

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

Evesham Township

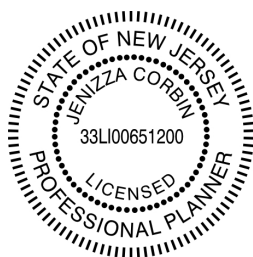
Burlington County, New Jersey

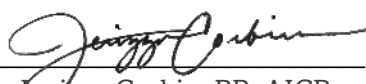
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Adopted by Evesham Township Planning Board on December 5, 2023.

Resolution 2023-PB-20




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This plan was created through a comprehensive planning effort involving various Township officials, staff, residents, and consultants that seek to improve upon the existing network of parks and recreational facilities and further supplement environmental conservation efforts within Evesham Township.

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Figure 1. Black Run Preserve
Source: <https://blackrun.org/>

SECTION 1.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL), N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28, outlines the contents of a municipal master plan with the purpose to guide the proper use of lands within a municipality in a manner that protects the public health and safety and promotes the general welfare. A recreation plan illustrating the comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation is identified as an optional master plan element. An Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) provides a snapshot of existing conditions and identifies issues and opportunities for passive and active recreation and open space preservation. The purpose of this plan is to not only identify issues but offer strategies and framework to address them.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP's) Green Acres Program defines an OSRP to be "...a local government's vision of open space and recreation. It should establish a philosophical and practical justification for the protection and preservation of open space and recreation opportunities. An OSRP provides a framework for implementation. Through an OSRP, you identify and examine open space and recreation resources important to you and lay out ways to protect and enjoy them" (OSRP Guidelines by Green Acres Program, 2019).

This OSRP was prepared in accordance with the guidelines and requirements of NJDEP's Green Acres Program. It includes an inventory of existing conditions, needs analysis, resource assessment, goals, objectives, and action plan to direct the Township's policies and decision making regarding open space and recreation. An update to this plan was completed through a comprehensive effort of various Township elected officials, staff members, residents, consultants, and community groups. The action items identified in this plan will help guide the Township achieve its established goals and objectives.

Evesham Township has a long history of support for preservation of open space, natural resources and rural character as demonstrated in its planning and policy documents. The goals and objectives for open space and recreation focus on protecting and preserving the Township's natural resources, its agricultural heritage, and scenic views, and on expanding and connecting preserved open space and providing recreational opportunities for Township residents.

The plan greatly builds upon the 2012 OSRP goals and objectives and action items, including the focus preservation areas for acquisition. Additional parcels have been identified with this OSRP update for potential park and open space preservation based on criteria including the size of the parcel, proximity

to and potential for connections with preserved open space and/or farmland, presence of ecological resources and/or agricultural soils, and location outside the Pinelands Preservation Area. Focus areas for preservation and conservation include the Headwaters Area, Southern Forest, and East-West Connector Area. These areas were identified as meriting preservation, using whatever funding sources can be accessed and the municipal tools that are available to Evesham. The Township also identifies four greenways, the Southwest Branch Rancocas Greenway, Barton Run Greenway, Haynes Run Greenway, and the Mullica Greenway. These greenways provide important habitat for wildlife, stream waters protection, flood prevention, and waterways and trails connections.

Acquisition of open space preservation and parks improvements will continue to be the focus for the Township to provide quality active and passive recreation and habitat and resource conservation. The Township has a strong program providing recreational opportunities through public spaces and corridors, public schools, development restricted properties, quasi-public and private recreational facilities, and community group sponsored activities and programs. Recreation sites and preserved forest land within the Township are rich recreational resources, including the many acres of high-value Pinelands habitat with pristine waterways and many documented threatened and endangered species of plants and animals.

The Township's recent achievements since the 2012 OSRP speak to their dedication in protecting the environment and improving its residents' quality of life. Most notable achievements by the Township include the following:

- Acquisition of the 176-acre 477 N Elmwood property (former Beagle Club) and development of conceptual passive park design in 2021-2022.
- A referendum to increase the open space levy in June 2021 for the purposes of preserving and acquiring open space and recreational properties.
- Preservation of the 387 Evesboro-Medford Road property in 2022.
- Construction and completion of the multi-use platform in Evesboro Downs in 2021.
- Completion of the Evesboro Down Phase 1 improvements in 2022, which includes water, sewer, power and addition of new parking lot and base pad for hard standing restrooms.
- Design completion for the proposed improvements of the Indian Springs Country Club Driving Range, which include demolition of the existing driving range Pro Shop and construction of a new driving range Pro Shop. Site improvements will include access, parking, grading, utility connection, lighting, and landscaping. The project is currently out for bid.
- Installation of first public electric vehicle charging station at the Municipal Building.
- Approval of the reconditioning of M2 Field beginning in the summer of 2023.

- Establishment of the 2021 Evesham Parks Inventory and Assessment report, which received an award from the New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers (NJSME).
- Recipient of the 2021-2022 for the Inclusive Healthy Communities (IHC) Grant Program.
- Adoption of the following community plans: Environmental Resources Inventory (2018 update), Evesham 2021 Downtown Vision Plan, Reexamination and Master Plan Amendment (2022), Municipal Stormwater Management Plan (2021 update).
- Redevelopment designation for the landfill site at 540 and 545 Tomlinson Mill Road. Adoption of the municipally prepared Evesham Landfill Solar Energy Redevelopment Plan (Ord# 18-3-2023; 8/9/2023) to repurpose the old landfill into a productive solar facility that contributes the overall community. Goals and Objectives of the plan include but are not limited to:
 - Promote sustainability throughout the Township of Evesham through the establishment of a renewable energy source within the Township.
 - Enhance the economic well-being of the Township of Evesham by establishing an additional source of revenue.
 - Incorporate the use of bio-diverse and drought-resistant native grasses, shrubs, and pollinators which contribute to and support the sensitive environmental ecosystems of the Pinelands Region and Black Run Preserve.
- In 2021 following a comprehensive community outreach effort the Township Planning Board adopted the 2021 Evesham Township Downtown Vision Plan (DTVP) as a sub plan element to the municipal land use plan element of the Master Plan. One of the key elements the 2021 DTVP is a concept plan that highlights opportunities to enhance and expand civic event spaces at the center of the downtown area. The 2021 DTVP includes guidelines to facilitate transforming the historic downtown area into a vibrant center.
- Adoption of a resolution (Resolution No. 265-2023) designating the Township as a Bee City USA® Affiliate, designating the Township Manager or his/her designee, as a Bee City USA Liaison, and assigning the facilitation of the program to the Environmental Commission. The mission of the program is to “...galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world’s flowering plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides.”
- The Marlton Lakes Nature Community aims to be a registered community habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. Thus, the Township provided its support to achieve this goal by issuing a letter of support to the Marlton Lakes Nature Community.

The OSRP concludes with an action plan to help guide implementation of the Township’s goals and objectives for open space and recreation. Ultimately, the development of this plan, and the Township

governing body's commitment to carry out the Plan, are essential to maintaining Evesham Township's character and to preserving and improving the quality of life for its residents.

Throughout the OSRP planning process, the Township held four community-wide public meetings and several stakeholder meetings between the Mayor and Township Council, Township Manager, Departments of Recreation and Community Development, Planning Board, Evesham Environmental Commission, Friends of Black Run Preserve, Marlton Recreation Council, and the public, as well as meetings with the Planning Board Subcommittee. The development of the mapping for this OSRP was completed with the assistance from the stewardship grant funding from Atlantic City Electric (ACE), administered by Sustainable Jersey. Per the MLUL requirement, the Evesham Township Planning Board held an open public meeting to adopt this Open Space and Recreation Plan update as an element of the Township's Master Plan on December 5, 2023.

1.1 GOALS & ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

Through outreach and collaborative efforts, the following goals have been identified to guide the Township's open space and recreation policies and action plan.

1. Explore the need for and plan the expansion of needed active recreational opportunities in the Township.
2. Support passive recreational opportunities at key locations throughout the community.
3. Provide a balanced park system that offers a variety of amenities in diverse settings for the broadest use by Evesham Township residents.
4. Promote protection through public and private support of open space, important habitats, and environmentally sensitive areas such as large undeveloped forests, stream corridors, wetlands, and fields, to maintain and protect Evesham Township's biodiversity.
5. Link various areas of the Township through a system of multipurpose greenways and trails, made available to the public through either acquisition or conservation easements ¹.
6. Protect surface water and drinking water quality.
7. Identify and protect historical resources.
8. Educate and inform the community about the importance of the rich natural and cultural resources within the community and about the need for open space protection and good stewardship.
9. Create welcoming, accessible, and inclusive programs, services, and facilities for all ages and abilities.

¹ Per Evesham Township's Zoning Ordinance, *conservation easement* refers to an easement generally prohibiting the construction of buildings and intended for protection of environmentally sensitive areas, including mature tree stands, floodplains, important views and critical areas as defined by this chapter.

1.2 ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

The following overarching actions will guide the efforts towards the fulfillment of the goals and objectives for open space in Evesham Township:

- Participate in the Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant Program.
- Seek to acquire open space for recreational and conservation purposes, including acquisition of identified potential open space parcels when possible, which could include property owned by but no longer needed by the Board of Education or other entities, and conducting detailed assessment of potential open space parcels prior to any land acquisition.
- Encourage private property owners to continue to maintain potential open space parcels in their current undeveloped or agricultural use and to consider preserving the properties through farmland preservation programs, conservation easements, or other means.
- Seek donations of land and funds for open space and recreation improvements.
- Seek public and private partnerships for the acquisition of open space, including partnerships with the State of New Jersey, Burlington County, and local and regional land conservancy organizations.
- Partner with Burlington County in the development of a master plan for Black Run Preserve; begin to identify the Township's vision for the park, including key features and use areas, recreational activities, and facilities.
- Continue to maintain existing trails within the Township, including pedestrian, bicycle and ATV and equestrian trails; work with Burlington County and local and regional trails organizations to develop trail linkages between parks and open space sites and with regional trail networks.
- Continue to research existing conservation easements and encourage use of conservation easements to preserve environmentally sensitive areas.
- Continue to encourage and support development practices and site design that maximizes open space and preserves natural resources through the development of site standards and ordinances.
- Continue to upgrade and maintain existing park facilities and to develop capital improvements plan for improvements as needed and as feasible.
- Support and expand public education efforts to promote knowledge about and use and appreciation of park and open space sites, and indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

- Continue to support regional efforts to preserve open space and to provide recreational opportunities, including coordination with adjacent municipalities, Burlington County, Pinelands, and regional non-profits and land conservancy organizations.
 - Continue to support State-wide efforts to preserve open space and provide recreational opportunities, including coordination with the NJDEP Green Acres Program, the New Jersey Farmland Preservation Program (through the New Jersey Department of Agriculture), and non-profits and other organizations that promote open space and recreation in New Jersey.
 - Planning Board review of the Open Space and Recreation Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Land Use Law and requirements of the NJDEP Green Acres program at least every 10 years. Foster inclusive, accessible, and educational programs, services, and recreational facilities
 - Construct a new all abilities inclusive park and incorporate inclusive design into existing parks when existing parks are redesigned, expanded, and/or reconstructed.
-

1.3 INVENTORY SUMMARY

Evesham Township has an extensive park system encompassing large areas of preserved forest land and numerous recreation sites, both for sports and for outdoor activities. There are approximately 3,121 acres of land in Evesham Township dedicated solely for conservation and recreation purposes. These are the parcels included in the Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI). [Section 3](#) and [Section 4](#) of this OSRP further explore the existing parks and recreation of the Township. The existing open spaces in the Township are owned by varying agencies, including Evesham Township, the State, Burlington County, Homeowners Association, Evesham Board of Education, Rancocas Conservancy, and private owners. As illustrated in Map 9, the existing open spaces in the Township represent approximately 43% of the Township's total land area.

In addition to the existing open spaces, the Environmental Commission has identified about 1,824 acres of land for potential which is about a 9% addition of land area, relative to the Township's overall land area, for potential open space that focuses on critical areas in need of preservation, including the Evesham Headwaters Area, Southern Forest Area, East-West Connector Area, Rancocas Greenway, Barton Run Greenway, Haynes Run Greenway, and Mullica Greenway. Most of the parcels encompassing these areas were previously identified in the 2012 OSRP. It is the Township's intention to continue to implement preservation tools to protect these areas (see [Map 10](#)) and continually evaluate other-areas for potential preservation.

1.4 INCLUSIVE HEALTH COMMUNITIES GRANT PROJECT

Evesham Township is one of 18 recipients of the grant funding for the year 2021-2022 for the Inclusive Healthy Communities (IHC) Grant Program. The IHC Grant Program is a program that falls under the Division of Disability Services (DDS) of New Jersey Department of Human Services and helped managed by Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. The program aims to enhance community outcomes for people with disabilities who may be experiencing societal discrimination. Specifically, the program provides funding opportunities to communities and organizations in the state to promote inclusive practices that support the overall health and well-being of individuals with disabilities.

According to the Township, 1 in 10 of its residents has a disability, equivalent to more than 4,000 residents. While planning documents have guided the community's growth over the past 40 years, it lacks inclusive policies other than what is mandated by state and federal law. However, the Township has been actively working towards prioritizing inclusivity and incorporating the voices of residents with differing abilities. With the grant, the Township hopes to address access and opportunity barriers for those who experience physical disabilities, including those experiencing autism or various learning or developmental disabilities.

To begin, the Township conducted a community-wide survey and held community meetings. Led by The Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports New Jersey, Inc., three community engagements were held on January 21, 2022, February 15, 2022, and March 14, 2022. These public engagement events provided a framework for considering disability-related issues and concerns specific to the Township. These events also provided opportunities for the residents to learn more about the prevalence and common types of disabilities within their community. This effort resulted in the development of a recommended action plan. As outlined by the Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports ([Appendix 8.4.3](#)), the recommended action plan is categorized into three topics: Communications, Education/Awareness, and Accessibility.

Following the public engagement events, the Township will then focus on the incorporation of an inclusion component in the Evesham Township Master Plan. As this OSRP is an element of the Township's Master Plan, there are several related initiatives identified within the recommended action plan that can make the open space and recreation areas more inclusive in the Township, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Accessible access, trails, pathways, and restrooms;
- Emergency lights/call box for safety accessibility;
- Connectivity and accessibility through sidewalks/pathways;
- Accessible public amenities such as benches, charging stations, etc.;
- Pedestrian crossings and auditory beaconing, etc.

In addition, the action plan also provides initiatives relating to improving public engagement and educational/awareness strategies in the Township. Particularly, public engagement initiatives that are more inclusive will ensure that all residents of all ages and abilities are able to participate throughout the planning process of updating the Township's OSRP, and as the Township initiates efforts to complete the projects or initiatives outlined in the Action Plan of this OSRP. The comprehensive list of the recommendations by the Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports can be found in [Appendix 8.4.3](#).

To reinforce inclusivity in the Township, an action plan to adopt an inclusive policy has been proposed for the Township to consider (see [Section 6.1.1](#)). Adopting an inclusive policy can make key decisions about how projects, particularly in parks and recreation facilities, programs, and activities, can foster an inclusive environment for all individuals regardless of age and abilities.



Figure 2. 477 N. Elmwood Road Property (aka 'Beagle Club'), View 1
Source: <https://evesham-nj.org/beagle-club>

SECTION 2.

GOALS & POLICIES

The Township of Evesham, encompassing approximately 18,930 acres of land area, is a primarily suburban Township located in southern New Jersey on the west side of Burlington County, bordering Cherry Hill, Voorhees, Berlin, and Waterford Township within Camden County to the west and south. To the east, the Township borders Medford Township and Mount Laurel Township to the north (both in Burlington County). The total population for the Township as of the 2020 U.S. Census estimate was 46,826. Evesham comprises 10% of the population in Burlington County, which is the largest population out of the 40 municipalities in the county. Evesham's and Burlington County's population has been growing almost at the same rate. Between 2010 and 2020, Evesham's population grew by 2.8%, whereas the County grew by 2.9%.

According to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Geographic Information System (GIS) land use/land cover data, the Township is comprised of approximately 43% urban land, 29% wetland, 22% forest land, 3% agricultural, 2% water, and 1% barren land ([see Map 2 Land Use/Land Cover](#)).

Over three-quarters (about 14,300 acres) of the Township are within the Pinelands Management Area: 55% (about 10,449 acres) is within the Pinelands Area state designation and 20% (about 3,867 acres) is within the federally designated Pinelands National Reserve.

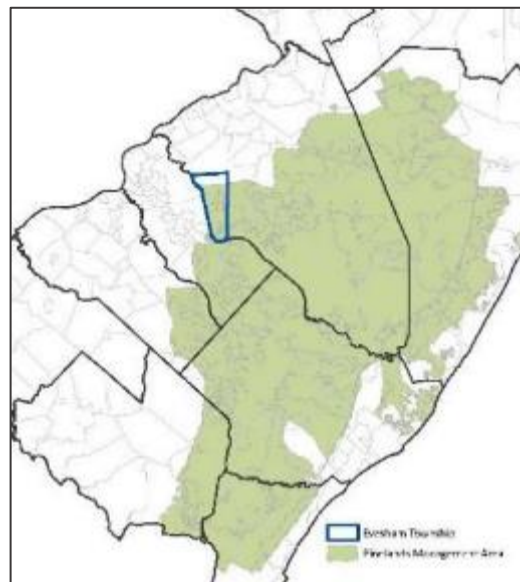


Figure 3. The New Jersey Pinelands Management Area

An Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is one of the optional Master Plan Elements that expresses the municipality's vision for open space and recreation. OSRP provides a snapshot of existing conditions and identifies issues and opportunities for passive and active recreation and open space preservation. The purpose of this plan is to not only identify issues but offer strategies and a framework to address them. Providing open space is a major goal of the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL). The intent and purposes of MLUL (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-2) regarding open space are as follows:

- To provide light, air, and open space;
- To provide sufficient space in appropriate locations for a variety of agricultural, residential, recreational, commercial, and industrial uses and open space, both public and private, according to their respective environmental requirements to meet the needs of all New Jersey citizens;
- To promote the conservation of historic sites and districts, open space, energy resources and valuable natural resources and valuable natural resources in the State and to prevent urban sprawl and degradation of the environment through improper use of the land; and
- To enable municipalities the flexibility to offer alternatives to traditional development, through the use of equitable and effective planning tools including clustering, transferring development rights, and lot-size averaging in order to concentrate development in areas where growth can best be accommodated and maximized while preserving agricultural lands, open space, and historic sites.

2.1 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

Preservation of open space and recreation must be planned just like any municipal infrastructure, such as roadways, sewers, or schools. Development of an Open Space and Recreation Plan, and the Township governing body's commitment to carry out the Plan, are essential to maintain a community's character and to preserve and improve the quality of life for its residents.

The goals established in the 2012 OSRP remain applicable for this update with the addition of one new goal (Goal 9). The goals for this plan, which are consistent with community goals, are as follows:

1. Explore the need for and plan the expansion of needed active recreational opportunities in the Township.
2. Support passive recreational opportunities at key locations throughout the community.
3. Provide a balanced park system that offers a variety of amenities in diverse settings for the broadest use by Evesham Township residents.
4. Promote protection through public and private support of open space, important habitats, and environmentally sensitive areas such as large undeveloped forests, stream corridors, wetlands, and fields, to maintain and protect Evesham Township's biodiversity.
5. Link various areas of the Township through a system of multipurpose greenways and trails, made available to the public through either acquisition or conservation easements.
6. Protect surface water and drinking water quality.
7. Identify and protect historical resources.
8. Educate and inform the community about the importance of the rich natural and cultural resources within the community and about the need for open space protection and good stewardship.
9. Create welcoming, accessible, and inclusive programs, services, and facilities for all ages and abilities.

2.2 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL, COUNTY AND REGIONAL PLANS

The following section explores the consistency between the Township's OSRP and statewide, county-wide, regional, and local planning documents. Consistency between these planning documents will help ensure that the Township's open space and recreation efforts are complementary to such planning efforts and advances its goals and purposes.

2.2.1 Evesham Township Master Plan

The goals and objectives established in the 2012 OSRP, as outlined by the Evesham Township Open Space Committee, remain the goals and objectives of this OSRP update. As the OSRP is an element of

the Township Master Plan, consistency between these documents is important. The General Reexamination and Master Plan Amendment dated 2021 is the most recent master plan reexamination for the Township. It identifies the following goals and objectives:

- Goal: To preserve and enhance the quality of life in Evesham Township.
 - Objective: Ensure that new development is well designed and adheres to recognized principles of good planning and smart growth.
 - Objective: Preserve open space opportunities through public and private actions.
- Goal: To promote orderly growth within the Township.
 - Objective: Ensure that Evesham's development policies are in accordance with the State Plan, Regional Plans, and the Master Plans of adjoining municipalities.
 - Objective: Enforce all environmental regulations of the federal, state, county, and municipal governments.
 - Ensure that major new residential development contributes fairly to the provision of needed services, including recreation.
- Goal: Maintain a safe and attractive residential environment.
 - Objective: Continue to provide a variety of housing opportunities and dwelling types for residents at all income levels.
 - Objective: Comply with all applicable laws and policies regarding affordable housing.
 - Objective: Ensure that major new residential development contributes fairly to the provision of needed services including recreation.
 - Objective: Provide an appropriate range of public services to meet the needs of current and future residents.
 - Objective: Balance development with the acquisition of sufficient parkland to meet the perceived shortfall in active recreation facilities.
- Goal: Assess the need for future age restricted development in Evesham Township
 - Objective: Determine if all segments of the senior housing market are adequately served, i.e., active adult communities, congregate and continuing care retirement communities and assisted living and nursing facilities.
 - Objective: Evaluate if there is a need for senior recreational, social and transportation services beyond those that are currently being provided.

- Objective: Evaluate the health service implications of Evesham's aging population in terms of emergency medical services and potential for adult day care services in consultation with existing hospitals and agencies.
- Goal: Review the zoning on undeveloped land to determine if it is appropriately zoned.
 - Objective: Evaluate the appropriate redevelopment opportunities for the Township's public works complex on Evesboro-Medford Road and the surrounding lands.
 - Objective: Evaluate the appropriateness of the industrial zoning district on Sharp Road.
 - Objective: Evaluate the continued need to maintain AH-1A district on Lippincott Road.
 - Objective: Review existing development regulations to determine what changes are required, if any.
- Goal: To provide a circulation system that is safe, efficient, environmentally sensitive, and respectful of the community's character.
 - Objective: Work closely with the New Jersey Department of Transportation regarding the reconstruction of Route 70/Route 73 intersection and examine its implications to the Land Use Plan.
 - Objective: Ensure that new local streets are constructed to Township or Residential Site Improvement Standards as appropriate.
 - Objective: Encourage alternative methods of circulation including pedestrian and bikeway systems.
- Goal: To enhance and protect the Township's natural and cultural resources
 - Objective: Enforce and expand environmental policies and regulations.
 - Objective: Review and, if necessary, update the Township's Open Space Plan.
 - Objective: Explore new opportunities to protect historic resources.
- Goal: Promote the development and redevelopment of mixed-use interconnected walkable places that provide for civic and private uses in close proximity to one another in a manner that will increase the vitality of each and encourage people to combine vehicle trips.

The goals and policies of this OSRP update is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Evesham Township Master Plan The Master Plan documents can be accessed in the Township's website: <https://evesham-nj.org/government/forms/community-development/master-plan-documents>

2.2.2 Evesham Township Vision Plans

Evesham 2020 Vision Plan for Marlton Circle

In 2009, Evesham Township developed the [*Evesham 2020 Vision Plan for Marlton Circle*](#) that envisions a plan to transform the area surrounding the former Marlton Circle into human-scale walkable mixed-use places for people. The Plan identified the following goals and objectives:

- Make Marlton Village a more vibrant destination.
 - Marlton Village should become more vibrant with civic gathering places and an inviting mix of shops, restaurants, and services along a more pedestrian-friendly streetscape.
- Establish a landmark at Evesham Crossroads.
 - The intersection of Routes 70 & 73 is envisioned as a recognizable landmark in the region defined by signature development and civic art.
- Retrofit & transform outdated commercial corridors.
 - Retrofit and transform outdated or vacant commercial sites into mixed-use places with buildings framing pedestrian-oriented streets and public spaces.
- Create the Evesham Crossroads trail network.
 - The Evesham Crossroads Trail will link residential neighborhoods with a network of trails, sidewalks, and greenways that connect to parks, public spaces, and mixed-use places.
- Enhance the livability of neighborhoods.
 - The quality of life within each neighborhood should be protected with a plan to enhance parks, greenways, waterways, sidewalk and trail connectivity, street trees, traffic calming and pedestrian safety.

This effort was followed by several redevelopment activities, including the adoption of Resolution 339-2014, declaring certain properties within Marlton Village as an “Area in Need of Rehabilitation” in accordance with the New Jersey Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (LRHL).

Evesham Township Downtown Vision Plan

The [*Evesham Township Downtown Vision Plan*](#), adopted in January 2021, builds on the *Evesham 2020 Vision Plan for Marlton Circle* to continue to facilitate implementation of its goals and objectives. The plan also provides additional focus on the historic downtown area to further establish downtown Marlton as a vibrant center of the Township and a landmark in the region.

The Downtown Vision Plan (2021) identified two stormwater strategies that further promote the Township's goal within the OSRP to protect surface water and drinking water quality and protect and preserve environmentally sensitive areas and habitats. These stormwater strategies are (1) preservation of natural areas to help maintain water quality and limit runoff and (2) utilization of native plants to capture more stormwater and increase natural habitats. Other strategies that were identified include parking lot infiltration/storage using pervious asphalt, concrete, or pavers, landscape islands, and bioswales/bio infiltration.

The plan also further examined the open spaces in the downtown area. The concept plan illustrates potential layout of existing and proposed improvements, including infill development, parking, streetscapes, and greens spaces. Preservation of existing open spaces and trees were identified in the concept plan specifically for Main Street, Locust Avenue and South maple Avenue.

A pedestrian bridge connecting Old Marlton Pike and Main Street was also identified as one of the recommendations of the vision plan. This would enable pedestrian connectivity and address safety concerns for pedestrians crossing Route 73.

2.2.3 Evesham Township Bikeway Plan

In collaboration with Orth-Rodgers and Associates, Inc. and assistance from New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) in 2003, a Bikeway Plan for Evesham Township was developed. This plan has not been updated. Therefore, it still serves as the current Bikeway Plan for the Township. The plan identified six (6) goals with several objectives:

1. Create a bikeway system that makes bicycling a viable alternative to driving.
 - Provide accessible, convenient links to major bicycle generators and destinations, including a connection between Marlton Pike and Main Street.
 - Provide links to major shopping and commercial destinations, including improving crossings of Routes 70 and 73.
 - Provide links to the proposed historic train station and bus stops.
 - Provide links to schools and community facilities.
 - Provide bicycle parking and storage at bicycle destinations.
 - Work with employers and retailers to provide bicycle parking for commuters and patrons.
 - Create and publish maps of the bikeway system once several segments are completed.
2. Increase recreational cycling opportunities.
 - Coordinate with the Pinelands Commission, Burlington County, and the State of New Jersey to create bike paths and off-road routes through the southern part of the Township.

- Create links to Township and other major recreational facilities.
 - Provide recreational opportunities for children and casual users with off-street paths.
3. Improve bicyclist safety.
- Institute bicycle safety programs for students and education efforts directed at adult cyclists and drivers.
 - Explore options such as targeted speeding enforcement or photo radar to improve safety conditions for bicyclists on roads that have speeding problems.
 - Work with the Police Department to track bicycle accidents and develop solutions for problem areas.
 - Use signage that clearly announces bicycle facilities and encourages drivers and cyclists to be aware of each other and to share the road.
 - Increase awareness of bicyclists and bicycle related activities through local newspapers, the township website, and newsletters.
 - Implement traffic calming measures where appropriate to increase both bicyclist and pedestrian safety.
4. Create policies that encourage bicycling and proactive implementation of bicycle facilities.
- Update township plans, regulations, and policies to ensure that the needs of nonmotorized traffic are represented. For instance, update ordinance to ensure that new multi-use trails incorporated into new developments meet current NJDOT and AASHTO standards.
 - Assure that bicycle facilities are considered with all street maintenance work and that possible bicycle-motor vehicle conflicts are taken into consideration.
 - Work with Burlington County and the State of New Jersey to incorporate bicycle facilities into their street construction and maintenance plans.
 - Require roadway pavement patching techniques that do not create unsafe conditions for cyclists.
 - Replace any drainage grates that may trap bicycle tires.
 - Consider an ordinance requiring construction of bicycle parking in all major residential and commercial construction.
5. Continuously improve and maintain bicycle facilities.
- Incorporate bikeways where feasible as new open space is acquired by the township.

- Coordinate with neighboring communities, Burlington County, and CCCTMA to provide linkages to create a regional bikeway network.
 - Explore the possibility of funding bikeways through the Township's open space tax.
 - Fund bicycle facility maintenance as a regular part of the street maintenance budget.
6. Adopt the Evesham Township Bikeway Plan as an element in the township Master Plan and implement its recommendations.
- Adopt the Bikeway Plan as a master plan element.
 - Hold quarterly Committee meetings to review completed projects and to set goals for the following quarter and year.
 - Seek external funding sources to implement the bikeway plan.
 - Follow NJDOT guidelines in maintaining and improving existing bicycle facilities.

The plan outlined the existing conditions in the Township with regards to the bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including data of crashes involving bicycles and pedestrians, identification of existing bicycle facilities, and identification of bicycle generators and destinations. Constraints related to the bicycle network were also identified. These includes insufficient shoulders, high travel speeds/high volumes on certain roadways, insufficient cartway width to accommodate multiple modes, wide -crossing distances, state Routes (70 and 73) that function as barriers, narrow multi-use paths, on-street parking on shoulders, open drainage ditches/wetlands, and utilities close to roadway edges.

The Plan reviewed the roads selected by the project's Steering Committee and evaluated their compatibility with NJDOT Bicycle Compatible Roadways Guidelines. Approximately 70% of the roadway segments were deemed incompatible with NJDOT guidelines. The recommendations of the Plan range in scope; some are as small as putting up additional signage, while others involve restriping roadways to incorporate bike lanes. The recommendations generally fall into four categories: bike lanes, compatible shoulders, shared roadways, and multiuse trails.

The goals and policies of this OSRP update remain consistent with the goals and objectives of the Township's Bikeway Plan. Specifically, both plans identify the need to expand recreational opportunities, promote and improve connectivity, and educate and bring awareness to the benefits of recreational opportunities.

2.2.4 Environmental Resource Inventory

The Township adopted an [*Environmental Resource Inventory \(ERI\) Plan*](#) in 2018 that identifies and describes the existing natural resources, biological resources, built environment, and environmental issues of the Township. It provides a comprehensive review of the Township's physiography, topography, soils, steep

slopes, climate, air quality, surface water resources, groundwater, natural vegetation, landscape project priority habitats, animal communities, municipal services, and known contaminated sites, flooding, and more. The ERI outlines methods and steps to preserving, conserving, and utilizing these natural resources. It includes reports, mapping, and data relating to the natural resources of the Township to better enable the Township and its residents to make informed decisions and actions that will provide balance growth with conservation while creating a sense of community and place. The comprehensive data presented in the ERI should be carefully considered, along with the proposed actions in this OSRP, to better understand the impact of such actions and ensure that natural resources of Evesham are preserved and protected to the greatest extent possible.

2.2.5 Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan

The 1978 National Parks and Recreation Act established the Pinelands National Reserve comprising seven (7) counties and 56 municipalities (all or portions of) in New Jersey. The Pinelands Protection Act was adopted subsequently, officially designating the Pinelands Area and established the Pinelands Commission. The Pinelands Commission prepared the [*New Jersey Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan \(CMP\)*](#), which established nine (19) land use management areas such as the Forest Area, Preservation Area, Special Agricultural Production Area, Agricultural Production Area, Rural Development Area, Military and Federal Installation Area, and Regional Growth Area. These management areas are implemented through local zoning that must conform with Pinelands land use standards.

