access to County parks by developing greenways and recreational hubs as the framework for the County park system.**

The true measure of success of a park system is the number of people who routinely use it. Convenient access is a key factor in encouraging use of a park system, and is a key objective of this plan. To improve public access, it is important that County parks be linked with other

park properties and with residential and commercial centers.

What is a Greenway?

Greenways are corridors of open space that connect parks, institutional lands, waterways and nature preserves. In populated areas, they can link with cultural, historic and transportation resources. Greenways may offer public access or may limit or prohibit access where lands are environmentally sensitive or inappropriate for public use. Greenways can be of various widths, but often link a network of open spaces similar to our system of highways and railroads.

Burlington County proposes to create a recreational transportation network to provide access to all regions of the County through the development of "green infrastructure." The proposed parks system will consist of several greenways with regional "hub" sites offering passive recreation and water access, and "spoke" properties that will link existing and future open space areas. In addition, other modalities, such as bike compatible roadways, will be developed to better link open space parcels.

- **Acquire and develop sufficient open space and parkland to meet current and future needs**.

In developing this plan, state standards[3] have been used as a baseline for determining the amount of needed public outdoor recreational lands. The "acreage to population" method indicates the amount of County parkland required over the short term, based on the current population. The standard is 12 acres per 1,000 population. Another method – the balanced land use method – measures long-term needs and deficits by estimating a percentage of land mass which should be set aside for public outdoor recreation. The standard is 7% of developed and developable lands within a county.

Based on these standards, with a County population in 2000 of 423,394 and a developed and developable land mass of 211,298 acres, the short- and long-term goals in the County are 3,626 and 13,336 acres, respectively, as indicated in the *"Open Space Needs & Deficits"* chart.

While these standards for parkland acquisition are nationally accepted and are useful in providing some context as to what a county's open space need might be, it is important to realize that they fail to take into account all factors. For example, the

[3] The two referenced methods are outlined in the companion document, "Parks & Open Space Inventory & Needs Assessment."

Open Space Needs & Deficits (Acres)

	Short-Term Goal (Acres to Population Method)	Long-Term Goal	Existing Open Space	Short-Term Deficit	Long-Term Deficit
Burlington County	***5,081***	***14,791***	***1,455***	***-3,626***	***-13,336***

state's calculation does not address the need for diverse locations and uses. Presently, 95% of public open spaces are in one region, and the majority of park properties are devoted to the same types of uses. Consequently, meeting gross acquisition acreage targets does not ensure an optimal parks system. Haphazard open space preservation is just as undesirable as haphazard development. Thus, the plan's intent is to meet residents' recreational needs, regardless of total acreage requirements.

- **Develop park improvements with an emphasis on passive recreation and water access.**

Water resources abound in the County, with the Delaware River to the West, the bayshore to the East, and the main stem of the Rancocas Creek traversing the center of the County.

Unfortunately, public access to waterways is lacking. Improved water access will be achieved by developing trails, boat launch areas and waterfront amenities such as picnic areas and benches.

- **Enhance biodiversity and identify and protect significant environmental and natural resources best conserved through land preservation.**

Large stretches of undeveloped lands provide far greater opportunities for species to thrive than small pockets of "leftover" open space. In targeting land for preservation, the County will focus on creating contiguous open space corridors and interconnected greenways, thus helping to preserve and enhance biodiversity.

In addition, the County intends to protect, to the extent possible, isolated, species-rich habitat areas, aquifer recharge areas, non-tidal wetlands, steep slopes, and other environmentally sensitive lands located outside of proposed greenways and park project areas.

Burlington County has worked closely with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) to inventory the County's natural and environmental resources. Protection of threatened and endangered species, and water quality and quantity, are paramount in the acquisition of open space.

The locations of threatened and endangered species in the County have been identified by NJDEP's Threatened & Endangered Species Program, and their habitats identified by NJDEP's Natural Heritage

Program. The NJCF combined this data and ranked habitats on a scale of 1-10. The highest ranked habitats, supporting or having the potential to support a high number such species, are illustrated in Maps 3a and 3b in the Appendix.

Water quality and quantity have been evaluated using NJCF rankings of New Jersey Geological Survey (NJGS) data in conjunction with Burlington County's Watershed Management Program. NJCF used groundwater recharge rates calculated by NJGS to rank agriculture/grassland and upland forested areas that provide the best (i.e. fastest) groundwater recharge.[4] The highest ranked areas are illustrated on Maps 3a & 3b.

- **Incorporate and implement to the extent possible, the recommendations of County watershed management plans.**

NJDEP requires the four watershed management areas (WMAs) in Burlington County to develop open space acquisition plans as part of their watershed protection initiatives, to help protect headwaters and aquifer recharge areas, and to help improve water quality by eliminating potential sources of pollution such as stormwater runoff.

The County will work closely with the lead agencies in each WMA to coordinate the County's land conservation initiatives with watershed protection priorities.

- **Identify and preserve areas of significant scenic beauty.**

Scenic corridors and roadways not only offer pleasing aesthetics, they often include cultural, historic, recreational or other features which help convey a sense of regional identity. These scenic areas can play a role in linking existing and proposed open space project areas. Burlington County should call attention to one of its great assets – its views from the road. Roads that provide visual or physical access to extraordinary scenic, cultural, recreational, or natural features will be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) for designation in accordance with the New Jersey Scenic Byways Program.

- **Advance the County's culture, character and heritage through development of the County park system.**

In Mount Holly, the Burlington County Prison Museum, (interior, below) a National Historic Landmark, is just one of several national historic treasures in the County. (See Map 1 in the Appendix)

[4] Groundwater aquifer recharge was measured by inches of rainfall that penetrate past the root zone.

The County's Native American heritage lives on at the Rankokus Indian Reservation in Westampton, and its Colonial past is evident at numerous historic sites. Burlington County played a major role in the American Revolution, supplying bog iron for cannon forging, and advanced the Industrial Revolution at Roebling in Florence and at Smithville in Eastampton.

As stewards of these resources, the County must be a strong advocate for their protection, and highlight this diversity, in concert with efforts to protect natural resources and provide additional outdoor recreational facilities.

Interpretive signs should be erected to promote:

- archeological sites (to the degree possible)
- historic viewsheds
- subject-related biking and driving tours, showcasing, for example, the County's Native American, American Revolution, Quaker, Victorian and Industrial Revolution heritage.

- **Coordinate historical, cultural and recreational programming to strengthen the County's tourism industry.**

To date, no single organization has been recognized as a central clearinghouse for promoting County sponsored and community-based arts and cultural events and for marketing the County as a tourist destination. In 2002, the Freeholders created an Office of Tourism within the Department of Economic Development and Regional Planning and hired a Director of Tourism. This new office and the Department of Resource Conservation will work in close cooperation to strengthen the County's network of arts and cultural organizations, promote special events, and market the County and its park system and programs. To further these efforts, the County will work in concert with organizations such as:

- Historic Rancocas Valley Tourism Association
- Delaware River Region Tourism Council
- NJ Division of Travel & Tourism
- South Jersey Cultural Alliance
- Arts & Business Partnership

- **Coordinate land preservation efforts with the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program to buffer agricultural areas and preserve agricultural landscapes.**

Burlington County is proud of its rural character and must take steps to preserve it. The creation of an open space system that celebrates the County's culture and history will enhance the quality of life countywide. The public clearly supports this goal, as indicated in the County's public outreach efforts.

The County Farmland Preservation Program will continue to coordinate with the many state, municipal and non-profit efforts to help retain agricultural areas and preserve the County's beautiful agricultural landscapes.

Through close coordination of the county's farmland preservation and parks and open space programs, the County can help buffer active farmlands from conflicting non-agricultural development, and strengthen the effectiveness of these programs.

- **Advance compatible land use plans adopted by municipal, regional and state agencies.**

Creation of a regional parks system and preservation of important open space present key opportunities to further compatible land use agendas. Accordingly, the County will review the State Development and Redevelopment Plan, and regional and municipal plans endorsed by the State Planning Commission, to determine how those plans can be advanced through the County's efforts.

Such plans include the Delaware River / Route 130 Strategic Plan, the Chesterfield Township Transfer of Development Rights Program, and the Route 130 Extension and Route 206 Strategic Plan. Other plans to be reviewed include municipal master plans, County and state transportation plans, and relevant regional or state land use plans.

- **Advance compatible conservation and recreation initiatives.**

Through this parks and open space master plan, the County must consider other conservation initiatives and seek to target, acquire and develop lands in a way that effectuates other conservation agendas within the County.

As mentioned, this plan dovetails with the County's Farmland Preservation Program by helping to protect non-agricultural lands, creating appropriate recreational opportunities, and protecting important viewsheds and environmentally sensitive areas.

This plan also supports the County's Local Open Space Program by creating more contiguous open space and links to locally important parcels including active recreation areas and historic sites. Non-profit conservation organizations as well as municipalities participate in the Local Open Space Program.

For example, the Rancocas Conservancy, dedicated to the preservation of lands adjacent to the Rancocas Creek, is preserving the creek's headwaters at Arney's Mount in Springfield Township. Given the shared objectives of the Rancocas Conservancy and the County parks and open space plan, a high level of collaboration is expected to occur in the targeting, acquisition, financing and stewardship of these lands.

Other organizations active in preserving open space in Burlington County include the State of New Jersey Green Acres Program, the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, the Nature Conservancy, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the New Jersey Audubon Society and the Trust for Public Land. The County will, to the extent possible, coordinate with those entities to create a comprehensive conservation infrastructure upon which the future of the County's environmental and recreational health will depend.

- **Advance directly and indirectly related government and private sector programs.**

Other, less traditional government and private sector initiatives also can benefit from this parks and open space plan. For example, the parks system could connect with public transportation infrastructure to create new, inter-modal transportation opportunities. In addition, wetlands mitigation projects, educational

facility development, brownfield initiatives, and the reclamation and reuse of beneficial materials such as dredge spoils may also dovetail with this plan.

To summarize, partnerships clearly are essential to achieving the County's goals. This plan presents tremendous opportunities to coordinate efforts with other public and private sector initiatives.

Burlington County has an excellent track record in forging partnerships with municipalities, state agencies and the private sector to create effective, comprehensive land use plans. The open space master plan will build on this wealth of experience to maximize the synergy among efforts on all levels, and capitalize on the leveraged resources resulting from such collaboration.

Through a comprehensive and integrated planning approach, the County's parks and open space plan can achieve three specific objectives: 1) further other governmental planning efforts, 2) augment the agendas of other conservation agencies, and 3) advance compatible, but indirectly related, programs and initiatives.

"Let us move into the next millennium with hope, for without it all we can do is eat and drink the last of our resources as we watch our planet slowly die. Instead, let us have faith in ourselves, in our intellect, in our staunch spirit. Let us develop respect for all living things."

- Jane Goodall

SECTION IV: ***PROJECT AREAS***

This planning process was undertaken with the recognition that financial resources are limited. Despite best efforts to leverage tax dollars, seek grants, partner with other entities, and employ innovative land acquisition strategies, the financial resources may not be available to acquire the open space demanded by a growing population.

Consequently, the County cannot be reactive and acquire land as it comes on the market or when the threat of development looms. Staff time and financial resources must be focused in order to achieve the goals and objectives of this plan.

This plan's goals and objectives were relied upon to determine specific areas to concentrate the County's resources most efficiently and effectively. Through an exhaustive evaluation of population growth trends, waterways, environmentally sensitive areas, open space and parkland, historic and cultural sites and transportation corridors, project areas meeting multiple goals within a limited geographical area were identified. These Project Areas are:

Rancocas Creek Greenway

The Rancocas Creek Greenway (Maps 4b & 4c) will consist of a 20-mile long, east-west multi-use spine through the center of the County linking communities from the Delaware River to Smithville Regional Park and beyond.

Existing County open space holdings will be developed as "hub" sites, focusing on passive recreational opportunities and water access. The County is discussing with NJDEP the feasibility of developing Rancocas State Park as an additional hub site in this greenway. "Spoke" properties will link hub sites via primarily off-road trails. For example, Arney's Mount trail will take residents to the County's highest elevation, and Pemberton Borough's Rails to Trails project will offer links to Lebanon State Forest.

To provide needed public access to the Rancocas waterway, the County will provide canoe portages, public boat launches, docks, fishing piers, etc.

Delaware River Project Area

The Delaware River Project Area (Maps 4d & 4e) will provide a north-south complement to the Rancocas Creek Greenway. This project area encompasses the Delaware River Heritage Trail, an initiative of the National Parks Service that proposes to connect Palmyra and Trenton via a 25-mile bicycle/ pedestrian trail. This trail parallels the Southern New Jersey Light Rail Transit System, providing easy public access to all riverfront communities. The project's ultimate goal is to link with a similar trail to be

created along the Pennsylvania side of the river, creating a 50-mile loop trail.

Municipal spur trails will entice bicyclists and pedestrians to enjoy local attractions. Regional hub sites will focus on water access, island properties, and large, contiguous parcels suitable for park development. This plan offers an excellent opportunity to capitalize on the region's wildlife protection and viewing opportunities, such as the Burlington County Bridge Commission's Palmyra Cove Nature Center and the Taylor Nature Preserve in Cinnaminson.

Barker's Brook Project Area

This project is in the heart of the County's Farm Belt, in Springfield Township. (See Map 4f) It is the ideal setting to showcase the County's agricultural heritage, which is featured at the Burlington County Farm Fair, an annual event drawing approximately 70,000 attendees. However, the fair has outgrown its present location in Lumberton. Consequently, the County will seek to acquire land within this project area to host the Farm Fair and other special events that highlight the County's diverse agricultural industry.

Opportunities for the public to access preserved and active farmland are often limited. To enhance public access and awareness of the County's farming heritage, the County will consider creation of a "working farm" in this project area and will look to develop trails along the abandoned rails of the Pennsylvania Railroad, connecting the Delaware River Project Area to the Arney's Mount spur of the Rancocas Creek Greenway.

The Farm Belt also contains significant environmental resources. Partnering with conservation organizations, including the State of New Jersey, to preserve wildlife habitat will be considered.

Mason's Creek/Rancocas Creek, Southwest Branch

This project area includes some of the more densely populated towns in Burlington County. (See Map 4g) Trail connections to existing and proposed County and municipal open space properties are planned, including links to the Rancocas Creek Greenway.

There is strong interest in creating a trail system that residents can use for passive recreation and as a non-vehicular, alternative form of transportation, such as walking, jogging, bicycle riding, etc. This will primarily be achieved by converting existing, abandoned railroad rights-of-way to multi-use trails. These trails optimally will connect with bicycle-compatible road projects, such as the abandoned railroad right-of-way from Mount Holly to Medford, the "High Point to Cape May" bicycle trail project, NJDOT's Route 206 bicycle route project and local trail projects, greenways, and local recreational facilities and sites of interest including the Lumberton Green and Medford Leas Arboretum. To supplement these linkages, Burlington County will seek to acquire and develop appropriate hub sites.

Pinelands Project Area

The Pinelands comprise some of the most environmentally significant lands in the world. The State of New

Jersey and numerous conservation organizations have targeted these areas for preservation. Burlington County does not foresee an active role in preserving additional land in the Pinelands for open space or parks development. As warranted and appropriate, the County will focus its activities in this region on enhancing the efforts of others through creation of trail connections, particularly along abandoned railroad rights-of-way and provision of other park amenities.

Summary

The County believes that by focusing its attention on these project areas, it can provide residents with an abundance of recreational opportunities near their communities. While the County will focus primarily on these areas, parcels outside of those areas that meet the County's objectives may be considered on a case by case basis.

Based on acquisition guidelines, ranking criteria, and objectives of this plan, recommendations may be made for the County, state, municipalities, or other land preservation organizations, alone or in partnership, to acquire or protect those parcels. It is important to note that recommendations do not guarantee public acquisition. All County land acquisitions must be approved by the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders and are subject to availability of funds.

"A connected system of parks and parkways is manifestly far more complete and useful than a series of isolated parks."

- Frederick Law Olmsted

SECTION V: ***PARKS VISION***

A vibrant parks, open space, and recreation program is vital to the health and prosperity of all of the County's communities. Active recreation such as baseball, soccer and basketball, and passive recreation such as hiking, biking, canoeing, picnicking, and cultural, historic and arts programs, contribute greatly to the quality of life.

The County's parks must be developed in concert with federal, state and municipal plans to achieve an overall balance in the parks experience offered within Burlington County.

The County will look to municipalities to provide active recreational facilities. Municipalities are best positioned to provide the administration and maintenance required for active recreation, and local programs can be tailored to meet specific community needs.

State and federal facilities in the County range from active day use areas to lands for camping, hunting and hiking. Such activities are associated with the preservation of local landscapes including forests, special ecosystems, and other unique sites. These activities typically are within 30-45 minutes of population centers. It is expected that the NJDEP will continue to direct its resources to preserving and protecting natural and cultural resources of state significance for mainly passive recreation. The federal government continues its focus on nationally significant sites such as the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

The focus of the Burlington County Parks System will be passive recreation. County parks will be designed to offer a pleasing outdoor experience – biking, hiking, picnicking, etc. – enhanced by greater access to waterways wherever possible. The intensity of development within each park will vary. Those parcels preserved for protection of environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands or other special habitat, may offer only walking trails with observation points.

The County's historic sites will continue to play a key role as the parks system develops. Parks will center on promoting arts, culture and history.

The County also foresees environmental education to be a major component of parks programming. Programs will be conducted in cooperation with local school districts, conservation groups and other governmental entities,

such as the Burlington County Soil Conservation District.

Essentially, the County will seek to bring to light the most significant assets that Burlington County has to offer in the most rewarding, convenient and efficient ways possible through development of a world-class parks system.

