

2023

AN OVERVIEW OF

Somerset County
Government
Programs & Services



AN OVERVIEW OF SOMERSET COUNTY

NEW JERSEY GOVERNMENT 2023

Welcome to Somerset County!

MISSION STATEMENT

Committed to Excellence

The County of Somerset is committed to excellence and innovation in public service by promoting the well-being of all residents and communities through effective, efficient, and responsive leadership.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Dedicated to Serving Residents

The Board of County Commissioners is dedicated to serving the residents of Somerset County and maintaining the county's nationwide reputation for excellence.

It is the Board of Commissioner's job to determine priorities and procedures in areas ranging from farmland preservation to providing human services programs. Many of the decisions made by the Commissioners are based on advisement from the county's boards, commissions and advisory groups.

Most members of the county's boards and commissions do not receive compensation and are performing valuable services because they are passionate about public service and the communities they live in.



(L-R) COMMISSIONERS PAUL DRAKE, DIRECTOR SHANEL Y. ROBINSON, SARA SOOY, MELONIE MARANO AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR DOUGLAS SINGLETERRY.



PHOTOS TAKEN IN SOMERSET COUNTY

GEOGRAPHY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Heart of Central Jersey

Somerset County is in the heart of central New Jersey and is just a short distance from the nation’s largest metropolitan areas. The county contains diverse populations, landscapes, and developments that reflect the varied lifestyles of its residents.

The county offers urban and suburban neighborhoods, beautiful countryside, fine residential communities, lush parks, a variety of shopping areas, splendid farmlands, and numerous historical sites. The county’s outstanding business and industry make Somerset County one of the best places to live, work, and play.

THE COUNTY CONSISTS OF

302 SQUARE MILES

345,367 RESIDENTS

125,363 HOUSEHOLDS

21 MUNICIPALITIES



(ABOVE) LAMINGTON GREENWAY. (L-R) ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER IN BASKING RIDGE AND 4-H FAIR GROUNDS IN BRIDGEWATER.

TOTAL ACREAGE PRESERVED
8,548 FARMLAND 14,923 PARKLAND

PRESERVED OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND

Thousands of Acres of Green Space

Somerset County’s lush parkland includes golf courses, picnic areas, wilderness, hiking and bicycling trails, stables, a swimming pool, an Environmental Education Center, and fairgrounds that host the annual 4-H Fair and other events.

The Somerset County Open Space Preservation Program has a goal of preserving 24,000 acres of land to continue the county’s green legacy.

The Somerset County Agricultural Development Board preserves agricultural land with the acquisition of development rights through the Farmland Preservation Program. Through this program, the county has preserved 126 farms, and aims to preserve an additional 2,000 acres throughout the county.

Environmental protection, conservation of resources, regional scale recreational opportunities, support of agriculture and proper planning for future growth are all goals for county government.



REVOLUTIONARY REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE IN BOUND BROOK (ABOVE). WALLACE HOUSE (BELOW)

HISTORY

Revolutionary War Stories

As one of the oldest counties in the United States, Somerset County is steeped in pre-colonial, colonial, and Revolutionary War history. The county was established by charter on May 22, 1688, with land conveyances dating back to 1651. The county's historic sites include monuments and buildings in almost every town.

During the American Revolution, the Wallace House in Somerset County was the headquarters of General George Washington during the Middlebrook Encampments, as well as Rockingham when the war was ending, and the Continental Congress was meeting in Princeton.





SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EDUCATION

Among the Finest Schools

Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) and Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools (VoTech) have been acknowledged for being considered among the finest schools in the state.

The county has invested \$6 million as part of a grant to fund a new Career and Technical Education Building for the VoTech high school.

RVCC, a two-year college located in Branchburg, includes a library/theater complex, convention center, student-life center, science center, planetarium and has satellite campuses in Bridgewater and Franklin.

The two-year college is considered the number one community college for career training throughout New Jersey. Somerset County provided a state grant for 1.3 million to expand Raritan Valley Community College's (RVCC) Workforce Training Center.

Due to these grants, RVCC will be the first community college in the state to offer hands-on training in a clean room environment, using a curriculum developed in collaboration with cell and gene therapy manufacturers.



(L-R) BRANCHBURG COUNCILMAN JAMES SCHWORN, COMMISSIONER SARA SOOY, GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY AND COMMISSIONER MELONIE MARANO AT ROCHE MOLECULAR SYSTEMS.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Highly Educated Workforce

Somerset County is headquarters to many of the world's most profitable pharmaceutical companies and boasts having the largest Process Capability Request (PCR) manufacturing facility in the world.

The county offers a highly educated workforce with in-demand skills and a high rate of workforce participation. Relative to the county's population of 345,000, it exceeds the national average for Chemical Engineers, Biological Technicians, Packaging and Filling Machine Operators, and Industrial Engineers. Nationwide, the county is part of the number one region for chemists and has been acknowledged as a talent "hotspot" for Data Scientists and Compliance Officers.

With a highly specialized workforce and big-name tenants, it is not surprising that Somerset County has the highest degree of specialization in the biopharma and medical device industries compared to all other New Jersey counties.

Somerset County is committed to supporting the retention and growth of the life sciences, and over the past year alone, companies have announced plans to occupy 700,000+ square feet of space.



PHARMA COMPANIES INCLUDE	
<i>Aucta Pharmaceuticals</i>	BASKING RIDGE
<i>Roche Molecular Systems</i>	BRANCHBURG
<i>Cellares</i>	BRIDGEWATER
<i>Lexicon Pharmaceuticals</i>	BRIDGEWATER
<i>Repligen</i>	BRIDGEWATER
<i>Sensient Technologies</i>	SOMERSET
<i>Haleon</i>	WARREN
<i>PTC Therapeutics</i>	WARREN

In addition to these in-county education resources, Somerset County is minutes from Rutgers and Princeton Universities, for access to clinical trials and state-of-the-art R&D facilities and equipment. Throughout the county, companies can find pre-built labs and Class A office spaces to meet their needs, with more development on the horizon.

Companies that locate or grow in the county can take advantage of New Jersey's competitive package of tax credits and incentive programs, with many parts of the county designated as "Eligible Incentive Locations."

Considering these advantages, Somerset County is one of the best places in the world for any pharmaceutical or life sciences firm to locate.



DIVERSITY FESTIVAL

DIVERSITY

Everyone Belongs Here!

The county is committed to supporting, promoting, and embracing diversity. Each year the Board of Commissioners sponsors the Somerset County Diversity Festival in October.

SCAN QR CODE



Compiled by the Somerset County Public Information Office
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