There are approximately 3,800 acres of land federally designated as Pinelands National Reserve but outside the state Pinelands Area is located within the Township. The national reserve area extends to Medford Township. The Pinelands Commission has limited regulatory jurisdiction outside of the national reserve area. The state-designated Pinelands Area occupies the bottom half of the Township and portions to the east of the northern area.

Three (3) of these management areas, Forest Area, Rural Development Area, and Regional Growth Areas, are found in Evesham Township. Approximately 67% of the Pinelands Area in the Township is within the Rural Development Area, 18% are within the Forest Area, and 15% are within the Regional Growth Area.

2.2.6 Sub-Regional Resource Protection Plan (Southern Medford & Evesham Townships)

The [*Sub-Regional Resource Protection Plan \(SRRPP\)*](#) was published in April 2006 by the New Jersey Pinelands Commission. The 14,521-acre (22.7 square miles) project area straddles the southern portion of Medford and Evesham Townships. Approximately 60% of the project area, or 8,543 acres, is in Evesham and the remaining 40% of the project area, or 5,978 acres, is in Medford. The Plan, which involved over two years of research, proposed a series of regulatory and non-regulatory strategies to

protect the natural resources—including plants, animals, and watersheds—in the Pinelands portion of Evesham and Medford Townships. The findings are summarized below:

- Water quality and levels of disturbance in several drainage areas, most notably Black Run, are only slightly altered.
- Maintenance of uninterrupted, undisturbed forests is necessary to support many rare plant and animal populations, particularly snakes. Connection of these forests also helps maintain regional biodiversity.
- Remaining vacant parcels throughout the project area are under active consideration for development and therefore are at immediate risk.
- The area has not been widely surveyed for rare plants and animals.
- Conservation efforts need to be targeted in the considerable areas of the study area that the landscape, wetland, and watershed integrity analyses showed were important for resource protection. These areas include North and South Black Run areas, Connector parcels, and two forest areas: one below Compass Point and the other on the east side of the Township adjoining Medford.

The objectives for the SRRPP are the following:

1. Protect important natural resource values, including water quality, within the project area.
2. Accommodate future development within appropriate areas.
3. Promote less land-consumptive land use patterns to reduce the fragmentation of important landscapes and to lessen municipal service costs.
4. Reduce the extent of non-conformity between existing developed areas and municipal zoning policies.
5. Encourage land stewardship practices that further conservation objectives.
6. Use a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory techniques to achieve conservation and development objectives.
7. Establish greater predictability in the development permitting process to avoid site-specific development and natural resource conflicts.

The overarching objectives of protecting natural resources and encouraging conservation are consistent with the established goals and objectives of the OSRP. Particularly, the SRRPP identified that clustering development in a compact form to limit the effects of sprawl and increase open space opportunities and expand open space acquisition further supports the goals and objectives of the OSRP. The SRRPP identified several protection strategies, regulatory and non-regulatory strategies, for resource preservation and protection. These strategies and recommendations should continue to be implemented by the Township.

The regulatory strategies are designed to reduce development disturbance to protect areas with high resource values; protect and expand uninterrupted forest areas; adjust zoning designations to appropriately reflect existing development patterns; shift development from areas with high resource value to areas more suited to growth; and cluster development in a compact form to limit the effects of sprawl and increase open space opportunities.

At the time of Evesham Township Planning Board preparing this 2023 OSRP update the Pinelands Commission was working on a rule making process involving the findings from the 2006 SRRPP.

2.2.7 Burlington County Plans

2002 Burlington County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Evesham Township is located within Burlington County. Evesham's OSRP is consistent with the County's [2002 Open Space Master Plan](#). The Burlington County Board of Commissioners recognized that "...in order to preserve the quality of life that attracts people to Burlington County, a balance between growth and preservation must be sought." The 2002 Burlington County Parks and Open Space Master Plan recommends policies, actions, and strategies to add to the existing 1,500 preserved acres of open space in Burlington County, because it recognizes that vibrant parks, open space, and recreation programs are vital to the health and prosperity of all the county's residents. To this end, the Plan has four key goals, and several objectives, which were developed in consultation with community members, non-profit organizations, and government officials.

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

The 2002 Burlington County Parks and Open Space Master Plan also provides the following objectives:

1. Ensure that all residents have easy access to County parks by developing greenways and recreational hubs as the framework for the County park system.
2. Acquire and develop sufficient open space and parkland to meet current and future needs.
3. Develop park improvements with an emphasis on passive recreation and water access.
4. Enhance biodiversity and identify and protect significant environmental and natural resources best conserved through land preservation.
5. Incorporate and implement to the extent possible the recommendations of County watershed management plans.

6. Identify and preserve areas of significant scenic beauty.
7. Advance the County's culture, character, and heritage through development of the County park system.
8. Coordinate historical, cultural, and recreational programming to strengthen the County's tourism industry.
9. Coordinate land preservation efforts with the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program to buffer agricultural areas and preserve agricultural landscapes.
10. Advance compatible land use plans adopted by municipal, regional, and state agencies.
11. Advance compatible conservation and recreation initiatives.
12. Advance directly and indirectly related government and private sector programs

Burlington County envisions creating a “hub and spoke” system, where there are several County park “hubs” linked by “spoke”-like trails. Potential connectors include park trails, bikeway trails, water/canoe trails, all-terrain bike trails, cross-country ski trails, and equestrian trails. Key project areas in the near future include the Rancocas Creek Greenway, the Delaware River Greenway, Barker's Brook Project Area, Mason's Creek/Rancocas Creek/Southwest Branch Project Area, and the Pinelands Project Area. Many of these sites will be focused on passive recreation, such as hiking; biking; canoeing; picnicking; and cultural, historic, and arts programs. Although none of the designated project areas fall within the boundaries of Evesham Township, they are all within a short driving distance of the northern part of Evesham, where most of the Township's population lives. In addition, the county's Parks and Open Space Master Plan states that parcels outside of the key project areas may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

As stated above, Rancocas Creek Greenway is a key project for the County. The first segment (3.7 miles) of this 30-mile regional multi-use trail was opened to the public in September 2022. This trail segment extends from Amico Island in Delran Township to Pennington Park in Delanco Township and follows the Rancocas Creek Corridor. The portion of the trail within the Riverside and Delran is 1.5 miles from Amico Island, known as the Riverside section of the trail. The trail extends for an additional 2.23 miles to Delanco all the way through Pennington Park, known as the Newton's Landing section of the trail.

Another newly completed county project is the Delaware River Heritage Trail, known as the Route 130 Bypass Trail, which extends from Bordentown to Roebling for approximately 5.5 miles. Crystal Lake Park is the main access point for this regional multi-use paved trail that will follow the Delaware River corridor.

Burlington County is a national leader in preservation efforts. It started New Jersey's first farmland preservation program in 1985. Between 1996 and 2020, over 62,000 acres of farmland in the county have been preserved, 30,000 acres of which are through the County Easement Purchase Program; over 6,570 acres of open space are preserved; and over 1,000 acres of developed parkland, over 225 municipal park improvement projects, 9 regional (hub) parks, 39 miles of park trails, 11.4 miles of regional trails, and 14

miles of water trails. Funding for preservation within Burlington County comes from the Burlington County Recreation, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, which was created in 1996 and increased in 1998.

The preservation program's 2020 priorities include continuing the preservation of farms, monitoring, and stewardship, addressing right-to-farm issues, supporting the agricultural community as farming continues to evolve, and replacing preservation signs. Regarding open space preservation, the county intends to acquire properties adjacent to existing county parks and small tracts needed to enable trail connections.

2.2.8 Regional Plans

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is the federal Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the nine-county Greater Philadelphia region, including Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer Counties in New Jersey and Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Delaware, and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania.

Connections 2050

The DVRPC is responsible for developing and updating the long-range plan every four years for Greater Philadelphia. [*Connections 2050*](#) (the "Plan") was adopted on September 23, 2021 and serves as the current long-range plan for the region. It identifies multiple strategies that will achieve the vision and fiscally constrained financial plan for its regional transportation network and infrastructure. The Plan also provides information on regional indicators, current trends and projections, and the plan for public engagement.

There are five focus areas of the Plan, including the (1) environment, (2) communities, (3) multimodal transportation, (4) economy, and (5) regional planning. With regards to the environment, there are three identified strategies: (1) preserve open space and focus growth on centers, (2) reduce GHG emissions and improve air quality, and (3) expand nature in the built environment, improve water quality, and adapt to climate change.

The Plan established a Regional Land Use Vision map, which illustrates the region's approach to growth management at a regional scale. The map divides the region into four areas: infill and redevelopment areas, emerging growth areas, rural resource lands, and the greenspace network, which are in turn overlaid by more than 135 Centers. The centers are identified as: metro, center, metropolitan subcenter, suburban center, town center, planned center, rural center, and neighborhood center. The map envisions creating a healthy, accessible, and sustainable environment. It strategically identified areas to be protected such as natural resource areas and agricultural land, while growth identified to occur in the centers for its economic, mobility, and inclusive opportunities. The Plan called out that to meet the long-range plan goal of protecting one million acres of open space by 2040, more investment is needed at all levels of government.

In particular, the northern areas in Evesham are identified as infill and redevelopment areas, while the majority of the southern portion are designated as greenspace network with areas under rural resource lands. These designations are consistent with the land use characteristics of Evesham. No centers, however, are designated within the Township. The goals of Evesham's OSRP to plan for the expansion of active and passive recreational opportunities, and protection of the open space, habitats, and environmentally sensitive areas, as well as surface water and drinking water quality are consistent with the strategies of the DVRPC long-range plan. These goals are being implemented through the adoption of environmental protection-related ordinances and plans, such as environmental resource inventory (ERI), open space plan, floodplain, wetlands mapping, and open space tax.

Rancocas Main Branches Greenway Plan (2002)

The Rancocas Creek greenway is an ongoing regional planning effort. The 2002 plan serves as the current plan. The study area identified in the greenway plan also includes Barton Run tributary and headwaters that goes through Medford, Evesham, and Voorhees Townships. The plan provided the following recommendations for Evesham:

- Medford and Evesham work with NJDOT to create a trail within the Right-of-Way along Route 70 between Medford Village and Marlton.
- Municipalities should adopt stream-corridor protection ordinances that require development to be set back from stream banks.
- Municipalities should adopt open space ordinances that require the preservation of at least 50% of a tract as open space.
- Municipalities should adopt Official Greenway Plan Maps to facilitate protection of greenways.
- Municipalities should promote canoeing by formalizing canoe launch sites with improved access and signage.

According to the [*Rancocas Main Branches Greenway Plan*](#), Evesham has some Environmental Protection measures in place including the recently completed Environmental Resource Inventory, an older Open Space Plan, a Floodplain Ordinance, Wetlands Mapping, an Open Space Tax, and a requirement for Environmental Impact Surveys for major projects. Additionally, there is Agricultural Zoning within the Pinelands portion of the Township, which is also served by the Pinelands Development Credit transfer of development rights program.

2.3 CONSISTENCY WITH STATE PLANS AND PROGRAMS

2.3.1 NJDEP Green Acres Program

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) established the Green Acres Program in 1961 to meet New Jersey's growing recreation and conservation needs. Its Local Governments and Nonprofit Funding program area includes the Planning Incentive Program, which provides grant and loan funding to municipalities and counties that have enacted an open space tax and have adopted an open space and recreation plan. Evesham has enacted an open space tax, which was made effective in January 2010 and to be used and dedicated solely to the acquisition of lands or interests in land, as well as for the development of recreation and open space. The preparation of this OSRP essentially serves as the application for the Planning Incentive Program.

In addition, matching grants are only awarded for preserved lands identified in an open space and recreation plan. As a condition of applying for and receiving Green Acres funding, each municipality and county is required to prepare a recreation and open space inventory (ROSI). The ROSI lists all Green Acres-funded properties as well as all other lands held for conservation or recreation purposes at the time funding was last received from Green Acres. Once land has been included and certified as to its use for open space and recreation purposes, the ROSI becomes binding on the municipality and other levels of government. Any desire to remove the site from the ROSI requires an application to the NJ Statehouse Commission and typically requires strong public interest reasons as well as replacement with land and facilities of greater value in return.

This OSRP was prepared in accordance with the guidelines and requirements of NJDEP's Green Acres Program. It includes an inventory of existing conditions, needs analysis, resource assessment, goals, objectives, and action plan to direct the Township's policies and decision making regarding open space and recreation. An update to this plan was completed through a comprehensive effort of various Township elected officials, staff members, residents, consultants, and community groups.

2.3.2 New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan)

The Office of Planning Advocacy (OPA), which is located within the Department of State, now staffs the State Planning Commission (SPC). OPA released a draft State Strategic Plan to supersede the current State Development and Redevelopment Plan (the State Plan). Public Hearings were held in February, March, and September of 2012. The draft State Strategic Plan is based upon a criteria-based system rather than a geographic planning area. The draft State Strategic Plan has not been adopted at this time and was put on hold following Hurricane Sandy. The 2001 State Development and Redevelopment Plan remains current.

Evesham Township encompasses three different planning areas in the New Jersey State Plan, such as the Metropolitan Planning Area (PA1), Suburban Planning Area (PA2), and the Fringe Planning Area

(PA3). These planning areas (non-Pinelands area) comprise approximately 45% of the Township. Of the total state planning areas, 53% are designated under PA1, 33% is under PA2, and 14% is under PA3.

The OSRP is consistent with the following goals of the State Plan:

- Goal 1: Revitalize the State's Cities and Towns
- Goal 2: Conserve the State's Natural Resources and System
- Goal 3: Promote Beneficial Economic Growth, Development and Renewal for All Residents of New Jersey
- Goal 4: Protect the Environment, Prevent and Clean Up Pollution
- Goal 5: Provide Adequate Public Facilities and Services at a Reasonable Cost Strategy
- Goal 6: Provide Adequate Housing at a Reasonable Cost
- Goal 7: Preserve and Enhance Areas with Historic, Cultural, Scenic, Open Space and Recreational Value
- Goal 8: Ensure Sound and Integrated Planning and Implementation Statewide

The Township provides a comprehensive recreation system that provides indoor and outdoor passive and active recreation opportunities for its citizens. The Township plan to further expand these opportunities and provide for a more inclusive program to accommodate all age groups and ability levels. The OSRP further supports acquisition, continuation of utilizing tax liens, community partnerships and collaboration, grant funding, and review of development and zoning regulations to help preserve land.

The establishment of the Township's Environmental Commission (EC) to serve as an advisory body with a primary duty of providing the body of knowledge to evaluate the needs of the Township as they relate to environmental quality.

The Needs Analysis section of this OSRP identified that the Township has a strong program providing recreational opportunities through public spaces and corridors, public schools, development restricted properties, quasi-public and private recreational facilities, and community group sponsored activities and programs.

SECTION 3.

INVENTORY

This section describes the inventory of existing private and public recreation and open space opportunities within Evesham Township, the existing conditions of park amenities, and overview of the proposed open space inventory that corresponds to the proposed open space system shown in [Map 10](#).

3.1 EXISTING OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Of the total land area of Evesham, which is about 18,930 acres, it is estimated that approximately 30% are existing open spaces. Over half of these existing open spaces are listed in the Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) list, which are lands dedicated solely for conservation and recreation purposes. The existing ROSI List (see [Appendix 8.2](#)) has a total of 3,121 acres, which is a 67% increase from the ROSI list, 1,873 acres, documented in the 2012 OSRP.

Table 3a below summarizes the percentages of existing open space by ownership. Many of the existing open spaces are owned by the Township. The Homeowner Associations (HOAs) own the second largest inventory of open space, followed by the State, Other Private Ownership, Burlington County, Rancocas Conservancy, and Board of Education, respectively. Existing open spaces are illustrated in [Map 9](#).

Table 3a. Percentage of Existing Open Space by Ownership Summary

Owner	±Acres	±%
Evesham Township	±5,955	±72.19%
Homeowner Association	±910	±11.03%
Non-Profit	±490	±5.94%
State of New Jersey	±444	±5.38%
Other Private	±272	±3.30%
Burlington County	±115	±1.40%
Camden County	±3.47	±0.04%
Evesham Board of Education	±59	±0.72%

3.3 POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE/PARKS SYSTEM INVENTORY

In anticipation of updates to the OSRP, at the end of 2021 the Evesham Environmental Commission undertook an effort to identify additional parcels that builds upon the proposed open space inventory of the 2012 OSRP and the existing recreation and open space inventory as described above. Since the adoption of the 2012 OSRP, the Township has successfully preserved several of the proposed open space parcels. A significant accomplishment by the Township is the acquisition of 176+/- acre property at 477 N. Elmwood Road (commonly known as the Beagle Club or Ballinger Property) (see [Section 6.2.2](#)). In identifying additional parcels, the Environmental Commission had two goals: (1) to ensure that the OSRP offers updated opportunities with respect to parcels that could be considered for acquisition and (2) to identify "green corridors" to promote good stewardship of the Township's land for wildlife and conservation of natural resources.

The Evesham Environmental Commission identified about 297 parcels (approximately 1,824 acres) for potential open space preservation, these parcels are illustrated in [Map 10](#). These parcels represent approximately 9% to 10% of Evesham's total land area and are primarily located in the southern half of the Township and within the Pinelands Management area boundary. The Township should continue to explore other land for open space and parks inventory, such as lands classified as farm-assessed lands or vacant land (without approved development).

These proposed open space parcels would support the Township's vision in preserving the focus areas illustrated in [Map 10](#), and, in turn, protect the natural resources. [Section 6.1.5](#) of this plan further describes the significance of these areas, including the Evesham Headwaters, Southern Forest, East-West Connector, Rancocas Greenway, Barton Run Greenway, Black Run Greenway, Haynes Run Greenway, and Mullica Greenway. This section emphasizes the variety of land protection/preservation methods available to the Township, including conservation easements, adoption of land ordinances, conservation stewardship program, or direct acquisition.

3.4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

A field assessment was performed in April 2021 for the Township. The intended goal of this program is to assess the conditions of each of the Township's park amenities and provide a baseline tool for developing a planned yearly park improvement schedule. Findings of the assessment are outlined in the *Evesham Parks Inventory and Assessment – 2021* report, dated October 2021.

An assessment was determined for each of the park amenities, including recommendations and preliminary costs for each. Based on a Township budget, all the recommended improvements can be

Evesham Township
Open Space and Recreation Plan

addressed within five (5) years. Preference has been given to park amenities in poor condition and to ADA improvements. It should be noted that this inventory and assessment is for publicly owned property only and excludes any properties owned privately or by a Homeowners' Association. In addition, only park fields and amenities were reviewed. No structures were examined.

Overall, the following items were recommended based on the assessment:

- The Open Space and Recreation Plan dates from 2012 and should be updated in 2022.
- Each park should have consistent site identification signage and rules signage.
- All future playgrounds should be specified with poured-in-place safety surfacing to improve accessibility and reduce maintenance.
- ADA access at all parks is poor and should be a priority. Accessibility improvements should include parking spaces that are compliant with federal regulations and accessible routes, which need to be paved and graded appropriately.
- More inclusive play amenities should be specified.
- Many of the parks are characterized by wide open spaces and long distances between amenities. Consideration should be given to providing additional amenities to create destinations and more use while reducing the size of lawn areas to shorten the mowing cycle.
- A Township-wide trail system should be considered to encourage non-vehicular travel.
- The majority of parks are concentrated to the north. As the southern end of town becomes more developed, consideration should be given to adding parks in this area.

A comprehensive list of existing amenities and proposed improvements for each Township parks and recreation facilities can be found in the 2021 Evesham Parks Inventory and Assessment report.



Figure 4. Memorial Sports Complex
Tennis Court

SECTION 4.

NEEDS ANALYSIS

The Needs Analysis evaluates the adequacy of current open space and recreation systems to satisfy present and future needs, as documented in [Section 3](#) and [Section 8](#). The 2012 OSRP for the Township of Evesham provided a vision and action plan which the present plan builds upon. Acquisition and improvement continue a focused effort to provide active and passive recreation, habitat, and resource conservation, and on and off-road physical connections within Evesham Township. The Township has a strong program providing recreational opportunities through public spaces and corridors, public schools, development restricted properties, quasi-public and private recreational facilities, and community group sponsored activities and programs. There are approximately 3,008 acres of land owned fee simple and dedicated to recreation and conservation purposes. The Needs Analysis provides the following:

- The current recreation activity levels and the demographic trends, which are likely to affect recreation activity levels in the future, such as population, age, and income.
 - An analysis of the geographic distribution of facilities related to the population, quantity of land, facility types available, and protection of natural resources.
 - The condition of existing recreation facilities.
 - Determinations to anticipate the needs of the community, including additional land and water areas, new facilities, or rehabilitated facilities, for resource protection or recreational opportunities.
 - Benefits of open space preservation to the quality of life of the Township's residents and biodiversity.
-

4.1 CURRENT RECREATION ACTIVITY LEVELS & PARTICIPATION PATTERNS

The Department of Recreation and Open Space administers recreation programs and maintains recreation facilities. The stated mission of the department is to promote an active and healthy community, through events and activities, at well-maintained public facilities, enhancing the quality of life for all Evesham residents. The department actively works with other Evesham Departments, the Marlton Recreation Council (MRC), and other active organizations and groups to promote athletics, gardening, education, instruction, and other cultural values. Youth programs are integral to their mission and utilize both paid and volunteer resources. The management and maintenance of fields, buildings, and courts is critical to a vital youth sport program and adult leagues and activities.

The Recreation and Open Space Department provided detailed information regarding the field locations and management of the turf. The total number of available fields is 23 to 25, depending upon the size of field required for the specified age group. Two (2) are multi-use synthetic fields and four (4) are semi-synthetic baseball softball fields. Most sports are played on the 17 to 19 (depending upon age group) natural turf fields, as characterized in the table following:

Table 4a. Field Locations and Sports Usage

Complex Name	Field Identifier	# Of Fields	Sports
Natural Turf			
Memorial	M3	1	Soccer, Lacrosse, & Field Hockey
	M6	2	Baseball/ Softball Outfield, Soccer, & Summer Volleyball
	M7	2	Baseball/ Softball Outfield, Soccer, & Summer Volleyball
Evesboro Downs	Front	4	Soccer, Flag Football, Sports Unity
	Back	3	Lacrosse, Football/Flag Football
Savich Field	Front	6-7	Soccer, Special Events (4th of July Fireworks, Trunk, or Treat, Etc.)
	Back	5-6	Lacrosse
Willow Ridge Park	N/A	3	Baseball, Soccer
Green Lane Park	N/A	2	Baseball, Soccer
Synthetic Turf			
Memorial	M1	1	Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, & Field Hockey
	M2	1	Soccer
Diamonds at Arrowhead	Field 1	1	Baseball & Softball
	Field 2	1	Baseball & Softball
	Field 3	1	Baseball & Softball
	Field 4	1	Baseball & Softball

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Table 4a above informs Table 4b below, which shows that winter, (December through early February), is the primary rest period for most of the natural turf fields, which is not an ideal time to establish turf. The Superintendent and staff utilize growth tarps on the fields in the winter and aerate and overseed as often as may be practical, in conjunction with a contractor fertilizer program. However, the limited rest period along with seeding in a fallow winter season negatively impacts seed germination and maturation. Where 80% to 85% germination would be ideal with sufficient rotation or rest, the natural turf fields germination rates are at approximately 50%.

Further, only the Memorial Sports Complex and the three (3) backfields at Evesboro Downs have irrigation. Memorial Sports Complex is the only sports complex with permanent lighting. Evesboro Downs utilizes portable lights for lacrosse and football during standard time. Most young grass is crushed before it reaches maturity, because of the limited rest time, fallow winter season, lack of irrigation, and natural turf overuse.

Table 4b. Natural Turf Sports Rotation and Monthly Utilization

Sport	Month											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Soccer												
Football/Flag Football												
Lacrosse												
Field Hockey Camp												

The Marlton Recreation Council (MRC) is a charitable organization contracted by the Township to provide youth recreation in Evesham Township. The contract is awarded after a request for proposal and offers the MRC exclusive rights to administer youth athletic programs at municipal, Evesham School District, and Lenape Regional High School District facilities. There are fees required for use of both school district facilities to manage costs for opening the schools and on-site personnel.

The MRC is comprised of a Board and Commissioners who maintain seventeen youth sports programs, from recreational to travel leagues with over 10,000 registrations annually. As interest in youth sports continues to expand, the MRC expects that demand will increase. The MRC characterizes that because the sports seasons continue throughout the year with limited down time, most of the outdoor fields and facilities are dual use and are well utilized. Registration and field and facility scheduling is managed online. The following table characterizes the sports programs with youth from age 4 to 16 and occasionally up to 18 years of age:

Table 4c. Youth Sport Participation Patterns Program Sport Registration

Program	Sport	Registration
1	Baseball: Including Spring, Fall, Travel, & Camp	1,680
2	Basketball: Winter & Travel	1,101
3	Cheerleading	63
4	Cross Country & Track and Field	145
5	Field Hockey	172
6	Flag Football	690
7	Football	152
8	Golf	36
9	Hockey: Winter, Travel, & Summer	1,340
10	Lacrosse, Girls	278
11	Lacrosse, Boys	204
12	MRC Rutgers Safety Class Certification	176
13	Soccer: Spring, Fall, & Travel	3,363
14	Softball: Spring, Fall, & Travel	692
15	SUP: Sports Unity Program multiple sports year-round	87
16	Volleyball	67
17	Wrestling	90
	Total Participants	10,336

In addition to youth programs and usage of the fields and courts, the Evesham Recreation Department administers facilities and programs including the Indian Spring Country Club Golf Course and Driving Range, Summer Camp, seasonal recreation programs, community garden, dog park, and other groups which rent fields and facilities besides the MRC.

- At Indian Spring golf course, 45,000 rounds of golf were played, and 46,000 buckets of balls were rented for use at the driving range.
- The summer camp had 127 full day and 158 half day campers, and 30 counselors in the program.
- The seasonal programs had 65 students in five (5) classes in winter, 110 students in 10 classes in spring, 96 students in nine (9) classes in summer, and 122 students in eight (8) classes in fall.
- In addition to the MRC, private club sports leagues such as PlayMore, adult sports, rented fields over 60 times in 2022 with 30 to 50 participants per rental. Universal Soccer is a youth soccer camp that rented fields approximately 25 times in 2022. The Olympic Development Program rented soccer field facilities four (4) times for youth soccer tournaments. The Jersey Express Lacrosse club program rents the rear portion of Savich field for several hours each day Monday through Saturday, serving multiple club teams from March through June.

- At the Memorial Park/Sports Complex, the Township offers a community garden, for a fee, for the Township residents to plant herbs, fruits, and vegetables. A dog park is also available for the public's use at the Municipal Complex.

4.2 OPEN SPACE, PARKS, AND RECREATION ANALYSIS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

This assessment relied upon the October 2021 Evesham Parks Inventory and Assessment to inform the types of facilities, park character, and proposed improvements at active recreation sites identified in the report. For the purposes of the Needs Analysis, Evesham's recreation distribution has been evaluated by geographic areas informed by the U.S. Census tract and determined by major roadways, pedestrian and bicycle ease of circulation, and existing development patterns. The number of people per square mile decreases from north to south in Evesham. Census tracts 7040.04, 05, 06, 07, 13, 15 and 16 have population densities between 2,000 to 4,999.9 persons per square mile. Census tracts 7040.08, .09, and .12 have population densities between 1,000 to 1,999.9 persons per square mile. Census tract 7040.11 alone has a population density of 368.5 persons per square mile.

Furthermore, this assessment section also provides recommendations for potential improvements to the existing open space and recreation facilities for the Township to consider. It is crucial to carefully study these recommendations to ensure their feasibility and compatibility with the existing characteristics and surrounding environmental conditions relative to the potential sites. However, the Township should not be limited to these

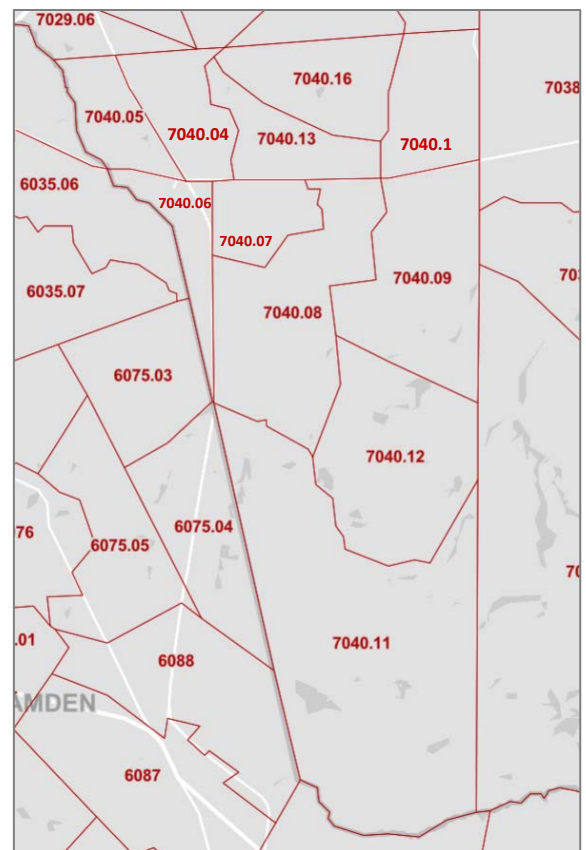


Figure 5. Census Tracts within Evesham Township (Source: U.S. Census)

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improvements. Continued evaluation of other improvements is recommended to enhance and expand the Township's open space and recreation system to address the changing demographics and evolving needs of Evesham residents.

4.2.1 Area A - Census Tract 7040.05

Area A is bounded by Mt. Laurel Township to the north, Route 73 to the east, Route 70 to the south, and Cherry Hill Township to the west. The area contains a mix of land uses including office, service, and retail commercial development located along Routes 70 and 73, as well as single family and multi-family dwellings along the Cherry Hill and Mt. Laurel boundaries.

The census tract contains 1,511 households and 3,874 residents within 1,749 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 17.3% of the population. The median household income is \$96,424.00.1 The median household income is slightly less than the Township median.

Within Area A are two linear parks, Greentree Village Park and Woodstream Park, both of which line the creeks at the edges of the residential development.

- Greentree Village Park (ROSI Key #18) contains the Westerly Drive Park, located at 1 Westerly Drive, which connects across Greentree Road to the Harold van Zant Elementary School. The Westerly Drive playground contains swings, bench, walking trail, basketball court, and baseball field. The October 2021 Evesham Parks Inventory & Assessment (Assessment) recommended relocating the basketball court. There is also an open space at van Zant Elementary School on Conestoga Drive which contains a street hockey rink, two basketball courts, and a walking path. The Assessment recommends additional landscaping with native plants and shrubs and suggests that this may be the site of a future pollinator garden. The private recreation at Greentree Village includes pool and tennis facilities and at Brookview development there is a clubhouse.

Woodstream (ROSI Key #44) extends from the Evesham MUA sanitary treatment facility and connects the Woodstream Swim Club (private) and further south across Greentree Road along the Pennsauken Creek at the Cherry Hill border and along the Creek to the east. A multi-use trail/pathway is proposed in this area along Conestoga Road connecting to the north and east via Greentree Road and to the south via Hamilton and North Cropwell Roads. The North Cropwell Road connection continues into Cherry Hill Township but utilizes Old Marlton Pike in Evesham Township. As one continues on Greentree Road and heading east, there are connections to North Maple Avenue and Evesboro-Medford Road.

4.2.2 Area B - Census Tract 7040.04

Area B is bounded by Mt. Laurel Township to the north, North Maple, and North Locust Avenues and East Greentree Road to the east, Route 70 to the south, and Route 73 to the west. The area contains a mix of land uses including office, service, and retail commercial development located along Routes 70 and 73, as well as single family, townhouse, and multi-family dwellings on the remaining lands. The area is bisected by overhead transmission lines from North Maple Avenue, with a hard turn at North Locust Avenue, to a substation on Route 73.