As discussed, the recreation component of the parks system will be greenway-based, with a “hub and spoke” configuration to allow for regional centers of open space connected via on- and off-road trails. Motorized and non-motorized boat access to the Delaware River, Rancocas Creek and other suitable waterways will be a priority in all parks designs. The Parkland and Pathway Classification System detailed in ***Appendix B*** clearly defines the range of recreation experiences, settings and amenities visitors can expect throughout the Burlington County Parks System. The types of open spaces that will comprise the parks system will include:

- Regional Parks
- Recreation Areas
- Natural Resource Areas
- Special Use Areas

When planning a parcel’s specific use, ensuring the connectivity of park properties will be a high priority. The types of pathways for users to travel through the parks system to achieve this connectivity will include:

- park trails
- bikeways and connector trails
- water and canoe trails
- all-terrain bike trails
- cross-country ski trails
- equestrian trails

A full range of passive recreation opportunities will be incorporated where possible. As expressed by Burlington County residents in the needs assessment process, potential amenities, facilities and programs should include:

- age-appropriate play areas and children’s gardens
- exercise courses and trails
- water/splash play areas
- open-air amphitheaters
- low-impact camping facilities
- nature centers and wildlife viewing amenities
- picnic areas and shelters
- horticulture and garden facilities
- equestrian facilities
- historic sites, museums and history-related programs
- arts programs and events

The priority, siting and development of these facilities will be based on a number of factors, including the suitability of the parcel, the availability of similar recreation facilities, community needs, and the level of priority as expressed in the needs assessment process.

This master plan includes concept plans for four park properties. These park development projects, described below, include passive outdoor recreation amenities, natural resource conservation and water access that will be the hallmark of the parks system.

- **Smithville Regional Park, Eastampton (Maps 5a & 5b)**
  - new and improved trails for a total trail length of 4.4 miles
  - floating walkway on Smithville Lake
  - picnic areas with playgrounds and group shelters
  - drinking fountains
  - rustic gazebos
  - wildlife observation blinds
  - canoe landing with small picnic area
  - parking facilities with security lighting
  - restrooms

- **Winzinger Tract, Hainesport (Map 6)**
  - new trails for a total trail length of 2.1 miles
  - picnic area with playground and group shelter
  - drinking fountains
  - wildlife observation blinds
  - canoe/non-motorized boat launch with small picnic area
  - parking facilities with security lighting
  - restrooms

- **Pennington Regional Park, Delanco (Map 7)**
  - new and improved trails for a total trail length of 3.2 miles
  - picnic areas with group shelters and playground
  - drinking fountains
  - centerpiece gazebo
  - wildlife observation blinds
  - parking facilities with security lighting
  - restrooms

- **Orchard Ridge Regional Park, Delran (Anderson Tract) (Map 8)**
  - new and improved trails for a total trail length of 3.1 miles
  - picnic areas with group shelters and playgrounds
  - drinking fountains
  - formal garden area with centerpiece water feature
  - boat launch facilities, with floating docks, walkways and concrete boat ramp
  - parking facilities with security lighting
  - restrooms

This design phase is the first step in a lengthy, phased development process. A broader discussion of parks system development is included in the *Land Management & Resource Stewardship* section of this plan.

Achieving the plan's goals will take time and money but most importantly, the ongoing support and involvement of the public. The County remains committed to seeking participation and feedback from user groups, natural resource conservation groups, municipalities, cultural and history groups, and park visitors. The long-term ability of the County parks system to meet the recreation needs of County residents depends on the continued input and support of parks users.

SECTION VI: ***LAND MANAGEMENT & RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP***

Acquiring open space and developing parklands are just the first steps in creating an open space network and parks system. The long-term viability of County recreational facilities and the preservation of critical natural resources depend on several factors. These include:

- funding
- land and waterway management policies and practices
- facility operation and maintenance
- partnerships

Funding

Creating a County parks system is a long-term investment that requires the best use of all available resources. While the voter-approved Open Space Preservation Trust Fund is the County's primary funding source for achieving many of the plan's goals, several state, federal and non-profit agencies can help.

These funding sources are detailed in ***Appendix C*** of this plan.

To enable the public to enjoy the recreational lands their tax dollars are preserving as soon as possible, a phased development strategy will be implemented. Basic facilities and amenities will be the first priority, with latter stage improvements added as planning, trends, and resources dictate.

Land and Waterway Management Policies & Practices

Maintenance of preserved open space, recreational waterways, and County parklands will require well-planned management activities. These include:

- protecting and enhancing riparian forest buffers
- preserving critical habitats by establishing and maintaining successional fields and wildflower meadows
- controlling invasive and non-native species
- identifying stewardship responsibilities and establishing relationships to provide recreational use of County waterways
- reforestation of cleared lands

Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Development of parklands and trails includes constructing facilities that visitors can see - trails, picnic areas, restrooms, parking lots, etc. - and less obvious infrastructure such as plumbing, electrical systems, storage, etc. All must be integrated into the park system in a way that ensures that construction of latter park improvements does not conflict with the enjoyment of existing facilities. This requires the development of operation and maintenance plans that take into account all phases of construction.

The construction of parks facilities is just the beginning of the County's commitment to a rewarding outdoor experience for visitors. Proper maintenance of park properties and trails will be a critical aspect of the Division of Parks operations and should be adequately funded. This responsibility will not decrease with

time. Usage patterns typical of a county parks system will require an ongoing commitment to ensure future generations' enjoyment and safety.

Partnerships

Given the scope of this plan, the County cannot accomplish its goals alone. In addition to land preservation partnerships, the County will seek to work with numerous organizations dedicated to environmental stewardship. Activities ranging from trail maintenance and park clean-up to historic preservation and environmental education can be aided by volunteers and supported by a host of other groups. These organizations will be called upon to provide valuable information, expertise and volunteer resources to further mutual goals. Potential partners include:

- Natural resource and environmental education groups
- Trail advocacy groups
- Historic preservation groups
- Arts and cultural organizations
- Local, state and federal agencies

"If we love our children, we must love the earth with tender care and pass it on, diverse and beautiful, so that on a warm spring day 10,000 years hence they can feel peace in a sea of grass, can watch a bee visit a flower, can hear a sandpiper call in the sky, and can find joy in being alive."

- Hugh H. Iltis

SECTION VII: **FUNDING**

Burlington County Open Space Tax Fund

The Burlington County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund was created by the Freeholders as a secure and dependable funding source for the preservation of farmland, open space and historic resources and for the development, improvement and maintenance of the County's park system. This fund is supported by a dedicated property tax. In 1996, voters approved by referendum a tax of 2 cents per $100 of assessed valuation, and in 1998 they increased it to 4 cents. The former sunsets in 2011, and the latter sunsets in 2018. The 1998 referendum also expanded the approved uses of Trust Fund revenues to include preservation of historic structures and sites and development and maintenance of recreational facilities. The allocation of funds among the approved uses is determined annually by the Freeholder Board.

In addition to the County's open space fund, there are a number of potential funding sources to help implement the initiatives in this plan. (See ***Appendix C***)

As discussed previously, Burlington County seeks to stretch its finances as much as possible for land acquisition, parks development and facility maintenance.

Land Acquisition Funding

Burlington County encourages local municipalities to preserve open space through land use planning tools at minimal cost to taxpayers wherever possible. These tools include but are not limited to: zoning ordinances protecting steep slopes, transfer of development rights programs, stream buffer ordinances, and cluster development ordinances. However, where open space preservation must occur through acquisition, there are ways to maximize available funds. If suitable to the end use of the property, less than fee simple interest should be considered, as this is generally less expensive than outright fee simple purchases. Regardless of interest, the County should seek to leverage its dollars by: Cost Sharing, Land Swaps and Installment Purchase Agreements.

Cost Sharing - Burlington County should attempt to access funding for open space projects from all eligible sources, including:

- State of New Jersey, Green Acres Program, which provides up to 50% grant funding for open space acquisitions
- New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust, which provides low-interest loans for open space projects that provide a water quality benefit
- Municipal/Non-Profit Cost Sharing, in which Burlington County should seek host municipality financial support and/or non-profit cost share, where possible

Land Swaps - In certain instances, Burlington County may have the opportunity to expand its open space holdings through the exchange of property with local entities.

Installment Purchase Agreements - Another tool to extend open space funds is the use of installment purchase agreements (IPAs). In certain instances, an IPA ***may*** provide income tax benefits to the seller.[5] The benefit to the County is that instead of paying a lump sum at settlement, the principal is withheld for several years. During that time, installment payments (interest) are made semi-annually to the seller. At a later, predetermined date, the balloon principal payment is provided to the seller. Thus, the County reserves a large part of its acquisition funds, which can generate interest and be used for other acquisitions.

[5] It is important to note that all sellers should seek the advice of a tax attorney and/or financial advisor to determine the tax implications of any land transaction.

Park Development Funding

Parkland acquisition is the first big step in building the County parks system. Developing the required recreation infrastructure and providing the desired amenities for each class of parkland and trail can be equally challenging. To achieve this, a phased development strategy will be used to maximize available funding options.

Historic preservation is an important element embodied in the goals and objectives of the master plan. As noted above, the 1998 voter referendum approved an increase in the County's dedicated tax fund and expanded its allowed uses. Specific provision was made for use of the Trust Fund for historic properties, sites and objects that should be preserved. While the County intends that the major portion of the Trust Fund revenues allocated for historic preservation go toward improvements at Smithville Regional Park and the Historic Prison Museum, the Freeholders recognize the preservation needs of historic sites countywide.

To address these needs with the limited resources available, the Freeholders will, on a case by case basis, review requests for preservation-related Trust Fund assistance that will protect and enhance historic properties, structures and/or buildings. Local governmental agencies and non-profit groups that own or wish to acquire an historic property in the County are eligible. Approval of these requests will be at the sole discretion of the Freeholder Board and are subject to the availability of funds.

While the Trust Fund is the backbone of the County's acquisition and development financial structure, a host of state, federal and non-profit avenues are available. These include:

- TEA 21/Transportation Enhancements Program
- National Recreational Trails Program
- NJDEP Green Acres Program
- NJDEP Clean Lakes Program
- NJDEP Tree Planting Grant
- Local Aid for Centers of Place
- National Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

- Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Capital Grant Program
- Save America's Treasures

Facility Maintenance Funding

The construction of parks facilities is just the beginning of the County's commitment to a rewarding outdoor experience for parks visitors. Proper maintenance of park properties and trail linkages will be a critical aspect of the Division of Parks operations and should be adequately funded.

Funding options for this aspect of park system operation are somewhat limited. Aside from volunteer assistance, grant programs such as the National Recreational Trails Program, NJDEP Clean Lakes Program, and the New Jersey Tree Planting Grant Program offer financial support. The maximum awards however are small in comparison to the need. As a result, parks maintenance will primarily be funded through a portion of the dedicated open space tax and the County's operating budget.

It is important to understand that this responsibility will not decrease with time. While park designs will address maintenance efficiency, normal "wear and tear" will require an ongoing commitment to ensure future generations' enjoyment and safety at County parks.

Bonding

Burlington County has the ability to utilize bond funding for land acquisition and parks development projects. Debt service on these bonds could be covered by the existing Trust Fund, thereby leveraging available funding.

Future Funding Availability

Since 1996, Burlington County has acquired roughly 1,226 acres of parkland, or an average of approximately 175 acres per year. At this rate, it will take 70 years to achieve the County's long-term recreational open space acreage goal, based on the state's standards. Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that there will be sufficient land available for this purpose in the year 2072. If the acquisition of open space is deferred to the future, the County's goals will not be met. The County has a critical window of opportunity in the next five to ten years to preserve a significant amount of open space before the character of its remaining undeveloped lands is threatened.

Accordingly, Burlington County has committed to an aggressive acquisition schedule and backed that up with dedicated tax funds to permit annual acquisitions. The County is seeking to stretch these resources as far as possible by seeking municipal and state Green Acres cost sharing. In addition, Burlington County is exploring the use of Environmental Infrastructure Trust funds for portions of environmentally sensitive lands.

The acquisition and development of suitable lands to satisfy both the short- and long-term goals of this plan will be a challenge. In addition, maintenance of parks facilities is a significant, on-going expense. The end cost is unknown at this time as the target acreage and number and types of facilities to be developed have not been finalized. However, it is likely that the acquisition, improvement and maintenance of several thousand additional acres of land to meet the County's long-term open space needs will easily outstrip available resources.

Therefore, this plan recommends consideration of the sale of general obligation bonds, with the associated debt service to be paid by the dedicated open space tax revenues, in order to help meet the County's recreational needs. Burlington County also will continue to diligently seek out new grant and loan opportunities as well as partnerships with non-profits and public agencies to maximize existing resources.

"When it is asked how much it will cost to protect the environment, one more question should be asked: How much will it cost our civilization if we do not?"
- Gaylord Nelson

SECTION VIII: ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

General Recommendations

1. The Parks and Open Space Master Plan should be adopted as an element of the Burlington County Transportation/Highway Master Plan.

2. The Plan should be reviewed periodically to incorporate regional planning initiatives (such as the Route 206 study and watershed management plans), so it can be a living document that will grow and change with the County's needs.

3. Burlington County should maximize partnerships with other open space preservation agencies to expand funding opportunities.

4. Burlington County should work with appropriate staff and outside agencies to identify, map, and develop viewsheds and areas of significant beauty.

5. To the extent possible, Burlington County should develop and improve connectivity between existing and future public - and appropriate private - open space.

6. Open space acquisitions and development should be coordinated with preservation initiatives of other agencies, including but not limited to: the state, non-profits, counties, and municipalities.

7. Burlington County should increase tourism through park system development, coordination of cultural programming, and regional marketing initiatives.

8. Efforts of the County Open Space Program should be coordinated with the Farmland Preservation Program to preserve parcels within the Agricultural Development Area but not included on the Agricultural Targeting List, to buffer agricultural and other incompatible uses and preserve important agricultural landscapes.

9. The County should assess and implement objectives of other County, local, state, federal and non-profit initiatives pertaining to transportation, economic development, redevelopment, housing, and farmland preservation, that are compatible with the plan's goals.

10. The County should further land preservation through smart growth and land use planning techniques including, but not limited to, transfer of development rights and Section 44 reservations. Municipalities are encouraged to use the County as a resource to help implement land use planning initiatives.

Project Area Recommendations

1. Burlington County should seek partnerships with other land preservation agencies to acquire properties that meet the objectives of the plan.

2. The County should review and modify, as necessary, existing property ranking systems with the help of the County Open Space Advisory Committee to conform with the plan's objectives.

3. Each Project Area should be studied further to determine specific parcels to be targeted for acquisition in conformance with the plan's goals and objectives.

4. Burlington County, including the County Engineering Department, should work with state and independent transportation agencies to design, permit, and construct structural improvements to address conflicts with existing roadways and greenway implementation.

5. Burlington County should seek bikeway planning and funding assistance through NJDOT and Cross County Connection's Transportation Management Association.

6. The County should initiate discussions with appropriate agencies to obtain "special use" area designation for park improvements planned along wetland/riparian corridors.

7. The County should initiate discussions with the state Division of Parks & Forestry to ensure that necessary park improvements are completed and to secure a long-term management agreement at Rancocas State Park.

Park System Development Recommendations

1. The County should update the Historic Sites Survey pending availability of funds.

2. The County should create a County Trail Plan to identify linkages and comprehensively guide trail development.

3. The County should develop an Historic Preservation Plan to identify preservation goals, actions, needs and partnerships countywide.

4. The County Division of Parks should create site-specific operations, maintenance and programming plans for each park property.

5. The County should develop partnerships and coordinate efforts with natural resource, environmental education, trail advocacy, history/historic preservation, arts/cultural organizations, and municipal, state and federal agencies. These organizations will be called upon to provide valuable information, expertise and volunteer resources to further shared goals.

6. The County Division of Parks, in cooperation with the County Engineering Department, should comprehensively plan and obtain grants for trail/transportation improvements.

APPENDIX 'A'
ACQUISITION PROCESS

Land use planning can assist communities in achieving their open space preservation goals, at little or no expense to the taxpayer. However, land acquisition combined with land use planning is essential to achievement of preservation goals. Land acquisition can take several forms, including conservation easements, purchase of development rights, fee simple or public-private partnerships.

Conservation Easement

A conservation easement is a legal tool that sets forth certain restrictions or that grants certain rights on the use and development of usually private property. Easements may be purchased or donated by the owner to an agency willing to hold them. Local and other government agencies, some environmental commissions, non-profit organizations and private land trusts may hold easements. The holder of the easement agrees to perform periodic inspections to ensure the easement provisions are met. Public access to the property may or may not be granted.

Purchase of Development Rights

The purchase of development rights is a form of conservation easement where the difference in value of the highest and best use of the undeveloped land before and after the creation of an easement restriction is paid to the owner. Specific restrictions and rights on the use and development of the property are agreed to by the owner. The development rights may be either retired or sold for use in the development of other parcels. This is the typical method used in the farmland preservation program and also has applications in the open space program. Depending on the end use after the purchase of development rights, public access to the property may or may not be granted.

Fee Simple

This is the simplest method for all parties concerned, but can also be the most costly. A price, based on an appraisal and establishment of fair market value, is negotiated and agreed upon and a transfer of full title of the property is made in exchange for the negotiated compensation. There are some variations including installment purchase, where the principal purchase price is deferred for a specific time period (usually to provide some tax benefit to the seller) and less than market value sale, where the owner donates part of the sales price. In fee simple acquisitions, public access is typically permitted.

Public-Private Partnerships

In addition to the preservation of open space by units of government, through land planning and acquisition, considerable lands can be preserved by private conservation organizations. These privately owned parcels contribute to the overall quality of life by augmenting protected open space. In order to maximize accumulation of land through private organizations, the County, where appropriate, will form informal partnerships and work closely with such organizations in their procurement of open space.

The County Acquisition Philosophy

The County has a number of land acquisition tools available to choose from in order to preserve land. Depending on the proposed end use of a property, the County can pursue a fee simple or less than fee interest in a targeted property. For example, outdoor recreational lands anticipated to have heavy public use/access will typically be fee simple acquisitions.

Negotiations are anticipated to occur based on the 'willing seller—willing buyer' model. However, the condemnation of land will be considered in instances where the acquisition of a specific parcel is deemed necessary to the success of the recreation/open space program and all reasonable offers to purchase have been rejected and negotiations have been exhausted.

How does the County prioritize its acquisitions? Utilizing the mapping generated by the County's G.I.S. staff, the County has identified the proposed project areas. Within those project areas, it is recommended that Burlington County study potential parcels to determine specific properties to be pursued for open space acquisition.

A ranking system similar to the existing format developed by the County Open Space Advisory Committee will be developed so that parcels identified as candidates for open space preservation can be evaluated and ranked.

After a parcel is ranked, it is presented to the County Open Space Advisory Committee (COSAC) for review and recommendations. If COSAC determines that the County should pursue acquisition, its recommendation is forwarded to the Board of Chosen Freeholders. If the Freeholder Board authorizes County staff to proceed with potential acquisition, the County contacts the property owner.

Professionals are engaged to perform real estate valuations for the interest and area sought by the County. During this process, property owners have the opportunity to provide any information that they believe would assist the appraiser to establish value of their property.

Also at this time, an environmental assessment of the property is conducted to determine if there are any areas of environmental concern, such as historical pesticide use, hazardous materials, etc.

Upon completion of these reports, the Freeholder Board may authorize initiation of negotiations with the property owner. Acquisitions are anticipated to be on a 'willing seller—willing buyer' basis. However, after reasonable offers have been rejected and negotiations are exhausted, the County may consider condemnation of land in instances where the acquisition of a specific parcel is deemed necessary to the achievement of the Plan's goals and objectives.

Once the County successfully negotiates with a property owner, a Contract of Sale is prepared and settlement on the property transaction can be scheduled.

APPENDIX 'B' PARKLANDS AND PATHWAY CLASSIFICATIONS & RECREATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Burlington County Parks System

Parklands Classifications, Pathway Classifications, and Recreation Services and Facilities

As the County's Parks and Open Space Master Plan indicates, Burlington County's Parks System will seek to address many of the most critical development issues for its communities, specifically open space preservation, County watershed management, and the recreation needs of Burlington County residents. As part of this process, determining the types and intensity of parkland use is one of the first critical steps in a comprehensive, system-based approach to resource conservation.

The following parkland classification and pathway classification system will provide a method for designating the most appropriate usage types and describe the typical recreation services and facilities for each class of land. It is intended to be used as a guideline. It is important to remember that a variety of issues are considered in classifying parkland, including land features, topography, extent of forestation, and to a certain degree, recreation trends.

The recreation services and facilities that will be typical of Burlington County's Park System will be passive recreation-oriented. This focus is in keeping with the role of a county system and the public's desires as expressed in the needs assessment survey.

Parklands Classification

A parkland classification system is a useful tool in identifying the variety of park types. Most basically, this label informs the user about what one can expect in terms of recreation opportunities, setting and environment. It also provides a method to assess the types of land that should be acquired to meet the recreation needs as expressed in the current and future needs assessments conducted to maintain the vitality and responsiveness of the Burlington County Park System. The parkland classification system is as follows:

Regional Parks

Regional Parks typically combine the functions of Recreation and Natural Resource Areas, providing a mix of recreational opportunities and facilities while preserving a majority of the park in a natural, undeveloped state. Typically, each Regional Park has some unique features or facilities, which distinguish it from other parks and attract visitors from throughout the County and region. These features may include water access/services, nature interpretation, amphitheaters, and sites of historic, cultural, scenic, or archeological significance. Regional Parks will typically be connected to other park properties via trail and pathway networks. Regional Parks typically will be 100 acres or larger.

Recreation Areas

Recreation Areas are intended primarily to provide outdoor recreation facilities in a natural setting, although they do not generally contain a large environmentally sensitive area. Recreation Areas typically have a mix of facilities such as boat launches, canoe livery, and nature centers, which would attract regional users. Recreation Areas will be significantly smaller in acreage than a Regional Park and will typically be connected to other park properties via trail or pathway networks.

Natural Resource Areas

Natural Resource Areas primarily serve to protect the natural environment. This includes, but is not limited to, water-related natural resources, water-quality and watershed management, mature woodlands, noteworthy plant or wildlife habitats, geological features, and/or

scenic landscapes and viewsheds. Any development should be non-intensive and should be limited to the support and enhancement of nature-oriented outdoor recreation, including activities such as nature interpretation, bird-watching, hiking, fishing, trail uses, and limited picnicking. Natural Resource Areas will typically be connected to other park properties via trail and pathway networks.

Special Use Areas

Special Use Areas typically serve a specific purpose or meet a single-purpose recreational need that is not readily incorporated into a Regional Park. Special Use Areas may include marinas, arboreta, program-specific recreation facilities as well as historic, cultural, scenic, or archeological sites.

Pathway Classifications

Pathways accommodate lightweight, slower moving, and non-motorized forms of transportation. A pathway classification system reflects the need to plan for light traffic facilities that are intrinsically tied to the park, open space, and general land use/transportation system within Burlington County and, where feasible, to neighboring regions in a comprehensive fashion. Previously developed areas, abandoned railroad beds, run-down waterfronts, utility rights-of-way, and scenic/historic routes provide a tremendous opportunity for all trail types.

As in parkland development, a system-wide approach to pathway development is critical. As such, there are several important elements in developing park trails. They are:

- Preparing a comprehensive park and trail system plan that clearly defines the routing of park trails, especially those within greenways.
- Acquiring the desired land or establishing trail easements at an early stage of community development.
- Establishing appropriate development policies (backed by municipal ordinance), requiring land developers to incorporate greenways and park trail corridors into their development plans in accordance with the trail system plan.
- Establishing design standards that define how park trails are to be built. Trail design should coincide with standards adopted by local and state departments of transportation and AASHTO (American Association of State Highway Transportation Organizations), as appropriate. All trails should comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act design criteria.

Pathways can also provide commuter linkages suitable for bicycle commuting purposes. The type of trail and its design should reflect the anticipated magnitude of commuter use. This will vary from the "bicycle freeway" type to park trails designed with a lesser magnitude of use in mind. In each case, the appropriate use will be clearly indicated via signs and maps.

The pathway classification system is as follows:

A. Park Trails (types I, II, and III)

Park trails are multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. They are the most desirable type of trail because they:

- emphasize harmony with the natural environment,
- allow for relatively uninterrupted pedestrian movement to and through the County's park system and development areas, including, where necessary, through municipal, commercial and industrial property,
- effectively tie the various parks and recreation areas together to form a comprehensive park and trail system, and
- protect users from urban development and associated vehicular traffic.

The three types of park trails described are intended to accommodate walkers, bicyclists, and in-line skaters. Given their attributes, park trails are at the top of the trail classification hierarchy. They should be considered the preferred trail type and used to the greatest extent possible.

It is important to remember that multi-use trails do not necessarily include equestrian or motorized, off-road vehicle use. The compatibility of horses and ATVs with hikers and bikers is very limited due to safety, erosion and aesthetic concerns.

Park Trail Types: There are three types of trail under the park trail classification:

- **Type I trails** are used in situations where use patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians, bicyclists, and in-line skaters.
- **Type II trails** are more suited to lighter use patterns.
- **Type III trails** are suited for low-impact areas such as nature preserves.

The type used depends on application.

B. Connector Trails (types I and II)

Connector trails are located in elongated and usually continuous strips of land or water under public control through ownership, easement, or other agreement. These trails are located in land that may serve both conservation and recreation needs. They often occupy natural corridors such as streams, ridgelines, and woodlands or man-made corridors such as railroad and utility rights-of-way and low volume roads. Connector trails should be planned to connect other park sites and activity centers and to expose users to interesting views and unique natural features.

Connector trails are multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. The significant difference between connector and park trails lies largely in their location. Park trails emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment within a park-like setting, while connector trails or recreation connectors emphasize safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclists to and from parks and around the community. In addition to park areas, connector trails may be located within existing road rights-of-way and utility easements or along artificial drainage ways. The two classes of connector trails are intended to accommodate walkers, bicyclists, and in some instances, in-line skaters.

Connector Trail Types: There are two types of trails under the connector trail classification:

- **Type I trails** are used in situations where use patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians, bicyclists, and if necessary, in-line skaters. An example would be a trail within the shoulder or right of way of a collector street or parkway.
- **Type II trails** are suited to lighter use patterns, such as a link between a parkway or thoroughfare and a nearby housing development.

The type used depends on application.

C. Bikeways (bike routes and lanes)

Bikeways are paved segments of roadways that serve to safely separate bicyclists from traffic. They come in the

form of bike routes and bike lanes. The distinction between the two is a matter of exclusivity. While bike routes are essentially paved shoulders or segments of the roadway that serve to separate bicyclists from traffic, bike lanes are designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

Bikeways play a large role in bicycle commuter networks and should be designed with this type of use in mind. The bikeway system should be extensive enough to allow for reasonable movement within the County and provide connection to routes both inside and outside the County. Bikeways should be considered along all collector, minor arterial, and (on a limited basis) major arterial roads. Naturally, their development should coincide with new road construction and upgrading. Signage is also important.

It is important to recognize that bikeways serve distinct user groups including:

- Commuters – those who use their bicycle as a means to get from point A to B as expeditiously as possible. Their trips can be viewed as substitutes for vehicle trips when planning light transportation ways.
- Fitness enthusiasts – those who cycle for fitness as well as recreation.
- Competitive athletes – those who bicycle competitively.

The needs of these user groups are distinctly different from those using park or connector trails for recreational purposes. The distinction is that of speed. At speeds in excess of 10 to 15 mph, the safety of a typical trail user (and bicyclist) becomes important. Although some commuter type trails are specifically designed to accommodate higher speeds, the vast majority of recreation-type trails are not. Given this, it is important that the inherent differences in user groups be recognized and that trails not be used as direct substitutes for bikeways (or vice-versa). Bikeways should be planned as stand-alone systems that connect to the off-street trail system.

Types of Bikeways: There are two types of bikeways: bike routes and bike lanes. Whether a bike route or bike lane is used depends on application and opportunity.

Bike lanes should be used in situations where traffic volumes are heavy enough to warrant clear separation between bicycles and vehicles. Although an adequate right-of-way may not always be available in existing transportation systems, proper planning in evolving systems will preclude this from happening in the future.

Bike routes (paved shoulders) should be used in all other situations.

D. Water/Canoe, All-Terrain Bike, Cross-Country Ski, Equestrian and Motorized Off-Road Vehicle Trails

Water/canoe, all-terrain bike, cross-country ski, and equestrian trails are similar to park trails in that they emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment. They are most often located within natural resource areas, greenways, community parks and special use facilities. Since regional and state parks often develop and maintain these types of trails, the need for them at the local level is often limited. The following defines some of the considerations with respect to each trail type.

Water/Canoe Trails: With water access identified as a high priority in the County's Parks Needs Assessment process, it is only natural to develop a trail component that utilizes one of Burlington County's most valuable and beautiful resources. As such, canoe or water trails will be used to create necessary linkages and opportunities for users to vary their park experience. Several critical issues beyond basic

access must be addressed in establishing canoe trails. These include adequate water depth, safe passage, length of trip, portages, rest areas, information, and potential user conflicts. These issues will all be addressed through a variety of coordinated state, County, municipal and non-profit stewardship efforts to ensure safe and enjoyable water-based recreation.

All-Terrain (Mountain) Bike Trails: Off-road mountain biking has become a very popular activity that appeals to a wide range of age groups with varying levels of skill. Trail standards to meet these needs continue to evolve. This evolution, unfortunately, has not been without conflict – most of which centers around the potentially negative impacts of mountain biking on the environment. Uncontrolled and undisciplined use of established trails poses the biggest impediment to mountain biking acceptance. There can be serious conflicts and safety problems if equestrian riders, hikers, and bicyclists use these trails. To the degree possible, trail design should coincide with the standards being developed by regional park agencies and state resource agencies.

Cross-Country Skiing Trails: These types of trails come in a variety of types and widths to accommodate two different styles: diagonal or traditional and skate-ski. Diagonal style requires a set track, while skate-ski style requires a wider packed and groomed surface. Trail lengths vary considerably, with loops ranging from a few to 10 or more kilometers. Since quality and safety are important to all skiers, a few well-groomed trails are preferable to extensive but poorly maintained ones. Trail design should coincide with the standards developed by regional park agencies and state resource agencies. These trail types will be incorporated to the degree that local weather conditions allow.

Equestrian Trails: Equestrian trails are usually grass or woodchip surfaced. Trail length varies considerably, with loops extending out 10 miles or more. In some instances, cross-country ski trails are used for horseback riding during the summer. There is no specific standard for how many miles of trail should be developed within a given community. Trail design should coincide with standards adopted by regional park agencies and state resource agencies. It is important to remember that the multiple use of trails does not necessarily include equestrian use. The compatibility of horses, hikers and bikers is very limited due to safety, erosion and aesthetic concerns.

Motorized Off-Road Trails: Motorized off-road trail use, although relatively new on the recreation scene, has become a very popular activity that appeals to a wide range of age groups with varying skill levels. Trail standards to meet these needs continue to evolve. This evolution, unfortunately, has not been without conflict – most of which centers around the potentially negative impacts of motorized off-road trail use on the environment. Uncontrolled and undisciplined use of established trails poses the biggest problem. There can be serious conflicts and safety problems if equestrian riders, hikers, and bicyclists share these trails. To the degree possible, trail design should coincide with the standards being developed by regional park agencies and state resource agencies. In fact, **motorized off-road vehicles should be prohibited from using park system trails until suitable trail design standards and management practices are in place**. An alternative venue for this activity is the creation of a Special Use Area. This controlled setting may provide the most reasonable solution to this recreation activity and should be explored. The creation of this facility type through brownfield redevelopment should be explored.

APPENDIX 'C'
FUNDING SOURCES

COUNTY

Burlington County Open Space Trust Fund

The trust fund is supported by a dedicated tax of four cents per $100 of assessed valuation in any given year. This funding is estimated at about $8.6 million per year. The following 14 municipalities also have open space trust funds supported by a dedicated tax: Bordentown Twp., Eastampton, Edgewater Park, Evesham, Hainesport, Lumberton, Mansfield, Medford, Moorestown, Mt. Laurel, North Hanover, Southampton, Springfield and Westampton.

Contact: Burlington County Dept. of Resource Conservation – 856-642-3850

STATE

New Jersey voters approved a referendum in 1998 to dedicate $98 million annually in state taxes toward land preservation over a 10-year period. The Garden State Preservation Trust Act, passed in1999, allocates $55.2 million annually for Green Acres Acquisitions of open space, parks and greenway, $36.8 million annually for farmland purchases, and $6 million annually for historic preservation projects. The legislation also established the Garden State Preservation Trust, a nine-member board that receives applications and approves projects submitted by Green Acres and the State Agriculture Development Committee twice a year. This and other state administered programs are outlined below.

Programs Administered by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection

1. New Jersey Green Acres

Eligible applicants: Municipalities and counties

Eligible projects: Open space acquisition and outdoor recreational facility development

Project Categories: The Green Acres program administers four basic land preservation programs:

- State acquisition program (land preservation initiated by the State);
- Grants/Loans to municipal and county governments (to assist in specific land preservation and recreational development projects);
- Planning Incentive Grants program (provides grants/loans to county and municipal governments to fund preservation of land included in a detailed local open space preservation plan); and
- Nonprofit matching grants program (Green Acres provides nonprofit organization with a matching grant to help fund fee simple, easement purchases, or recreational development).

Contact: NJDEP Bureau of Green Trust Management – 609-984-0570

2. New Jersey Local Coastal Planning Grant Program

Eligible applicants: Municipalities and counties.

Eligible projects: Projects that promote sustainability and environmental protection in the coastal zone. The program is dependent on the availability of funds.

Contact: Dorrina Frizzera, Coastal Planning Unit, Office of Environmental Planning, NJDEP, at 609-777-3251.

3. New Jersey Office of Environmental Planning Non-point Source Pollution Control and Management Implementation (Section 319(h) Grants)

Eligible applicants: Regional comprehensive planning or health organizations and coalitions of municipal, county governments and/or local or county environmental commissions, watershed and water resource associations, nonprofit organizations

Eligible projects:

a. Category I – Management Practices
   Projects that implement BMPs which have been proven to work either in the proposed project area or in another area of similar environmental conditions
b. Category II – Education and Outreach to Critical Audiences
   Projects that provide mechanisms that teach people to implement BMPs or NPS Pollution Management Programs

Required Match: Funds in the amount equivalent to at least 20% of the total project amount required, and may consist of cash, in-kind services, or a combination of both

Contact: Kimberly Cenno, Office of Environmental Planning at 609-633-1179

4. New Jersey Office of Environmental Services Matching Grants Program

Eligible applicants: Local environmental agencies

Eligible projects: Projects that promote the protection of natural resources by documenting those resources, preparing policy recommendations to protect those resources, and by preparing and disseminating information about the ways in which the public can participate in protecting the environment. Examples of previously funded projects include: natural resource inventories, water quality studies, master plan and zoning amendments, open space plans, greenway planning, and public education programs.