The census tract contains 1,869 households and 3,811 residents within 1,807 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 18.10% of the population. The median household income is \$62,758.00.2 The median income is approximately 62% of the Township wide median income. This may represent an equity issue as to the potential access to public facilities. However, it appears that most of the rental and condominium housing arrangements offer private recreation amenities. The Township may consider evaluating this area for availability and access to public facilities.

Within Area B, there are many parks, including, the following:

- This area contains Baker Tract (ROSI #2), Eisenhower Park (ROSI #13), Green Lane Fields (ROSI #17), London Square Park (ROSI #27), Marlgreen Tract (ROSI #29), The Maples (ROSI #38), and Unnamed Open Space (ROSI #49).
- Green Lane Fields (ROSI #17) contains a walking path, tennis and pickleball courts, two soccer fields, one baseball field, one basketball court, playground, and picnic table.
- London Square Park (ROSI #27) contains a playground and two basketball courts, which the Township has improved with resurfacing, playground border, trees for shade, and address drainage concerns by the Assessment.
- Springside Playground at Neville Drive contains a play structure and picnic table, and the Assessment recommends the addition of shade trees and accessibility.
- The Orchards at Greentree amenities include a clubhouse, pool, and tennis.
- The Nieuw Amsterdam Apartments outdoor amenities include a pool, playground, grilling area, dog park, bocce ball, and bike share.
- Allison Apartments provides outdoor amenities including a pool, grilling area, and dog parks.

Areas B and C are connected via Evesboro-Medford Road by the proposed and partially completed multi-use pathway. The planned Rancocas Greenway begins in Area B and continues into Area D.

4.2.3 Area C - Census Tract 7040.16

Area C is bounded by Mt. Laurel Township and East Green Tree Road to the north, Elmwood Road to the east, Evesboro-Medford Road to the south, and the intersection of Evesboro-Medford Road, and East

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Greentree Road, and North Maple Avenue to the west. The area contains a mix of land uses including office, service, and retail commercial development located at major intersections, as well as single family and townhouse dwellings on the remaining lands. The area is partially bisected by overhead transmission lines from due north to North Maple Avenue.

The census tract contains 1,483 households and 4,923 residents within 1,648 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 9.6% of the population. The median household income is \$159,129.00.3 The median income in this area exceeds by almost 60% the median income in Evesham.

Within Area C there are multiple parks large and small including the following:

- Country Farms (ROSI #9), Musulin Park (ROSI #32), Westbury Chase Park (ROSI #41), Unnamed Open Space (ROSI #48), Church Road Farm (ROSI #50), and Unnamed Tot Lot (ROSI #57)
 - Country Farms (ROSI #9) encompasses three areas. The westernmost area contains a stormwater basin, fitness trail, fishing, and other active recreation improvements. This area is within a flood hazard area. The Assessment recommends implementing flood mitigation techniques and other recreational upgrades. Country Farms is bisected by Greenbrook Drive and contains two tennis courts, which are proposed to be converted into pickleball courts, hand ball court, and one basketball court on the west side; and playground, street hockey rink, and basketball court on the east side by the Assessment. The Assessment recommends the following improvements: vehicular access to the playground, walking path replacement and a competition baseball field addition.
 - The addition of the Beagle Club (ROSI #58) north of Country Farms provides opportunities for connections to Country Farms to the southeast, Ravenscliff to the northwest, and Musulin further north and west.
 - Westbury Chase Park at Falmouth (ROSI #41) is reportedly the oldest playground in the township and the Assessment recommends that accessibility should be provided as well as all new equipment, fence, benches, and engineered play surface. Per the Assessment, Westbury Chase Park at Faybrooke (ROSI #41) has been recently refurbished and includes tot lot, two picnic tables, two benches, swings, and fence.
- Ravenscliff contains open fields, two tennis courts, a tot lot, and a path leading to the play structure, benches, and picnic tables. Swales are recommended at the tot lot, to reconfigure drainage away from residential properties.
- The Colts Run neighborhood private amenities include tennis, basketball, fitness, playgrounds, and shade structure.

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Area C and Area D share the Evesboro-Medford Road shared use path, and Area D connects south along North Elmwood Road to the proposed Rancocas Greenway, which connects the west and southeast through the Savich Tract and along the edge of the Croft Farm.

4.2.4 Area D - Census Tract 7040.13

Area D is bounded by Evesboro-Medford and East Greentree Roads to the north, Elmwood Road to the east, Route 70 to the south, and North Locust and North Maple Avenues the west. The area contains a mix of land uses including office, service, and retail commercial development located on Route 73, and sporadic commercial nodes and institutional uses at major intersections, as well as single family, townhouse, and multi-family dwellings on the remaining lands. The area is partially bisected by overhead transmission lines from Evesboro-Medford Road to Route 73.

The census tract contains 1,805 households and 5,263 residents within 1,779 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 12.7% of the population. The median household income is \$137,898.00.4 The median income is approximately 35% higher than the township median income.

Within Area D there are multiple parks including the following:

- Heathrow Park (ROSI #6), Cambridge Park (ROSI #7), Evesboro Downs (ROSI #15), Vineyards (ROSI #40), Unnamed Park (ROSI #51), and Unnamed Open Space (ROSI #52).
- Heathrow Park (ROSI #6) contains a playground, basketball courts, handball wall, and open space. The Assessment recommends basketball courts resurfacing, dead tree removal and replacement with native trees, walking path improvements, and additional landscaping.
- Cambridge Park (ROSI #7) contains a playground, basketball court, and open fields. The Assessment recommends basketball courts resurfacing, flood mitigation, walking path improvements, riparian buffers, additional landscaping, and new parking lot and pedestrian lighting.
- Evesboro Downs (ROSI #15) is bisected by overhead transmission lines and contains soccer, football and lacrosse fields, winter ice for ice skating and pond hockey, wildflower meadow, and planned instructional platform. The Assessment recommends providing the following: vehicular access and designated parking opportunities, inclusive playground, pedestrian walkway improvements, enlarged wildflower meadow, picnic and/or shade pavilion, and lacrosse wall. The Francis S. DeMasi Schools are located off Evesboro-Medford Road surrounded by residential developments located along Charleston Drive, Lexington Circle, Parkdale Place, Carlton Avenue, and Wellington Drive.

Area D and Area C share the Evesboro-Medford Road shared use path, and Area D connects south along North Elmwood Road to the proposed Rancocas Greenway, which connects the west and southeast

through the Savich Tract and along the edge of the Croft Farm, which is south of Route 70. Areas C, D, and E are all connected to North Elmwood Road, which connects to Evesboro-Medford Road.

4.2.5 Area E - Census Tract 7040.15

Area E is bounded by Mt. Laurel to the north, Medford to the east, Route 70 to the south, and Elmwood Road to the west. The area contains some industrial and heavy commercial uses along Sharp Road but is primarily single family and townhouse development. The area is crisscrossed by Sharps Run and tributaries and contains Open Space (ROSI #59) and other private conservation lands held by homeowners' associations. A trailhead to the Beagle Club is proposed at North Elmwood Road, which is adjacent to the census tract.

The Legacy Oaks development accesses Evesboro-Medford Road via Lowell Drive and includes a private clubhouse, tennis courts, and pool. Tanglewood connects to North Elmwood Drive and Troth Roads via Ross Way and Weaver Drive, respectively and has two tennis courts. Directly east of Tanglewood is Delancey Place which contains a village green. The census tract contains 1,714 households and 4,068 residents within 1,939 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 40% of the population. The median household income is \$80,781.00.5 The median household income is 80% of the Township median. It is notable that over 40% of the population in this area is aged 65 years old and above, which exceeds the overall municipal percentage by 21.6%.

Further it is notable that the Environmental Justice Mapping, Assessment, and Protection Tool (EJMAP) illustrates Census Blocks 1000 to 1008 of Block Group 1 (GEOID: 340057040151) within census tract 7040.15, and bounded by North Elmwood Road, Evesboro-Medford Road, Route 70, and Medford Township, as an overburdened community (OBC). OBCs are block groups with at least 35% low-income households, 40% of the residents identify as a minority or State recognized tribal community, or at least 40% of the households have limited English proficiency. The block is characterized as meeting the OBC criteria as minority, total population 1,621 in 620 households, a poverty population of 1,531, with 28 households under two (2) times the poverty rate; and a minority population of 729 or 44.97%. Of the 620 total households, 33 or 5.32% have limited English proficiency.

The purpose of the environmental justice legislation is to provide fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental justice laws, regulations, and policies. In particular, the goal is achievable when people enjoy equal protection from environmental and health hazards, where they reside, work, or recreate. The NJDEP regulates facility types, such as but not limited to, sewage treatment facilities with capacities in excess of 50 million gallons per day and uses the environmental justice information for permitting decisions. The EJMAP does not show any NJDEP regulated facilities in the area.

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Green space access in overburdened communities is an aspect of environmental injustice that is prevailing across the nation, particularly availability and accessibility thereof. It is essential for the Township to provide accessibility and availability of green space or open space to communities of color and of various socioeconomic backgrounds. Open Space (ROSI #59) is located within the OBC identified above. It is essential for the Township to consider developing this area into an open space and recreation opportunity for the use and enjoyment of this community.

Additionally, the Township should further study and explore opportunities to acquire available open space land in the remaining area of the census tract for recreation and open space preservation.

4.2.6 Area F - Census Tract 7040.06

Area F is bounded by Route 70/Old Marlton Pike to the north, South Maple Avenue and Route 73 to the east, Braddock Mill Road and Route 73 to the south, and Cherry Hill Township to the west.

Area F contains a mix of land uses including office, service, and retail commercial development located along Routes 70 and 73 and Old Marlton Pike, single-family, townhouse, multi-family, and apartment dwellings along the Cherry Hill boundary, as well as institutional uses.

The census tract contains 968 households and 2,342 residents within 1,003 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 17% of the population. The median household income is \$103,214.00. The median household income is almost exactly the Township median.

The following parks/facilities within Area F includes the following:

- Carrefour (ROSI #8) and Tara (ROSI #37)
 - Carrefour (ROSI #8) currently contains three street hockey courts, which may be relocated, and other improvements installed.
- Marlton Village accesses Old Marlton Pike via Marlton Village Road and contains an outdoor swimming pool.
- Marlton Meeting condominiums are located off Centre Boulevard and have a clubhouse and outdoor swimming pool amenities.

Area F is connected to the north via North Cropwell Road into Evesham, the east along North Cropwell Road to Old Marlton Pike and across Route 73, and south into Cherry Hill.

4.2.7 Area G - Census Tract 7040.07

Area G is largely the historic downtown of the community. Area G is bounded by Route 70 to the north, Radnor and Knox Boulevards to the east, East Main Street, Evans and Brick Roads to the south, and Route 73 and South Maple Avenue to the west. The area contains a mix of land uses including office,

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service, and retail commercial development located on Routes 70 and 73 and along East Main Street, and sporadic commercial nodes and institutional uses at major intersections, as well as single family, townhouse, two-family, multi-family, and apartment dwellings on the remaining lands.

The census tract contains 1,397 households and 3,579 residents within 1,563 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 30.6% of the population. The median household income is \$63,401.00.7 It is notable that over 30% of the population in this area is age 65 years old and above, which exceeds the overall municipal percentage by 12.2%. Between the median income being approximately 60% of the median for the township plus the senior population, accessible opportunities for recreation should be considered.

Within Area G there are multiple parks including the following:

- Downs Tract (ROSI #12), Heritage (ROSI #20), Kain Memorial Park (ROSI #28), Wiley Tract (ROSI #42) and Town Clock (ROSI #39).
 - Kain Memorial Park (ROSI #28) is a grassed field used for event staging in the downtown, with gazebo and electric service.
 - Heritage (ROSI #20) is located near a creek, and contains a playground and basketball court, which were cited to be in good condition by the Assessment.

The Helen L. Beeler Elementary School is located on Radnor Boulevard between Route 70 and East Main Street. The Main Street multi-use trail/ pathway connects to the previously characterized connections to the north and west at North Maple Avenue and Old Marlton Pike. There are also proposed multi-use trail/ pathway at Radnor Boulevard and a continuation of the Main Street multi-use trail/ pathway along East Main Street to Tuckerton Road in Medford.

4.2.8. Area H - Census Tract 7040.08

Area H is bounded by Route 70 and Brick Road to the north, South Elmwood, Tomlinson Mill, and Kettle Run Roads to the east, Braddock Mill Road to the south, and Route 73 to the west. The area contains a mix of land uses including office, service, and retail commercial development located along East Main Street and Route 70 and sporadic commercial nodes and institutions uses at major intersections, as well as single family, townhouse, two-family, multi-family, and apartment dwellings.

The census tract contains 2,108 households and 5,100 residents within 2,968 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 22% of the population. The median household income is \$102,560.00.8 The median income is practically identical to the township median income.

Within Area H there are multiple parks including the following:

- Brush Hollow (ROSI #5), Evans Tract – west side (ROSI #14), Glen Eayre (ROSI #16), Indian Spring (ROSI #21), Koppenhaver Tract (ROSI #25), Savich Tract (ROSI #36), Willow Ridge (ROSI #43), Unnamed Density Transfer (ROSI #54), and Unnamed Density Transfer (ROSI #55).
 - Brush Hollow (ROSI #5) contains a playground, pedestrian path, disc golf, two basketball courts, and one street hockey court which is being converted into a pickleball court, and the Assessment recommends removal of vegetation, accessible parking, and drainage improvements.
 - Glen Eayre (ROSI #16) contains a playground and street hockey court which require upgrades, including relocating and repairing sidewalk, upgrading playground edging, resurface and striping hockey court for pickleball and hockey, and replace gate and fence.
 - Indian Spring (ROSI #21) is a community golf course with driving range, club building, bocce ball courts, and the Gibson House. The Assessment recommends individual long-range facilities plan for this recreation area.
 - Savich Tract (ROSI #36) is used primarily for soccer and lacrosse. The Assessment recommends evaluating the feasibility of vehicular access between the fields, additional signs, and a lacrosse wall. Due to the cultural significance of Savich Tract, any proposed improvements require careful planning and consideration. Additional review and approval from the Historic Preservation Committee, Environmental Commission, and other agencies should be sought prior to initiating any improvements.
 - Willow Ridge (ROSI #43) at Commonwealth Road and Evans Drive contains baseball and soccer fields, and the Assessment recommends refurbishing the baseball field, resurfacing the parking lot, and improving lighting.

Area H also contains Cherokee High School, which is part of the Lenape Regional High School District, Marlton Middle School, and Marlton Elementary School at the intersections of Tomlinson Mill Road with Willow Bend/ South Elmwood Road, and Marlton Parkway/Taunton Lake Road. The Robert B. Jaggard Elementary School is located across Westcott Road, where Cherokee High School fields connect to Westcott Road.

The multi-use trail/pathway in Area H connects to the north and east along Marlton Parkway / Taunton Lake Road to Barton Run Boulevard and to the west into Voorhees in Camden County. Off road bike trails are proposed along the southern portion of Area H into Areas J and K. The proposed Barton Run and Black Run Greenways also connect Area H, I, J, and K.

4.2.9 Area I - Census Tract 7040.09

Area I is bounded by Route 70 to the north, Medford Township to the east, Taunton Lake Road to the south, and South Elmwood, Tomlinson Mill, and Kettle Run Roads to the west. The very substantial area contains a mix of land uses including office, service, and retail commercial development located along Route 70, as well as large areas of wooded wetlands. There are single family and townhouse, dwellings scattered in clusters on small lots or single-family dwellings on large lots. The tract contains the municipal building and library, as well as other institutional uses. Outside of developed areas there are large tracts of wooded wetlands, agricultural fields, vacant lands, and other conservation lands.

The census tract contains 1,873 households and 4,661 residents within 2,068 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 12.1% of the population. The median household income is \$91,141.00.9 The median income is approximately 10% less than the township median.

Within Area I, there are multiple parks and recreational facilities, including the following:

- Barton Run (ROSI #3), Barton Run Lake (ROSI #4), Croft Farm (ROSI #10), Evans Tract – east side (ROSI #14), Johnston Tract (ROSI #22), Memorial Park/Sports Complex (ROSI #31), Project Heal Camp (ROSI #34), Morrison Parcel (ROSI #45), Barton Road (ROSI #46), Unnamed Vacant Land (ROSI #47), and Unnamed Vacant Land (ROSI #53).
 - Barton Run Boulevard (ROSI #3) is improved with a tot lot and ball field and the Assessment recommends replacement of bleachers and benches and the addition of lighting.
 - Croft Farm (ROSI #10) is partially used for agriculture and leased; and partially as a managed grassland habitat to encourage bird species as well as other animal species, which prefer meadow habitat, conserving the soil and reducing mowing costs, with limited mowing to discourage succession. According to an online database, eBird, managed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, there are 145 species observed in the Croft Farm. A comprehensive list of species observed can be found in the eBird database: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3098234?yr=all&m=>. Many species on the list have been identified as threatened or endangered and are species of special concern.
 - Memorial Park/Sports Complex (ROSI #31) is considered a community-wide park and inclusive of the Diamonds at Arrowhead Park, also known as the Johnston Tract (ROSI #22) and Morrison Parcel (ROSI #45). This communitywide/regional tournament facility offers an indoor recreation center (aka Blue Barn), walking paths, community garden, three baseball fields, five grass multi-sport fields, two artificial turf fields, two basketball courts, four tennis courts, one pickleball court, playground, and four softball diamonds. The area contains site improvements including parking, lighting, stormwater management, field lights, snack building, park maintenance building, two restroom structures.

Through a grant from Association of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), the Township was able to clear and re-open the New Road Trail in May 2022. The trail runs from New Road (off Tuckerton Road, behind the Evesham Municipal Building) to the area behind Diamonds at Arrowhead Park.

The Assessment recommends artificial turf replacement, upgraded lighting, updated irrigation, fence fabric replacement, accessible playground equipment, resurface tennis courts, maintain stormwater facilities, replace walking path, install benches, modify parking surfaces, and replace HVAC and flooring in the Blue Barn.

- Barton Run swim club was privately owned and is permanently closed. Barton Run's outdoor amenities include Barton Run Lake.
- Camp Creek Run, located along Taunton Lake Road, is a private day camp which also offers education through trips and study programs.
- Chartwell Swim club is privately owned and located off East Main Street near the Diamonds at Arrowhead Park facility.
- Forest Glen is accessed via Barton Run Boulevard and offers tennis, lake, and playground to residents.
- Hunters Chase amenities include clubhouse, picnic area, playground, and tennis facilities.
- Whitebridge Village located south of Route 70 east of Troth Road offers private amenities including a pond, clubhouse, tennis, pool, and half basketball court.
- Woodview located south of Route 70 and accessible via Troth Road, has private amenities including a clubhouse, pool, and pond.

Barton Run Boulevard and Barton Run Greenway offer opportunities to connect to Tuckerton Road and Taunton Lake Road; and the associated open spaces along both roads. The intersection of Barton Run Boulevard and Kings Grant Drive serves to connect the two districts.

4.2.10 Area J - Census Tract 7040.12

Area J is bounded by Taunton Lake Road to the north, Medford Township and Hopewell Road to the east, Kettle Run Road to the west, and Bortons Road to the south. The land use in the area is primarily residential with some retail and service commercial uses located at intersections. There are single family, townhouse, and apartment dwellings scattered in clusters on small lots or single-family dwellings on large lots. Outside of residential and existing open space areas there are large tracts of wooded wetlands, agricultural fields, vacant lands, and other conservation lands.

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The census tract contains 2,364 households and 5,865 residents within 2,663 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 15.2% of the population. The median household income is \$95,238.00.¹⁰ The median income in this area is just 5% less than the township median.

Within Area J there are multiple parks and recreational facilities including the following:

- Black Run Preserve (formerly Kings Grant II) (ROSI #24), Little Mill Park (ROSI #26), Unnamed Density Transfer (ROSI #11),
 - Black Run Preserve (formerly Kings Grant II) (ROSI #24), combined with Aerohaven (ROSI #1), and Hamilton Georgetown Road (ROSI #19), are known as the Black Run Preserve.
 - Little Mill Park (ROSI #26) contains one basketball court, one fence street hockey rink, a playground, and unused ballfield. The Assessment recommends removal of play structures, courts, and fields in favor of a cross-country trail and instructional platform.
- The Richard L Rice Elementary School is located just off Crown Royal Parkway.
- The Kings Grant development contains private amenities including a clubhouse, tennis courts, basketball courts, softball field, street hockey rink, volleyball courts, multiple playgrounds, nature trails, bike paths, beach, boating and fishing on Lake James and other lakes, and a swim club.
- Little Mill Country Club and golf course is located along Hopewell Road in and around the intersection of Bortons Road in this area.
- Links Golf Club a public 18-hole course, located on Majestic Way in Kings Grant;

The multiuse trail / pathway connects along Barton Run Boulevard to north at East Main Street and to the south at Taunton Lake Road. The Barton Run Greenway connects the area to the south and west. The southernmost portion of Area J is connected to Area K and Medford Township by the proposed Haynes Run Greenway.

4.2.11 Area K - Census Tract 7040.11

Area K is bounded by Braddock Mill, Kettle Run, and Bortons Roads and up Hopewell Road to the north, Medford Township to the east, Voorhees and Berlin Townships to the west, and Waterford Township to the south. The large area contains a mix of land uses including sporadic office, service, and retail commercial development located along Route 73. There are single family dwellings scattered in clusters on lots or single-family dwellings on large lots. Outside of residential and existing open space areas there are large tracts of wooded wetlands, agricultural fields, vacant lands, and other conservation lands.

The census tract contains 1,017 households and 3,340 residents within 1,126 housing units. The population over the age of 65 is 14.4% of the population. The median household income is \$140,375.00.¹¹ The median income exceeds the township median by 40%.

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Within Area K there are multiple parks and recreational facilities including the following:

- Aerohaven (ROSI #1), Hamilton Georgetown Road (ROSI #19), Kenilworth (ROSI #23), Marlton Lakes (ROSI #30), Pachoango (ROSI #33), Rancocas Watershed (ROSI #35), and Unnamed Open Space (ROSI #56).
 - Aerohaven (ROSI #1), Hamilton Georgetown Road (ROSI #19), combined with Black Run Preserve (formerly Kings Grant II) (ROSI #24) form contiguous lands for preservation and scenic enjoyment.
- Camp Fellowship, previously YMCA Camp Moore is located at 110 Sycamore Avenue and is privately owned by a church. Marlton Lakes contains both upper and lower lakes accessible via Spring Avenue and Lakeshore Drive, as well as tennis courts on Fern Drive.
- The Archway Upper School, accessible via Raymond Avenue, is an upper elementary private school for students with disabilities.

There are proposed off-road bike trail connections, and the Barton Run (aka Taunton Lake / New Road), Black Run (aka Taunton Lake / New Road), Haynes Run, and Mullica Greenways which would connect the southernmost portion of the Township to Evesham, dedicated open space, adjoining municipalities, and ultimately Wharton State Forest.

Area K is also the area where the most land acquisitions are planned or proposed, including the Evesham Headwaters (aka Kettle Run), East West Connector (Hopewell), and Southern Forest.

4.3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

According to the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), open space preservation provides the following benefits: ensuring health and diversity of plant and animal communities; prevent increased flooding caused by additional impervious land cover; provide space for the inland migration of coastal wetlands as they are inundated by rising sea levels; protect the quality and quantity of our surface and ground water; provide opportunities to exercise and play sports; avoid some of the costs associated with development; and preserve our connection with the natural world.

As discussed in the previous section, the Township provides abundant active and passive recreation sites for its residents. The Township expressed a desire to continually preserve open space for the current and future generations of its residents to enjoy. Parks and preserved open spaces generally increase the value of and, therefore, the property taxes paid by nearby properties. Additionally, the quality-of-life benefits of having adequate local open space and recreational amenities makes a municipality more desirable and maintain property values.

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The Township utilizes a municipal preservation tool in the form of its Recreation and Open Space Preservation Trust, which utilizes tax revenue to fund the Trust. This provides the township with a dedicated source of funding and qualifies it for state funding through the Planning Incentive Grant Program of Green Acres and the State Agricultural Development Board. The residents of Evesham have consistently voted in favor of preserving open space in the form of an open space tax in 1998 and increases to that tax in 2000 and 2021. The Township can also implement other preservation tools, such as allocating funds from the regular budget each year, tax foreclosure, area designation through official map adoption, easement, bonding, installment purchases, lease-back agreement, donation/bargain sale, long-term lease, eminent domain, zoning, density transfers.

As previously discussed, the Evesham Environmental Commission has identified additional parcels for potential open space for the purposes of acquisition, conservation, and good stewardship of the Township's land for wildlife and conservation of natural resources. These parcels are explored in [Section 8.3](#) and illustrated in [Map 10](#). To further enforce the Township's goals, critical areas for preservation and protection have also been identified, as discussed in [Section 6.1.5](#) and [Section 8.3](#).

4.4 OTHER FACILITIES

4.4.1 Board of Education Facilities

As noted above both Evesham K through 8 and the Lenape High School District provide facilities for use by youth sports and other programs at the schools, particularly for indoor sports such as basketball; and outdoor sports, including but not limited to, football, lacrosse, field hockey, baseball, and softball. There are typically fees associated with facility use for maintenance and monitoring.

4.4.2 Quasi-Public and Private Recreational Facilities

Chartwell Family Oasis Swim Club, Woodstream Swim Club, and Bear Paddle Swim School offer opportunities for summer swimming for recreation, lessons, and swim teams. The Marlton Field House, an indoor recreational building, and Camp Fellowship, an outdoor lake and camp, are operated by places of worship. Camp Creek Run is a summer camp in Evesham Township which provides day camp and natural and environmental education.

4.5 RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

4.5.1 Recreation Department and Open Space Division

Evesham Township Recreation Department and the Open Space Division, within the Public Works Department, works in tandem maintaining Township parks, playground, athletic fields, and courts, and open space, such as the Beagle Club park development project, community garden, dog park, Indian Spring golf course, programs, facility reservations, and summer camp program.

- The Beagle Club acquisition and proposed programming is characterized as a community facility providing passive recreation, natural enjoyment, cultural and arts facilities, open play, table and lawn games, fitness course, clubhouse, pavilion, and education opportunities.
- The community garden is open from April to October and operates on a reservation basis behind the Blue Barn Recreation Center. For a \$25 fee, the Township offers residents a space to grow herbs, flowers, fruits and vegetables.
- The dog park, approximately 1.4 acres, is located behind the municipal building and library adjacent to the parking lot and stormwater basin. The dog park is divided into two separate parks, one for dogs under 25 pounds and a second fenced area for dogs over 25 pounds.
- The Indian Spring Golf Course resource link redirects users to a separate golf course website, which provides information on using the golf course, driving range, and event space. The recreation programs resource guide provides sports skills instruction, educational activities, information regarding the Gibson House Community Center, the Evesham Library, and the Marlton Recreation Council. Parks and Recreation events, field, and park space can be reserved online or via a physical permit application. Insurance, background checks for trainers/coaches, and participant roster are required, as well as an agreed list of rules as enumerated in the municipal code at §110-3.
- The summer camp program is available to students for half and full days between grades 1st through 11th and provides services at the Blue Barn and surrounding Memorial Park complex. Young people of high school age are eligible to become Counselors in Training (CIT).

4.5.2 Community Affairs, Seniors, Veterans, and Disability Services

The Community Affairs, Seniors, Veterans, and Disability Services, is responsible for providing support services, events, and programs for Township residents, with a focus upon seniors, veterans, and residents with disabilities. The Gibson House Community Center is an event space for programs, seminars, and community groups and organizations. The facility is currently used by the Marlton Senior Citizen Club two times per month, and hosts events such as, but not limited to: summer concert series; Red Cross blood drives; holiday, graduation, sport, club, coming of age, and birthday parties; and weddings,

engagements, celebrations, memorial services, awards banquets, corporate meetings, and educational seminars.

4.5.3 Marlton Recreation Council (MRC)

The Marlton Recreation Council (MRC), a volunteer organization, operates programs for youth sports of all ages and abilities for baseball, basketball, cheerleading, field hockey, flag football, football, golf, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball, wrestling, and track and cross country. In addition, the organization offers a sport unity program which serves special needs youth. The current facilities that the MRC utilizes are Kessler Field, Evesham and Lenape Regional High School District schools, street hockey rinks located at Carrefour Park, Arrowhead Diamonds at the Johnston and Morrison Park, Memorial Fields, Savich Fields, Green Lane Fields, Willow Ridge, and Evesboro Downs.

4.5.4 Friends of the Black Run Preserve

Friends of the Black Run Preserve is a nonprofit organization, which seeks to preserve the unique natural Pinelands ecology; provide water quality and habitat education; and encourage respectful outdoor passive recreation along the trails network. The website provides resources, educational materials, events, membership and volunteer opportunities, and a 2013/2014 Plan completed for the trustees. The conceptual trails master plan characterizes that trail planning was performed by evaluating the site and surrounding area for trail planning and public meetings were held. The goals of the plan included increasing the utilization of the current trails for recreation and education; and developing additional trails, which are intended maintain the cultural value of the resource, through education, maintenance, and design to discourage illegal use and dumping issues. There are four core areas of the preserve, which are identified for improvements, including the following areas:

- West of Kettle Run Road is targeted for the development of multi-use trails for wildlife viewing and longer excursions.
- East of Kettle Run Road, in and around the Black Run Preserve, there is an extensive trail system. This area is prioritized to formalize trailheads, update signs, install mechanisms to deter illegal vehicle access, improve drainage, bridges, signs, and trailblazing, and improve accessibility.
- Currently, the southern tip of the expanded preserve is also known as the Aerohaven site, which was an airport. This portion of the tract is anticipated to provide opportunities for trails and mountain bike specific trails due to the nature of the already disturbed and graded site.
- The westernmost portion of the site, framed by Kings Grant to the north, Medford to the east, and an electric power Right-of-Way is targeted to connect to the remaining facilities to the west and provide a longer, backcountry trail experience.

The Black Run Preserve and associated lands including Aerohaven, the property west of Kettle Run Road and known as Hamilton Georgetown Road and planned additions such as the East-West Connector, are a prime candidate for a site-specific master plan which incorporates the Pinelands Commission, Evesham Planning Board, Evesham Environmental Commission, and Township professional staff into the process of planning, private conservation groups for maintenance, and public agencies, such as but not limited to Evesham Township, for implementation and financial assistance.

Any proposed projects or improvements within the Black Run Preserve requires review and approval from the Township Governing Body and Pinelands Commission and input from the advisory Environmental Commission. As proposed improvements, projects, and activities within the Black Run Preserve are planned, the Friends of the Black Run Preserve will work with the Township and Environmental Commission to ensure consistency between the Black Run Preserve's and the Township's Master Plan goals and objectives. Establishing consistency between the Black Run Preserve Master Plan and the Township's is critical in furthering the preservation and protection of the natural environment and improvement of recreation spaces for the residents of Evesham Township.

4.6 FACILITY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The Evesham Township Recreation and Open Space Department maintains Township parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, courts, Indian Spring Golf Course and all other open space areas and facilities. Based upon the Needs Analysis, the limited number of lighted synthetic and natural turf fields, and the large number of sports and athletes; contribute to overuse of the existing fields. Increasing the number of natural turf fields with irrigation and lighting or additional synthetic fields with sports lighting may provide needed time for field rotation, permitting the Recreation Department staff time to maintain the fields in a more comprehensive manner, lower dust impacts of natural turf fields upon surrounding uses, and enhance the Township athletic programs for participants.

4.7 FORECAST OF FUTURE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS

Demographic information was reviewed to determine trends in population, including number of residents, ages, type of household, household size, employment status, and income.

Table 4d. Current Population & Population Increase Year Population

Year	Population	% Change
2000	42,275	-
2010	45,538	7.7%
2020	46,826	2.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

There has been a steady increase in population over time, and since the year 2000, there has been an 11% increase in population. Per the US Census, and as of April 1, 2020, the population in Evesham was 46,826 persons residing in 17,956 households. This is a slight change from 2010 when there were 45,538 persons residing in 17,620 households. In 2000 there were 42,275 persons residing in the Township.