Maximum grant: $2,500
Required match: At least 50%
Application Round: Typical deadline is early December for awards in following year
Contact: 609-984-0828

5. **NJDEP Clean Lakes Program**
Eligible applicants: Municipal, county and regional government agencies
Eligible projects: Projects that improve the recreational water quality at public lakes
Maximum grant: Up to 70% USEPA funding for Phase I Diagnostic Feasibility Projects; up to 50% state funding for Phase I Diagnostic Feasibility Projects. Up to 50% USEPA funding for Phase II Implementation Projects; up to 75% state funding for Phase II Implementation Projects
Application round: Typically September 1 each year
Contact: Bud Cann, Supervising Environmental Specialist, Water Monitoring Management, 609-292-0427

6. **National Recreational Trails Act Program – Administered through NJDEP, Division of Parks and Forestry, Office of Natural Lands Management**
Eligible applicants: public agencies and nonprofit organizations
Eligible projects: Trail proposal must be located on land that is publicly owned or privately owned with a government agency holding an easement or lease for public access. Projects must be completed within 3 years.
Maximum grant: $25,000
Match required: 20% of total project, may be cash or fair market value of labor or materials
Application round: Varies yearly
Contact: Office of Natural Lands Management, 609-984-1339

7. **Coastal Blue Acres Grants & Loans**
Eligible applicants: Municipalities and counties located in the coastal zone
Eligible projects: To acquire storm-damaged property for storm protection and recreation and conservation purposes
Contact: NJDEP, Bureau of Green Trust Management, 609-984-0570, grice@dep.state.nj.us

8. **Green Communities Challenge Grants 2000**
Eligible applicants: Municipal and county governments
Eligible projects: To help local government agencies implement urban and community forestry projects. These projects are provided under four themes: Program Development, Implementation, Tree Maintenance and Research Projects
Contact: Dave Johnson, NJDEP, Community Forestry Program, 609-292-2532, djohnson@dep.state.nj.us

9. **National Recreation Trails Program**
Eligible applicants: Government and non-profit landowners
Eligible projects: To provide financial assistance for developing and maintaining trails and trail facilities. Trails can be for non-motorized, multi-use and motorized purposes.
Contact: NJDEP, Natural Lands Management, 609, 984-1339

10. **New Jersey Tree Planting Grant**
Eligible applicants: Volunteers, municipal, county or state agency
Eligible projects: To positively impact local areas by planting trees on land owned or controlled by state, county or local governments. This is achieved by supporting and encouraging the development of Community Forestry Programs that will raise awareness of the benefits of trees and tree cover in the local community or county.
Contact: Dave Johnson, NJDEP, Community Forestry Program, 609-292-2532, djohnson@dep.state.nj.us

11. **NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust**
Eligible applicants: Municipalities and counties
Eligible projects: The NJ Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program offers financing at half the prevailing market interest rate for publicly owned projects that preserve and enhance water quality. Financing is available to help communities purchase land for open space preservation. Headwaters, stream corridors, wetlands and aquifer recharge areas are among the types of land that are eligible for financing.
Application round: Project sponsors should contact NJDEP before October 1 to receive financing for the following year.
Contact: NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, 609-219-8600 or NJDEP 609-292-8961, www.njeit.org

12. **1992 Dam Restoration & Inland Water Projects Loan Program**
Eligible applicants: Local government, private lake associations
Eligible projects: To provide low-interest loans to assist in the funding of dam restorations, flood control projects, water pollution control projects and water-related recreation and conservation projects.
Contact: John Ritchey, PE, NJDEP, Dam Safety Section, 609-984-0859, jritchey@dep.state.nj.us

Programs Administered by the NJ Department of Transportation

13. **Transportation Enhancements (TEA-21)**
Eligible applicants: Municipalities, counties, non-profits, State agencies
Eligible projects: TEA-21 will provide grants for the following transportation-related projects:

a. provisions for pedestrians and bicycles
b. safety and education programs for pedestrians and bicyclists
c. scenic easements or historic site acquisition
d. scenic or historic highway programs
e. landscaping and other scenic beautification
f. historic preservation
g. rehab of historic transportation buildings
h. preservation of abandoned railways corridor
i. control and removal of outdoor ads
j. archeological planning
k. environmental mitigation of storm water and auto-wildlife mortalities
l. establishment of transportation related museums.

Contact: Robert Goslin, NJDOT, Local Government Services, 609-530-3640, www.state.nj.us/dot/

14. Local Aid for Centers of Place
Eligible applicants: Centers designated by the State Planning Commission
Eligible projects: Pedestrian and bicycle facilities; scenic or historic transportation program (including waterfront access); parking and circulation management; adaptive reuse of railway corridors; landscaping/beautification of transportation related facilities; rehabilitation of transportation structures.
Contact: Robert Goslin, NJDOT, Local Government Services, 609-530-3640, www.state.nj.us/dot/

15. National Boating Infrastructure Grant Program – Administered through NJDOT, Office of Marine Resources
Eligible applicants: State, alone or in partnership with local entities
Eligible projects: Development of infrastructure for transient, non-trailerable vessels, 26 feet or more in length
Maximum grant: Tier 1 - $100,00 per state; Tier 2 - competitive
Match required: 25%
Application round: Deadline for State submission to US Fish & Wildlife Service – September 30, 2002
Contact: Melody Lee Winder, NJDOT, Office of Marine Resources, 609-530-4770

Programs Administered by the NJ Department of Community Affairs

16. Athletics for Individuals with Disabilities
Eligible applicants: Nonprofit athletic organizations
Eligible projects: To provide grants to increase the availability of athletic events for individuals with disabilities by assisting and encouraging statewide nonprofit organizations in sponsoring sports training and athletic competitions for people with disabilities.
Contact: DCA, Office of Recreation, 609-984-6654, www.state.nj.us/dca

17. Community Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities
Eligible applicants: All
Eligible projects: To provide in-service training and education to community and state agency personnel to develop, implement or improve recreation services for individuals with disabilities.
Contact: DCA, Office of Recreation, 609-292-6243, www.state.nj.us/dca

18. Recreation and Park Department Assistance
Eligible applicants: Community recreation and park departments
Eligible projects: Assist community recreation and park departments with the initiation, development, administration and management of recreation sites, resources and programming. Operates as a clearinghouse to service requests for technical assistance to local governments through available resources.
Contact: DCA, Office of Recreation, 609-292-9807, www.state.nj.us/dca

19. Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities
Eligible applicants: Municipalities and counties
Eligible projects: To provide funding assistance to local units of government for both short-term and special events and continuous recreational services for individuals with disabilities.
Contact: DCA, Office of Recreation, 609-292-9807, www.state.nj.us/dca

Historic Preservation Programs

20. Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Capital and Management Grants
Eligible applicants: County, Municipal, non-profit
Eligible projects: Grants for the planning, preservation, improvement, restoration, stabilization, rehabilitation and protection of historic properties. Must be owned by county, municipal, or tax-exempt non-profit.
Contact: Harriette Hawkins, New Jersey Historic Trust, 609-984-0473, www.njht.org

21. Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Program
Eligible applicants: County, municipal or tax-exempt non-profit
Eligible projects: Loans for the preservation, improvement, restoration, stabilization, rehabilitation and protection of historic properties.
Contact: Harriette Hawkins, New Jersey Historic Trust, 609-984-0473, www.njht.org

22. **Historic Preservation Certified Local Government Grants**
Eligible applicants: Only CLG municipalities may apply
Eligible projects: Certified local government matching grant funds may be used to promote historic preservation projects such as municipal master plan elements, historic resource reports, NJ and National register nominations and other plans for the protection of historic resources.
Contact: George Chidley, NJDEP, Historic Preservation Office, 609-984-6017, gchidley@dep.state.nj.us

23. **Grants to Support NJ History**
Eligible applicants: These programs are aimed at the promotion of NJ history Eligible projects: Four separate grant funds are available:
a. general operating support grants
b. research, publication and media grants
c. special projects grants
d. mini-grants.
Contact: Mary Murrin, NJ Historical Commission, 609-292-6062, mmurrin@admin.sos.state.nj.us

Programs Administered by the NJ Department of Corrections

24. **Paying Communities Back Program**
Eligible applicants: Municipalities, counties
Eligible projects: Provides inmate labor details in a wide variety of supervised projects. These have and may include, building of children's playgrounds, park cleanup, park restoration, and other such related activities.
Contact: Bill Freeman, DOC, Corrections, 609-984-7414

25. **Southern State Industries Program**
Eligible applicants: Municipalities
Eligible projects: Provides at minimal cost, recreational products to interested cities and towns such items as park benches, picnic tables, bird baths, storage sheds, and other standard items normally associated with public recreational facilities. The items are manufactured by the correctional facility, providing both training skills and work to inmates, while providing low cost products to government agencies for community use. A catalog and price list is available upon request.
Contact: Joe Demattea, DOC, Southern State Correctional Facility, 1-800-321-6524

Programs Administered by the NJ State Agriculture Development Committee

26. **Farmland Preservation**

The SADC administers five permanent farmland preservation programs:

- Fee Simple Purchase (SADC purchases a farm outright and resells it at public auction with agricultural deed restrictions);
- Direct State Easement Purchase (SADC purchases development rights directly from the farmer/landowner);
- County Easement Purchase (SADC provides county with grant to help fund the purchase of easement from farmer/landowner);
- Planning Incentive Grants (SADC provides municipality and/or county with grants to help fund the purchase of easements from farmers/landowners to preserve blocks of land included in a detailed local farmland preservation plan); and
- Nonprofit matching grants program (SADC provides nonprofit organization with a matching grant to help fund fee simple or easement purchases).

FEDERAL

1. **Land and Water Conservation Fund**
Eligible Applicants: State blends LWCF funds with Green Acres funding.
Eligible projects: Acquisition of land for parks and recreation; development and redevelopment of recreation and park facilities; providing riding and hiking trails; enhancing recreation access; conservation of natural resource areas.
Contact: NJDEP Green Acres, Steve Jandoli 609-984-0499; National Park Service, www.ncrc.nps.gov/lwcf,.

2. **Forest Legacy Program**
Eligible Applicants: Private forest landowners. To qualify, landowners are required to prepare a multiple resource management plan as part of the conservation easement acquisition. In addition to gains associated with the sale or donation of property rights, many landowners also benefit from reduced taxes associated with limits placed on land use.
Eligible projects: The program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forest lands. FLP helps the states develop and carry out their forest conservation plans. It encourages and supports acquisition of conservation easements, legally binding agreements transferring a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values.

Match required: The federal government may fund up to 75% of program costs, with at least 25% coming from private, state or local sources.
Contact: USDA Forest Service, Cooperative Forestry, P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20060-6090, Phone: 202-205-1469, rcooksey@fs.fed.us

3. **Wetlands Reserve Program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
Eligible applicants: Landowners (NRCS determines final eligibility)
Eligible projects: Land with the potential to contribute to desired ecosystem functions and values fitting into one of the following categories: agricultural lands with restorable wetlands, former or degraded wetlands occurring in range and forest production land, riparian areas that connect with protected wetlands along streams or other waterways, adjacent lands that will contribute significantly to the wetland functions and values, previously restored wetlands under a State or Federal restoration program, privately developed wetland areas meeting NRCS restoration standards.
Maximum grant: The program offers landowners three options to choose from when enrolling; a permanent easement, a 30 year easement, and a cost-share agreement in lieu of requiring an easement. Easement payment is for the agricultural value of the land, an established payment cap, or an amount offered by the landowner. Restoration projects are fully funded by the NRCS for permanent and 30-year easements, and are funded 50 – 75% for non-easement agreements.
Required match: 25-50% for non-easement agreements. Landowner is responsible for protecting and maintaining the wetlands within the boundaries of the easement. Public access to the easement area is not required. Acceptable uses of the land will be spelled out in detail and approved, and may include hunting, fishing, timber harvest, and haying or grazing, depending on the situation.
Application round: Ongoing, open sign-up in New Jersey began October 1, 1996
Contact: Tim Dunne, Resource Conservationist, USDA, 908-735-0733

4. **Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Grants Program**
Eligible applicants: Government agencies, school districts, colleges or universities, nonprofit organizations, and noncommercial educational broadcasting entities
Eligible activities: Include, but are not limited to: Training educators; designing and demonstrating field methods, educational practices and techniques, including assessing environmental and ecological conditions or specific environmental issues or problems; designing, demonstrating or disseminating environmental curricula; and fostering international cooperation in addressing environmental issues and problems in the United States, Canada and/or Mexico.
Maximum grant: 25% of available funds must go to small grants of $5,000 or less, maximum limit of $250,000 for any single grant.
Required match: A minimum of 25% of total cost of project required
Application round: Varies yearly
Contact: 212-637-3671

FOUNDATIONS

1. **Conservation Foundation American Greenways Dupont Award**
Eligible applicants: Primarily nonprofit organizations, although individuals and local governments may apply
Eligible projects: Mapping, assessments, surveying, conferences and design activities, printed and audio-visual interpretative materials, building paths or bridges and other creative projects
Maximum grant: $2,500
Required match: None
Application round: Applications typically due December 31 of each year
Contact: 703-525-6300

2. **Dodge Foundation**
Eligible applicants: Non-profit organizations with 501 (c)
Eligible projects: Projects that fit under the foundation's "Public Issues" category that focus on issues of sustainability, ecosystem preservation, energy conservation, pollution prevention and reduction, and environmental education and outreach that lead to enlightened environmental policy.
Maximum grant: Grants generally range from $10,000 to $100,000
Required match: None
Application round: A one-page letter of inquiry by the applicant is encouraged to determine if a project falls within the foundation's guidelines. Applications for Public Issues Grants must be post-marked by September 15 of each year.
Contact: 973-540-8442

3. **Environmental Endowment for NJ**
Eligible applicants: Preference for nonprofits with 501(c)(3) designation, but other nonprofits also eligible
Eligible projects: Research, litigation, public education and other activities that will promote the conservation, preservation and improvement of the air, land, water and other natural resources.
Maximum grant available: $20,000
Required match: None
Application round: Typically announced in November with applications due in January
Contact: Richard Sullivan, President, 609-737-9698

4. **New Jersey Conservation Foundation Matching Mini Grant Program**
Eligible applicants: Nonprofit organizations such as emerging land trust, citizen groups and greenway planning groups (organizations do not need nonprofit status)
Eligible projects: Land planning, land acquisition, conservation easements
Maximum grant available: $5,000
Required match: 50%
Application round: Typically announced in October or November, applications due 4 to 6 weeks after announcement
Contact: Beth Davison, 908-234-1225

5. **Pew Charitable Trust**
Eligible applicants: Organizations classified as nonprofit under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, and as charitable under 509(a) of that Code
Eligible projects: Projects whose goals are to reduce the use and production of highly persistent toxic substances that adversely affect the environment and public health, and projects that halt the destruction and further degradation of forest and marine ecosystems in North America.
Maximum grant: Majority of grants range from $50,000 to $250,000
Required match: None
Application round: Proposals accepted year round and reviewed on rolling basis
Contact: 1-800-634-4850

6. **Schumann Fund for New Jersey**
Eligible applicants: Non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
Eligible projects: Projects that support protection of natural resources, environmental quality and wildlife.
Maximum grant: No maximum was stated in the foundation's annual report, but precious environmental protection grants ranged from $10,000 to $80,000
Required match: None, but preference given to proposals indicating a high level of time and/or money contributed from the group to be served.
Application round: No yearly deadline; proposals are reviewed quarterly
Contact: 201-509-9883

7. **Victoria Foundation**
Eligible applicants: Non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
Eligible projects: For land acquisition – projects must be eligible for consideration by the State Green Acres Program, must have passed their initial screening process and must be in active consideration by Green Acres. Special consideration is given to projects that will protect wetlands and transition areas, farmland, critical wildlife habitats, headwaters, exceptional ecosystems, watershed lands, and aquifer recharge areas. Other eligible projects involve environmental education and leadership training, environmental research, public education and advocacy, and resource conservation in New Jersey.
Maximum grant: Land Acquisition – grants may be used toward all or part of the 50% match for Green Acres grants, usually up to $500,000. Other projects generally range from $8,000 to $50,000
Required match: Land acquisition – Green Acres; other grants – No
Application round: Ongoing
Contact: Nancy Zimmerman, 973-748-5300

8. **William Penn Foundation**
Eligible applicants: Non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status
Eligible projects: Projects that support the goals of promoting open space preservation, promoting development, maintenance and use of natural areas within the Philadelphia region, and that support environmental education
Maximum grant: Grants range from a few thousand to several million, depending on size of the organization and the scope of the project
Required match: None, but the Foundation prefers to make grants for projects that receive support from several sources and that do not depend upon the Foundation for total funding
Application round: Accepts grant requests throughout the year
Contact: Geraldine Wang, 215-988-1830

APPENDED MAPS

Map 1 – Historic & Cultural Sites in Burlington County – with Key

Map 2 – Recreation Opportunities in Burlington County

Map 3a – Environmentally Significant Regions in Burlington County

Map 3b – Environmentally Significant Regions of the Rancocas Creek

COMPANION DOCUMENTS

SCHOOR DEPALMA'S BACKGROUND REPORTS

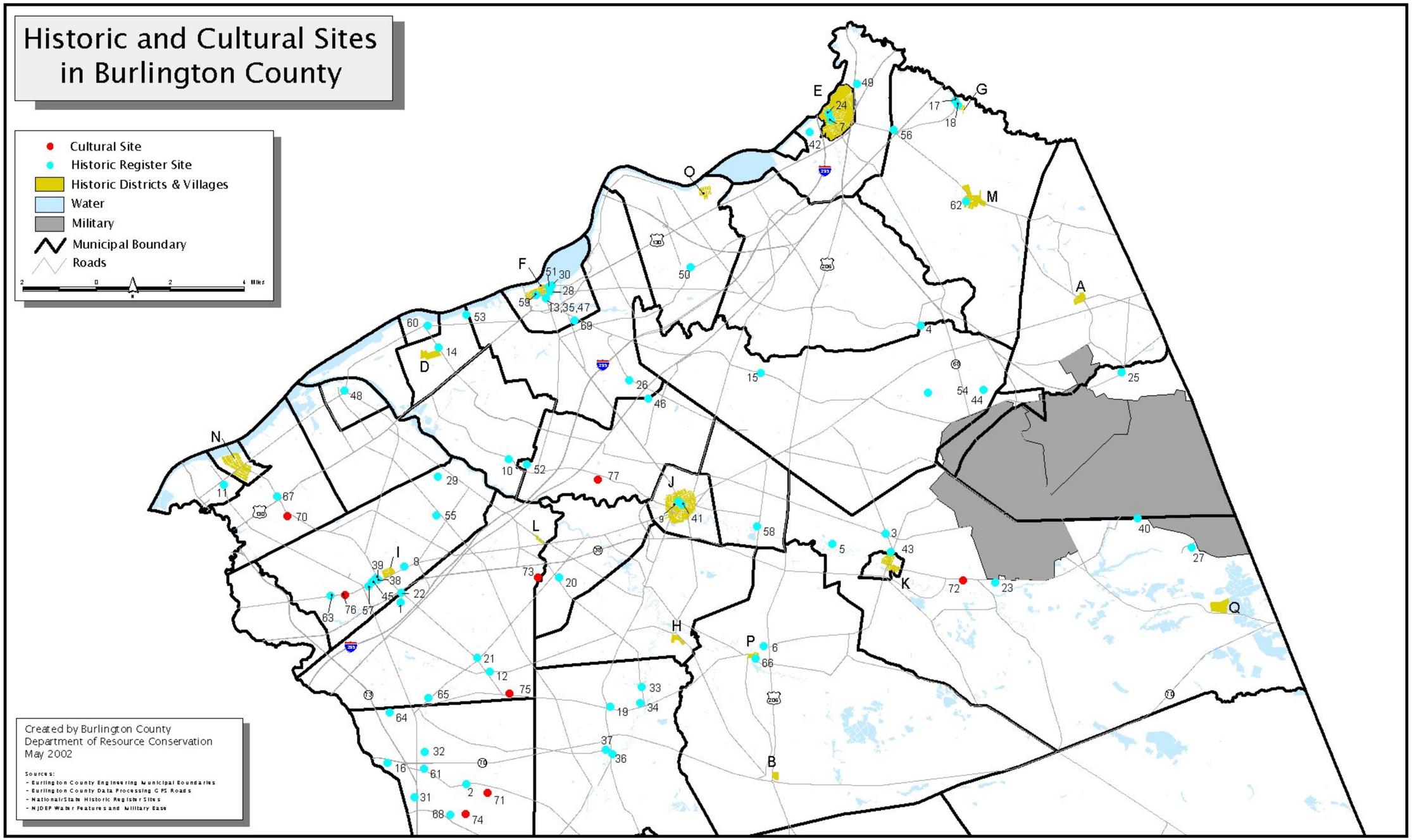
- Parks & Open Space Inventory & Needs Assessment
- Population Characteristics
- Natural Resource Inventory
- Preservation Options
- Parks & Recreation Funding Options

REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- State Development & Redevelopment Plan
- Route 130 / Delaware River Corridor Strategic Plan, October 1998
- Burlington County Open Space Strategic Plan Amendment, April 2001
- Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program Strategic Plan, September 1998
- Burlington County Farmland & Open Space Preservation Programs, Plan of Finance, Sept. 1997
- Report of the Burlington County Parks Dept., Needs Assessment Survey, Management Learning Laboratories, April 2001
- Rancocas Creek Greenway Implementation Plan for the Main Stem, DVRPC, December 1996
- 2002 DVRPC Rancocas Greenway Plan (pending)
- Delaware Valley Region of Burlington County, New Jersey Future Development Patterns, 1960

Acknowledgements:

This report was prepared by staff at the Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation with assistance from Schoor DePalma Inc., and printed on recycled paper at Burlington County College. Contributors include Tami Bozarth, Jennifer Bulava, Susan Craft, Amy Collings, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Julia Gandy, Matt Johnson, Jeff Kerchner, Larchmont Elementary School of Mt. Laurel, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Jennifer Otter, Mary Pat Robbie, Ralph Shrom, Carol Thomas, Kathy Shumway-Tunney and Laurie van Genderen.



Historic and cultural sites are designated by numbers 1-77; Historic Districts/Villages are designated by letters A-Q, corresponding to associated spreadsheets.
Note: Batsto Village (located in Washington Township) is not shown on this map.

KEY: HISTORIC and CULTURAL SITES

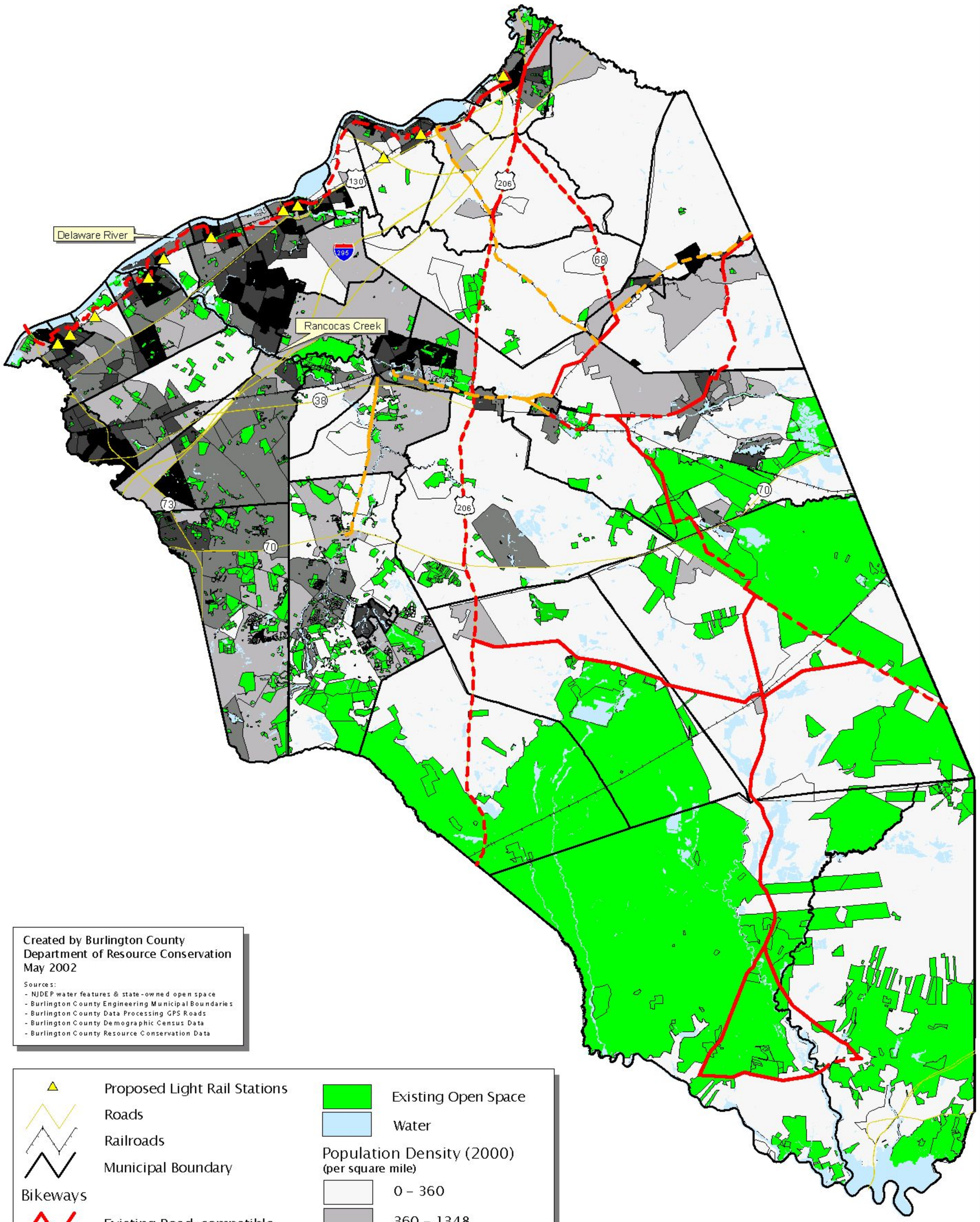
	HISTORIC SITES
1	Alice Paul Birthplace
2	Amos Evans House
3	Arney's Mount Friends Meetinghouse
4	Barzillai Newbold House
5	Birmingham School
6	Bishop-Irick Farmstead
7	Bordentown meetinghouse/museum
8	Breidenhart
9	Burlington County Prison Museum
10	Charles Stokes House
11	Cinnaminson & Spring Garden St. School
12	Colmantown Meeting House
13	Cooper House
14	Coopertown Meetinghouse
15	Copany Meetinghouse
16	Cropwell Friends Meetinghouse
17	Crosswicks (Orthodox) Meetinghouse
18	Crosswicks Meetinghouse
19	Dr. James Still Office
20	Easton Meetinghouse
21	Evesham Friends Meetinghouse
22	Farmer's Hall
23	Fenwick Manor
24	Francis Hopkinson House
25	Gen. Edward S. Godfrey House
26	Green Hill Farm
27	Hanover Furnace
28	Isaac Collins House
29	Ivins-Conover House
30	J.F. Budd Baby Shoe Factory
31	Jacob Wills House
32	John Inskeep Homestead
33	Jonathan Haines House
34	Kirby's Mill
35	Lawrence House
36	Medford (Main St) Meetinghouse
37	Medford (Union St) Meetinghouse
38	Moorestown Friends School & Meetinghouse
39	Moorestown Meetinghouse
40	Morris Mansion and Mill
41	Mount Holly Meetinghouse
42	New Jersey Manual Training and Industrial School
43	North Pemberton Railroad Station
44	Oakwood
45	Old Town Hall
46	Peachfield
47	Pearson-How House
48	Philadelphia Watch Case Company Building
49	Point Breeze
50	Providence Presbyterian Church
51	Quaker School
52	Rancocas Meetinghouse
53	Red Dragon Canoe Club
54	Rosebud Farm
55	Schoolhouse
56	Singleton-Latham-Large House
57	Smith Mansion
58	Smithville Mansion
59	St. Mary's Episcopal Church
60	St. Stevens Episcopal Church
61	Stokes-Evans House
62	Taylor-Newbold House
63	Thomas French Jr. House
64	Thomas Hollinshead House
65	Thomas Smith House
66	Vincentown Meetinghouse
67	Westfield Meetinghouse
68	William & Susan Evans House
69	William R. Allen School
	CULTURAL SITES
70	Burlington County Footlighters
71	Center for the Arts in Southern NJ
72	Creations Art Gallery
73	Creative Hang-Ups
74	Lenape Performing Arts Center
75	National Ballet of NJ
76	Perkins Center for the Arts
77	Seven Feathers Museum & Cultural Center

	HISTORIC DISTRICTS
A	Arneytown
B	Atsion Village
C	Batsto Village
D	Beverly National Cemetary
E	Bordentown Historic District
F	Burlington Historic District
G	Crosswicks
H	Eayres Plantation & Mill Site
I	Moorestown Historic District
J	Mt. Holly Historic District
K	Pemberton Historic District
L	Rancocas Historic Village
M	Recklesstown
N	Riverton Historic District
O	Roebling Historic District
P	Vincentown Historic District
Q	Whitesbog Historic District

Note: Historic sites not mapped include:

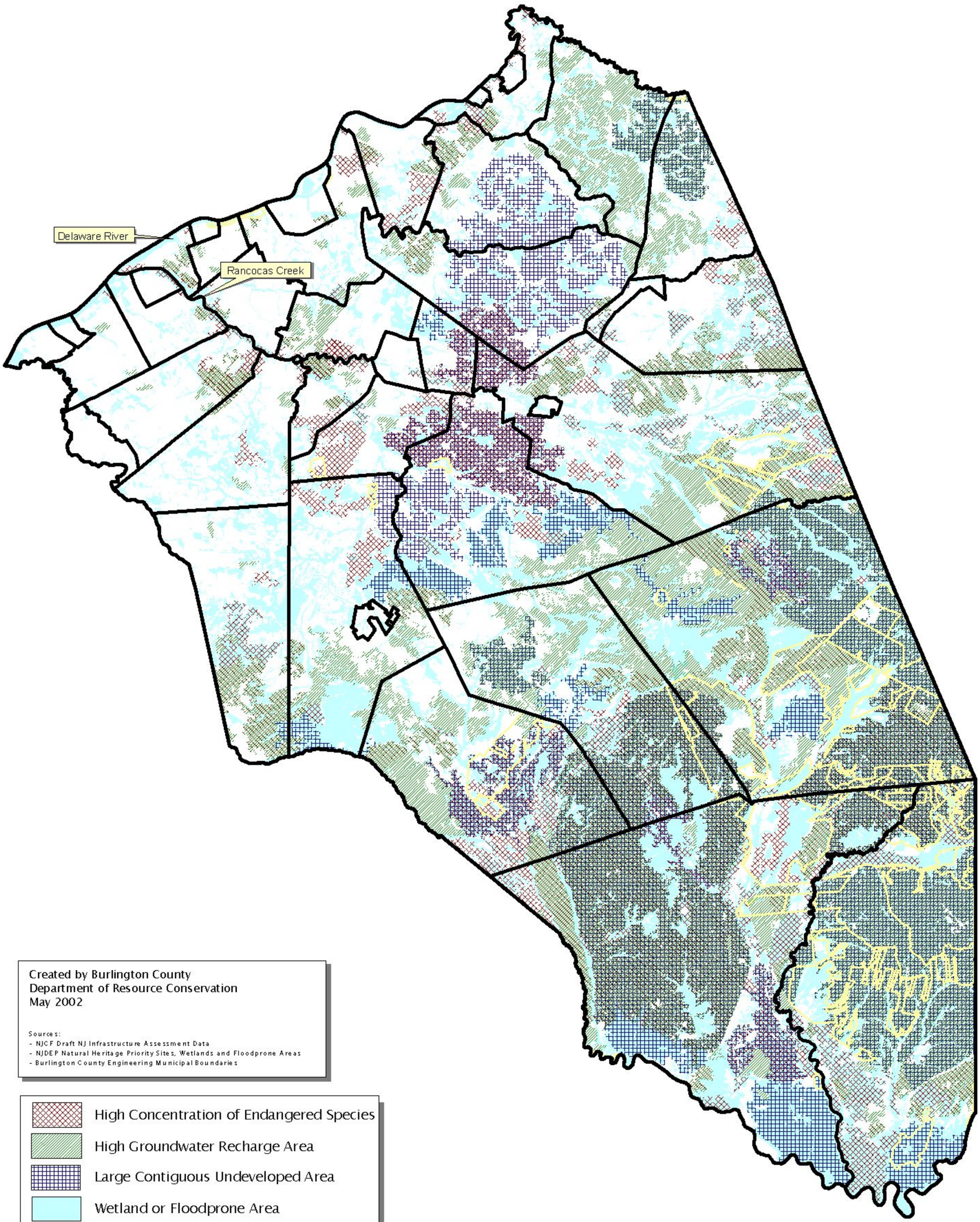
Thomas & Mary Evans House, Evesham
James & Charles B. Holloway Farm Complex, Chesterfield
William & Susannah Newbold House, Georgetown
Shamong Hotel, Chatsworth
Moorestown Town Hall
Upper Springfield Meetinghouse, Wrightstown
Crosswicks Creek Site III, Bordentown City
Bead Wreck Site, New Gretna
Benjamin Cooper Farm, Moorestown
John Irick House, Burlington
Benjamin Jones House, Pemberton

Recreation Opportunities in Burlington County

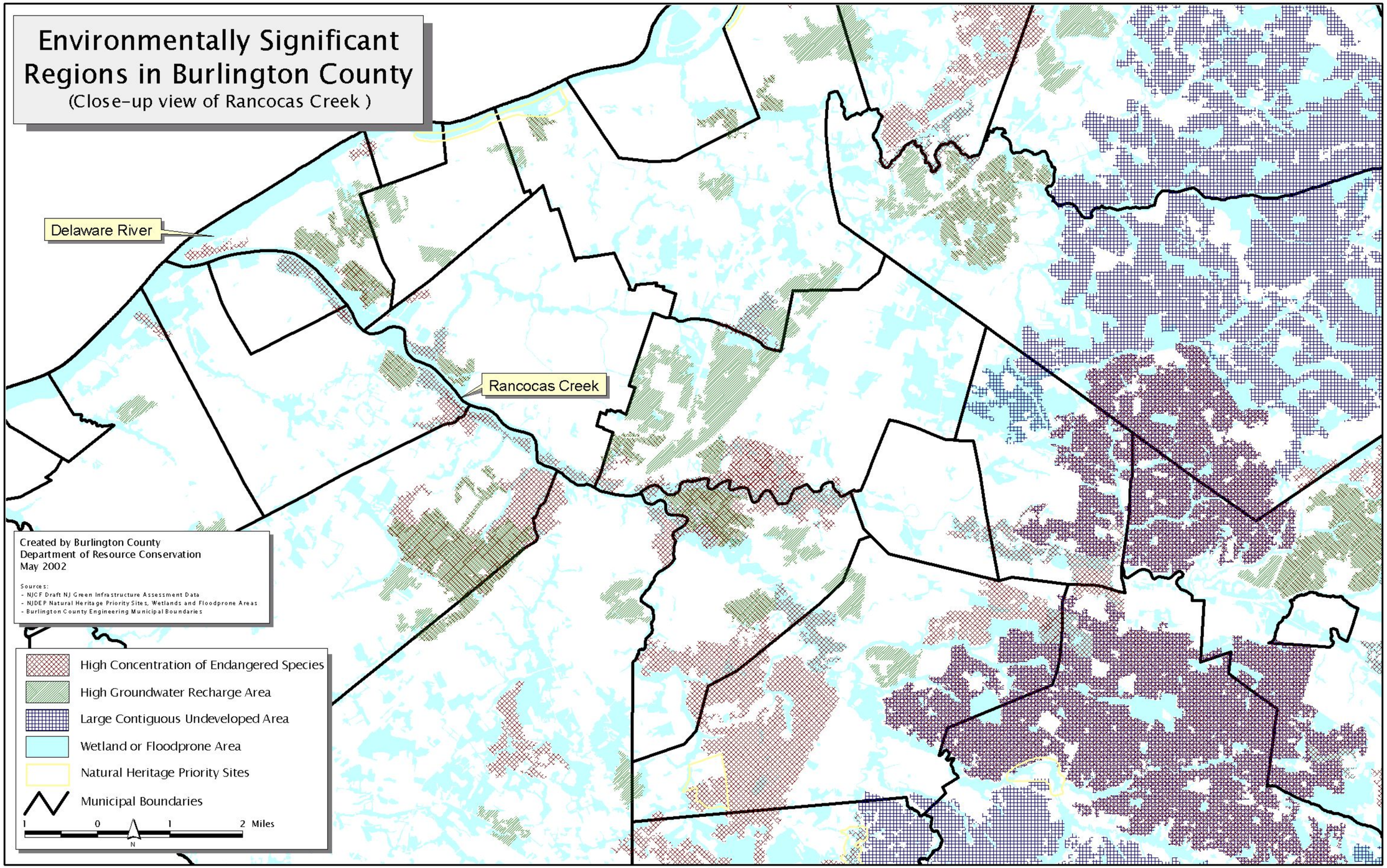


Burlington County's population centers are located in the northern and western region, however, existing passive recreational opportunities are predominantly located in the southern, sparsely populated Pinelands region of the County.