Table 4e. Population by Age Cohorts

2021		
Age	Estimate	Percent
Under 18 years	10,997	23%
18 – 24 years	3,396	7%
25 – 34 years	5,165	11%
35 – 44 years	5,881	12%
45 – 54 years	7,366	15%
55 – 64 years	6,736	14%
65 years and over	8,405	18%
Total	47,946	100%

Source: 2021 U.S. Census American Community Survey (ACS)
 1-Year Supplemental Estimates

As of 2021, persons under 18 years of age are estimated to comprise 23%; and persons 65 years of age and older are estimated to comprise 18% of the total population. This is a slight change from 2010 where persons under 18 years of age were close to 22%; and persons 65 years of age and older were 13%, of the population. While the percentage of people under 18 has been relatively steady, the 65 years of age and older population has increased.

Based upon 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year supplemental estimates, there were 17,956 total households consisting of 11,909 family households and 6,047 nonfamily households. Of those households 15,520 were English only speakers; 956 were Spanish speakers but not limited English speakers; and 1,480 were other language speakers and within that figure 177 (0.1%) households were limited English speaking households. This does not represent a substantial portion of households within Evesham Township.

The average household size in Evesham was estimated to be approximately 2.48 persons per household between 2016-2020. Median household income is approximately \$99,454, which is relatively high compared to the state median of approximately \$85,245, and county median of \$90,329 . Employment in Evesham is strong, at 70%, with an estimated unemployed working age population of 3.5%.

Based upon characterizations by municipal officials and stakeholders these population increases are consistent with increasing participation rates and interest in sports, passive recreation, events, and programs within the Township for all age groups and household types.

4.8 PARK CLASSIFICATION AND LEVEL OF SERVICE

4.8.1 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

The public service and physical and mental health benefits offered by recreation can be quantified through level of service guidelines, whereby the minimum amount of space required for the recreation requirements of the public is calculated. The 2022 National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review illustrates a range of parkland per 1,000 persons in the 20,000 to 49,999 population categories, the lower quartile at 5.4 acres per 1,000 residents, median at 10.6 acres per 1,000 residents, and the upper quartile at 17.2 acres per 1,000 residents.

National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation, and conservation. Key themes that NRPA focuses upon are advancing and advocating for parks and recreation spaces which provide conservation, health and wellness, and social equity. NRPA works in a variety of settings representing public spaces ranging from rural areas to urban neighborhoods. Once some of this information is compiled, the Evesham Recreation Department might consider utilizing the interactive tables available through www.nrpa.org/Metrics to provide comparative insights with other recreation agencies to the department.

4.8.2 Evesham Township Existing Level of Service

The active park classifications in Evesham Township include mini-, neighborhood, school-, community, natural resources areas, greenways/ blue ways, sports complex, private, and special use, including trails, connector trails, on-street bikeways, and off-street bike trails. Clear priorities came from the public meetings that contemporary activities, including additional sports and courts are needed; that scenic, cultural, and conservation resources should be preserved, and access improved; facility maintenance continued; and non-motorized pedestrian and bicycle connections provided.

Evesham has a wide variety of park and recreation spaces. Many of the spaces characterized are considered neighborhood parks as they tend to serve the neighborhood in which they are located. Larger parks as characterized by the Recreation and Open Space Department, above, serve the greater

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community, and also function as neighborhood parks providing amenities such as walking paths, picnic areas, courts, fields, and playgrounds, to nearby residents.

Some of the neighborhood parks are privately held, owned by HOAs or similar organizations. However, these areas function as public spaces, as they are used by the neighborhood. Occasionally, these neighborhood parks are open to communities larger than the neighborhood itself, but membership may be limited by capacity, such as at a pool club. These neighborhood parks and facilities offer lakes, open lawn, tennis courts, pickleball, basketball, baseball/ softball, playgrounds, picnicking, fishing, and other varied uses. The amenities of the neighborhood parks tend to reflect the natural resources such as the woods or water, of the neighborhood in which they are located.

Evesham's parks do not fit perfectly into the NRPA classifications as their location and programming largely determine their purpose. Mini parks are located within developments of town homes and small lots, throughout the township, serving as yards where outdoor living areas are limited. Similarly, mini parks are located along Main Street, serving as community gathering and recreation spots where residential yard areas are generally limited. However, because Main Street is a community gathering spot, for festivals and street fairs, the whole community sometimes populates these parks particularly during these events.

Neighborhood parks are scattered throughout the community and serve a variety of functions including passive recreation, such as picnicking, running, or walking, and active recreation in the form of playgrounds, open fields, and courts. Where schools are located within neighborhoods, at off hours the playground or fields can serve as a neighborhood park, while gymnasiums and basketball courts serve as community facilities.

Community parks function as historic and natural resources for enjoyment and sports complexes for specific field and court sports. Multiple parks contain natural, scenic, and agriculture resource areas connecting the community to multiple community facilities and parks through greenway resources. Private parks and recreation facilities include pools, golf courses, indoor sports arenas, and neighborhood beaches and lake facilities. Evesham has made excellent progress developing on-street bikeways, though opportunities still exist to provide more. The township is continuing to seek opportunities and approvals to develop internal park trails and connector trails.

The 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review provides a snapshot for comparison of agency performance. It is not intended to set a standard for but to provide data for evaluation. If Evesham has not, it might consider participation in the NRPA Park Metrics, performance resource to assist Evesham Recreation in effectively managing and planning operating resources and capital facilities. The intent of the data consolidation resource is to improve funding support and offer more comprehensive service to the community.



Figure 6. 477 N. Elmwood Road (aka 'Beagle Club'), View 2
Source: <https://evesham-nj.org/beagle-club>

SECTION 5.

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

The 2012 Open Space and Recreation Plan illustrated land uses, vernal pools, dams, historic sites and district, wetlands, agriculture, groundwater recharge areas, forested wetlands, upland forests, wetlands, grasslands, proposed open space, and proposed greenways. These resource maps provide guidance with respect to desirable opportunities for all types of recreational purposes, which are still relevant today.

As one travels from north to south in the Township, the Rancocas Greenway, Barton Run Greenway, Black Run Greenway, Evesham Headwaters, Haynes Run Greenway, East-West Connector, Southern Forest, and Mullica Greenway all remain as desirable locations for acquisition, easements, and/or improvement as water related, scenic, vegetated, wildlife habitat and corridor, educational, scientific, historic, and cultural interest areas and sites. These remaining places offer conservation resource value, open space facility links, including trails, bicycle paths and greenways to link existing recreation and open space sites into an integrated system. As characterized by the Consistency with Local, County, and Regional Plans, habitat for plant and animal populations, watershed and water quality protection, scenic resources, compatible land uses, and drinking water supply protection are all satisfied by implementation of the Proposed Park System as characterized in [Map 10](#).

Currently, Country Farms, Willow Ridge, Savich Field, and Green Lane fields all offer opportunities for expansion of natural turf to provide more comprehensive management of the park lands. The Township will explore potential locations for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, including pickleball, disc golf, lacrosse, field hockey, street hockey, and fieldhouse. [Section 6.3](#) of the Action Plan identifies potential areas for these proposed facilities.



Figure 7. Memorial Sports Complex
Soccer Field



Figure 8. Heritage Park
35A Caldwell Avenue

SECTION 6.

ACTION PLAN

To achieve the open space and recreation goals established by the Township, an action plan is established that outlines the necessary steps to achieve these goals. This Action Plan includes action items that the Township aims to achieve in the next five years. The Township recognizes that this document is not a static document and that updates may be necessary to report on the progress, adjust, modify, or add as necessary any proposals for new actions. The action items described in this section will help the Township provide an excellent open space, parks, and recreation system for its residents and visitors. Specifically, these actions can provide guidance to the Township as a whole, including its municipal leaders, the Planning Board, the Department of Recreation and Open Space and Community Development, and local organizations. The OSRP serves as a blueprint for how the open space and recreation system in the Township can be developed.

The action items described below were developed through direct community input, interviews with stakeholders, and a review of trends and opportunities with Township professionals. It also builds upon the recommendations offered by the 2012 OSRP. This list does not suggest a specific commitment of funds or timing of investment. The items are not presented in priority order, as progress can be made on many of these goals simultaneously and incrementally, as opportunities are presented.

6.1 REGULATORY AND POLICY ACTIONS

6.1.1 Adopt an Inclusive Policy

Creating and adopting a formal inclusive policy is a great way to ensure that Evesham's park and recreation facilities, programs and activities are accessible, welcoming, and inclusive. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides guidelines for organizations and municipalities in developing an inclusive policy. The guideline identifies the following behaviors and conditions that negatively impacts inclusivity within a community:

- Communication – examples include small print or no large-print versions of written materials; not offering Braille or materials capable of working with screen readers; lack of closed captioning

in videos and oral communications without an interpreter (like American Sign Language); or not providing materials in multiple languages.

- Community Engagement – examples include not providing adequate opportunities for people from different backgrounds to share their voice or concerns and express their needs during community meetings.
- Physical – examples include lack of ramps, narrow doorways that cannot accommodate wheelchairs; reception desks that are too high for a seated person to be seen; gendered restrooms or locker rooms; or inadequate facilities in low-income communities.
- Programmatic – examples include lack of culturally sensitive program times; lack of accessible equipment; lack of staff knowledge regarding participants with disability; failure to communicate directly with participants about needs.
- Social – examples include not employing those with differing abilities, stereotyping, stigma, prejudice and discrimination, a lack of cultural events, etc.
- Transportation – examples include lack of accessible transportation or parking spaces.

The Township should consider to what extent these exclusive behavior and conditions are present in the community and consider adopting an inclusive policy to improve these conditions. The NRPA developed an Inclusion Policy Template and Parks for Inclusion Policy Guide to help communities adopt and implement inclusive policies. The NRPA provides these resources at no cost in the following:

<https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/partnerships/initiatives/parks-for-inclusion/policy-guide/>.

6.1.2 Fire Management

According to the 2019 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the state experiences an average of 1,500 wildfire damages or destroy 7,000 acres of forests. Wildfires result in the uncontrolled destruction of forests, brush, field crops, grasslands, real estate, and personal property, resulting in increased probability of other natural disasters, such as flooding and mudflow. The Pinelands National Reserve is at the greatest risk for wildfire. It compasses about 1.1 million acres, which is 22% of the state's land area, across seven counties and all or parts of 56 municipalities. About 64% of Burlington County's land area is within the Pinelands Area. About three-quarters of Evesham are within the Pinelands Management Area.

Historically, the Pinelands have been known to have naturally occurring wildfires for many years. The unique flora on the Pinelands contributes to this common occurrence of wildfires, as many plant species rely on fire for part of their reproductive cycle.

According to the Wildfire Fuel Hazard data developed by New Jersey Forest Fire Service (NJFFS), Burlington County is exposed to extreme fuel hazard and moderate to high risk. For Evesham, 36% of

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the land area (6,846 square miles) is in low to moderate hazard area and 25% (4,775 square miles) is in high to extreme hazard area.

The NJFFS also conducted a vulnerability assessment to understand the impact of wildfire on the life, health, and safety of the residents, including first responders. Wildfire has a significant impact on the overall well-being of the community, as it generates smoke and air pollution. Vulnerable populations, most importantly, are at higher risk, including children, the elderly, and those with respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Medford, Pemberton, and Evesham Township have the greatest number of individuals located in the extreme/very high/high hazard areas. Specifically, 6.5% (2,977) of Evesham population is exposed to extreme/very high/high hazard areas and almost 24% (10,831) within the moderate/low hazard areas.

In addition to residents being at risk, wildfires also have an impact on structures. Infrastructure located within the NJFFS identified extreme, very high or high fuel hazard areas. According to NJFFS' analysis, almost 2% (267) of Evesham's buildings are located within extreme/very high/high hazard areas and 10% (1,483) are in the moderate/low hazard areas. The estimated value of replacing such structures/buildings within the within extreme/very high/high hazard areas in Evesham is \$691,213,944 and \$1,770,607,597 for structures/buildings located in the moderate/low hazard areas. Overall, Evesham has the largest total replacement value (at \$14,666,082,424) in the county, followed by Mount Laurel Township at \$14,653,800,804.

Wildfires can significantly impact the economy as well from loss of structures and revenue. Suppressing and controlling wildfire also involves significant costs and time.

Recommendations:

- Conduct prescribed burn in the Black Run Preserve on lands adjacent to King's Grant.
- Work with Arbor Walk HOA to reduce the fire load of forested land between Black Run Preserve and their community.
- Develop a woodland management program to provide tax breaks for private landowners with land located in high-risk properties.
- Buildings constructed of wood or vinyl siding are generally more likely to be damaged by fire than buildings constructed of brick or concrete. Proposed developments located in the wildfire hazard area should be retrofitted with flame-resistant materials.
- Institute vegetation maintenance programs to reduce the risk of wildfires spreading into developed areas.
- Through outreach and awareness program, encourage woodland owners, managers of woodlands, educators, land trust representatives, land planners, active volunteers in other stewardship programs, and anyone interested in the stewardship of New Jersey's forests and wildlife to participate in the New Jersey Woodland Stewards Program.

- Educate and encourage private landowners with at least 5 acres of forest land or land capable of being a forest and scheduled to be forested in participating the New Jersey Forest Stewardship Program. The program provides technical and financial management assistance.
- Continue to implement the following action items identified in the 2019 Mitigation Plan:
 - Continue to pursue participation in the Firewise Program.
 - Evesham Fire-Rescue (EFR) should continue to assess and update wildfire hazard mapping for Evesham Township in cooperation with the NJ State Forestry and make all mapping information available on the EFR website for the public to review. In addition, EFR should continue to provide educational information on the website on actions that homeowners can take to help reduce the risk to life and property from wildfires. EFR should also continue to work with the NJ State Forestry in fuels management (control burns).
 - Conduct and facilitate community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses to promote natural hazard risk reduction to include Disaster Preparedness Hazard Mitigation.
 - Improve municipal communications systems to include information sharing with the County and surrounding municipalities.
 - During future updates of the Master Plan, Floodplain Management Plan, or the Emergency Operation Plan, work to integrate hazard mitigation principles and recommendations into the plans. Additionally, use these hazard mitigation principles and plan recommendations to update local building and zoning codes to create a more resilient community.

6.1.3 Environmental Education and Outreach

The 2012 OSRP identified the following initiatives to educate the residents of Evesham. These should be continued to be implemented:

- Continue the teacher training workshops and identify additional ways to encourage and expand the involvement and education about Evesham's resources through the school districts.
- Work with partners, develop programs that enable students, teachers, parents, and other adults to assist with surveys of plants and animals, water quality, and stream conditions.
- Explore collaboration with local groups and with college programs as a means of obtaining professional help, in addition to working closely with the Pinelands Commission, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Woodford Cedar Run, and other groups.

- Plan family education and fun events within the large parks and state and non-profit lands to attract residential awareness and use of these great outdoor recreation sites.
- Use outreach and community engagement to help identify and transform outdated and uniform neighborhood pocket parks into valued neighborhood assets. These parks should feature small-scale, low-impact amenities. However, a variety of amenities should be considered and spread around the community.
- Educate the residents on firewise improvements in areas susceptible to fire.
- Educate Residents regarding Pinelands Native Plants and best management practices.
- The Township should also consider working with local groups and businesses to identify additional sites along Township streams for canoe/kayak and boat access.

As the Township initiates this ongoing effort, it is important to keep in mind achieving the inclusivity aspect in relation to providing accessibility for all ages and abilities and varying means of communications.

6.1.4 Revegetation/Reforestation

The Township owns and maintains hundreds of acres of land that are either unutilized or underutilized. The concept of revegetation/reforestation was strongly supported in the Evesham 2020 Vision Plan. The Township should continue to pursue the development of a Land Management Plans outlining the maintenance and use of township-owned lands, as initially recommended by the 2012 OSRP. They should also be included in the Township's Forestry Management Plan. Working with the Pinelands Commission, the Environmental Commission can help to develop such plans, along with a methodology and proposed list of revegetation/reforestation projects. The Township should continue to implement the following recommendations identified in the 2012 OSRP:

- Review of existing ordinances and development of new critical area ordinances is recommended as a collaborative effort by the Environmental Commission, the Planning Board, and Township Council.
- Work with the Pinelands Commission and local non-profits to develop and fund plant surveys and to generate rare plant stewardship recommendations aimed at helping municipal government, public landowners, and homeowner's associations to protect, manage and recover rare native plant populations.
- Promote production of Guides for homeowners and others to adopt native plant landscaping.

In addition to the above recommendations, the Township should make every effort to remove invasive plant material where possible and replace with native species. Prescribed or targeted grazing, such as goat grazing, should be considered. This is a safe, cost-effective method of controlling invasive species.

6.1.5 Land Preservation and Protection

Proposed Open Space Inventory

The Evesham Environmental Commission undertook an effort to identify parcels for potential open space preservation. These parcels support the preservation and protection strategies that were identified for each of the focus areas discussed below. The Proposed Open Space in [Map 10](#) provides a general overview of these future open space areas that the Township should look toward when planning for open space and park preservation. This list includes some properties that are not traditionally thought of as “open space.” To increase the amount of preserved land and reduce development within the municipality, this plan recommends that Evesham utilize a diverse inventory of land and preservation tools to begin to prioritize properties, such as conservation easements, adoption of land ordinances, stewardship programs, acquisition, and other forms of protection, as part of an overall parks system strategy. The properties identified in this inventory provide a starting point for focusing attention on lands critical of preserving and protecting. This document is a vision document that provides tools that will help guide the preservation of the Township’s land and natural resources when opportunities are provided. The Township is encouraged to continually evaluate additional areas for potential preservation.

The protection of a particular property and the achievement of environmental objectives can be obtained through a variety of methods, including conservation easements, adoption of land ordinances, good stewardship program by landowners, or direct acquisition. The Township is encouraged to employ the appropriate preservation and protection tools/strategies. A property’s inclusion on the Proposed Open Space system ([Map 10](#)) indicates only that the specific property is within an area designated for potential preservation. It does not necessarily imply that any particular action will be taken relative to the property. These areas indicate an environmental significance to the Township and, therefore, land preservation/protection strategies should be considered. The Township should collaborate with willing landowners to find the most mutually beneficial approach to natural resources and land protection. The Township in the future may work towards initiating a stewardship education program for landowners of developed parcels, especially developed residential properties.

The listing of a property in [Section 8.3](#) indicates only that the property falls within the proposed focus areas discussed below and that there are some environmental objectives relative to the property. Such objectives can be achieved through a variety of preservation methods, including conservation easements, adoption of land ordinances, stewardship programs, or direct acquisition. As the Township seeks to preserve land, the preservation strategies outlined in this section should be carefully considered to employ the most appropriate preservation tool. In general, in all the focus areas identified in this section, it is recommended that developed properties under five acres are appropriate for potential use in a stewardship education program.

At the time of preparing this 2023 OSRP update, the Pinelands Commission was in the process of a rule making proposal involving the redesignation on an area in the Black Run in Evesham Township that

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could affect the Township's proposed open space system. The Township will revisit and reevaluate its proposed open space system once the rule making process is complete.

Focus Areas

There are three (3) major areas, the Evesham Headwaters Area, Southern Forest Area, and East-West Connector Area, where a focus on preservation and conservation efforts is needed over the next few years. These are desirable preservation projects which can be pursued through a variety of tools ranging from cluster zoning, acquisition of development rights, to fee-simple acquisition (in-whole or in-part). These areas were identified as meriting preservation, using whatever funding sources can be accessed and the municipal tools that are available to Evesham. These areas are in southern Evesham, and they are in urgent need of being protected due to their high-quality woodland, both to retain their pristine condition and to prevent fragmentation and isolation of the large parks already owned by Evesham. The parcels within these areas are listed in [Appendix 8.3](#) and illustrated in [Map 10](#). The boundaries of these focus areas serve as a guide for the Township in ways to protect these areas when opportunities are presented for potential acquisition or conservation.

Evesham Headwaters Area

The Evesham Headwaters Area consists of both wet forests and upland forests. It is the location where the headwaters of both Barton Run and Black Run begin, and it is also a region of the highest recharge to groundwater within Evesham Township. The habitats in this area have been documented as having very high integrity, according to Pinelands Commission studies, meaning that the creeks are pristine Pineland waters, and the forests are highly diverse. Several endangered and threatened species have been documented in this Area. The area is adjacent to land that has been preserved by Evesham Township. Its status within the Pinelands Rural Development Area does not offer significant protection from development on the upland locations within the Area. Development has occurred south of this region and, with the township nearly built out in other locations, this is perhaps the most threatened part of Evesham, making preservation and protection of this area paramount.

Preservation Strategies

Forested uplands within this Area are important to protect because of their high biodiversity value. The creeks also need protection for purposes of water quality, especially given the impact on downstream segments that flow through the Georgetown–Hamilton tract and the Black Run Preserve lands east of Braddock Mill Road.

Acquisition would be the best method of protecting this land, but other alternative approaches should be considered, especially because of the large amount of acreage in this Area. Funding through the Pinelands Commission, the township's Open Space and Recreation Fund, and other sources could be used to acquire properties that are available. Farm preservation funds might also assist in the acquisition of parts

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of this site. Non-profit acquisition could also aid in preservation. Zoning changes should be considered, along with potential density exchanges between this region and lands that are nearby that could be zoned for greater density for such a purpose. Such changes would help to reduce the need for public funds for full acquisition while also protecting the development potential for current landowners.

Southern Forest Area

The Southern Forest Area in the southeastern corner of Evesham is a mixture of upland forest types: deciduous, coniferous, and mixed, along with wooded wetlands along waterways, and a few farms field parcels. It is adjacent to lands preserved by the State of New Jersey and by non-profit land trusts on the east, which connect to high-value forested lands in Medford Township that, in turn, connect to the Wharton State Forest.

This area is identified by the Pinelands Commission as an area of high watershed integrity, high landscape integrity, and high-water quality integrity. It also has documented occurrences of endangered and threatened species of both plants and animals. It is one of 20 target areas within the Pinelands where enhanced protection is deemed especially important. Unpreserved parcels consist of vacant land and farm-assessed land (including lands under woodland management). Development pressure in this area was becoming threatening prior to the economic downturn and is likely to increase again in the near future. The Pinelands status of this land as Forest Woodland and Forest Agriculture provides limited protection from fragmented development.

Preservation Strategies

Forested uplands within this Area are important to protect because of their high biodiversity value. The creeks also need protection for the purposes of water quality. Acquisition of this land would provide the best protection. Some parcels may become available through tax lien sales. Funding for other parcels through the Pinelands Commission, the township's Open Space and Recreation Fund, and other sources could be used to acquire properties that are available. Non-profit acquisition would also aid in preservation in this area. Owners of properties that are developed but over five acres in size might consider donating or selling easements, where appropriate. Stewardship information should be made available to owners of developed properties under five acres. Zoning changes should be considered, along with mandatory clustering and potential density exchanges between this region and lands that are nearby that could be zoned for greater density for such a purpose. Such changes would reduce the amount of public funding needed for acquisition while also protecting the development potential of current landowners.

East-West Connector Area

This region connects the preserved Aerohaven property and lands to the east of Hopewell Road that are owned by homeowner's associations or owned and/or preserved by the State of New Jersey, including

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the Girl Scout Camp. East of Hopewell Road the land is largely forested wetlands, but the larger part of the Area, to the west of Hopewell Road, is upland coniferous forest held as farm-assessed land. Both types of habitats have documented occurrences of endangered and threatened species. This is not an area that registered as having high ecological value in Pinelands studies because of its more limited size, but it has high priority for protection because it allows movement of wildlife between two critical regions in southern Evesham that are high integrity lands. It especially prevents the Aerohaven property and the adjacent preserved Black Run Preserve, as well as the Evesham Headwaters Area, from becoming isolated from other Pinelands habitat. The status of this Area within the Pinelands Rural Development-2 Area does not offer significant protection from development on the upland locations. Its location along Hopewell Road makes this land a target for future development.

Preservation Strategies

Forested uplands within this Area are important to protect because of their high biodiversity value. Acquisition of this land would provide the best protection. Funding through the Pinelands Commission, the township's Open Space and Recreation Fund, and other sources could be used to acquire properties that are available. Non-profit acquisition could also aid in preservation in this area. Stewardship information should be made available to owners of developed properties under five acres. Zoning changes should be considered, along with mandatory clustering and potential density exchanges between this region and lands that are nearby that could be zoned for greater density for such a purpose. Such changes would reduce the amount of public funding needed for acquisition while also protecting the development potential of current landowners.

Greenways

The Township also identifies four (4) greenways, the Rancocas Greenway, Barton Run Greenway, Haynes Run Greenway, and the Mullica Greenway, that provide important habitat for wildlife, protect stream waters from the impacts of stormwater runoff, stabilize streambanks, provide flood prevention, maintain the health of the complex biotic systems of wetlands, and provide connections for residents to waterways and trails. [Map 10](#) illustrates a general depiction of these greenway areas. Similar to the focus areas above, it is not the intention of the Township to place specific actions on a particular property that is within or adjacent to these areas. When opportunities are provided to the Township to preserve or protect any of these areas, the Township should consider implementing the appropriate land use preservation tools discussed in this section. These greenway areas are identified by the Township that contain important habitat areas and stream corridors where protection and preservation efforts and attention are critical. The boundaries of these areas, as shown in [Map 10](#), is a guiding boundary for the Township, and does not represent a fixed boundary. The Township is encouraged to carefully study these areas when opportunities are presented to protect/preserve these areas. Furthermore, the Township is encouraged to collaborate with willing landowners to find the most mutually beneficial approach to natural resources and land protection.

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Greenways maintain important habitat for wildlife and provide corridors through which animal and plant species can move. They also protect stream waters from the impacts of stormwater runoff and help to stabilize streambanks and prevent their erosion, as well as aid in flood prevention and maintain the health of the complex biotic systems of wetlands. Greenways along water also serve to connect people to the outdoors by providing potential access to the waterway and potential sites for walking and biking trails.

A review of the properties within these Greenways, along with visits to the waterways, will help to identify which strategies are most appropriate: acquisition of specific properties, conservation easements, or stewardship education. Working with local non-profits and the Pinelands Commission would help in developing a stewardship education program. Contacting landowners with property within the Greenways will determine their interest and promote stewardship. As previously stated, the proposed greenway boundaries illustrated in Map 10 are mere approximation of the area and should only serve as broad depiction of the greenway boundaries. As the illustrated greenways serves as a recommended conceptual boundary, specific blocks and lots are not yet identified. As opportunities are presented that will enable the Township to achieve this vision, the Township should explore a variety of methods for preservation, including direct acquisition, conservation easements, land ordinances, and/or good stewardship by landowners.

Rancocas Greenway

Rancocas Greenway is a narrow strip of land bordering the headwater stream that is the start of the Southwest Branch Rancocas Creek. It begins in the West Cedar Avenue/Marlgreen Tract owned by the township, just west of North Maple Avenue, and runs southeast from there through the Cambridge Park subdivision, across Route 70, through the township-owned Savich Tract, and along the north side of the township-owned Croft Farm before crossing into Medford Township, where it meets the Barton Run/Black Run Creek. Where it runs through township land, its banks are forested and well buffered. Where it crosses through the Cambridge Park development, the stream runs across backyards or forms the boundary between housing on both sides. Protection of this creek's water quality is largely a matter of stewardship education to residents adjacent to the stream.

The vacant parcels along this waterway could be preserved using New Jersey Green Acres funding, Burlington County Open Space funds, and/or Municipal Open Space funds. Non-profits working in southern New Jersey could also be utilized for preservation and educational assistance. An adequate conservation buffer along the stream should be a condition for any site development approval. An assessment of buffer conditions along its length would provide the basis for a more detailed protection/restoration plan that would improve stream water quality.

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Barton Run/Black Run Greenway

Barton Run Greenway encompasses two streams: Barton Run and Black Run, which join just north of Taunton Lake Road. Barton Run has several tributaries, one of which flows from Kenilworth Lake in neighboring Voorhees Township, but which then flows within the Pinelands part of Evesham. All branches flow through parcels of vacant land or farm-assessed land. Black Run flows through the Black Run Preserve before crossing various parcels of unpreserved vacant land to the north of the Preserve, all within the Pinelands Management Area. Both streams traverse wooded wetlands and some upland forest, as well as scrub/shrub areas, in Evesham. These areas are highly ranked by the New Jersey Landscape Project as critical habitat, meaning they have documented occurrences of threatened or endangered species of animals. The area to the north of the Black Run Preserve has been assessed by Pinelands Commission studies as having high watershed and landscape integrity. Water quality is high due to the low level of altered land in this Greenway.

The aim for both Greenways is to prevent the percentage of developed (altered) land from exceeding 10% of the subwatersheds that they drain. It is at this percentage and above that water quality is most likely to be negatively affected. Barton Run's subwatershed has already exceeded this level in Voorhees, but not yet in Evesham. The impairments to the waterway, documented in the Evesham Environmental Resource Inventory, probably arise from that land use in Camden County. The good forest buffering that a greenway provides can be achieved through preservation of the land, good stewardship where development already exists, and through bank restoration where buffers are missing.

The vacant and farm-assessed parcels along this waterway could be preserved using New Jersey Green Acres funding, Burlington County Open Space funds, and/or Municipal Open Space funds. Non-profits working in southern New Jersey could also be utilized for preservation and educational assistance. Conservation easements along some areas of the streams could provide protection without acquisition of partially developed parcels, especially along Barton Run branches. An adequate conservation buffer along the stream should be a condition for any site development approval. Modification of Evesham's stream corridor protection ordinance would prevent loss of wooded buffers in any future subdivision or single property development. Substantial buffers of 300 feet should be required, especially along stretches of Black Run. An assessment of buffer conditions along the length of each stream would provide the basis for a more detailed protection/restoration plan that would improve stream water quality. The Black Run Greenway should be preserved through acquisition, if possible. However, consideration should also be given to zoning changes and to potential density exchanges between these lands and other lands nearby that could be designated for higher densities.

Haynes Run Greenway

Haynes Run starts in the former YMCA property lake and flows northeastward across southern Evesham, through Harmony Lake and on to Lost Lake and Vandal Lake, before leaving Evesham to become part of the Taunton Lakes system and the Southwest Branch Rancocas Creek. Along its way in Evesham,

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Haynes Run flows through township-owned or homeowner association land. It also crosses part of the East–West Connector Area described above and recommended for preservation. Only the portion of the stream corridor immediately around Lost Lake and Vandal Lake is unprotected as it flows through vacant, upland forest land. This is the portion designated as the Haynes Run Greenway. The habitat of this small area is considered critical land by the New Jersey Landscape Project, meaning that it has documented occurrences of threatened and/or endangered species. It would be relatively easy to preserve these areas and provide additional public access to the lakes, which are otherwise likely to be developed.

The vacant parcels along this waterway could be preserved through acquisition or through conservation easements using New Jersey Green Acres funding, Burlington County Open Space funds, and/or Municipal Open Space funds. Non-profits working in southern New Jersey could also be utilized for preservation. An adequate conservation buffer along the stream should be a condition for any site development approval. Stewardship information should be provided to homeowners of properties that sit along this stream/lake corridor.

Mullica Greenway

The main stem of the Mullica River begins as a headwater stream in Voorhees Township and then flows eastward, forming the border between Evesham and Waterford townships, where part of the river is buffered by upland forest and wooded wetlands. This Greenway is adjacent to the Southern Forest Area and, like it, the wooded sections are of high ecological value. The river leaves Evesham on a southeastward trajectory and travels through the Wharton State Forest and the Edwin Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean via Great Bay. The watershed is one of the most pristine in New Jersey. Unfortunately, the section of the Mullica River in Evesham suffers from water quality impairments to aquatic life and to fish. Greenway protection and possible buffer restoration are needed to reduce the impairments in those sections that are more developed.

Acquisition of lands adjacent to the Southern Forest Area is desirable. The vacant parcels along this waterway could be preserved using New Jersey Green Acres funding, Burlington County Open Space funds, and/or Municipal Open Space funds. Non-profits working in southern New Jersey could also be utilized for preservation and educational assistance. Development of conservation easements along the more developed part of the river would also provide protection. An assessment of buffer conditions along the river's length would provide the basis for a more detailed protection/restoration plan that would improve stream water quality. Stewardship education to owners of developed properties on both sides of the river is also needed. Working with Waterford and Voorhees townships would enhance Evesham's efforts to improve water quality. Consideration should also be given to zoning changes and the establishment of areas where development potential could be transferred. This would provide preservation without the cost of public funding, in part, and would retain the development potential of current landowners.

6.1.6 Circulation Plan

The Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) (NJSA 40:55D-1 et seq.) provides for the preparation and adoption of a Circulation Plan Element (NJSA 40:55D-28b.4.), which reads as follows:

A circulation plan element showing the location and types of facilities for all modes of transportation required for the efficient movement of people and goods into, about, and through the municipality, taking into account the functional highway classification system of the Federal Highway Administration and the types, locations, conditions and availability of existing and proposed transportation facilities, including air, water, road and rail.

Municipalities are encouraged to locate and design transportation routes that will promote the free flow of traffic while discouraging location of such facilities and routes that can result in congestion or blight, which is one of the purposes of the MLUL. A circulation plan furthers the objectives of the MLUL by effectively planning for the community transportation network and addressing critical linkages between other elements such as the land use, housing, and recreation and open space elements.

Evesham Township prepared a Circulation Plan as an element of its 1990 Master Plan and amended in 1993. The most recent update to the Circulation Plan was in 2000. The plan identified several roadway improvements in the Township, including pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations.

Given the date of the last update, the Township should consider an amendment to the Circulation Plan. The update should analyze the extent to which the existing transportation system (all modes of transportation) is meeting current demand. Additionally, the plan should predict future demand for the transportation system based on the proposed Land Use Plan and determine what transportation improvements will be needed as a result of the demand analysis. Consistency between the Township's land use, housing, bike plan, and open space and recreation plans must be established.

6.1.7 Complete & Green Streets Policy

Across the municipal plans of Evesham Township, including the Master Plan, Bikeway Plan, and Vision Plan, there is a common goal to maintain safety, environmental quality, efficiency, and livability within the Township. These goals can be further reinforced by adopting a complete streets policy. The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) defines "complete street" as a "means to provide safe access for all users by designing and operating a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options." The intent of the complete streets policy is to provide streets that meet the needs of all types of users and all modes of circulation.

In late 2009, NJDOT adopted a Complete Streets Policy for the purpose of "...creating and implementing a Complete Streets policy in New Jersey through the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new and retrofit transportation facilities within public rights of way that are federally or state funded, including projects processed or administered through the Department's Capital Program".

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In 2019, the *Complete & Green Streets for All* was developed in collaboration with a wide range of government and nonprofit partners, including Tri-State Transportation Campaign, the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy of Rutgers University, Sustainable Jersey, New Jersey Future, and many other stakeholder organizations, designed to provide guidance in adopting and implementing complete streets policies and practices. The Township should utilize this model for complete streets policy and guide in developing, adopting, and implementing its complete streets policy.

The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center states that Complete Streets benefit communities by addressing the needs of all road users regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. Adopting a complete streets policy may allow the Township to realize the following benefits:

- Enhance mobility and accessibility by enhancing connections between local destinations, including critical and community facilities and retail destinations;
- Improve safety and the sense of community and quality of life;
- Reduce reliance on automobiles and congestion;
- Revitalize downtowns and promote tourism; and
- Increase private investment and property values.

According to the National Complete Streets Coalition, the following items represent some of the items in an ideal Complete Streets policy:

- A vision for how and why the community wants to complete its streets;
- Identification that “all users” includes pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit passengers of all age and ability, as well as automobile drivers and transit vehicle operators;
- Emphasis on street connectivity and comprehensive, integrated, connected networks for all modes of transportation;
- Relevance to both new and retrofit projects, including design, planning, maintenance, and operations for the entire Right-of-Way;
- Use of the latest and best design standards while recognizing the need for flexibility in balancing user needs;
- Establishment of performance standards with measurable outcomes; and
- Steps for implementation.

Several New Jersey municipalities have enacted resolutions in support of Complete Streets Policies, including neighboring municipalities such as Medford Township, Cherry Hill Township, and Voorhees Township. The New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center provides a full list of jurisdictions in

the following: <https://njbikeped.org/nj-complete-streets-policy-compilation/>. Evesham Township should utilize these resolutions as examples when developing its own complete streets policy.

6.1.8 Outdoor Field Lighting

The Township has identified the concern of light pollution from outdoor athletic fields/facilities. The key issues of light pollution are light trespass and glare. While the Township Zoning Ordinance has provisions on the hours of operation and lighting standards for parks and open fields, some field lights are left on after evening events. Lighted sports fields that are left on after events incur a considerable operating expense and, thereby, increases light pollution. In some cases, security lighting is also present and remains on all night. To better regulate the hours of operation of the outdoor field lighting, the Township should consider implementing lighting controls.

For example, Wireless Telematics® provides a technology for lighting control solutions for a variety of settings, including athletic fields. The technology is a web-based Lighting Controller that manages lighting at athletic fields, ball parks, tennis courts and virtually any other recreational facility, which can be managed and controlled remotely such as through a computer or smartphone device. With Lighting Controller, municipalities or agencies can set weekly schedule ahead of time to enable autopilot, avoiding having to send someone to the field to turn the lights on before events and off after events; and, thereby, saves money on electricity, staffing costs, and reduce maintenance. It is recommended that the Township employ this type of technology to better regulate outdoor field lighting.

As the Township makes improvements to its existing outdoor facilities' lighting or provides new installation thereof, it is important to consider using an energy-efficient lighting system, such as light-emitting diode (LED), or similar advanced technology. LED lighting is highly energy efficient. It consumes less energy compared to traditional lighting, which, in turn, reduces energy costs. LED lighting is also more durable and lasts longer than other lighting types, which would minimize maintenance costs for the Township as well.

6.2 Park and Open Space Improvements

6.2.1 Park Signage

Currently, Evesham parks have a wide variety of signage types with little to no consistency between them. The lack of a consistent design or theme can make it difficult to identify areas as public parks. Developing a good park signage system can provide effective information and directions for people to find their way around the park. It can also encourage learning experiences, maintain the image of the parks, and communicate park rules. Signage can meet specific needs and target specific areas to provide a sense of place.

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The Township should consider developing parks and open space signage and wayfinding standards or guidelines. Creating this guideline will require the Township to survey existing signage conditions in the parks and take an inventory analysis. It is also important to understand the issues, problem areas, and perceived decision points along park visitor's paths into and through the park.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), communities should consider the following when developing park signage:

- Clarify your goals – Decide the goals and purposes for the signage system; determine the intent of the signage, who it will serve, and the kind of information the community wants to communicate. This will involve completing the following:
 - Survey of the existing signage conditions in the park; reviewing existing standards and guidelines; conducting evaluation studies; interviewing park staff concerning information relevant to the park and region; surveying existing signage in terms of its types, condition and relation to local topography and conditions; and examining incident and accident records to determine what special signage needs may be relevant to develop.
 - Understand and fully evaluate any issues, problem areas and perceived decision points along a park visitor's paths into and through a facility. Speak to visitors about areas they find difficult to locate or navigate. Make observations of different types of visitors (e.g., the elderly, children, families, ability level, etc.) and understand how the visitors make decisions, and how they enter and move through a park.
 - Identify any unique historical aspects of a park and surrounding areas that may contribute to a sense of place, nurture local pride and stimulate learning about the place.
- Types of park signage – identify the type of signage based on the purpose it will serve. Examples include park maps, information or bulletin boards, educational signs, and directional signs.
- Test, experiment, and evaluate – Once signage plan is in place, follow up with evaluations to determine whether such signs are effective.

This is also an opportunity for the Township to implement inclusive actions, such as installing ADA-compliant signs. The height, font, and color of the signs should be considered. Use of tactile signs, such as braille, below any text of the signs should also be considered. Furthermore, consider the needs of special groups such as children at stroller height, as well as those who travel through the park by wheelchair, motorized scooter, or bicycle.

6.2.2 477 N Elmwood property (former Beagle Club)

In the 2012 OSRP, the Township identified the acquisition and preservation of the Garden State Beagle Club property as one of its action plans. In early 2021, the Township began steps to purchase and permanently preserve the Garden State Beagle Club property along North Elmwood Road, commonly

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known as “The Beagle Club.” This 176-acre property was the largest remaining open tract of developable land in the Township. Since finalizing the purchase in April 2022, work has begun for the creation of a conceptual design that will ensure the property provides passive recreation for residents of all abilities for generations to come.

Through community engagements, including community charrettes, senior citizen expo, public survey, and focus groups, a draft concept plan for a new passive park was presented based on community input. The concept plan proposed for the park addresses the community’s concerns with respect to maintaining the ecosystem, park scale, maintenance, security, traffic, neighborhood access and buffers, including a Tuxedo Court buffer, Country Farms buffer, and The Woodlands buffer. The proposed conceptual design of the park focuses on stewardship, health and wellness, connection, and culture. To help achieve these goals, several design features and programming have been proposed based on community input and site conditions, including an entrance meadow, history and education programming, central lawn, meadow sculpture walk, forest play, fitness trails, woodland trails, stewardship programming, and stormwater management.

Latest information on the process and proposed design of the park can be accessed in the Township website: <https://evesham-nj.org/beagle-club>.

6.2.3 Black Run Preserve

In the 2012 OSRP, the Township identified to continue to develop a Black Run Preserve/Aerohaven Management, Education, and Recreation Plan that would outline potential bike trails, picnic areas, and other amenities, as well as the maintenance of the natural habitat. Furthermore, the plan identified to develop a “Friends of Black Run Preserve/Aerohaven” group that can provide maintenance and management assistance to the Township and can organize education for Township residents. The Friends of the Black Run Preserve (FBRP) was formed in 2012. The group is a volunteer organization providing support to Evesham’s preservation efforts and serving as stewards for the community, as well as coordinating programs and activities within the Preserve.

Through several community engagement activities held in 2013, the FBRP developed a conceptual plan for the Black Run Preserve with following goals:

- Increase awareness of the Black Run Preserve;
- Increase utility of current trail system for recreation and interpretation;
- Develop additional trails to complement Black Run Preserve’s landscape, conservation, and management values; and
- Curb illegal uses (e.g., hunting, off-road vehicle (ORV) use, and dumping)

The plan identifies several opportunities within the Black Run Preserve including its existing and proposed trails that will help showcase the Pine Barrens ecology, its topography offers a diverse and

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unique outdoor recreation experience, its natural beauty (wetlands, streams, forest, and old cranberry bogs) provides a user experience unique to the locality, and it provides for opportunities to educate the community through outreach and partnerships.

Due to its terrain and soil, it is critical to consider trail design and construction to minimize trail alignments, maintenance, and erosion issues in the future. The Township received a stewardship grant in 2021 to improve the trail network and ADA access and is actively working towards focused improvements in this regard.

Careful and well-planned approaches to addressing regulatory requirements when proposing trails in or near wetlands will be crucial. The FBRP aims to continue to engage the Pinelands Commission on permitting and planning for trail construction within the Pinelands. Historical uses, such as legal wastewater discharge, an illegal wastewater pipeline, dumping, hunting, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and biking, should be used to educate users on accepted uses and deter illegal activities. Using interpretive signage to showcase permitted and not permitted uses can help with this effort. The interpretive signage can also be used to showcase the unique ecology of the preserve. The need for land managers with jurisdiction in the preserve to communicate and coordinate properly will be crucial for effective and efficient stewardship.

As stated previously in the Needs Assessment section, there is an opportunity to develop a master plan for the Black Run Preserve that will involve a comprehensive effort, planning, and implementation from the Township, Environmental Commission, FBRP, Pinelands Commission, and other Township professional staff. The master plan will further support the efforts to preserve and protect the Black Run Preserve for the benefit of Evesham residents, the region, wildlife, and the natural environment, as established as the core purpose of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the FBRP and Evesham Township on May 2013, under Resolution No. 131-2013.

The MOC established the following objectives for the FBRP:

1. Work to maintain the pristine soil and water conditions of the Preserve's Pine Barrens Ecosystem including but not limited to planting and propagation of native species, removal of debris and litter, and control of erosion.
2. Work with Township's Clean Communities Program and conduct periodic clean up events. Notify the township as to the location of large debris items such as concrete or dumped construction debris for the Township for removal from the Preserve.
3. Report incidents of prohibited activities to the Township such as dumping, hunting, and vandalism.
4. Work cooperatively with the Township of Evesham and other nonprofit organizations to improve storm water management in and around the Preserve.
5. Provide educational programs, tours, and literature to promote an appreciation of the Preserve's cultural and natural resources in the region.

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6. Encourage and assist in scientific research of the Preserve including its historical context and its biodiversity.
7. Pursue grants from private, state, and federal agencies with the Township's approval to meet its objectives.
8. Manage volunteer activities to meet the stated objectives and communicate a schedule of activities to the Township and the Evesham Township Environmental Commission and other applicable township departments.
9. Share information and knowledge, plans, and documents such as grant scopes, project outlines, drawings etc. regarding the Preserve with the Township of Evesham for consideration and possible action.
10. All activities identified in the above sections (1), (2) and (4)-(9) inclusive shall first require the approval of the Township Manager, or his/ her designee, before being pursued or undertaken.

The MOC established the following objectives for the Township:

1. When practical provide recyclable and trash removal from the Preserve at an agreed upon locations and times.
2. Within scheduling and budgeting constraints provide tools, supplies, and services to conduct tasks of restoration, education, and research.
3. Respond to emergency situations and, when and where appropriate, enforce laws and ordinances within the Preserve so that conservation is promoted and maintained.
4. When feasible, and where time permits, communicate to FBRP information about projects that may have an impact on the Preserve. This may include sharing draft and final documents by the Township of Evesham or entities other than FBRP so that FBRP may provide input and perspective. Examples include project scopes, civil engineering plans, specifications, and easement maintenance activities by PSE&G, MUA, or other applicable utility companies.

As described above, the FBRP and the Township should coordinate and collaborate on activities or projects within the Black Run Preserve. A formal process on proposal submission and review should be established to ensure that this objective is met and continues to be implemented between the Township and the FBRP.

6.2.4 Croft Farm

In August 2003, the Evesham Township Council passed Resolution 213-2003 authorizing the execution of a contract for the purchase of Croft Farm, located across from the Township Building and the Recreation Complex. In the 2012 OSRP, the Township identified two opportunities with Croft Farm:

- Develop a community farming initiative on some or all the lands of Croft Farm. Evesham residents are eager to access fresh produce and are likely to support a CSA farm on the property, especially one that produces organic produce. It will be important for any adjacent sport fields

to utilize Integrated Pest Management and other organic farm-friendly maintenance techniques, to reduce any negative impacts on the farm operation. The protocols for maintenance could serve as models for this type of recreational field management if part of the site is used in this manner.

- Continue to enhance the 1.5-mile path and trail around the perimeter of the property. This facility would be consistent with the “Municipal Center Overlay Zone” for the area. It would also connect with the objective of protecting the Rancocas Greenway along the Southwest Branch stream.

Croft Farm Final Report by Environmental Commission

In 2021, the Environmental Commission conducted research into the use of Croft Farm and provided a land management proposal for the Township’s consideration. Two proposal reports, dated March 21 and August 9, 2021, were issued by the Commission outlining the proposed management for the Croft Farm and the preservation of its grassland habitat, respectively. The Commission prepared a conceptual map for Croft Farm that virtually divides the area into two (2) sections – the West Field and the East Field. Both areas are approximately 23 acres each. A perimeter walking trail is established with this proposed concept, including a parking area, and directional and identification signage.

Subsequently, the Township provided the Environmental Commission the opportunity to implement an 18-month pilot program based on these findings and action plans outlined in the proposals. Below is a summary of the key milestone of the 18-month pilot program:

- A perimeter walking trail was established, which was mowed in 2021 and 2022.
- Mowing of the east field in spring of 2021 and 2023, and every two (2) years thereafter per the recommendations from various grassland experts to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds.
- The west field was planted in an annual grass mix and harvested in the summer and fall of 2021. The field was then planted again in May 2022 and harvested and replanted with wheat in August 2022, which will be harvested in July 2023. It is anticipated that the west field will stay in grass/wheat rotations.
- On October 2021, members of the Environmental Commission and the Recreation and Open Space Department met with members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey. It was found that the grassland in the east field is in a very; farming in west field is acceptable to support the grassland on the east field (or ideally revert the west field into a grassland habitat); minimal effort is required to keep the native grassland in its healthy condition; guided nature hikes at the grassland perimeter with educational signage were encouraged.
- A monthly bird monitoring was initiated in the fall 2021 with a local bird expert on the east field. Findings were provided in a monthly report to the Township, which reported that a total of 91

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different species of birds were observed; five (5) threatened or endangered species were observed; bird species of special concern were observed; and bird species of regional priority were observed.

- A no mow educational sign was proposed for the east field.

These key milestones for the pilot program were outlined in the Croft Farm Final Report issued by the Environmental Commission, dated March 6, 2023. The report concluded with the following recommended actions for the Township's consideration for the management of Croft Farm:

- Maintain the entirety of the Croft Farm acreage as open space dedicated to agriculture, a grassland/nature habitat, and undisturbed open space.
- Open a walking path around the perimeter of Croft Farm to be used by the public.
- At the entrance to Croft Farm, include an educational sign with respect to the "no mow" look of the grassland/natural habitat.
- Work with the Historic Preservation Commission to restore the house and water tower on the property.

It is further recommended that mowing should be restricted between September and mid-March.

The full final report and proposals can be obtained from the Township website within the Environmental Commission Meeting Documents:

<https://evesham-nj.org/meetings/meeting-documents/environmental-meeting-documents>

With the proposed concept plan and recommended plan of action described above, the Township is provided an opportunity to explore these and develop a long-term plan for the area. Developing a master plan for the area should explore the identified opportunities from the 2012 OSRP and other future opportunities that will further the preservation and protection of the area, while striking a balance in providing open space and recreation services to Evesham residents.

6.2.5 Blue Barn/Memorial Sports Complex

The Recreation Center (aka "Blue Barn") is located at the Memorial Sports Complex. It is approximately 28,000 square feet in size and contains three basketball courts and two classrooms.

During the public planning process for the OSRP update, Evesham residents voiced their desire for a pickleball court, outdoor lighting, outdoor restrooms, and off-street parking at Blue Barn. As outlined in the Needs Assessment section, the following improvements have been proposed for the Township to consider artificial turf replacement (under construction and anticipated to be completed before the end of Summer 2023), lighting and irrigation upgrade, fence fabric replacement, accessible playground equipment, tennis courts resurfacing, stormwater facilities maintenance, walking path replacement, benches installation, parking surfaces improvements, HVAC, and flooring replacement.

6.2.6 Central Community Park

Transform Evesboro Downs into a multi-faceted community park to accommodate uses of moderate intensity. As previously noted, this park is the primary practice facility for the Township's football program, which has outgrown the facility, and the resulting traffic, dust, and noise is having a negative impact on surrounding residential neighborhoods. The Township has upgraded the fields by re-grading the area, adding topsoil and seed and an irrigation system to the fields. These measures have greatly improved the fields and the football program. These improvements along with revised traffic measures in the area have improved the conditions at the property and in the area.

The Township envisions this area to slowly transform into a formal park that may feature various elements such as civic art, multipurpose fields for informal or low-traffic impact games, sledding hills, paths, amphitheater, farm stands for occasional markets, hockey complex, etc. It is envisioned that developer contributions can be directed to the ongoing development of this facility when and if the Planning and Zoning Boards could direct contributions toward these enhancements in lieu of onsite amenities of limited community value.

6.3 INDOOR/OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

The following list outlines the proposed action items related to indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. This list was developed through direct community input, interviews with stakeholders, and a review of trends and standards; and does not suggest a specific commitment of funds or timing of investment. The items are not presented in priority order, as progress can be made on many of these goals simultaneously and incrementally as opportunities are presented.

Proposed facilities or improvements within existing facilities are opportunities for the Township to make necessary accessible improvements and incorporate features/standards that support the goal within this OSRP to be more inclusive and accessible. Providing more accessible and inclusive services, programs, and facilities within the Township's open space and recreation ensures that residents of all ages and abilities are not excluded from community activities and programs. Accessible and inclusive services/amenities can include, but are not limited to, accessible restrooms, benches, trails, wheelchair ramps, lighting, guardrails, playgrounds, signage, wayfinding, and many others. With the action items below, the Township is encouraged to integrate into the design and development of these projects or improvements accessible and inclusive design or elements as best as possible.

6.3.1 Field Bubble

The market for indoor field sport facilities is growing in popularity and the Township's investment in synthetic turf could potentially be utilized on a year-round basis. Thus, the feasibility of installing a temporary structure to provide shelter during the winter months will be evaluated.

6.3.2 Pickleball

Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island in Washington state. The game combines many elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. It can be played both indoors and outdoors on a badminton-sized court. Most especially, it can be played by all ages and skill levels. In the past few years, the game has grown exponentially in popularity, aided by the COVID19 pandemic.

The residents of Evesham expressed their desire for pickleball courts. The Township can explore conversion of existing courts, such as basketball courts, volleyball courts, badminton courts, inline hockey rinks, and, most commonly, tennis courts. According to the U.S.A. Pickleball, a few factors should be considered regarding pickle court design, including the following:

- Surface – Asphalt or concrete both provide an acceptable base for pickleball courts (indoor and outdoor). For coating, 100% acrylic coatings are recommended for surfacing pickleball.
- Fencing – Openings of fencing should be small enough to prevent the ball from leaving the court area. 45mm or 55mm links are recommended.
- Sound proofing – The game can be disturbing to many communities and neighborhoods because of the impact noise from when the paddle hits the ball. Soundproofing techniques should be implemented. An option is to install a noise-reducing fence, such as the Acoustifence® by Acoustiblok. In a [study](#), Acoustifence installed around a pickleball court reduced the impact noise by 10-12 decibels in a sound meter test conducted by USA Pickleball Association. This reduction represents more than a 50% reduction in sound as perceived by humans.
 - For indoor pickleball courts, high-quality ceiling baffles for sound absorption should be considered, such as VET baffles.
 - Landscape screening/buffering should be used in tandem with noise-reducing fencing. Distance from residential areas should be assessed during the early planning stages. Sites further from residential areas should be considered first.
- Hours of Operation – The Township may consider establishing hours of operation for the game to avoid disturbance to neighboring uses, especially residential communities. Centralized court scheduling and memberships to reduce overlapping court times should be considered.
- Accessories and amenities – accessories and amenities to consider are nets, posts, center straps, windscreen divider netting, court benches, shade, spectator seating, organizers and ball holders and lighting, restrooms, and parking.

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Alternatively, the Township should also explore utilizing existing buildings to house certain recreation programs such as but not limited to pickle ball. An adaptive reuse approach has many advantages, including preservation of the historical and architectural integrity of the building, cost-savings, encourages investment, energy conservation, sustainability, and improvement of public health. At the time of writing this OSRP update, the Township has preliminary identified the Gibson House for potential pickleball courts. The tennis courts at the Memorial Sports Complex have also been identified as another potential location for a pickleball court.

6.3.3 Disc Golf

Residents of Evesham also expressed their desire for a disc golf course. At the time of this OSRP, the Township had not determined the final location(s) for a disc golf course. Evesboro Downs was identified as a potential location. There are several factors to consider when determining a potential location for a disc golf course, including adequate space depending on the terrain and intended player skill level. The Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) provides the following acreage chart as a guide in determining the acreage required for a course:

Table 6a: Disc Golf Course Acreage Guide by Professional Disc Golf Association

Player Skill Level	Foliage Density	Min. (P56) *		Avg. (P61)		Championship (P67)		Acre Factor
		16-Par 3, 2-Par 4		12-Par 3, 5-Par 4, 1-Par 5		8-Par 3, 7- Par 4, 3-Par 5		
		Feet	Acres	Feet	Acres	Feet	Acres	
Gold Tees 1000 Rating	Scattered	6,900	26	8,450	32	10,350	39	165
	Average	6,400	18	7,750	22	9,350	27	125
	Corridor	5,900	14	7,150	16	8,650	20	100
Blue Tees 950 Rating	Scattered	5,500	21	6,900	26	8,600	33	165
	Average	5,000	14	6,250	18	7,750	22	125
	Corridor	4,500	10	5,650	13	7,050	16	100
White Tees 900 Rating	Scattered	4,150	16	5,475	21	7,025	27	165
	Average	3,650	10	4,875	14	6,325	18	125
	Corridor	3,550	8	4,575	11	5,825	13	100
Red Tees <850 Rating	Scattered	3,200	12	4,450	17	5,950	23	165
	Average	3,100	9	4,100	12	5,300	15	125
	Corridor	2,600	6	3,525	8	4,675	11	100

* P56 – estimated course par for that player level

The very shortest beginner courses may need only half an acre per hole on average. The more wooded the property, the less space is needed because the woods can provide a safe buffer between fairways. As a rule of thumb, an acre per hole is a good estimate. When determining a location for a disc golf course, look for features such as mature trees, changes in elevation, creeks, and ponds. If possible, locate an area for the course away from other activities and structures. However, it can coexist with other existing playing fields.

To safely enjoy disc golf, special attention should be given to its layout. Fairways should not cross or be too close to public streets, sidewalks, pathways, bike trails, pavilions, playgrounds, private properties, or any other multi-use areas used by non-players. Fairways should not cross one another and should have sufficient distance from one another so throws are not regularly in the wrong fairway. Blind areas should be avoided, wherein players could throw into areas where non-players could be walking or sitting. Hazardous areas such as swamps and thorny or poisonous foliage should be avoided.

The tee for the first hole should ideally be the closest to the parking area. The target for the last hole should not be too far from the parking area and relatively close to the first tee. Try to minimize the amount of walking between holes while keeping paths as much out of other fairways as possible.

The Township should also plan to accommodate players and spectators of different physical abilities and ages. In some cases, designing a multiple hole loop on part of the course may provide that opportunity. Other design elements to consider are the tees, targets, signs, and other user amenities such as trash cans and benches.

6.3.4 Street Hockey

Street hockey was also expressed as one of the recreational opportunities the Township would consider. Also, may be referred to as dek hockey, gym hockey or ball hockey, the game can be played on any flat, hard surface, such as driveways or parking lots, virtually making the game accessible in any place at any time. Enclosed courts, such as tennis and basketball courts, are also ideal. Players run in shoes instead of roller skates and are played with a ball instead of a puck. Evesboro Downs (Community Central Park) has been identified as an ideal location for street hockey.

6.3.5 Lacrosse/Hockey

Both field lacrosse and field hockey are played on a grass or artificial turf field. As the regulation field size for lacrosse is 110 yards long by 60 yards wide and the regulation size for a soccer field is 100 yards by 60 yards, many schools typically utilize both sports in the same field. Football fields are also an ideal place. Field hockey's regulation field size is 100 yards long and 60 yards wide. Therefore, lacrosse and field hockey can use both soccer and football fields.

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Evesham should consider offering lacrosse and field hockey in its existing parks that currently provides soccer/football field amenity, including the Evesboro Downs Sports Complex, Ravenscliff Park, Savich Field Sports Complex & Park, and Willow Ridge Park and Ballfield. Using the existing soccer or football field is a low-cost option for the Township. The only cost may be for adding line markings to fit legal lacrosse or field hockey boundaries.

6.3.6 Volleyball

Evesham's existing recreational facilities currently do not provide amenities for volleyball (hard and sand court). A low-cost alternative to providing volleyball facilities in the Township is retrofitting existing courts, such as basketball courts, into a multi-game court, which is a court incorporating court lines for basketball, volleyball, and tennis, for example.

The existing basketball courts in Evesham offer a low-cost opportunity to providing volleyball for its residents. Basketball courts are currently provided in Brush Hollow Park, Cambridge Park, Country Farms Park, Green Lane Farms Park, Heathrow Park, Heritage Park, London Square Park, Memorial Sports Complex, and Westerly Drive Park. Assessment of these locations should be conducted first to determine if adequate space is available for volleyball.

6.3.7 Fieldhouse

A fieldhouse was also identified as a recreational facility that the residents want to see in the Township. Fieldhouse is a facility that typically includes, but not limited to, indoor track and sports courts, basketball, volleyball, soccer, badminton, field hockey and/or tennis. A modern-day fieldhouse can consist of:

- a 6-or 8-lane indoor track;
- an artificial turf infield for sports such as soccer, football, baseball, field hockey, etc.
- a modular hard-court flooring to cover the turf and create a playing surface for basketball, tennis, volleyball, badminton, etc.;
- spectator seating and concession stands;
- washrooms, lockers, and change rooms; or
- offices, classrooms, studios, and meeting spaces

A multipurpose fieldhouse facility, where apart from providing indoor space for various sports, amenities for the entire community, of all ages, can be provided, such as fitness studios, group exercise rooms, locker rooms, and saunas. A fieldhouse can be an ideal venue for community gatherings, fitness classes, and many other communal activities. The Township should consider the following items when planning for a fieldhouse:

- Adequate off-street parking facility in compliance with the Township's ordinance, ADA standards, pedestrian connectivity, access, illumination, and safety and security.
- Multipurpose courts, where the playing surface is retrofitted to be used for multiple sports. Basketball, tennis, and pickleball are the most popular sports that can be played on a multi-sport court surface. However, other sports such as volleyball, badminton, lacrosse, and hockey can also be played on this type of court
- If designed to accommodate additional loads, the Township should consider solar panel installations to help offset energy demands.
- Pay special attention to egress capacity, restroom quantities, support spaces, durability, sound systems and flexible lighting configurations.
- Additional acoustical isolation might be necessary, and large exterior mechanical units might need sound attenuation or additional enclosures.

Alternatively, the Township should also explore utilizing existing buildings to serve as a fieldhouse. An adaptive reuse approach has many advantages, including preservation of the historical and architectural integrity of the building, cost-savings, encourages investment, energy conservation, sustainability, and improvement of public health. The reuse of existing buildings offers a great opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by prolonging the useful life of materials already in place, especially those with long-life durability and high embodied energy, such as steel and concrete. The Township should continue to assess its existing park inventory for a site that could support a future fieldhouse. In the assessment and planning process, consideration should be given to existing infrastructure and access.

6.3.8 Natural Play Space

Natural play space is an immersive natural environment that engages the senses of children of all ages. It provides an opportunity for the children to play, explore, imagine, create, and interact with nature. Natural play space can include elements such as pendulum swings, slides, swings, monkey bars, parkour set, field space, sand box, rain garden, and play pods. Natural elements with irregular shapes and surfaces are important elements of natural play space, including tree logs/stumps, boulders, earth mounds. Sensory materials are also important elements to incorporate in a natural play space. This can include materials such as sand, water, soil, and mud. These materials provide a wide range of play opportunities that can inspire the children's imagination. Providing spaces that allow children to play in nature is essential in human development. Natural play space is a way for the Township to bring nature and natural materials to children who may not be able to play outdoors freely. As the Township plan for a play space or playground for children, integration of inclusive and accessible design standards into playground facilities is important to consider, as greatly emphasized in the earlier sections of this plan, to support the goals of the OSRP.

6.3.9 Tennis

The Township desires to provide more tennis courts for the residents. A low-cost alternative to providing tennis courts is retrofitting existing sports courts, either solely for tennis or into a multi-game court that can accommodate tennis and other sports such as basketball and volleyball. When planning new tennis courts, there are several factors to consider with regards to the site and design, including orientation, topography, size, surface, fencing, lighting, and cost. Site orientation should take into consideration neighboring properties, landscaping, vehicle and pedestrian traffic, and access. The Township should also consider the distance of any new facility from existing residential zones or uses and the hours of operation. Provisions on site and operational requirements should be considered and developed to mitigate potential adverse impact on immediate neighborhoods.