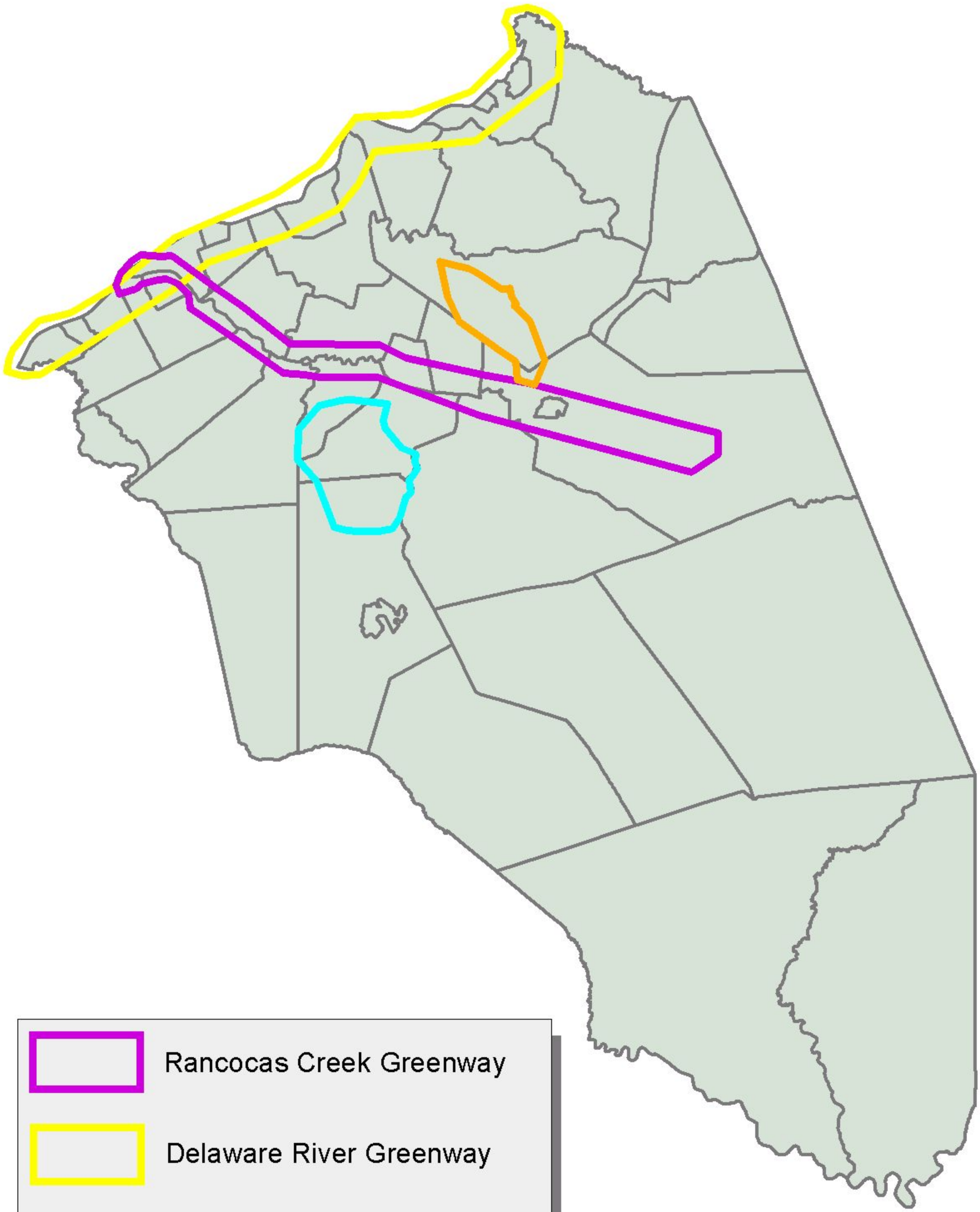
Environmentally Significant Regions in Burlington County



Environmentally sensitive lands are clustered in the Pinelands region. Heavy bands are located in Springfield and Pemberton Townships as well as along major waterways, such as the Rancocas Creek, main stem (see next map for highlights of these areas).


Environmentally Significant Regions in Burlington County
(Close-up view of Rancocas Creek)
Delaware River
Rancocas Creek
Created by Burlington County
Department of Resource Conservation
May 2002
Sources:
- NJCF Draft NJ Green Infrastructure Assessment Data
- NJDEP Natural Heritage Priority Sites, Wetlands and Floodprone Areas
- Burlington County Engineering Municipal Boundaries
High Concentration of Endangered Species
High Groundwater Recharge Area
Large Contiguous Undeveloped Area
Wetland or Floodprone Area
Natural Heritage Priority Sites
Municipal Boundaries
1 0 1 2 Miles
N

Project Areas



Rancocas Creek Greenway

Delaware River Greenway

Barker's Brook

Mason's Creek /
SW Branch Rancocas Creek

Rancocas Creek Greenway Project Area

Created by Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation
May 2002

Sources:
- NJDEP Water Features, Military, Pinelands Boundary, & state-owned open space
- ETAK Railroads
- Burlington County Engineering Municipal Boundaries
- Burlington County Data Processing Tax Lots & Roads
- Burlington County Resource Conservation Land Use Data

Pinelands Boundary
Railroad
Road
Existing Bikeway
Proposed Bikeway

Rancocas Greenway Project Area
Delaware River Greenway Project Area
Mason's Creek/SW Branch Rancocas Creek Project Area
Barker's Brook Project Area

Farmland Preservation Program
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

Open Space Preservation Program
Parcels Proposed*
Parcels Preserved

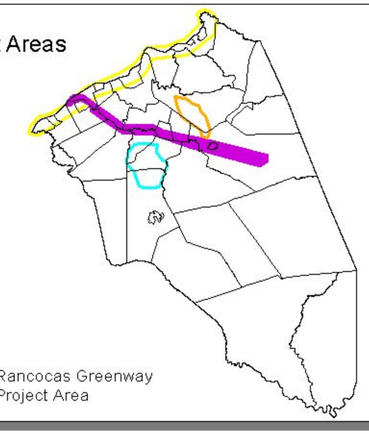
Private, Non-Profit, State and Federal Preservation
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

Water
Military

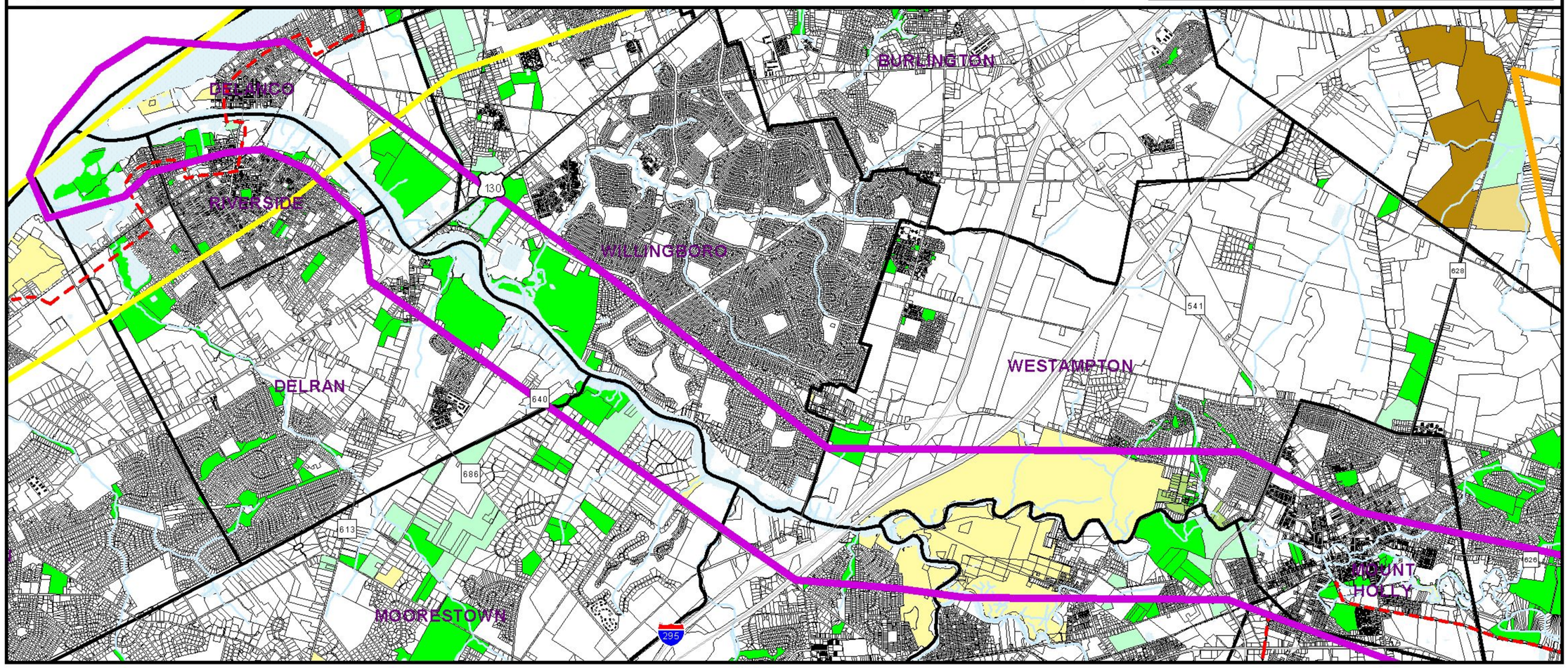
N

1 0 1 Miles

Project Areas



Rancocas Greenway Project Area



*Note: Proposed open space parcels illustrate municipal initiatives submitted to Burlington County as part of open space plans. These parcels are considered for possible cost-share as part of the Local Open Space Program.

Rancocas Creek Greenway Project Area

Created by Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation
May 2002

Sources:
- NJDEP Water Features, Military, Pinelands Boundary, & state-owned open space
- ETAK Railroads
- Burlington County Engineering Municipal Boundaries
- Burlington County Data Processing Tax Lots & Roads
- Burlington County Resource Conservation Land Use Data

Pinelands Boundary
Railroad
Road
Existing Bikeway
Proposed Bikeway

Rancocas Greenway Project Area
Delaware River Greenway Project Area
Mason's Creek/SW Branch Rancocas Creek Project Area
Barker's Brook Project Area

Farmland Preservation Program
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

Open Space Preservation Program
Parcels Proposed*
Parcels Preserved

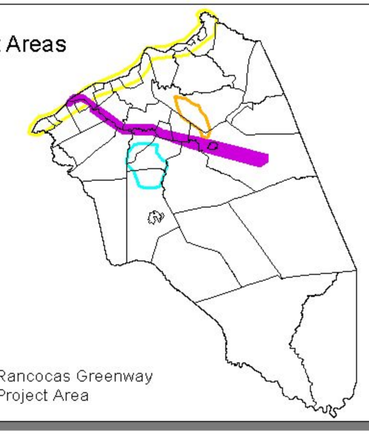
Private, Non-Profit, State and Federal Preservation
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

Water
Military

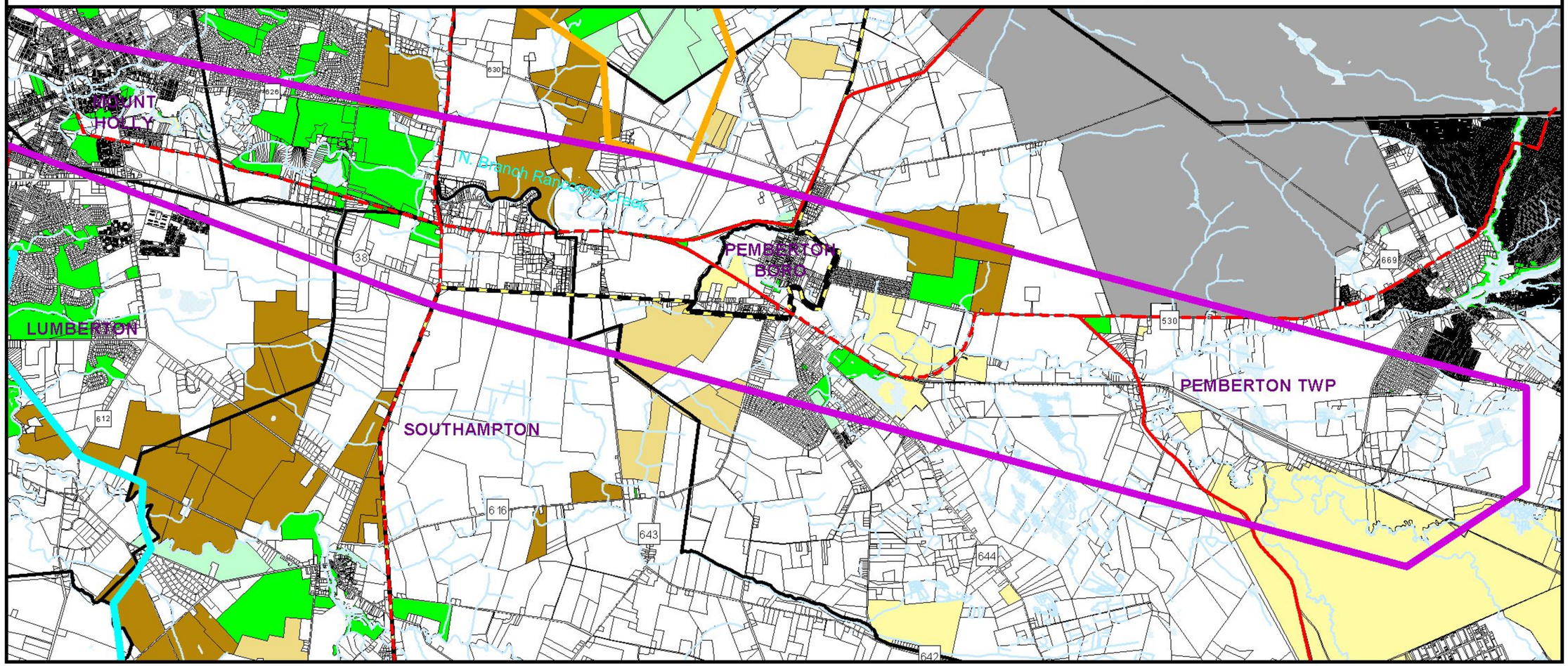
N

1 0 1 Miles

Project Areas



Rancocas Greenway Project Area



*Note: Proposed open space parcels illustrate municipal initiatives submitted to Burlington County as part of open space plans. These parcels are considered for possible cost-share as part of the Local Open Space Program.

Delaware River Greenway Project Area (Map 2 of 2)

Created by Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation
May 2002

Sources:
- NJDEP Water Features, Military, Pinelands Boundary, & state-owned open space
- ETAK Railroads
- Burlington County Engineering Municipal Boundaries
- Burlington County Data Processing Tax Lots & Roads
- Burlington County Resource Conservation Land Use Data

Pinelands Boundary
Railroad
Road
Existing Bikeway
Delaware River Heritage Trail

Rancocas Greenway Project Area
Delaware River Greenway Project Area
Mason's Creek/SW Branch Rancocas Creek Project Area
Barker's Brook Project Area

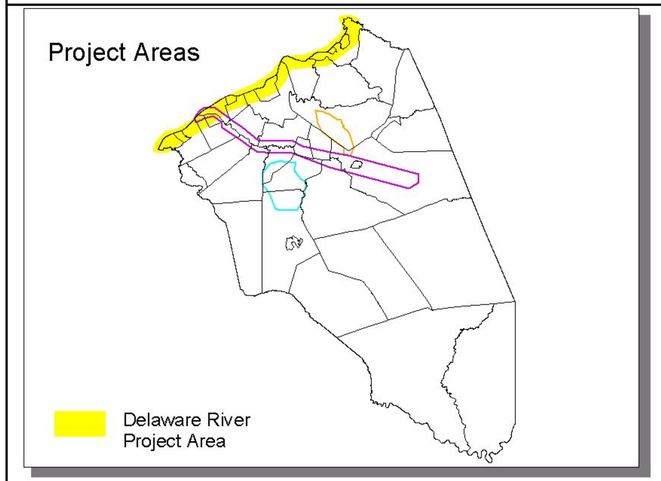
Farmland Preservation Program
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

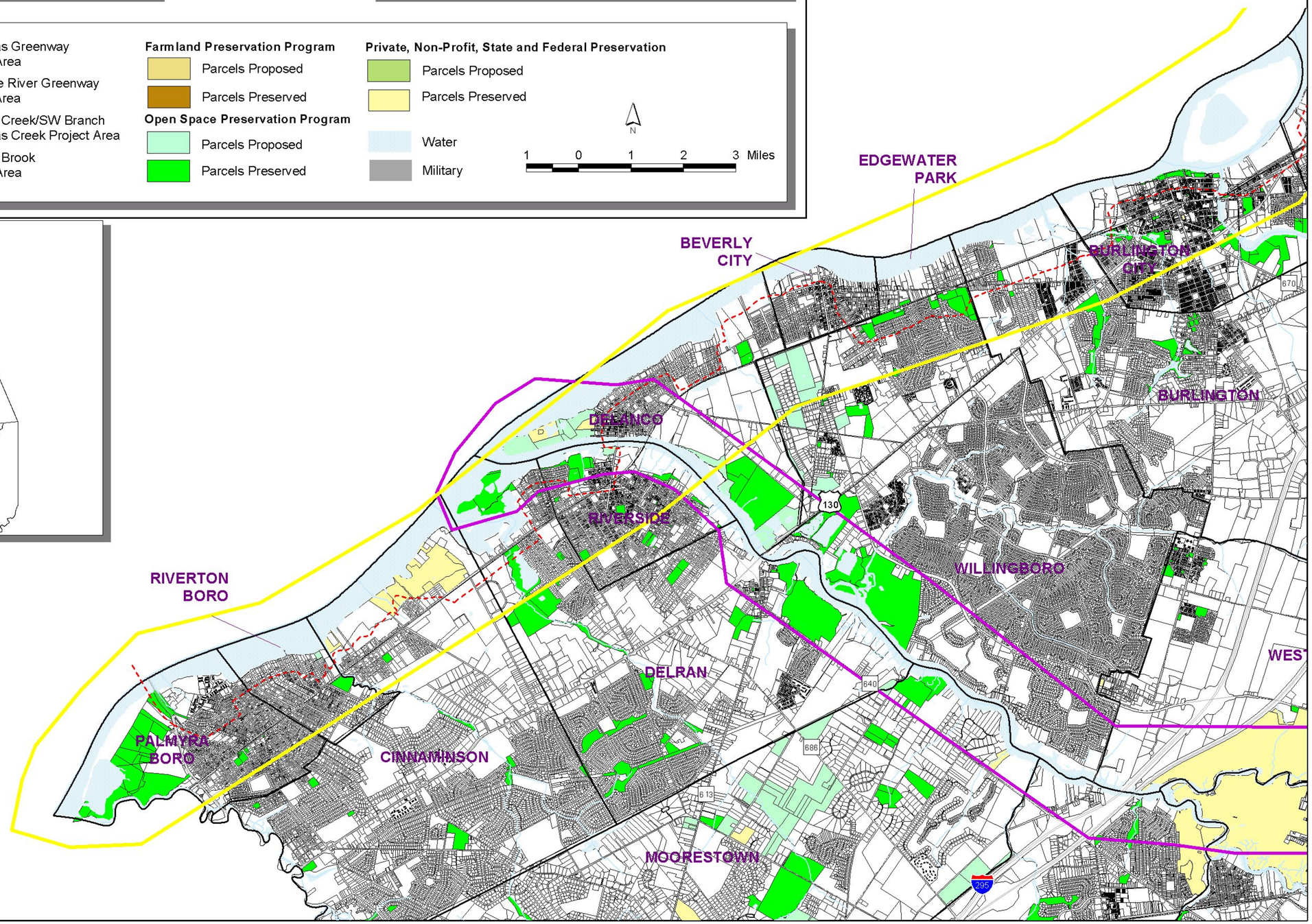
Open Space Preservation Program
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

Private, Non-Profit, State and Federal Preservation
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved
Water
Military

N

1 0 1 2 3 Miles





Delaware River Greenway Project Area (Map 1 of 2)

Created by Burlington County Department of Resource Conservation
May 2002

Sources:
- NJDEP Water Features, Military, Pinelands Boundary, & state-owned open space
- ETAK Railroads
- Burlington County Engineering Municipal Boundaries
- Burlington County Data Processing Tax Lots & Roads
- Burlington County Resource Conservation Land Use Data

Pinelands Boundary
Railroad
Road
Existing Bikeway
Delaware River Heritage Trail

Rancocas Greenway Project Area
Delaware River Greenway Project Area
Mason's Creek/SW Branch Rancocas Creek Project Area
Barker's Brook Project Area

Farmland Preservation Program
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

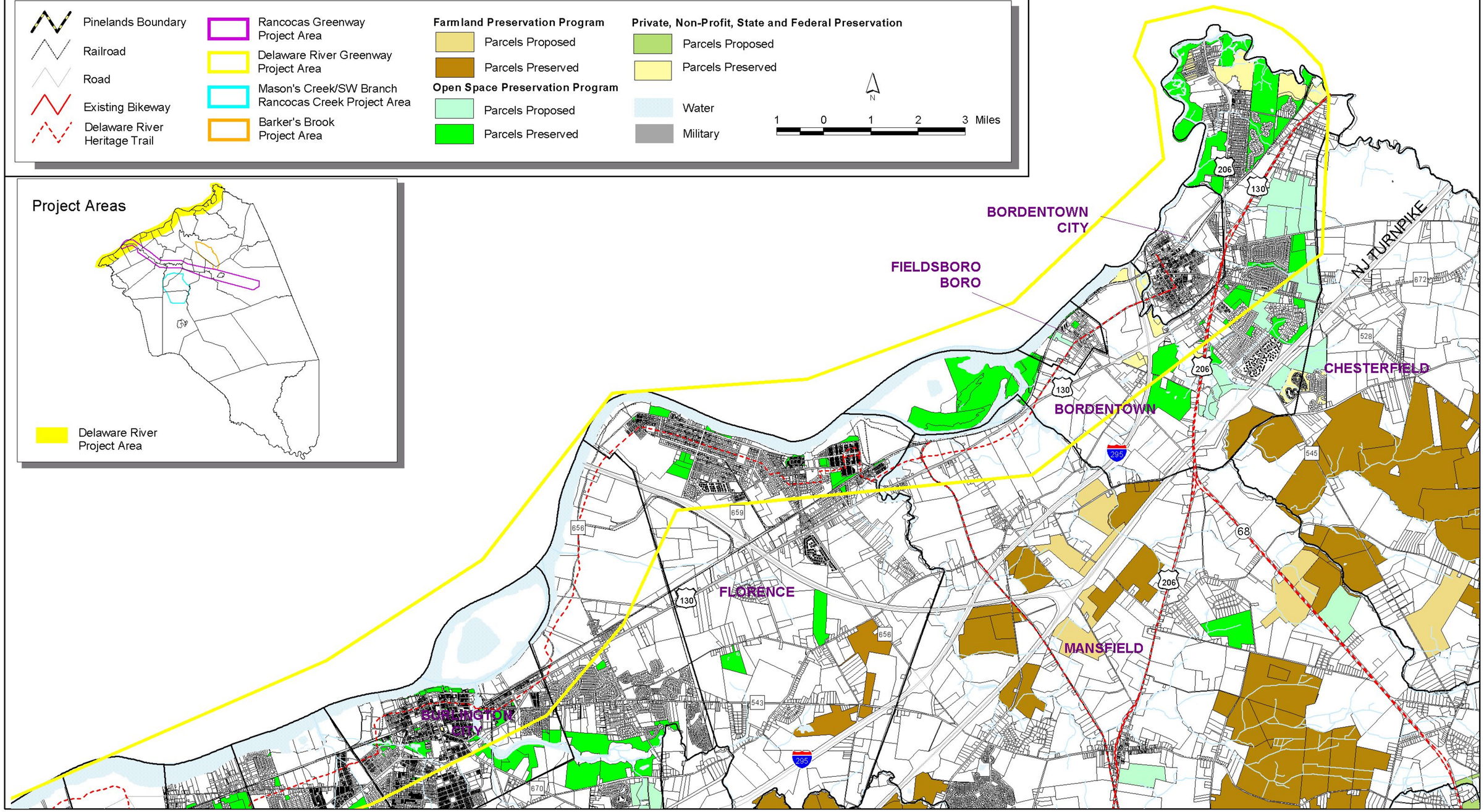
Open Space Preservation Program
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

Private, Non-Profit, State and Federal Preservation
Parcels Proposed
Parcels Preserved

Water
Military

N

1 0 1 2 3 Miles



Barker's Brook Project Area

Created by Burlington County
Department of Resource Conservation
May 2002

Sources:
- NJDEP Water Features, Pinelands Boundary, & state-owned open space
- ETAK Railroads
- Burlington County Engineering Municipal Boundaries
- Burlington County Data Processing Tax Lots & Roads
- Burlington County Resource Conservation Data

MANSFIELD
SPRINGFIELD
EASTAMPTON
MOUNT HOLLY
PEMBERTON BORO
Barkers Brook
295
206
628
537
669
684
630
626
38

Farmland Preservation Program
- Parcels Proposed
- Parcels Preserved

Open Space Preservation Program
- Parcels Proposed*
- Parcels Preserved

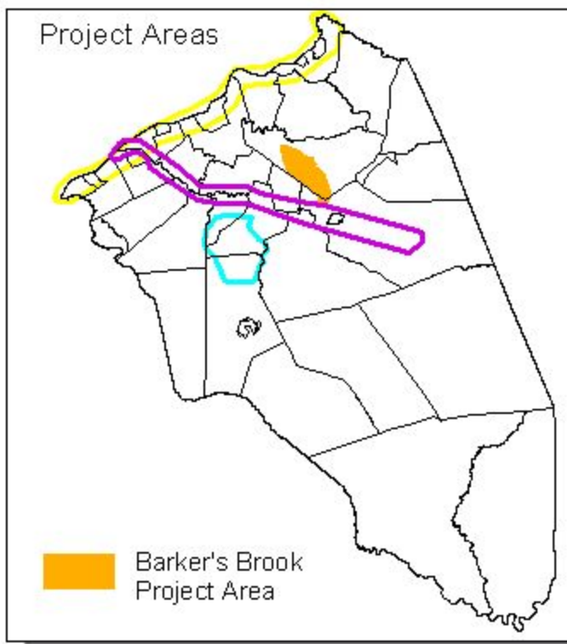
Private, Non-Profit, State and Federal Preservation
- Parcels Proposed
- Parcels Preserved

- Pinelands Boundary
- Railroad
- Road
- Existing Bikeway
- Proposed Bikeway
- Water
- Military

- Barker's Brook Project Area
- Rancocas Greenway Project Area
- Delaware River Greenway Project Area
- Mason's Creek/SW Branch Rancocas Creek Project Area

1 0 1 2 Miles
N

Project Areas



Barker's Brook Project Area

*Note: Proposed open space parcels illustrate municipal initiatives submitted to Burlington County as part of open space plans. These parcels are considered for possible cost-share as part of the Local Open Space Program.

Mason's Creek/Rancocas Creek, Southwest Branch Project Area

Created by Burlington County
Department of Resource Conservation
May 2002

Sources:
- NJDEP Water Features, Pinelands Boundary, & state-owned open space
- ETAK Railroads
- Burlington County Engineering Municipal Boundaries
- Burlington County Data Processing Tax Lots & Roads
- Burlington County Resource Conservation Data

EASTAMPTON
MOUNT HOLLY
HAINESPORT
LUMBERTON
MEDFORD

Farmland Preservation Program
- Parcels Proposed
- Parcels Preserved

Open Space Preservation Program
- Parcels Proposed*
- Parcels Preserved

Private, Non-Profit, State and Federal Preservation
- Parcels Proposed
- Parcels Preserved

- Pinelands Boundary
- Railroad
- Road
- Existing Bikeway
- Proposed Bikeway
- Water
- Military

- Barker's Brook Project Area
- Rancocas Greenway Project Area
- Delaware River Greenway Project Area
- Mason's Creek/SW Branch Rancocas Creek Project Area