6.4 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Evesham has conducted two inventories of its historic and cultural resources over the years, in 1985 and 1996. There were 162 historic sites/structures inventoried in the Township. Many of the buildings or structures inventoried are in the Marlton Historic District. The Historic Preservation Plan Element of Evesham, adopted in 2005, explores in greater detail the cultural resource inventories, goals and objectives, policies and strategies and the duties and responsibilities of the Historic Preservation Commission. Evesham has eleven historic structures/sites on both the National Register and State Register of Historic Places. Additionally, eight (8) sites were issued a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Opinion, which reviews a site's eligibility for inclusion on the State Register of Historic Places.

The Township should continue to pursue the identification and listing of local historic sites on the state and federal registers. The development of a town center in Marlton could serve as a meeting place, an events locale, and a focal point for the village. This would enhance Main Street businesses and provide a focus for increased appreciation and promotion of the many historic resources in the area. Infill development, adaptive reuse, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of historic structures/sites provide opportunities for more efficient use of land and aid in the protection and conservation of the Township's natural resources. The adaptive reuse of older buildings can also promote the preservation of the Township's community character, encourage development in areas where infrastructure is already established, and increase property values by restoring a site or structure to a more productive and appropriate use. The Township has a historic downtown area where these opportunities are continually evaluated and carefully studied.

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Table 6a. New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places: Evesham Township

Name	Location	National Register Date	State Register Date	Certification of Eligibility
Benjamin Cooper Farm (Elmwood Farm, "The Savich Farm")	E Main Street	12/12/1978	12/16/1977	-
Cropwell Friends Meetinghouse	810 Cropwell Road	8/14/1992	6/25/1992	-
Amos Evans House	501 East Main Street	9/2/1994	6/28/1994	-
Evans-Cooper House	North Elmwood Road	8/26/1993	7/20/1993	4/27/1992
William and Susan Evans House	2 Bills Lane	8/14/1992	6/25/1992	-
Thomas and Mary Evens House	South Elmwood Road	8/26/1993	7/20/1993	-
Thomas Hollinshead House	18 West Stow Road	8/14/1992	6/25/1992	-
John Inskeep Homestead	10 Madison Court (70 North Locust Road)	8/26/1993	7/20/1993	-
Stokes-Evans House	52 East Main Street	8/30/1994	6/28/1994	-
Jacob Wills House	Brick Road, west of Evans Road	11/1/1990	11/29/1989	-
Historic Resources of Evesham Township MPDF	Madison Court	08/26/1993	07/20/1993	-

Source: NJ DEP - Historic Preservation Office, 12/20/2022

6.5 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Preserve current tax income to finance the above needs and encourage Burlington County to continue, if not expand, its park development program in Evesham. The Evesham Open Space Trust Fund needs to maintain liquidity and flexibility to meet the needs of the community.

Other efforts to fund preservation of land include:

- Continue to utilize tax liens to preserve some of the properties in the Southern Forest Area.
- Initiate conversations with the Burlington County Resource Conservation Land Use Office to encourage county preservation of larger properties.
- Work with the Pinelands Commission to find funding to acquire high-integrity forests: the Evesham Headwaters Area and the East–West Connector parcels;
- Work with non-profits to coordinate efforts to protect high-priority areas and greenways;
- Submit this Open Space and Recreation Plan to Green Acres along with an application for a Planning Incentive Grant; and
- Review options for zoning changes and other transfer mechanisms that will help to preserve land without requiring acquisition dollars.
- Work with the Evesham Environmental Commission to continually identify potential acquisition and preservation of the parcels illustrated in [Map 10](#).

To continue to improve on existing open space and recreation facilities and create new facilities, several grant opportunities for open space and recreation purposes are also available for the Township to explore (see [Appendix 8.5](#))

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Figure 9. Memorial Sports Complex
1004 Tuckerton Road



SECTION 7.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The project team, in conjunction with municipal professional staff, identified key stakeholders to provide input into the needs assessment. Remote meeting platforms, teleconferences, and in person meetings were held beginning in August of 2022. The identified stakeholders included the Mayor and Township Council, Township Manager, Departments of Recreation and Community Development, Planning Board, Evesham Environmental Commission, Friends of Black Run Preserve, Marlton Recreation Council, and the public.

- Township Staff and professional consultants met in person and via remote meeting platforms to evaluate the existing goals and objectives in August.
- A meeting with Township Staff, professional consultants, Evesham Environmental Commission, and Friends of Black Run Preserve was held to discuss conservation projects in September.
- The community at large was invited to an in person public meeting on September 29, 2022.
- In addition, the Township sought the input of community stakeholders via telephone and electronic mail.
- Representatives of the professional team attended the Township sponsored Senior Citizen expo on October 22, 2022 to gather input for the OSRP, with enthusiastic participation from seniors in attendance. Ordered from the most votes to the least votes, participants identified the following items that they would like to see in Evesham parks:
 1. Restroom (flushable and portable types)
 2. Sculpture garden
 3. Hiking/open space
 4. Seating area, paved walking area, playground, roofed pavilion
 5. Bike trails
 6. Pickleball, picnic tables, dog area (with dog waste stations), no smoking area

7. Shade, exercise trail, signage, trail maps, festivals/fairs/events, bike racks, clover blend grass areas/bee friendly
 8. Sensory areas
 9. Food/drinks, no dog area, pond, roller ricks, lighting safety
- Township staff and professional staff met again in December to discuss the draft inventory, needs analysis, and action plan; and discuss specific issues, such as maintenance and personnel requirements with Department of Recreation staff.

During the OSRP planning process, the Township held three (3) meetings that were open to the public. The first public meeting was held on September 29, 2022 at the Municipal Building. The meeting was well attended with approximately 50 attendees from the general public. See [Appendix 8.4.1](#) for the detailed community response from this meeting. A second community-wide public meeting was held on March 30, 2023 for the purposes of receiving additional public input on the OSRP draft. See [Appendix 8.4.2](#) for the meeting summary. The third public meeting is a public hearing held on April 20, 2023. The Planning Board established a subcommittee to review the OSRP draft presented at the third public meeting and to address outstanding comments from the public. The subcommittee met several times between May and June 2023 to discuss and review the draft. The fourth public meeting is the formal adoption of the OSRP draft by the Evesham Township Planning Board, which was held on December 5, 2023.

SECTION 8.

APPENDICES

8.1 OSRP Mapping

[Map 1. Aerial and Township Parcels](#)

[Map 2. Land Use /Land Cover \(2015\)](#)

[Map 3. Natural Features and Historic Resources](#)

[Map 4. Groundwater Recharge](#)

[Map 5. Landscape Project Habitat Priorities](#)

[Map 6. Agricultural Development and Sewer Service Areas](#)

[Map 7. Zoning Map](#)

[Map 8. State Planning Areas](#)

[Map 9. Existing Open Space](#)

[Map 10. Proposed Open Space](#)

[Map 11. ROSI Map](#)

8.2 [Evesham Township Recreation and Open Space Inventory \(ROSI\) Parcels](#)

8.3 [Proposed Open Space Inventory](#)

8.4 [Public Meeting Minutes & Summary](#)

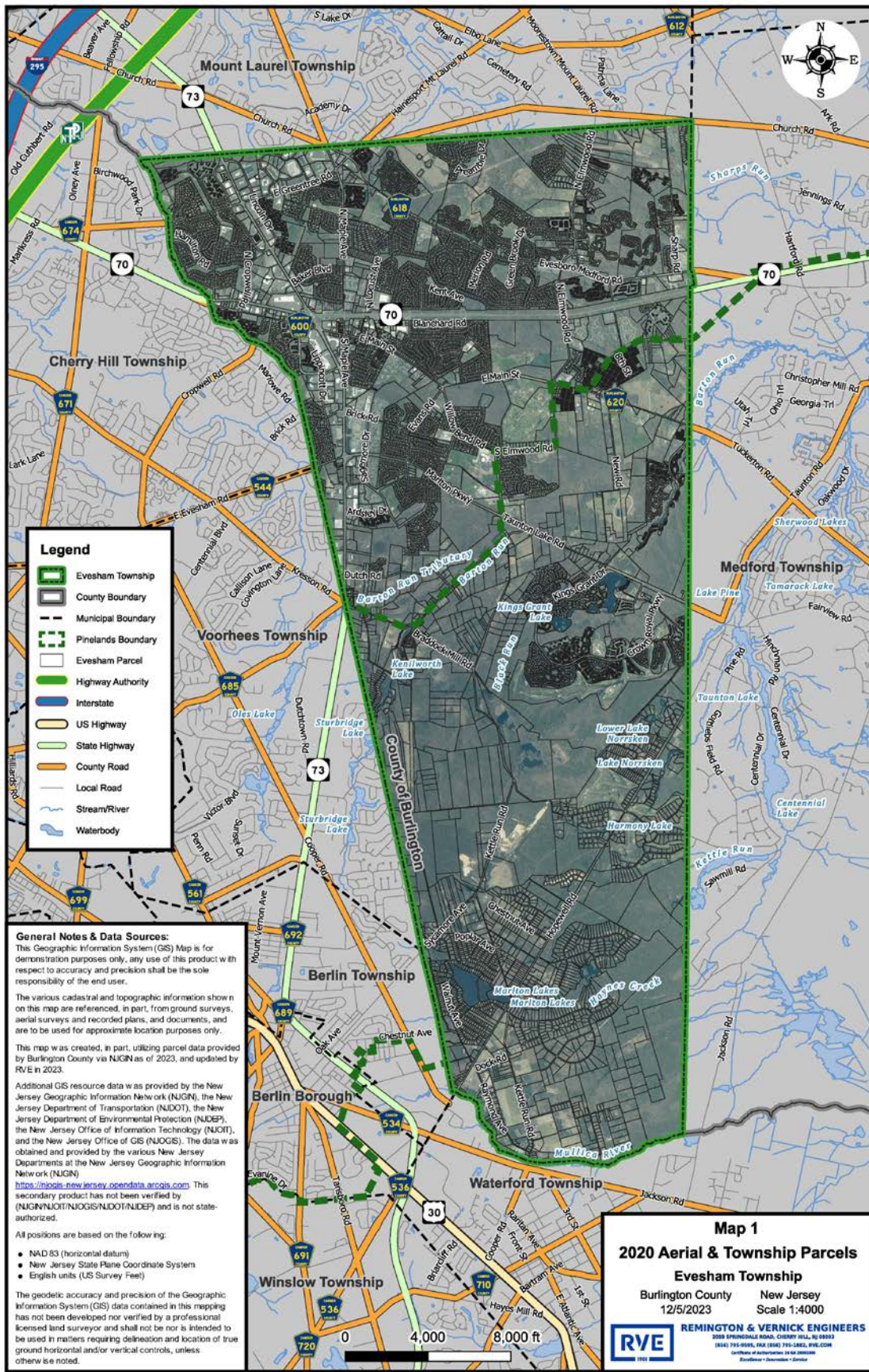
8.5 [Funding Opportunities](#)

8.6 [References](#)

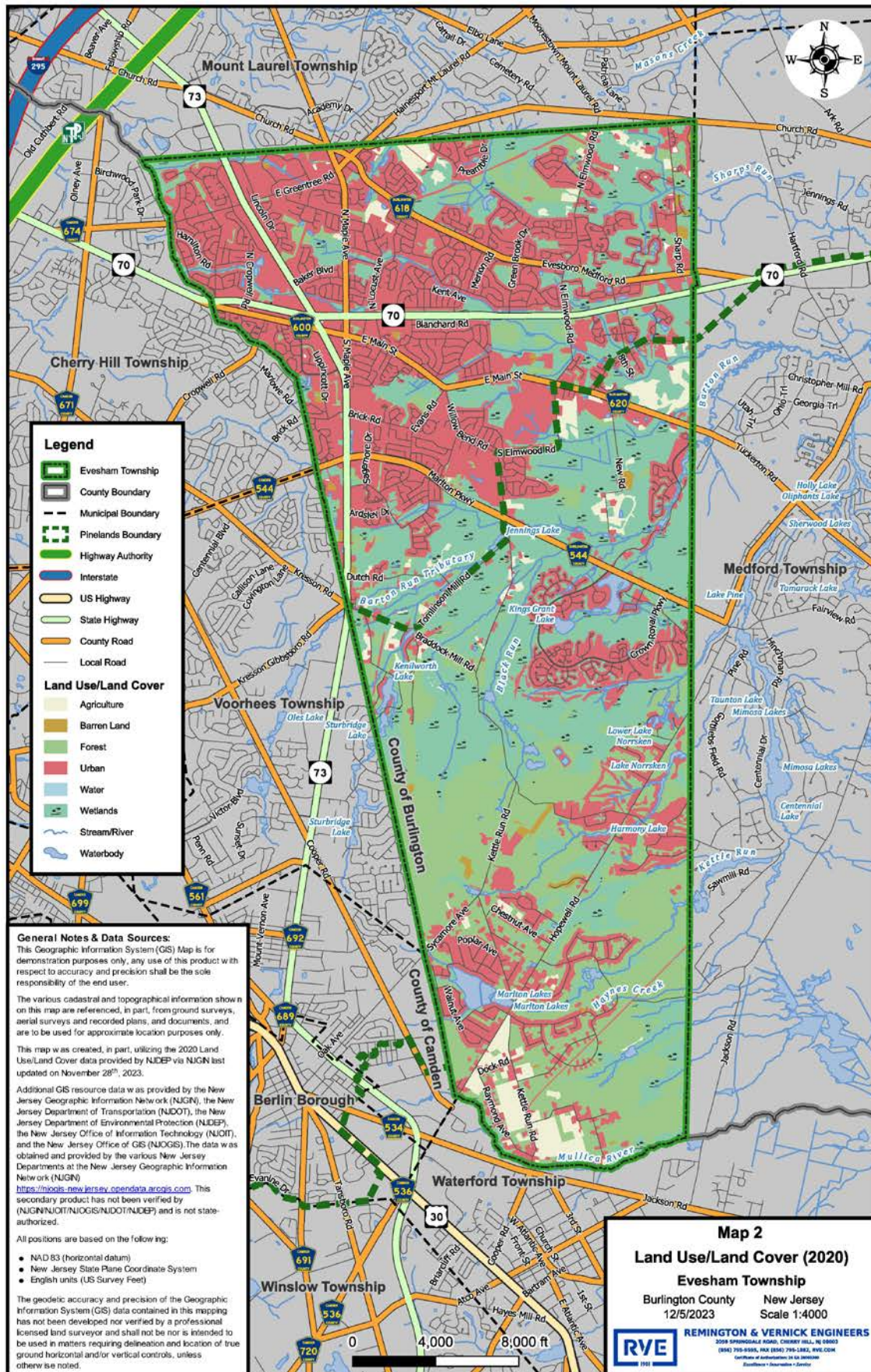
8.1 OSRP MAPPING

See maps below. Larger maps can be requested to be viewed at the Community Development Department.

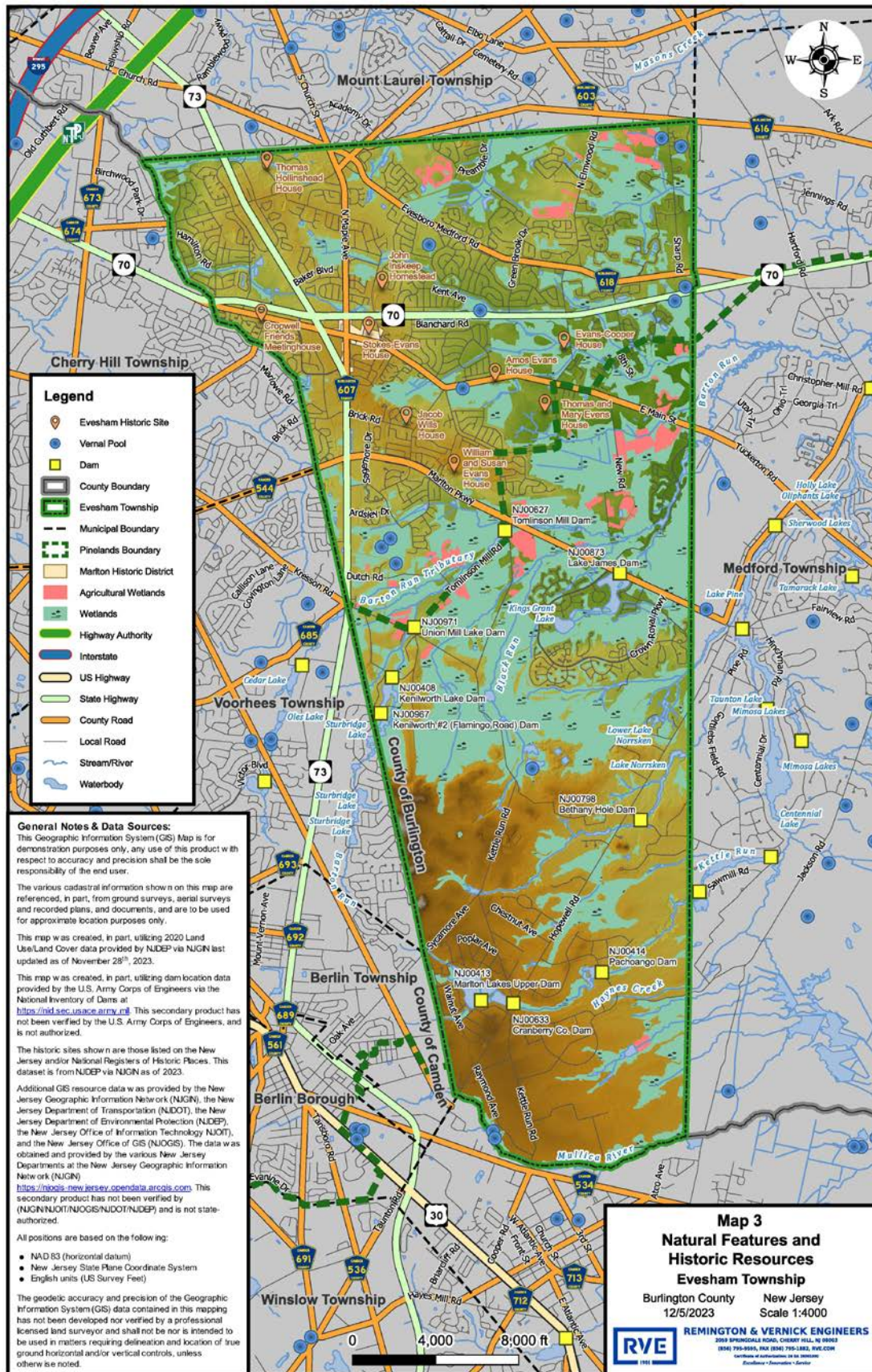
Map 1. Aerial and Township Parcels



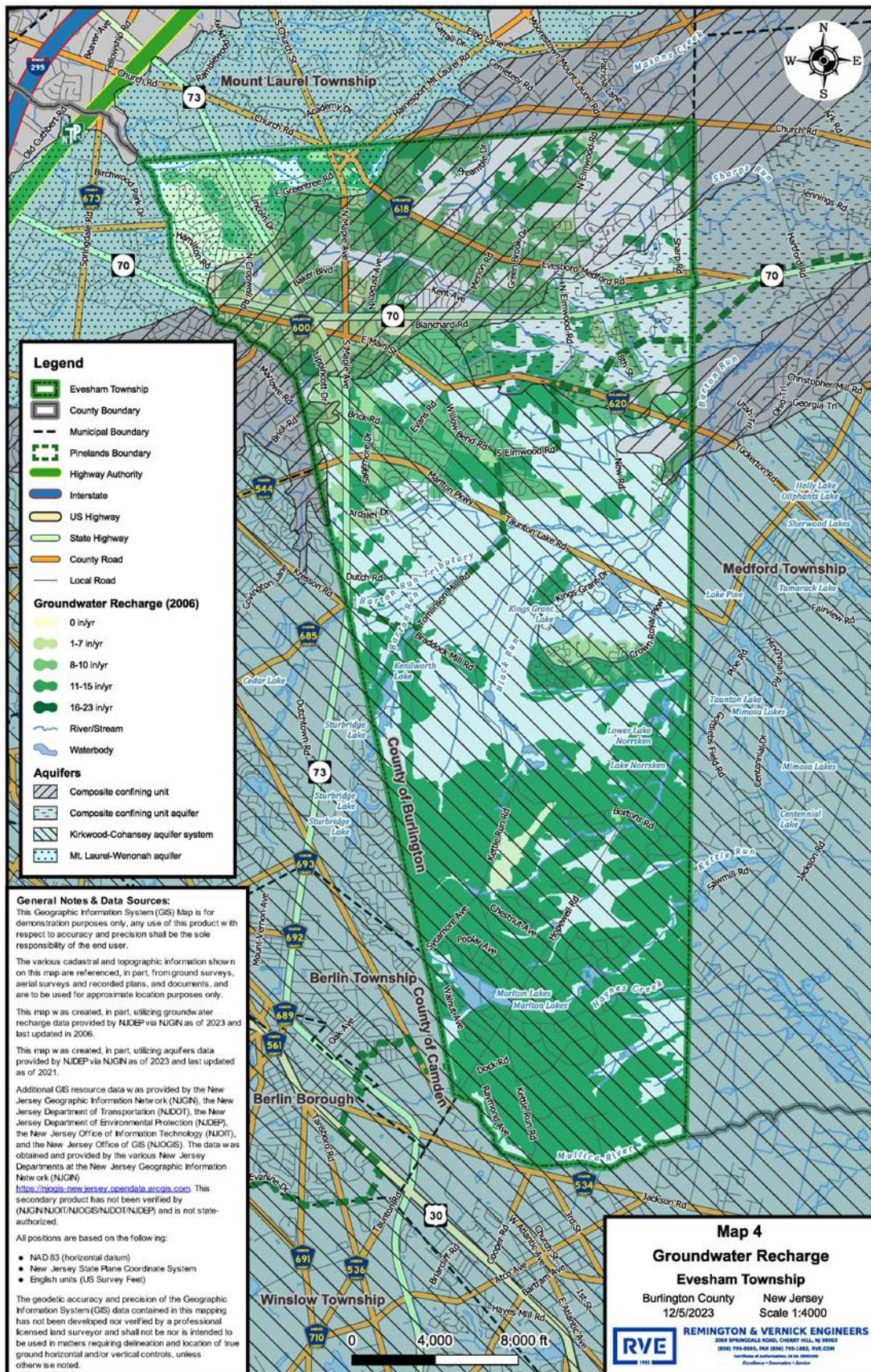
Map 2. Land Use /Land Cover (2015)



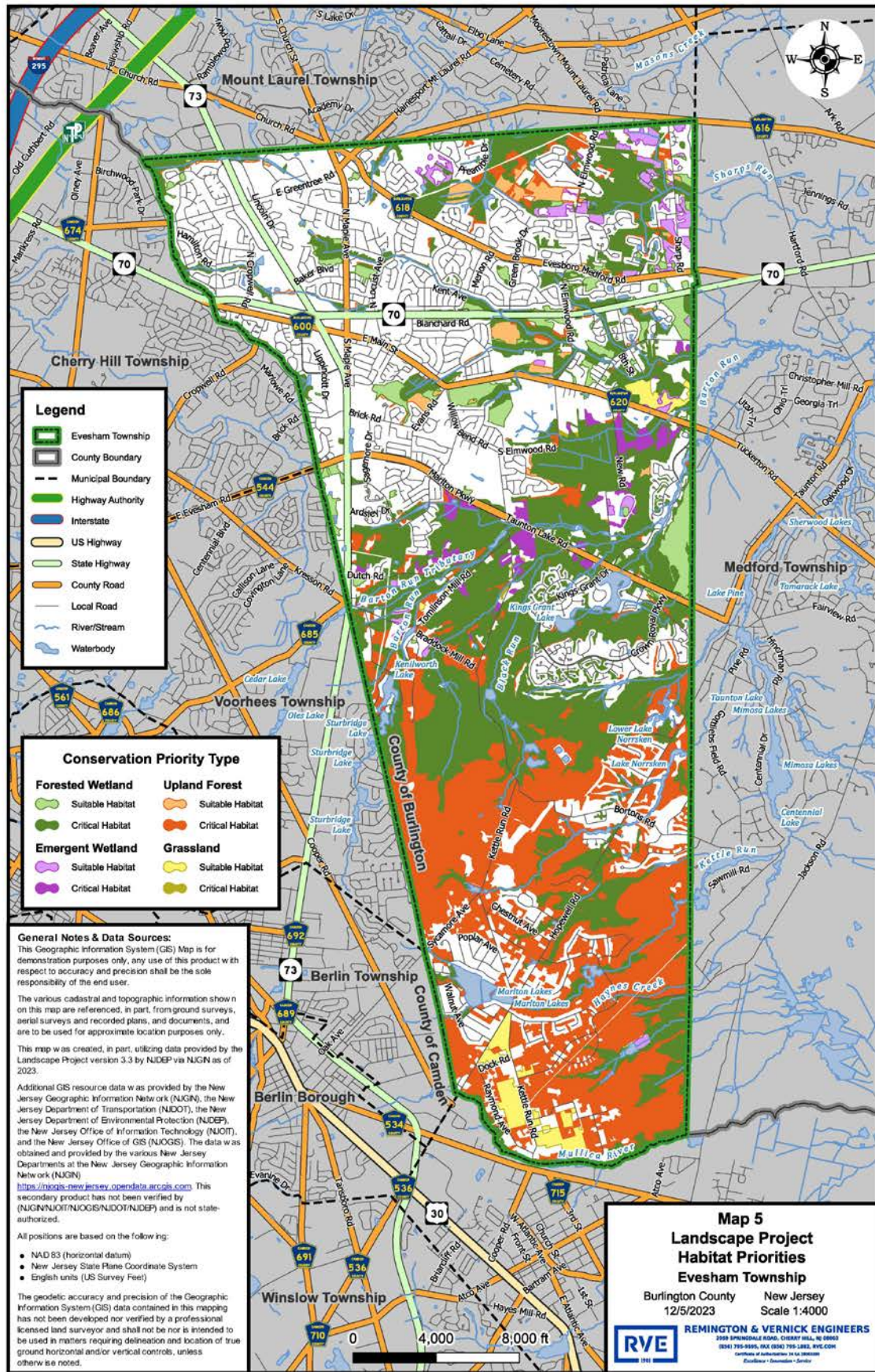
Map 3. Natural Features and Historic Resources



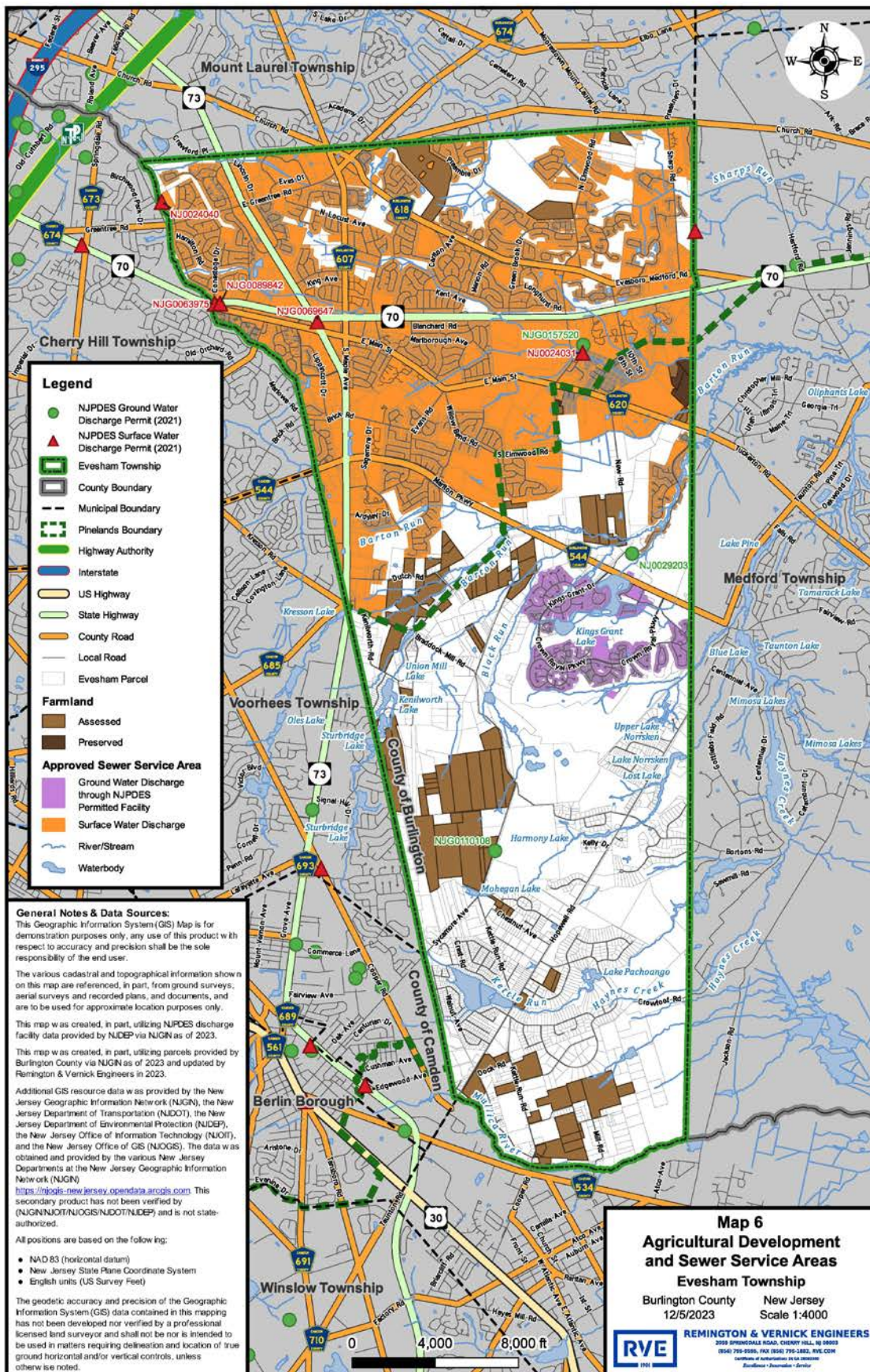
Map 4. Groundwater Recharge

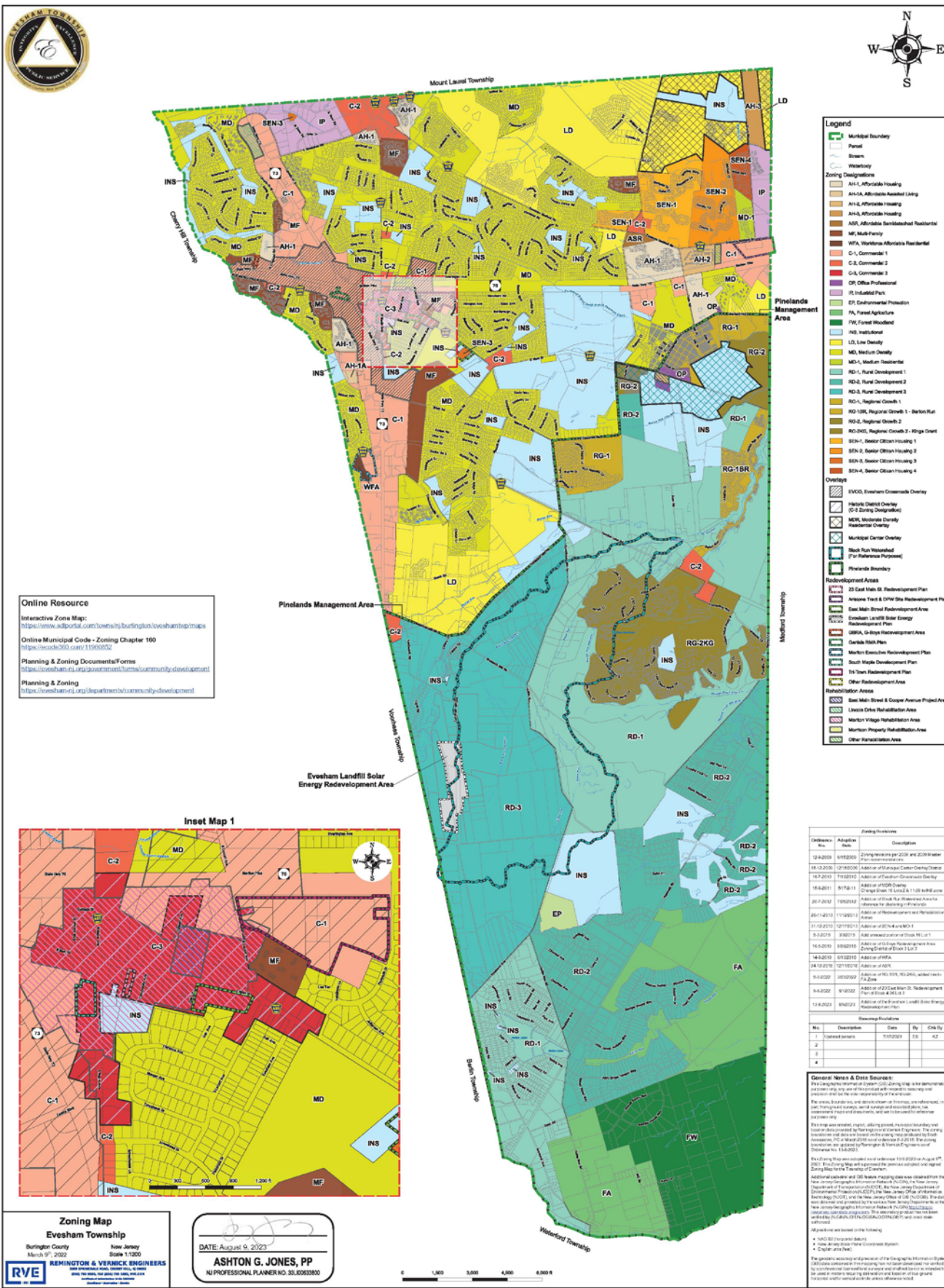
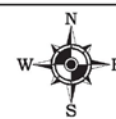


Map 5. Landscape Project Habitat Priorities

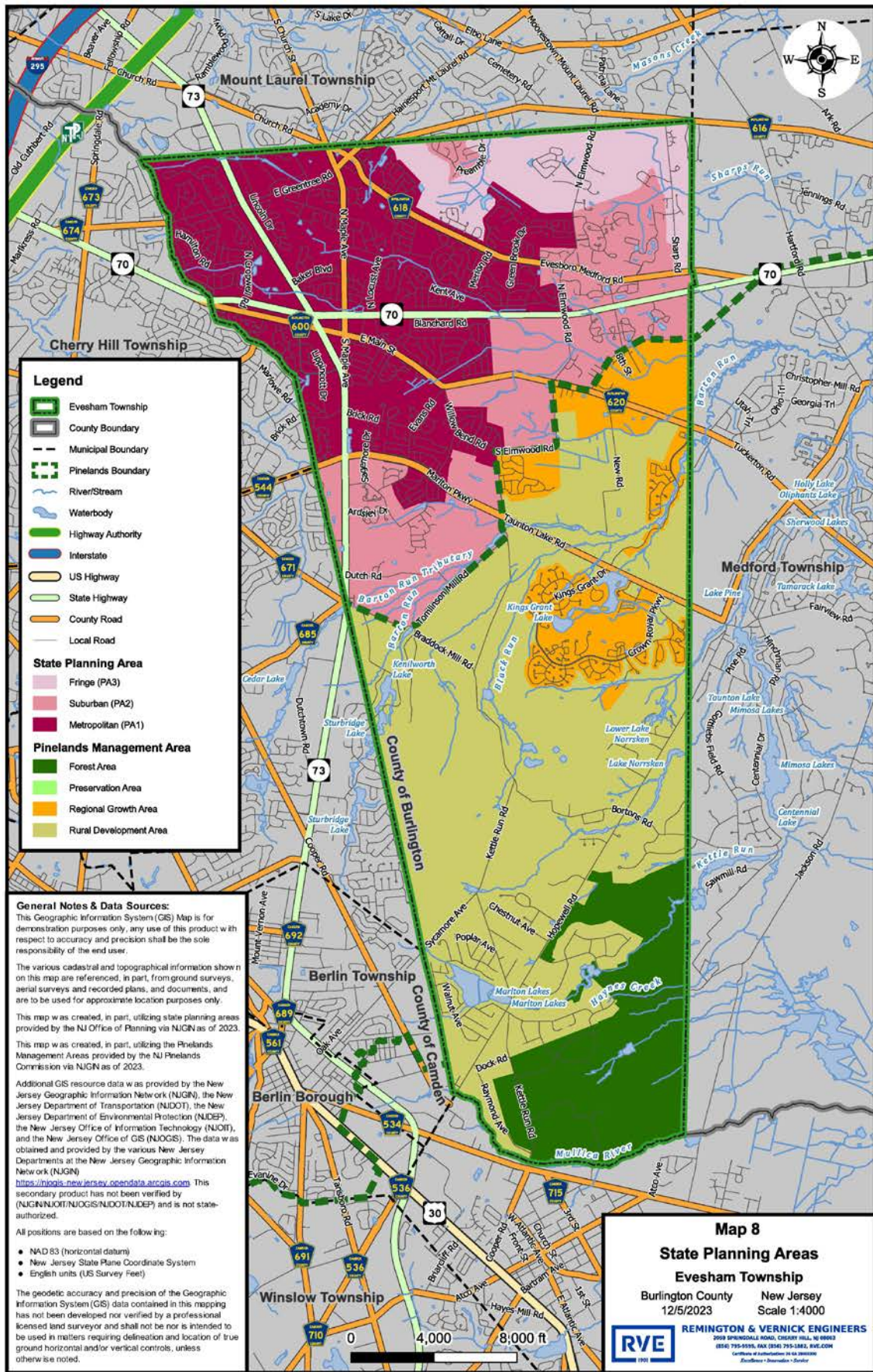


Map 6. Agricultural Development and Sewer Service Areas

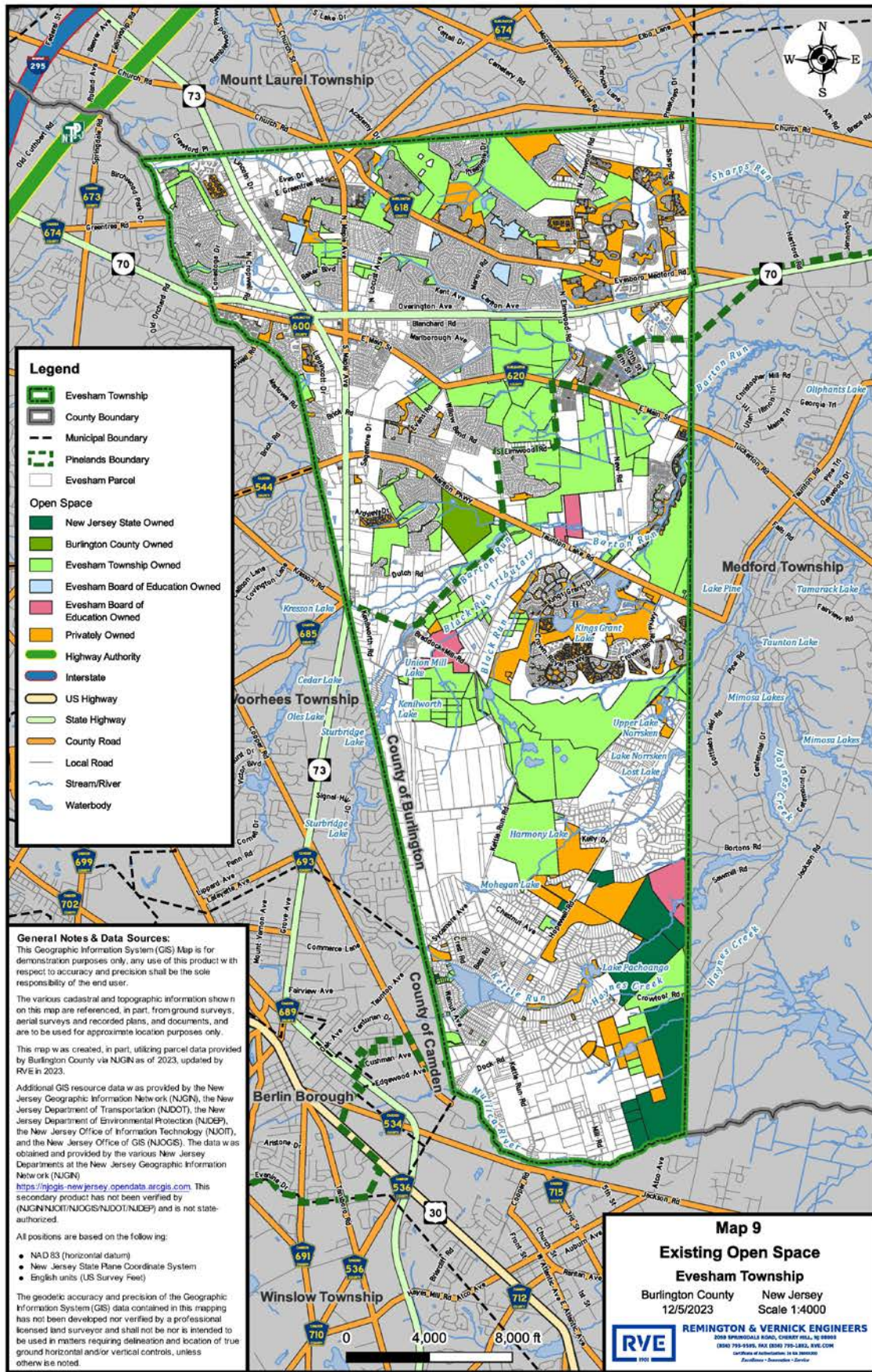




Map 8. State Planning Areas



Map 9. Existing Open Space

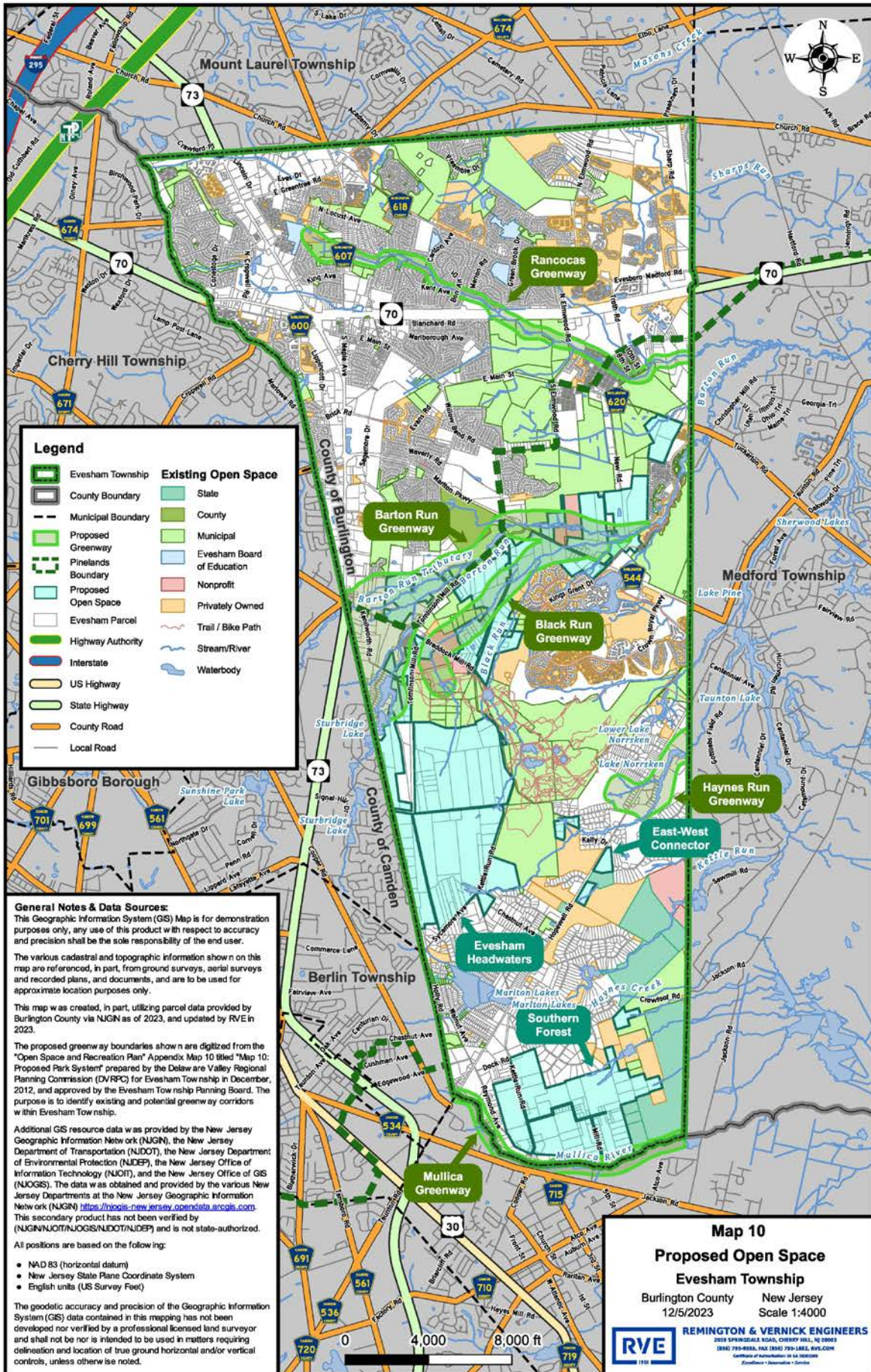


Map 10. Proposed Open Space

As required by the NJDEP Green Acres Program, this Proposed Open Space Map was developed to illustrate a general overview of the Township's vision of its open space system, which includes proposed open space and greenway areas that have been identified for potential preservation and protection, as outlined in [Section 6.1.5](#). The Township is encouraged to employ various forms of appropriate natural resources and land protection and preservation strategies, as outlined in [Section 6.1.5](#).

At the time of preparing this 2023 OSRP update, the Pinelands Commission was in the process of a rule making proposal involving the redesignation of an area in the Black Run in Evesham Township that could affect the Township's proposed open space system. The Township will reevaluate its proposed open space system once the rule making process is complete.

(see next page)



Map 11. ROSI Map

General Notes & Data Sources:
This Geographic Information System (GIS) Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) Map is for informational purposes only. The use of this product is subject to the terms and conditions of the user license agreement of the user.
The areas shown on this ROSI map are derived, in part, from ground surveys, aerial photos and other data, and are not to be used for any other purpose.
Map created by: JENICORP Inc. (2022)
Map Date: March 2022
Additional data sources include: aerial photography, roadways, etc. were obtained from the New Jersey Geographic Information Network (NJGIN), the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the New Jersey Office of Information Technology (NJ-OIT), and the New Jersey Office of Information Technology (NJ-OIT). The data was obtained and processed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The user must not use this product for any other purpose.
All positions are based on the following:
• NAD 83 (North American Datum)
• New Jersey State Plane Coordinate System
• English Units (Feet)
The geographic accuracy and precision of the Geographic Information System (GIS) data obtained from the various data sources are not warranted by the user. The user must not use this product for any other purpose.
The user must not use this product for any other purpose.



Map Key	Park Name	Block/Lot
1	Aeroflex	5711
2	Baker Tract	23.150
3	Barton Road	44.121 & 44.1957
4	Barton Run Lake	44.232.04
5	Brookline Park	13.2303
6	Cambridge Park	13.0622, 23.24, 25, 42
7	Brush Hollow	292
8	Carefree	24.242.02, 101
9	Courtesy Farm	11.01714 & 11.02104 & 11.04110
10	Craft Farm	3118.07.08
11	Dunbar Transfer	41118.30, 21.23, 26
12	Downs Tract	2810-11
13	Edenwood Park	103.06
14	Evans Tract	432 & 4112, 12.01, 12.03
15	Everson Downs	99.02
16	Old Lane	23.0129.29 & 33.091
17	Greenlane Farms	7.0411
18	Greenlane Village	1.0934.76 & 3.3021
19	Horseshoe Georgetown Road	470 & 481-16
20	Horridge	28.1610
21	Indian Springs	293.3.01 & 29.121
22	Johnson Tract	392
23	Kentworth	495
24	Kings Grant II	4711 & 521 & 531-2 & 5411.1.01.2 & 571.01
25	Kopperhaver Tract	291
26	Little Mill	54.0422
27	London Square Park	29.1175
28	Kain Memorial Park	4.115
29	Margaret Tract	6.1711.01 & 20.197
30	Martin Lakes	81.0418.22.56.80 & 81.0715 & 821 & 82.012 & 831 & 86.011 & 9015.16
31	Memorial Park	4454.11.01
32	Muslin	11.1
33	Pacheco	9011
34	Project Heat Camp	386.16.01
35	Rancho Vista	909.9.01
36	Savon Tract	28.206-10
37	Tara	34.077
38	The Maples	6.151
39	Town Clock	4.0517.05
40	Vineyard	9.017.24.190
41	Wesley Chase Park	5.201.8
42	Wiley Tract	269.9
43	Willow Ridge	35.034 & 35.0931 & 35.1129 & 35.1512.01, 12.02, 12.03 & 35.1606
44	Woodstream	1.012 & 3.0117.44 & 3.071 & 3.1325
45	Monkton Parcel	302.04
46	Barton Road	44.312-3
47	Vicent Land	44.29119
48	Open Space	8.0729
49	Open Space	29.071
50	Church Rd Farm	8.165
51	Park	13.6413
52	Open Space	13.6453
53	Vicent Land	38.021
54	Density Transfer	4216.18.23
55	Density Transfer	691.3.4
56	Open Space	573.04
57	Tot Lot	8.0290
58	Park (Formerly Beagle Club)	11.527 & Mount Laurel Twp 7036
59	Open Space	183



Recreational and Open Space
Evesham Township
Burlington County New Jersey
Scale: 1" = 1000'
REMINENT & VERNICK ENGINEERS
2020 REMINENT ROAD, CHERRY HILL, NJ 08002
(609) 683-1000 FAX (609) 683-1001
www.reminent.com

Jenizza Corbin
DATE: 12/15/2022
JENICORP CORBIN, PP
NJ PROFESSIONAL PLANNER NO. 338,800,01200

0 1,000 3,000 4,000 6,000 ft

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY	CHK
1	Added former Beagle Club & 201 Extension of Road	02/28/2022	JK	KZ
2				
3				
4				

8.2 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY (ROSI) PARCELS

APPENDIX 8.2 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (ROSI) PARCELS					
ROSI Map Key	Municipal Location per Tax Records	Name of Park/Facility	Block	Lot	Acres
Lands Held in Fee Simple for Recreation and Conservation Purposes					
44	Brandywine Drive	Woodstream	1.01	2	6.95
18	Westerly Drive	Greentree Village	1.08	34	19.72
18	Westerly Drive	Greentree Village	1.08	76	7.00
44	Brandywine Drive	Woodstream	3.01	1	13.96
44	Brandywine Drive	Woodstream	3.01	44	1.9
44	Conestoga Drive	Woodstream	3.07	1	7.6
44	Conestoga Drive	Woodstream	3.13	25	6.6
18	Greentree Road	Greentree Village	3.30	21	21.00
39	E. Main Street	Town Clock	4.05	17.05	0.02
28	S. Locust Avenue	Kain Memorial Park	4.11	5	1.01
38	Tinsmith Lane	The Maples	6.15	1	2.98
29	N. Maple Avenue	Marlgreen Tract	6.17	11.01	4.7
17	N. Locust Avenue	Greenlane Farms	7.04	41	16.05
15	N. Locust Avenue	Evesboro Downs	9	9.02	40.2
40	Medoc Court	Vineyards	9.01	124	2.69
40	N. Maple Avenue	Vineyards	9.01	190	6.78
13	N. Maple Avenue	Eisenhower Park	10	3.06	4.94
9	Country Farms Road	Country Farms	11.01	174	21.56
9	Greenbrook Drive	Country Farms	11.02	104	1.09
9	Greenbrook Drive	Country Farms	11.04	110	7.29
7	Palmetto Avenue	Cambridge Park	13.06	22	0.25
7	Palmetto Avenue	Cambridge Park	13.06	23	0.25
7	Palmetto Avenue	Cambridge Park	13.06	24	0.25
7	Palmetto Avenue	Cambridge Park	13.06	25	0.25
7	Palmetto Avenue	Cambridge Park	13.06	42	3.37
6	Longhurst Road	Heathrow Park	13.23	33	3.52
27	Westminster Avenue	London Square	20.11	25	1.06
2	W. Cedar Avenue	Baker Tract	20.15	6	11.45
29	N. Maple Avenue	Marlgreen Tract	20.15	7	14.48
8	Wildcat Avenue	Carrefour	24.24	101	13.73
8	Wildcat Avenue	Carrefour	24.24	2.02	1
42	E. Main Street	Wiley Tract	26	8	1.43
42	E. Main Street	Wiley Tract	26	9	6.95
12	Evans Road	Downs Tract	26	10	17.7
12	Evans Road	Downs Tract	26	11	9.46
20	Caldwell Avenue	Heritage	28.16	10	1.59

Evesham Township
Open Space and Recreation Plan

APPENDIX 8.2 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (ROSI) PARCELS					
ROSI Map Key	Municipal Location per Tax Records	Name of Park/Facility	Block	Lot	Acres
Lands Held in Fee Simple for Recreation and Conservation Purposes					
36	N. Elmwood Road	Savich Tract	28.20	6	32.68
36	N. Elmwood Road	Savich Tract	28.20	7	123.08
36	N. Elmwood Road	Savich Tract	28.20	8	22.92
36	N. Elmwood Road	Savich Tract	28.20	9	49
36	N. Elmwood Road	Savich Tract	28.20	10	9.01
25	E. Main Street	Koppenhaver	29	1	88.87
5	Kenton Avenue	Brush Hollow	29	2	5.74
21	S. Elmwood Road	Indian Springs	29	3	88.64
21	S. Elmwood Road	Indian Springs	29	3.01	52.20
21	S. Elmwood Road	Indian Springs	29.12	1	17.09
22	Tuckerton Road	Johnston Tract	30	2	76.59
H/I 5	Tuckerton Road	Morrison Parcel	30	2.04	2.70
10	Tuckerton Road	Croft Farm	31	8.07	10.44
10	Tuckerton Road	Croft Farm	31	9	85.56
16	Abbotsford Drive	Glen Eayre	33.07	28	1.87
16	Evans Road	Glen Eayre	33.07	29	2.39
16	Abbotsford Drive	Glen Eayre	33.09	1	2.37
37	Gainesboro Road	Tara	34.07	7	0.25
43	Nottingham Road	Willow Ridge	35.03	4	3.69
43	Buckley Road	Willow Ridge	35.09	31	21.50
43	Buckley Road	Willow Ridge	35.11	29	0.87
43	Commonwealth Drive	Willow Ridge	35.15	12.01	20.57
43	Commonwealth Drive	Willow Ridge	35.15	12.02	16.07
43	Commonwealth Drive	Willow Ridge	35.15	12.03	2.17
43	Willow Ridge Road	Willow Ridge	35.19	26	52.54
14	Tomlinson Mill Road	Evans Tract	40	2	53.25
14	Taunton Lake Road	Evans Tract	41	12	10.05
14	Taunton Lake Road	Evans Tract	41	12.01	10.12
14	Taunton Lake Road	Evans Tract	41	12.03	1.88
11	Kettle Run Road	Density Transfer	41	19	2.7
11	Kettle Run Road	Density Transfer	41	20	2.8
11	Kettle Run Road	Density Transfer	41	21	2.6
11	Kettle Run Road	Density Transfer	41	23	2.64
11	Kettle Run Road	Density Transfer	41	26	3.29
31	Tuckerton Road	Memorial Park	44	5	1.47
31	Tuckerton Road	Memorial Park	44	6	68.46
31	Tuckerton Road	Memorial Park	44	7	6.64
31	Tuckerton Road	Memorial Park	44	8	35.33

Evesham Township
Open Space and Recreation Plan

APPENDIX 8.2 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (ROSI) PARCELS					
ROSI Map Key	Municipal Location per Tax Records	Name of Park/Facility	Block	Lot	Acres
	Lands Held in Fee Simple for Recreation and Conservation Purposes				
31	Tuckerton Road	Memorial Park	44	11.01	15.32
3	Barton Run Blvd.	Barton Run	44.17	1	4.09
3	Lakeside Drive	Barton Run	44.19	57	4.57
4	Tuckerton Road	Barton Run Lake	44.23	2.04	9.65
46	Taunton Lake Road	Barton Road	44.31	2	0.003
46	Taunton Lake Road	Barton Road	44.31	3	21.3
24	Kettle Run Road	Kings Grant II	47	1	61.54
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown	47	2	13.6
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		4	56.95
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		5	9.7
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		6	8.87
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		7	16.4
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		8	11.99
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		9	5.23
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		10	4.41
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		11	10.23
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown		12	5.7
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown	48	13	5.94
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown	48	14	5.82
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown	48	15	4.88
19	Kettle Run Road	Hamilton Georgetown	48	16	42.96
23	Colony Trail	Kenilworth	49	5	3
24	Kettle Run Road	Kings Grant II	52	1	335.37
24	Kettle Run Road	Kings Grant II	53	1	18.75
24	Kettle Run Road	Kings Grant II	53	2	16.33
24	Kettle Run Road	Kings Grant II	54	1	143.1
24	Kettle Run Road	Kings Grant II	54	1.01	10.4
24	Kettle Run Road	Kings Grant II	54	2	107.86
26	Mill Park Lane	Little Mill	54.04	22	4.32
1	Kettle Run Road	Aerohaven	57	1	190
24	Kettle Run Road	Kings Grant II	57	1.01	8.67
30	Hickory Road	Marlton Lakes	81.04	18	0.46
30	Hickory Road	Marlton Lakes	81.04	19	0.46
30	Hickory Road	Marlton Lakes	81.04	20	0.46
30	Hickory Road	Marlton Lakes	81.04	21	0.46
30	Hickory Road	Marlton Lakes	81.04	22	0.46
30	Lake Shore Drive	Marlton Lakes	81.04	56	1.03
30	Lake Shore Drive	Marlton Lakes	81.04	60	0.45

Evesham Township
Open Space and Recreation Plan

APPENDIX 8.2 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (ROSI) PARCELS					
ROSI Map Key	Municipal Location per Tax Records	Name of Park/Facility	Block	Lot	Acres
	Lands Held in Fee Simple for Recreation and Conservation Purposes				
30	Holly Road	Marlton Lakes	81.07	15	0.41
30	Holly Road	Marlton Lakes	82	3	9.31
30	Holly Road	Marlton Lakes	82.01	2	0.11
30	Holly Road	Marlton Lakes	83	1	3.65
30	Kettle Run Road	Marlton Lakes	86.01	1	0.55
33	Kettle Run Road	Pachoango	90	11	122.6
30	Kettle Run Road	Marlton Lakes	90	16	5.77
30	Kettle Run Road	Marlton Lakes	90	15	5.77
57	46 Faybrooke Drive	Tot Lot	8.02	30	0.15
41	8 Falmouth Road	Park-Westbury Chase	8.06	18	0.21
48	150 Evesboro-Medford Road	Space	8.07	26	3.16
50	4816 Church Road	Church Rd Farm	8.18	3; 5	9.34
51	31 Annapolis Drive	Park	13.64	13	5.08
52	4a Annapolis Drive	Dedicated Open Space	13.64	53	0.11
49	110 Counts Court	Open Space	20.07	1	6.62
53	43 Country Squire Lane	Vacant Land	38.02	1	0.26
54	151 Kettle Run Road	Density Transfer	42	16; 18; 23	33.03
47	701a Barton Run Blvd	Vacant Land	44.26	110	180.08
55	355 Tomlinson Mill Road	Density Transfer	46	1, 3, 4	41.56
56	136 Bortons Road	Open Space	57	3.04	2.22
58	477 N. Elmwood Road	Park - Formerly Beagle Club	11.52	2	176.7
	477 N. Elmwood Road - Mt Laurel Township	Park	703	6	0.1
59	387 Evesboro-Medford Road	Open Space	18	3	10.89
	Total Of All Fee Simple Green Acres-Encumbered Acres				3,008.4
	Total Of All Green Acres-Encumbered Acres				3,121.4
	Lands Subject to Conservation Restriction for Recreation and Conservation Purposes				
A.	Church And Evesboro Medford	Musulin	11	1	113.03
	Total of all conservation easement Green Acres-encumbered acres:				113.03

Source: Evesham ROSI, December 2022

8.3 PROPOSED OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

The parcels identified in this section are parcels proposed for potential preservation or protection. The presence of a particular property on the following recommendation list and, accordingly, in [Map 10](#), indicates only that the property falls within the proposed Headwaters Area, Southern Forest Area, East-West Connector Area, and the greenway areas, and that there are some environmental objectives relative to the property. Such environmental objectives can be achieved through a variety of methods, including conservation easements, adoption of land ordinances, stewardship programs, or direct acquisition.

As the Township seek to preserve land or open space, the preservation strategies outlined in [Section 6.1.5](#) should be carefully considered to employ the most appropriate preservation tools. As previously stated in [Section 6.1.5](#), a property's inclusion in this section and in [Map 10](#) indicates only that the specific property is within an area designated for potential preservation. It does not necessarily imply that any particular action will be taken relative to the property. These areas indicate an environmental significance to the Township and, therefore, land preservation/protection strategies should be considered. The Township should collaborate with willing landowners to find the most mutually beneficial approach to natural resources and land protection.

Furthermore, Section 6.1.5 recommends that developed properties under five acres are appropriate for potential use in conservation stewardship education program. These lands are shown in Map 10 for illustrative purposes only to visually locate potential areas suitable for implementing a conservation stewardship program. Note that individually owned parcels that are under five acres are not included in the table below. For informational purposes only, any lots under five acres listed in the table below have only been provided when said lots are under common ownership with other parcels, providing a total tract area of at least five acres. Additional lot(s) is defined as lots under common ownership, as per the Township's Tax Assessor's records.

The information provided in this section is the extent of publicly available information at the time of the writing of this plan. Records connected to [Map 10](#) and the table below have been updated as close to the present data as possible. Current tax records should be consulted prior to beginning any study regarding the potential preservation and protection of these areas.