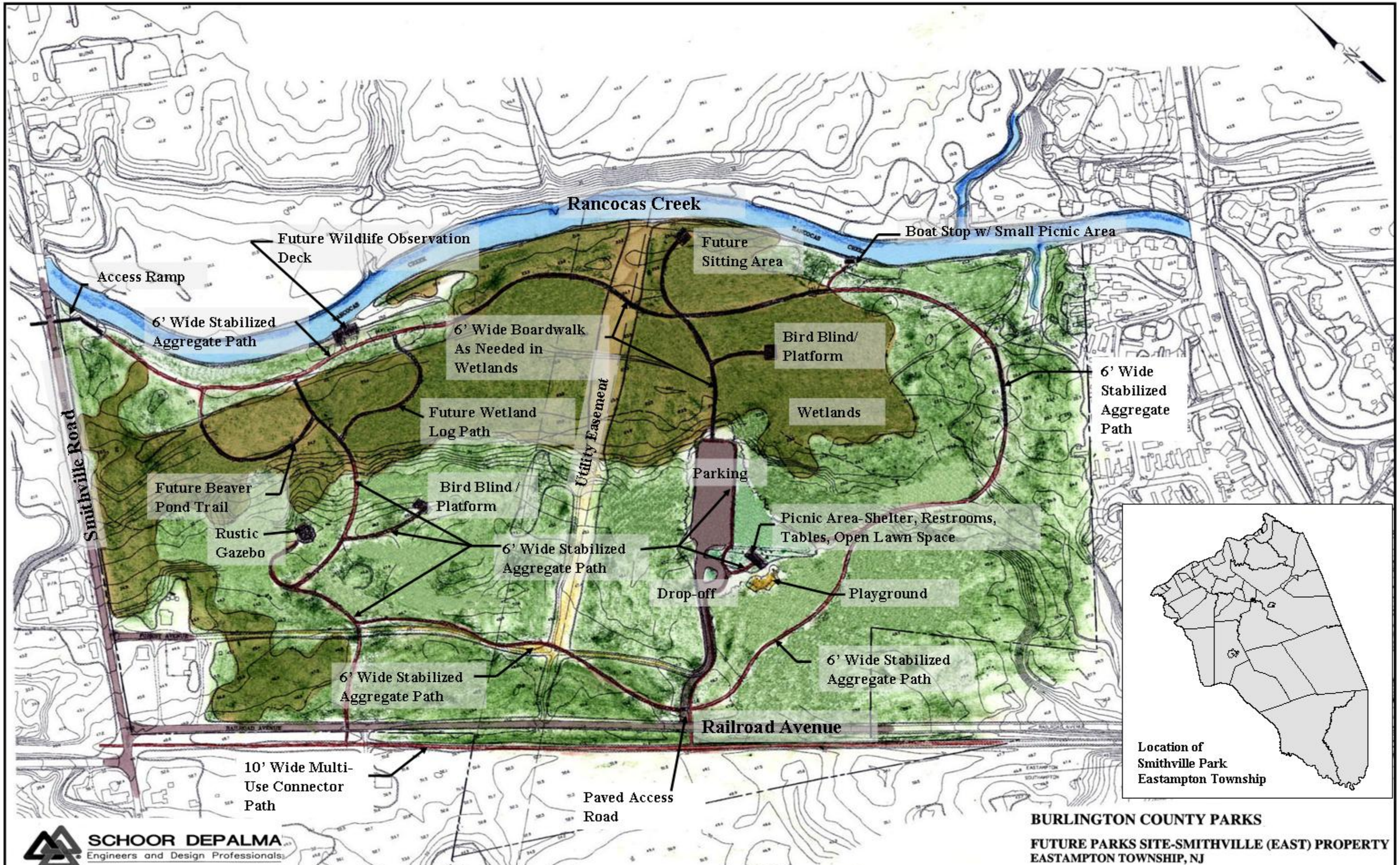
1 0 1 2 Miles

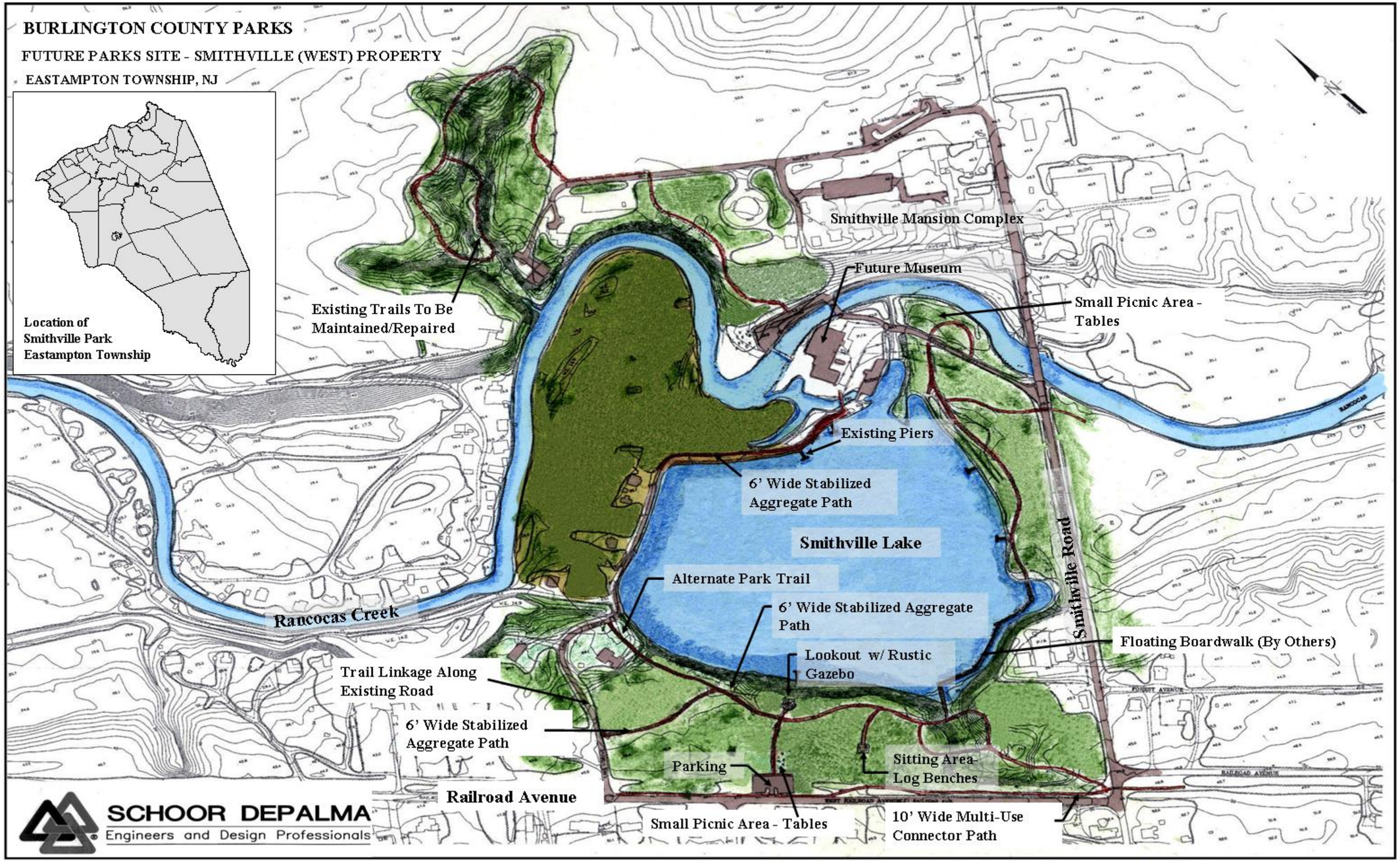
N

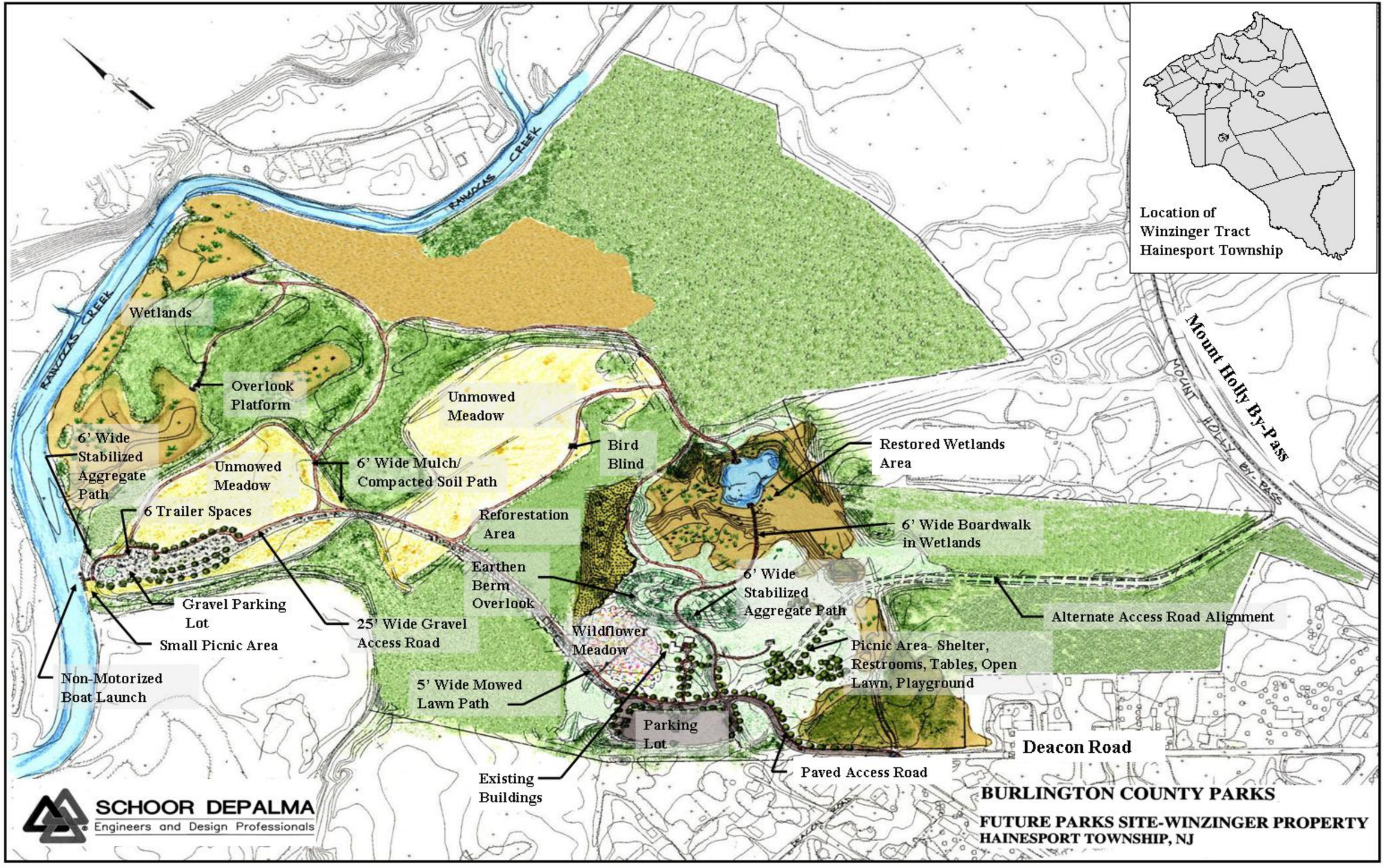
Project Areas

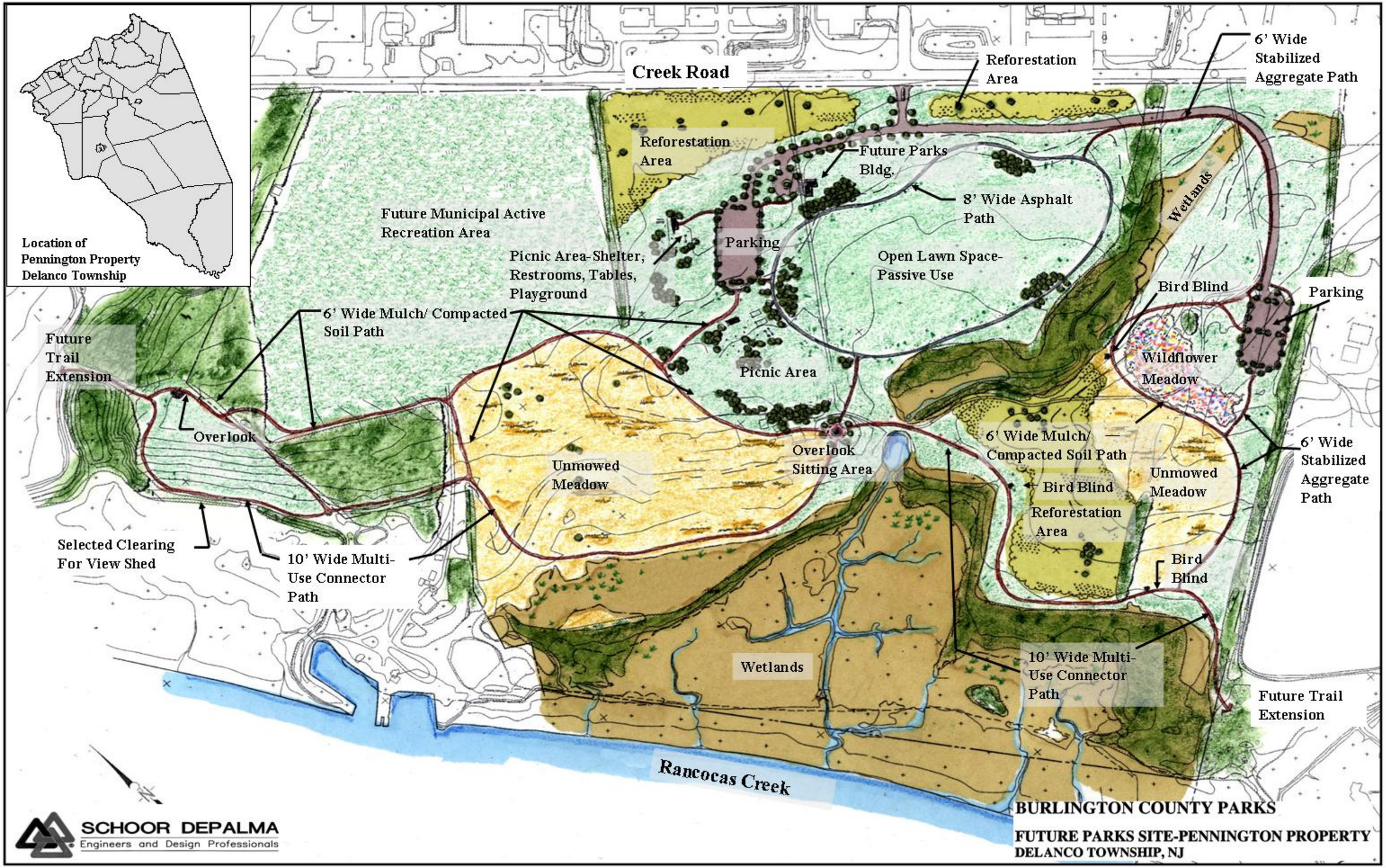
Mason's Creek/SW Branch Rancocas Creek Project Area

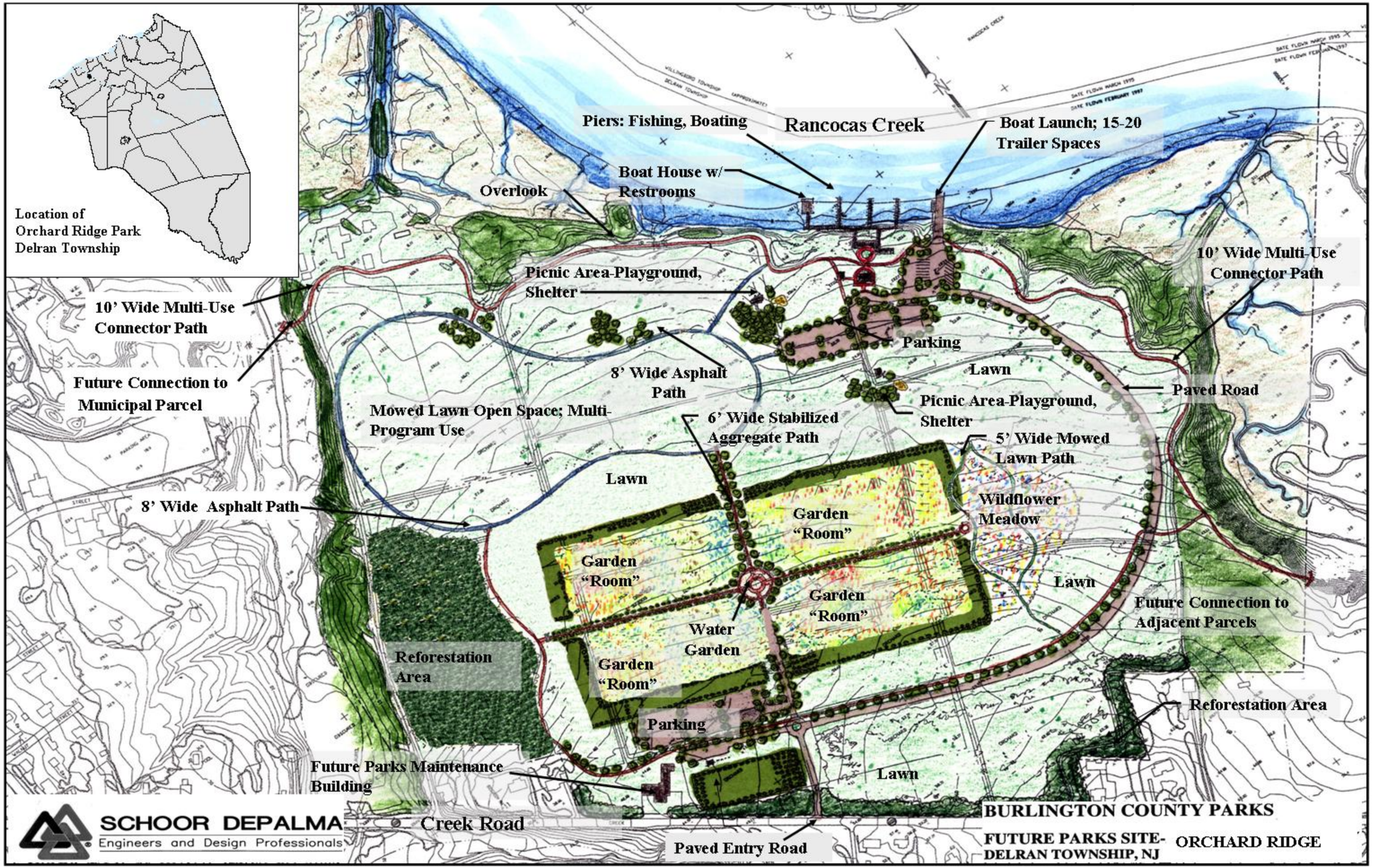
*Note: Proposed open space parcels illustrate municipal initiatives submitted to Burlington County as part of open space plans. These parcels are considered for possible cost-share as part of the Local Open Space Program.


Rancocas Creek
Future Wildlife Observation Deck
Access Ramp
6' Wide Stabilized Aggregate Path
6' Wide Boardwalk As Needed in Wetlands
Future Sitting Area
Boat Stop w/ Small Picnic Area
Bird Blind/ Platform
6' Wide Stabilized Aggregate Path
Wetlands
Future Wetland Log Path
Utility Easement
Smithville Road
Parking
Future Beaver Pond Trail
Bird Blind / Platform
Rustic Gazebo
6' Wide Stabilized Aggregate Path
Picnic Area-Shelter, Restrooms, Tables, Open Lawn Space
Drop-off
Playground
6' Wide Stabilized Aggregate Path
6' Wide Stabilized Aggregate Path
Railroad Avenue
10' Wide Multi-Use Connector Path
Paved Access Road
Location of Smithville Park Eastampton Township
SCHOOR DEPALMA
Engineers and Design Professionals
BURLINGTON COUNTY PARKS
FUTURE PARKS SITE-SMITHVILLE (EAST) PROPERTY
EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP, NJ


BURLINGTON COUNTY PARKS
FUTURE PARKS SITE - SMITHVILLE (WEST) PROPERTY
EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP, NJ
Location of Smithville Park Eastampton Township
Existing Trails To Be Maintained/Repaired
Smithville Mansion Complex
Future Museum
Small Picnic Area - Tables
Existing Piers
6' Wide Stabilized Aggregate Path
Smithville Lake
Alternate Park Trail
6' Wide Stabilized Aggregate Path
Rancocas Creek
Smithville Road
Floating Boardwalk (By Others)
Lookout w/ Rustic Gazebo
Trail Linkage Along Existing Road
6' Wide Stabilized Aggregate Path
Parking
Sitting Area- Log Benches
Railroad Avenue
Small Picnic Area - Tables
10' Wide Multi-Use Connector Path
SCHOOR DEPALMA
Engineers and Design Professionals


Location of
Winzinger Tract
Hainesport Township
RANCOCAS CREEK
RANCOCAS CREEK
Wetlands
Overlook
Platform
Unmowed
Meadow
6' Wide
Stabilized
Aggregate
Path
Unmowed
Meadow
6' Wide Mulch/
Compacted Soil Path
Bird
Blind
Restored Wetlands
Area
6 Trailer Spaces
Reforestation
Area
6' Wide Boardwalk
in Wetlands
Earthen
Berm
Overlook
6' Wide
Stabilized
Aggregate Path
Gravel Parking
Lot
25' Wide Gravel
Access Road
Small Picnic Area
Wildflower
Meadow
Alternate Access Road Alignment
Picnic Area- Shelter,
Restrooms, Tables, Open
Lawn, Playground
Non-Motorized
Boat Launch
5' Wide Mowed
Lawn Path
Parking
Lot
Existing
Buildings
Paved Access Road
Deacon Road
Mount Holly By-Pass
MOUNT HOLLY BY-PASS
SCHOOR DEPALMA
Engineers and Design Professionals
BURLINGTON COUNTY PARKS
FUTURE PARKS SITE-WINZINGER PROPERTY
HAINESPORT TOWNSHIP, NJ


Location of
Pennington Property
Delanco Township
Creek Road
Reforestation
Area
6' Wide
Stabilized
Aggregate Path
Reforestation
Area
Future Parks
Bldg.
8' Wide Asphalt
Path
Wetlands
Future Municipal Active
Recreation Area
Parking
Picnic Area-Shelter,
Restrooms, Tables,
Playground
Open Lawn Space-
Passive Use
Bird Blind
Parking
6' Wide Mulch/ Compacted
Soil Path
Future
Trail
Extension
Picnic Area
Wildflower
Meadow
Overlook
Overlook
Sitting Area
6' Wide Mulch/
Compacted Soil Path
6' Wide
Stabilized
Aggregate
Path
Unmowed
Meadow
Bird Blind
Unmowed
Meadow
Reforestation
Area
Selected Clearing
For View Shed
10' Wide Multi-
Use Connector
Path
Bird
Blind
Wetlands
10' Wide Multi-
Use Connector
Path
Future Trail
Extension
Rancocas Creek
SCHOOR DEPALMA
Engineers and Design Professionals
BURLINGTON COUNTY PARKS
FUTURE PARKS SITE-PENNINGTON PROPERTY
DELANCO TOWNSHIP, NJ


Location of
Orchard Ridge Park
Delran Township
Rancocas Creek
Piers: Fishing, Boating
Boat Launch; 15-20
Trailer Spaces
Boat House w/
Restrooms
Overlook
Picnic Area-Playground,
Shelter
10' Wide Multi-Use
Connector Path
10' Wide Multi-Use
Connector Path
Future Connection to
Municipal Parcel
8' Wide Asphalt
Path
Parking
Lawn
Paved Road
Picnic Area-Playground,
Shelter
Mowed Lawn Open Space; Multi-
Program Use
6' Wide Stabilized
Aggregate Path
5' Wide Mowed
Lawn Path
Lawn
Wildflower
Meadow
8' Wide Asphalt Path
Garden
"Room"
Garden
"Room"
Lawn
Garden
"Room"
Future Connection to
Adjacent Parcels
Water
Garden
Reforestation
Area
Garden
"Room"
Reforestation Area
Parking
Future Parks Maintenance
Building
Lawn
SCHOOR DEPALMA
Engineers and Design Professionals
Creek Road
Paved Entry Road
BURLINGTON COUNTY PARKS
FUTURE PARKS SITE-
DELRAN TOWNSHIP, NJ
ORCHARD RIDGE