APPENDIX 8.3 PROPOSED OPEN SPACE INVENTORY			
BLOCK	LOT	LOCATION	±ACRES
Evesham Headwaters			
48 Additional Lot(s): 19, 20-24,26,28-31,33.01 Total: 326.19 acres	17	275 Kettle Run Road	25.45
	19	275 Kettle Run Road	54.55
	20	275 Kettle Run Road	21.94
	21	275 Kettle Run Road	32.79
	22	275 Kettle Run Road	39.37
	23	275 Kettle Run Road	39.61
	24	275 Kettle Run Road	52.42
	26	275 Kettle Run Road	34.79

APPENDIX 8.3 PROPOSED OPEN SPACE INVENTORY			
BLOCK	LOT	LOCATION	±ACRES
	28	275 Kettle Run Road	4.06
	29	275 Kettle Run Road	2.94
	30	275 Kettle Run Road	4.06
	31	275 Kettle Run Road	4.23
	33.01	275 Kettle Run Road	9.98
48	18	251 Kettle Run Road	9.50
48	18.01	545 Tomlinson Mill Road	28.00
48	19	275 Kettle Run Road	54.55
48 Additional Lot(s): 33.02 Total: 8.37 acres	19.01	545 Tomlinson Mill Road	2.45
	33.02	545 Tomlinson Mill Road	5.92
48	25	559 Tomlinson Mill Road	12.46
48	27	559 Tomlinson Mill Road	13.16
48	32	589 Tomlinson Mill Road	9.52
48	33	581 Tomlinson Mill Road	7.70
50 Additional Lot(s): 21.01, 22, 23 & 24.01 Total: 75.87 acres	20	590 Tomlinson Mill Road	25.44
	21.01	590 Tomlinson Mill Road	5.71
	22	590 Tomlinson Mill Road	21.96
	23	590 Tomlinson Mill Road	18.97
	24.01	590 Tomlinson Mill Road	3.79
59 Additional Lot(s): 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Total: 57.4 acres	1	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	11.00
	2	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	12.53
	3	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	8.20
	4	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	5.52
	5	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	1.41
	6	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	4.98
	7	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	6.56
	8	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	5.33
	9	620 Tomlinson Mill Road	1.87
59	10	600 Tomlinson Mill Road	27.92
59	12		5.05
59	13		28.63
60 Additional Lot(s): 3, 4, 6, 7, 9.01 Total: 231.13 acres	1	601 Tomlinson Mill Road	56.29
	3	601 Tomlinson Mill Road	6.11
	4	601 Tomlinson Mill Road	71.19
	6	601 Tomlinson Mill Road	80.43
	7	601 Tomlinson Mill Road	7.43
	9.01	601 Tomlinson Mill Road	9.68
60	2	621 Tomlinson Mill Road	9.52
60	5	495 Kettle Run Road	14.16
60	9	441 Kettle Run Road	10.00
60	10	421 Tomlinson Mill Road	20.22

APPENDIX 8.3 PROPOSED OPEN SPACE INVENTORY			
BLOCK	LOT	LOCATION	±ACRES
61	2	110 Sycamore Avenue	14.34
61	3	160 Sycamore Avenue	7.99
61	4	154 Sycamore Avenue	7.58
61	5	142 Sycamore Avenue	7.89
61	9	110 Sycamore Avenue	2.33
Additional Lot(s): 11 Total: 9.33 acres	11	110 Sycamore Avenue	7.01
63	1	498 Kettle Run Road	46.59
63	3	490 Kettle Run Road	1.22
Additional Lot(s): 4 Total: 12.39 acres	4	490 Kettle Run Road	11.17
East-West Connector			
58	3.01	36A Milford Drive	17.60
90	1.02	375 Hopewell Road	10.60
Southern Forest			
90	17	Kettle Run Road	10.00
90	20	Kettle Run Road	9.00
90	13	38B Georgia Okeefe Way	17.90
93	13.01	255 Mill Road	5.28
93	13.05	263 Mill Road	11.80
93	13.06	185 Mill Road	12.19
93	13.07	211 Mill Road	6.00
94	2	736 Kettle Run Road	13.20
Additional Lot(s): 2.01 Total: 15.21acres	2.01	736 Kettle Run Road	2.01
94	3	740 Kettle Run Road	20.73
94	4	766 Kettle Run Road	6.66
94	5	114 Mill Road	10.34
94	9	152 Mill Road	16.87
94	11	152 Mill Road	60.60
94	21.08	121 Navy Lane	17.24
94	22	130 Navy Lane	5.88
94	26	139 Navy Lane	6.01
94	27	Mill Road L/L	5.23
94	28	Mill Road L/L	5.25
94	29	Mill Road L/L	5.23
94	30	242 Mill Road	5.23
Additional Lot(s): 31, 32 Total: 10.86 acres	31	242 Mill Road	3.61
	32	242 Mill Road	2.06
94	34	34a Georgia Okeefe Way	11.46
94	36	150 Navy Lane	9.48

Evesham Township
Open Space and Recreation Plan

APPENDIX 8.3 PROPOSED OPEN SPACE INVENTORY			
BLOCK	LOT	LOCATION	±ACRES
94	37	152 Mill Road	9.48
94	38	300 Navy Lane	9.48
Other			
37	1.05	170 Dutch Road	10.40
38	3	391 New Road	6.99
38	7.01	185 Taunton Lake Road	7.30
38	7.02	189 Taunton Lake Road	7.68
38 Additional Lot(s): 9.01, 10 Total: 8.61 acres	8.01	175 Taunton Lake Road	3.1
	9.01	175 Taunton Lake Road	2.00
	10	175 Taunton Lake Road	3.52
38 Additional Lot(s): 15.05 Total: 7.17 acres	14	293 Taunton Lake Road	1.20
	15.05	293 Taunton Lake Road	5.97
38 Additional Lot(s): 15.06 Total: 11.02 acres	15	259 Taunton Lake Road	10.52
	15.06	259 Taunton Lake Road	0.50
38 Additional Lot(s): 17 Total: 11.86 acres	16	251 Taunton Lake Road	9.45
	17	251 Taunton Lake Road	2.41
41	1.01	256 Taunton Lake Road	5.26
41	1.04	276 Taunton Lake Road	5.72
41 Additional Lot(s): 6.01, 6.02, 7 Total: 18.38 acres	6	200 Taunton Lake Road	1.61
	6.01	200 Taunton Lake Road	3.00
	6.02	200 Taunton Lake Road	1.61
	7	200 Taunton Lake Road	12.16
41 Additional Lot(s): 9, 10, 11 Total: 43.12 acres	8	176 Taunton Lake Road	14.10
	9	176 Taunton Lake Road	7.46
	10	176 Taunton Lake Road	9.69
	11	176 Taunton Lake Road	11.87
41	16	114 Kettle Run Road	7.89
41	18.03	132a Kettle Run Road	6.00
41	18.04	132 Kettle Run Road	5.92
41 Additional Lot(s): 27, 29 Total: 32.41 acres	22	158 Kettle Run Road	14.72
	27	158 Kettle Run Road	2.82
	29	136 Kettle Run Road	14.87
41 Additional Lot(s): 25 Total: 6.05 acres	24	144 Kettle Run Road	2.64
	25	144 Kettle Run Road	3.41
41	28	136 Kettle Run Road	7.11
41	30	176 Kettle Run	18.85
42	2	109 Kettle Run Road	8.44
42	11	283 Tomlinson Mill Road	5.52
42	14	137 Kettle Run Road	26.38

Evesham Township
Open Space and Recreation Plan

APPENDIX 8.3 PROPOSED OPEN SPACE INVENTORY			
BLOCK	LOT	LOCATION	±ACRES
Additional Lot(s): 17 Total: 29.86 acres	17	137 Kettle Run Road	2.58
42	15	180 Braddock Mill Road	5.23
42	23	151 Kettle Run Road	33.03
42	25	161 Kettle Run Road	7.87
42	28	130 Braddock Mill Road	3.28
Additional Lot(s): 29, 30 Total: 18.85 acres	29	130 Braddock Mill Road	6.99
	30	130 Braddock Mill Road	8.58
	10.02	790 Barton Run Boulevard	6.72
44	11		48.14
44	12		5.44
48	2.02	185 Braddock Mill Road	13.95
49	4	160 Kenilworth Road	1.92
Additional Lot(s): 8 Total: 10.98 acres	8	160 Kenilworth Road	9.06
	9	178 Kenilworth Road	8.55
50	13.05	205 Flamingo Drive	18.10
50	15	520 Tomlinson Mill Road	12.21
94	32	242 Mill Road	10.86

8.4 PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES & SUMMARY

8.4.1 OSRP Public Meeting #1 Minutes



Community Planning

Landscape Architecture

Municipal Consulting

Streetscape Design

Economic Development

Parks and Recreation



Taylor Design Group, Inc.
131 Hartford Road
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

T. 856.810.3443

W. TDGplanning.com

Michelle M. Taylor, AICP, PP
Scott D. Taylor, AICP, PP, LLA, LEED AP

Steven F. Lenson, LLA, PP
Holly M. Pasqua, Business Manager

Karen Ingram, LLA
Elaine A. Wells, LLA, ISA/Cert. Arborist
Charles Morris, LLA
Conly S. Wilson, LLA

Meeting Minutes Publicly Noticed Meeting #1

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Evesham Township Master Plan – Open Space and Recreation Plan

Professional Attendance:

Karen Twisler, LLA, Remington & Vernick Engineers

Michael Davis, AICP Candidate, Remington & Vernick Engineers

Michelle Taylor, AICP, PP, Taylor Design Group, Inc.

Michael Davis led the meeting discussing the intent of the meeting to garner public input on the OSRP. He discussed the Healthy Communities Grant and its stated goals of supporting education, communication, and accessibility. He further characterized the Atlantic City Electric Environmental Stewardship Grant. Michael characterized the December 2012 OSRP goals and objectives on page 19 as still relevant to the community. He further characterized meetings of the Subcommittee in which pickleball, disc golf, a fieldhouse building, and shade and picnic pavilions were itemized as community recreation needs. He expounded upon the planned recreation for the former Beagle Club, Black Run Preserve, and the Croft Farm.

The meeting was well attended with approximately 50 persons.

Five people characterized the interest of 250-300 persons in Evesham and the need for pickleball courts, outdoor facilities with lights, restrooms, and off-street parking, or indoors at the Blue Barn or similar.

Six people discussed an interest in the Black Run Preserve, including walking trails, headwater protection efforts including purchasing undeveloped lands, forest area protection and preservation, controlled burns, accessibility, bike trails, horse trails, off-street parking, and security cameras.

Three people discussed the success of the field habitat provided at the Croft Farm; and a desire to expand upon the area, providing interpretive signs, and continuing to protect vital meadow habitats for songbirds, and other meadow inhabitants.

One person seeks additional recreational volleyball opportunities on both hard and sand courts. They suggested that all fields should have playgrounds for use by children who are at a practice for siblings or friends. They also suggested that the Barton Run Swim Club property should be maintained as open space for the public for basketball, wiffleball, and other play opportunities. They also suggested that a full-size baseball field for 13 and up should be provided in Evesham citing that there are only fields for 12 and under.

One person suggested that lights be provided at the dog park and that overall park comprehensive maintenance should be addressed. They suggested that the Township should provide a 'sustainability center' modeled after a facility in Camden County

TDG

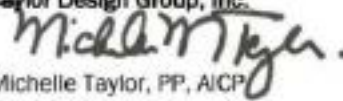
which offers educational opportunities regarding sustainability, hydroponics, tool sharing, master gardening courses, composting, and a community center. Further, they had suggestions for individual properties such as the following:

- opportunity to purchase available lands on Tomlinson Mill Road near municipal lands;
- install a trail system on the Savage Farm from Green Brook to the Shopping Centers;
- acquire Barton Run Swim club; acquire/ develop a splash pad; provide opportunities for fishing at Jennings Lake and Barton Run Lake;
- operate an indoor pool;
- provide a teen and tween activity center;
- acquire the Briarwood old Nike Missile Base to add a path to New Road trail and municipal building from Brush Hollow and another development;
- utilize electric tower rights of way as paths from Sharp Road to Evesboro Medford Road and at Willow road for off -road trails;
- evaluate and plan for missing pedestrian connections along Evesboro Medford Road, Township owned lands, municipal facilities, schools, and commercial lands; and
- provide sidewalk along Routes 70 & 73.

Several persons discussed using a consistent sign theme for all Open Space.

One person expressed concern regarding the forested area of the Pinelands in particular citing the hazards of a lack of a fire management program. They discussed the interest of the Fire Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; annual blanket permits for controlled burns; and work with "Arbor Walk" to reduce material in the forested area as the area has not had a controlled or other fire since the 1950s. They also discussed that a woodland management program should be provided for the forested areas within municipal control.

Respectfully submitted,
Taylor Design Group, Inc.


Michelle Taylor, PP, AICP
President

8.4.2 OSRP Public Meeting #2 Meeting Summary



RVE HQ:
2059 Springdale Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
O: (856) 795-9595
F: (856) 795-1882

Evesham Township
Open Space and Recreation Plan Public Meeting #2
March 30, 2023, 6:30pm
Evesham Municipal Building at 984 Tuckerton Road

Professional in Attendance

Jenizza Corbin, PP, AICP

Public Meeting Summary

A brief overview of the 2023 OSRP Draft, dated 03.16.23, was presented including a summary of the planning process and meetings held thus far for the OSRP update, as well as upcoming meetings with the Planning Board. It was explained that the document is a vision and a guide for how the Township will develop its open space and recreation system; and that it was prepared in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Green Acres Program in order to participate in the Green Acres Planning Incentive (PI) funding category. It was further explained that the purpose of the meeting is to gather input from the public on the current draft of the OSRP.

The meeting was attended by approximately 30 people. Below is the summary of comments received from the public by topic:

- **Proposed Action Plans/Improvements:**
 - A few comments were made concerning the proposed improvements at the Savich Field, including the proposed access, lacrosse wall and expansion of natural turf, due to the historical significance of the site and environmental conditions, including critical habitats and native plants.
 - A comment was made suggesting that bike paths should be considered in the proposed greenways.
 - A comment was made suggesting incorporating more lines on one court at Blue Barn and replacing the nets.
 - A comment was made suggesting putting a pickleball court at Gibson House; providing both public and private courts in the Township; and ensuring onsite lighting is provided.
 - A comment was made suggesting developing a long-term plan for the Croft Farm, as the proposal outlined in the OSRP is a short-term plan only.
 - A comment was made suggesting for the Township to consider sharing services with the Assembly of God instead of a brand-new field house.
 - A comment was made suggesting adding "no mow" areas at the Central Community Park.



RVE HQ:
2059 Springdale Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
O: (856) 795-9595
F: (856) 795-1882

- A comment was made suggesting installing lights at the dog parks for the wintertime.
 - A comment was made concerning the importance of flora and fauna and the impact of any future development on the water quality in the Headwaters area, the Pine Barrens, Black Run Preserve and further downstream. Rezoning or other tools should be considered by the Township to not develop this area and throughout the Township to maintain water quality.
- **Proposed Open Space Inventory:**
 - A comment was made concerning two parcels identified in the Kings Grant area that are part of the proposed open spaces for acquisition/preservation, and that as a resident and member of the Kings Grant HOA Board, these parcels are for the sole use of Kings Grant residents only.
 - A comment was made concerning how the Environmental Commission identified the list of proposed open spaces, and that additional areas in the Marlton Lakes area should be considered.
 - A few comments were made concerning the area west of the Evesham Headwaters is not identified for proposed open space preservation, and that the Township should consider adding this whole area for proposed open space preservation.
- **Environmental:**
 - A comment was made concerning the contaminated site in the Kings Grant area and the status of this area.
 - A comment was made concerning hunting in Black Run Preserve, and verifying that hunting is prohibited.
- **Technical Comments:**
 - A comment was made correcting the number of species on the Croft Farm section based on the Cornell eBird database.
 - A comment was made clarifying that it was determined by a grassland bird habitat restoration specialist that Croft Farm was an excellent habitat for grassland birds and species, and that there are some minimal invasive species and minimal management needed such as mowing every couple of years.
 - A suggestion was made to make aerial mapping more legible, and to provide more explanation regarding the environmental conditions illustrated in the mapping.
 - A comment was made concerning the involvement of the Historic Preservation Commission, and that they should have been involved since the beginning of the OSRP process.
 - A comment was made suggesting correcting the table of contents link and adding an overall pie chart showing the area for open spaces and changes thereof since 2012



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OSRP; adding summary of changes from 2012 OSRP to this 2023 OSRP; adding list of all parcels for proposed open spaces and greenways and their acreages; historical structures/sites in the Township; adding open space preservation section in the needs analysis section; including green infrastructure projects on the mapping; updating map to reflect the recent changes to the East-West Connector; and changing "Proposed DVRPC Greenways" to "Proposed Evesham Greenways" in the legend of Map 10.

- Other:
 - A comment was made concerning the current traffic conditions and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Marlton Pike and Tomlinson Mill.
 - A comment was made requesting a copy of the Memorandum of Cooperation made between Friends of Black Run Preserve and Evesham.

The meeting concluded with informing the public that the OSRP Draft will be presented at the Planning Board public hearing meeting on April 20, 2023 and the date of adoption is yet to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS, INC.


Jenizza Corbin, PP, AICP
Professional Planner

8.4.3 Inclusive Healthy Communities (IHC) Grant Program Public Meetings Summary



**The Collaborative for Citizen Directed Supports New Jersey, Inc.
Inclusive Healthy Communities Grant Program Summary**

March 17, 2022

Mayor Jaclyn Veasy
Evesham Township Council
c/o Evesham Township Municipal Building
984 Tuckerton Road
Marlton, NJ 08053

Dear Mayor and Town Council:

On behalf of the Collaborative for Citizen-Directed Supports , thank you for the opportunity to be a part of Evesham Township’s Inclusive Healthy Communities grant project. It has been an honor to facilitate, along with my colleague Amy Watts, three community conversations with residents of Evesham Township. Those conversations occurred in a hybrid format (involving both in-person and virtual participation) on the following dates: January 31, 2022, February 15, 2022, and March 14, 2022.

The first two events helped provide the framework for considering disability-related issues and concerns specific to the Township. Moreover, these sessions enabled participants to learn more about the prevalence and types of disability which exist throughout communities and inspired a more holistic approach to considering the needs of Evesham residents. The final session resulted in the development a proposed action plan for consideration by the Township.

Through intentional conversation related to disability issues existing throughout all towns and cities, Evesham residents developed action steps that focus on sustainable inclusion for current, as well as future residents and visitors to Evesham.

We appreciate the time and participation of those who were able to inform the action plan, and in addition to this summary, The Collaborative also submitted a graphic representation summary of the discussion. This graphic can be used as a reference tool by Township officials as well as can serve to provide visitors to the Municipal Complex with a visual representation of how Evesham is working towards a more inclusive and healthy community. Identified action steps are outlined below; however, before going into those specifics, it is important to also note anecdotal feedback provided by attendees. Specifically, those who participated in this process noted that Evesham is led by officials who remain open-minded and committed to making Evesham a desirable community for those with and without disabilities. We repeatedly heard comments about positive communication between residents and local government and observed an obvious sense of pride by citizens who participated in this event and who were appreciative of the opportunity to provide feedback to make their town even better. It is important to acknowledge the fact that so many said positive things about the town in which they live and about the leadership in Evesham.

The Evesham Action plan below details recommended steps in three specific categories: Communication, Education/Awareness, and Accessibility.

Communication:

While residents acknowledged the vast benefits of technology as a tool for communication, there was a strong indication that technology cannot be “the” conduit for communication, or even, to be the primary source of communicating what is happening in town. This extended both to official town business as well to community celebrations and other town events.

Recommendations to address communication challenges:

- Develop a new resident “welcome packet” that can be distributed via various avenues (e.g., available at the municipal building, at schools, through realtors, etc.). This packet would include basic information about town contacts but is also an opportunity to provide important information about disability services and access available to residents.
- Ensure that closed caption viewing is available for all Township meetings accessible to the general public.
- Establish a network of community connectors within the Township – point people who are able to effortlessly distribute/post information about events to those who might not have regular access to technology (e.g., residents of the Inglis House, group homes, apartment complexes).
- Create a paid position for a “Community Connector”. That person’s role would be to act as a point person to residents and businesses alike and to serve as a conduit between

Accessibility:

Accessibility challenges were most easily identified, and their proposed solutions were often easily addressed pragmatically; however, these proposed solutions also involve a greater commitment of expense.

Recommendations to address Accessibility challenges:

- Involve those who require accommodations into the identification of those accommodations.
- Enhance the amount of and access to accessible seating at Township meetings (emphasis on those meetings which attract a large crowd)
- Ensure that wide stairways include a middle railing
- Provide closed captioning for all public meetings
- Provide sign language interpretation for all public meetings
- Ensure that bathrooms in the municipal (and other public) buildings are fully accessible, including push button entry.
- Provide a “family” bathroom at Township buildings and parks to accommodate those adults who require the ability to lie down so that personal care needs can be met (e.g., to meet the needs of adults who use adult incontinence products and cannot independently change them).
- Event flyers for Township-sponsored events to include a map which provides information needed by people who experience disabilities (e.g., parking, rest areas, designated seating areas, etc.)
- Safety accessibility in large parks/Township areas – follow the example of a “blue light” college security set up where citizens with disabilities can access a ‘call box’ of some variety where help can be accessed in the event of an equipment malfunction (e.g., electric wheelchair stops working, tire flat, etc.) or medical issue.
- Improve/enable access to nature trails – discussed installing pervious hard surfaces as well as providing portable access ramps/pathways.
- Hire an engineer with expertise in accessible physical plant design to recommend changes to existing public spaces.
- Expand bus shelter area and advocate to expand geographical range of AccessLink.
- Complete extensive review and restructuring of Township provided accessible transportation routes so that residents can get to a variety of places in the community (One participant shared that the current transportation system has a very limited amount of drop off and pick up locations and that these locations are not flexible. It was also noted that currently only one wheelchair user can be transported at any given time)
- Establish a designated drop off lane at Township events which draw large crowds
- Install sidewalks and pathways to connect neighborhoods
- Expand availability of sidewalks through the Township
- Install additional bench seating along trails and at Township events.
- Provide a “sensory” space/tent at Township festivals/events.

- Provide Township “ambassadors” at events – volunteers who are identified as helpers and who stroll around the grounds to be accessible to those who may need assistance.
- Consider locations for popular Township events so that additional open space can be provided for those who may need to run around/get away from a crowd/expend energy.
- Charging stations at events (for those who use power chairs or other electric devices)
- Install additional coat racks which are at a height conducive to wheelchair users
- Re-evaluate existing curb cuts to ensure chairs can roll over them (some are too high) as well as install curb cuts where they presently do not exist.
- Increase number of pedestrian crossings and install auditory signaling.
- When masking is indicated, ensure that police and other first responders have transparent masks for those who read lips.

Thank you again for the opportunity to facilitate these important and impactful conversations. The Collaborative for Citizen-Directed Supports wishes you the best in implementing recommendations to build an even more inclusive and healthy Evesham Township.

Sincerely,

Patty Kowalchuk

Cc: Amy Watts
The Collaborative for Citizen-Directed Supports Board members
file

8.5 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Open Space Tax

The Township Dedicated tax levy to preserve, develop and raise revenue for the preservation and development of recreation and open space properties and for other purposes as permitted under N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7. This provides the township with a dedicated source of funding and qualifies it for state funding through the Planning Incentive Grant Program of Green Acres and the State Agricultural Development Board.

Burlington County Municipal Park Development Program

Assists municipalities in the development and improvement of parks for outdoor passive and active recreation and in their efforts to preserve open space and farmland.

<https://www.co.burlington.nj.us/234/Municipal-Park-Development-Program>

Recreation Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities (ROID) Grant

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) provides funding to assist local governmental entities to develop or expand recreational programs for individuals with disabilities within their communities. [Visit the DCA SAGE portal for the current ROID Application](#), if available.

Bikeways

The New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Bikeway Grant Program provides funding to counties and municipalities to promote bicycling as an alternate mode of transportation in New Jersey. The purpose of the program is to support the State's goal of constructing 1,000 new miles of dedicated bike paths. Although priority will be given to construction of new bike paths, the proposed construction or delineation of any new bicycle facility will be considered.

<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/bikewaysf.shtm>

Local Recreation Improvement Grant (LRIG)

A grant program provided by DCA to support improvement and repair of public recreation facilities, including local parks, municipal recreation centers, and local stadiums. The funds will be allocated to help cover costs associated with updating community centers, playgrounds, pools, fields, walking or bicycle trails, rail trails, multi-sport courts, and recreational facilities; project development professional services costs; equipment costs including playground and recreation facilities equipment; and environmental remediation costs required to prepare recreation sites for use.

<https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/lrigrants.shtml>

Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH)

PICH is a 3-year initiative by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that supports implementation of evidence-based strategies to improve the health of communities and reduce the prevalence of chronic disease. The program has four focus areas: tobacco use and exposure, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and lack of access to opportunities for chronic disease prevention, risk reduction, and disease management. In relation to recreation, the following are some examples of priority interventions municipalities can take on:

- Improve the quality and amount of physical education and physical activity in schools.
 - Improve or enhance a comprehensive physical activity policy to increase the amount of physical activity opportunities implemented at school facilities through daily recess, intramurals/physical activity clubs, and walk or bicycle to and from school.
- Increase adoption of comprehensive approaches to improve community design.
 - Implement a plan for community health and well-being, including physical activity opportunities.
 - Improve community designs to make streets safe for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users (e.g., neighborhood slow zones, community-wide traffic calming).
 - Implement joint-use agreements (e.g., school grounds open to the public during off hours).

<https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/programs/partnershipstoimprovecommunityhealth/index.html>

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

With the establishment of the National Recreational Trails Fund Act in 1993, the New Jersey Trails Program administers federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants to develop, maintain and restore trails and trail-related facilities.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/

Shade Structure Grants

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) provides Shade Structure Grant Program that awards up to \$8,000 to public schools and non-profit organizations for installation permanent shade structures for outdoor locations that are not protected from the sun, such as playgrounds, pools, or recreation spaces. In addition to the grant, the AAD also provides a permanent sign for display near the shade structure.

<https://www.aad.org/public/public-health/shade-structure-grants/shade-structure-grant-application>

New Jersey Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Stewardship Grant

Pursuant to the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, N.J.S.A.13:1L-17.4(c), the New Jersey Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry program (NJUCF) provides financial assistance to local governments and shade tree commissions to assist in the implementation of an approved management plan for trees and forests to the extent funds are available.

The NJUCF Stewardship Grant was established to provide this financial assistance. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to encourage projects that strongly link the use of best management practices to achieve urban and community forestry management goals defined in the local management plan for trees and forests.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/urbanandcommunity/grants.html>

New Jersey Dam Restoration and Inland Water Projects Loan Program

Local governments and private lake associations can apply for low-interest loans to fund dam restorations, flood control projects, water pollution control projects, and water-related recreation and conservation projects.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/damsafety/engineer.htm>

Community Firewise Grants

Provide municipalities, communities, and other qualifying organizations a cost-share incentive to obtain Firewise Community/USA designation, implement hazard mitigation activities, train community Firewise liaisons, conduct outreach and awareness activities in the community.

https://www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/nhr_firewise.html

Environmental Education (EE) Grants

The EE Grants Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. This grant program provides financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques.

<https://www.epa.gov/education/grants>

Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP)

The CCSP program of the National Park Service (NPS) is intended to support specific NPS mission-related projects that align with the goals of project partners. Projects must support one of the following:

- Addressing the Climate Crisis. Projects that address the climate crisis and build resiliency to a changing climate. Projects could include developing green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and/or creating sustainable energy sources.
- Conservation Projects (Lands and Waters). Projects that increase the acres of protected or restored lands and waters.
- Advancing Equity for Youth from Underserved Communities. Projects that increase equitable access to parks for youth and young adults from underserved communities.
- Outdoor Recreation. Projects that increase public access to new and restored outdoor recreation opportunities.

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1837/index.htm>

The Emergency Grant and Loan Program

The Emergency Grant and Loan Program was created to provide small amounts of money for funding emergency work to preserve endangered historic properties. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and may take the form of matching grants and/or short-term low-interest loans.

<https://www.nj.gov/dca/njht/programs/egl/>

New Jersey Water Bank (NJWB) (formerly New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program - NJEIFP)

The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program administered by NJDEP provides low-interest loans to municipalities and counties to acquire open space that will preserve water quality. This program is a partnership between the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust and Green Acres. The mission of the Trust is to assist in achieving a cleaner and healthier environment by providing low-interest financing for projects that enhance and protect ground and surface water resources and ensure the safety of drinking water supplies.

https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/mface_njeifp.htm

Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Capital and Management Grants

Open Space and Recreation Plan

County and municipal governments, as well as non-profits, may apply for grants to plan, preserve, improve, restore, stabilize, rehabilitate, and protect historic properties.

<https://www.nj.gov/dca/njht/programs/early-funding/gshptf/>

Historic Preservation Certified Local Government (CLG) Grants

The goals for the Historic Preservation Fund Grant projects are to identify all buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and engineering, and that meet criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and to implement planning tools for the protection of these resources. CLG municipalities may apply for funds to be used to promote historic preservation projects such as municipal master plan elements, historic resource reports, New Jersey and National register nominations, and other plans for the protection of historic resources.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/clg/index.htm>

Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Program

Counties, municipal governments, or tax-exempt non-profits may apply for low-interest, long term financing for the preservation, improvement, restoration, rehabilitation, and acquisition of historic properties.

<https://www.nj.gov/dca/njht/programs/rlf/>

Local Aid Infrastructure Fund (LAIF) NJDOT Division of Local Aid and Economic Development

Subject to funding appropriation, a Local Aid Infrastructure Fund is established to address emergencies and regional needs throughout the state. Any county or municipality may apply at any time. Under this program a county or municipality may also apply for funding for pedestrian safety and bikeway projects.

<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/descrfunding.shtm>

Municipal Aid, NJDOT Division of Local Aid and Economic Development

Road improvement projects such as resurfacing, rehabilitation, or reconstruction and signalization are funded from the \$78.75 million in municipal aid distributed by formula.

<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/municaid.shtm>

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

Evesham Township

Open Space and Recreation Plan

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife manages many of the properties that have been preserved by NJDEP and will also accept donations of title in fee simple of certain properties. Such donations are usually acquisitions made with Green Acres funding by land trusts or other non-profit private conservation organizations.

<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/>

New Jersey Green Acres

The Green Acres program provides funding assistance for the acquisition of township park and recreation areas listed in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Through its Planning Incentive Program, Green Acres will provide a grant that will cover up to 50 percent of the land acquisition costs of a particular tract. Non-profit land conservation organizations are eligible for non-profit grants from the state Green Acres program, totaling up to \$500,000 and requiring a dollar-for-dollar match. Land trust associations are good partners for land acquisition in the sensitive and natural areas in the township. These organizations have experienced staff who are knowledgeable about the benefits to a landowner interested in preserving property, as well as strategies for open space preservation. Non-profit land trusts can also “sign on” to the township’s Open Space and Recreation Plan registered with Green Acres. This process makes non-profits eligible for Green Acres’ funding to acquire land important to the township.

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

New Jersey Natural Lands Trust

The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust was created in 1968 by the state legislature as an independent agency. The Trust’s mission is to preserve land in its natural state to protect wildlife habitat and provide residents with passive recreation. The Trust preserves land primarily by donations of title in fee simple or conservation easements. The Trust manages its properties to conserve endangered species habitat, rare natural features, and significant ecosystems.

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

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

This program provides funding for stormwater-related projects that implement BMPs or provide education and outreach to critical audiences. Eligible applicants include regional comprehensive planning or health organizations, government coalitions, environmental commissions, watershed associations, and non-profit organizations.

https://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/czm_cnpp.html

New Jersey State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC)

Through coordination with county Agricultural Development Boards, local governments, and non-profit organizations, the SADC administers the state farmland preservation program. The farmland preservation program includes the purchase of agricultural easements, the purchase in fee simple of entire farmland properties (to be auctioned off with an agricultural easement), and the acceptance of donations of agricultural easements. The SADC operates similarly to Green Acres. SADC provides funding for farmland preservation and farmland enhancement projects. SADC coordinates its operations at the state, county, and local levels.

<https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/about/>

New Jersey State Forest Service

The New Jersey State Forest Service offers written guidance and financial assistance to owners of private woodlands to protect and improve timber, wildlife, fish, soils, water recreation, and aesthetic values of their forested lands. This program was authorized by Congress in the 1990 Farm Bill and administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/about.html>

Safe Streets to Transit, NJDOT Division of Local Aid and Economic Development

The purpose of these grants is to improve safety for walkers and bikers on their way to transit facilities, as well as to facilitate the implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety in the vicinity of transit facilities (approximately 0.5 miles for pedestrian improvements or 2.0 miles for bicycle improvements).

<https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/>

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a conservation program administered by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with State agencies to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands through conservation easements or land purchases.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy>

Green Communities Challenge Grants

Evesham Township
Open Space and Recreation Plan

Municipal and county governments are eligible to apply for this funding to develop a Community Forestry Management Plan, which helps local government agencies implement urban and community forestry projects. These projects are provided under four themes: Program Development, Implementation, Tree Maintenance, and Research Projects.

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/forest/urbanandcommunity/grants.html>

Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS)

SRTS is a federally funded program that was initiated by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The program targets both public and private K–8 schools. The main objectives of the program are to:

- enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools.

<https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/Safe-Routes-to-School-Programs>

Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE)

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/wre-wetland-reserve-easements>

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