



SOMERSET COUNTY PRESERVATION PLAN

Public Input Meeting
January 30, 2018



What is the *Somerset County Preservation Plan*?

- ▣ An innovative document that will effectively:
 - Update the *2008 Somerset County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan*
 - Update the *2001 Somerset County Open Space and Recreation Plan*
 - Create a *Historic Preservation Plan*
- ▣ Identification of opportunities and strategies for duality of uses and leveraging of funds
- ▣ Usage of the common themes of tourism and economics to link the elements together
- ▣ Advances the *Somerset County Investment Framework*

What is the format of the Plan?

- ▣ Each element will be able to stand on its own, while being linked to the other elements
- ▣ Recommendations and strategies will be cross-referenced
- ▣ Opportunities for the use of two or more programs will be promoted when possible

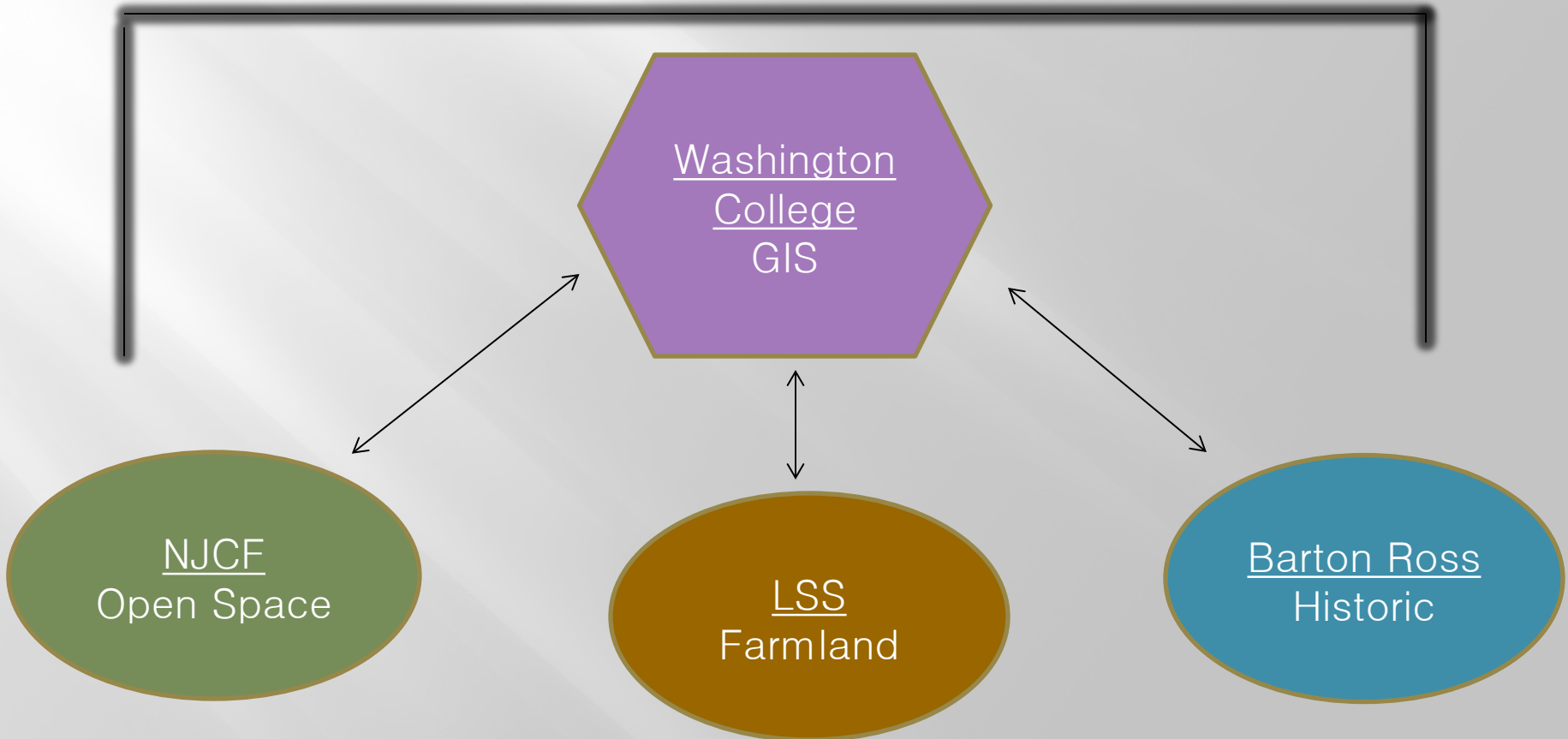


How is the Plan being supervised?

- ▣ Professional staff from Planning and Engineering Divisions, Cultural and Heritage and Parks are working together to organize the project and oversee the Consultant Team
- ▣ Steering Committee of 13 preservation experts has been assembled and will oversee policy and issues related to the larger Plan
- ▣ The SCADB will oversee the Farmland Preservation Element
- ▣ OSAC and Park Commission will oversee the Open Space Preservation and Recreation Element
- ▣ Cultural and Heritage Commission will oversee the Historic Preservation Element
- ▣ Final Plan will be adopted by the Planning Board as an element of the *Somerset County Master Plan*

Consultant Team

HERITAGE STRATEGIES
Prime Consultant



Focus: Farmland Preservation Element

- ▣ Farmland Preservation
 - Goals for upcoming 10 years
 - Leveraging of funding
 - Program changes since 2008
- ▣ Right-to-Farm
 - Updated RTF Procedures
 - Newly set precedents and recent cases
 - Areas of concern in Somerset County
- ▣ Stewardship
 - Natural resource conservation
 - Soil quality
 - Irrigation
- ▣ Agritourism
 - Industry issues: strengths and challenges
 - Economic indicators and liability
 - Impacts of existing municipal zoning
- ▣ Education and Outreach
 - Local Food Movement
 - National Agriculture Day events
 - Reaching underserved populations
- ▣ Sustainability
 - Tools for sustainable agriculture
 - Sustainable Business Registry
 - Sustainable Jersey
- ▣ Economic Development
 - CEDS
 - Agriculture as an industry
 - Tourism
 - Succession of profession

Focus: Open Space and Recreation Element

- ▣ Open Space Preservation
 - Existing facilities and parks
 - New facilities and parks
 - Program changes since 2001
 - Progress made on Greenways
- ▣ Issues/Needs Analysis
 - Recreation needs
 - Open Space need
 - Areas of concern in Somerset County
- ▣ Funding
 - Program types
 - Leveraging of funding between programs
- ▣ Stewardship
 - Area Management Plans
 - Review of 5 Major Goals from 2001 Plan
 - Impacts of existing municipal zoning
- ▣ Education and Outreach
 - Reaching underserved populations
 - Programming through Parks
- ▣ Sustainability
 - Implementation of sustainable practices
 - Energy efficiency and conservation
 - Sustainable Jersey
- ▣ Economic Development
 - CEDS
 - Tourism
 - Addition of park amenities, lands and facilities

Focus: Historic Preservation Element

- ▣ Background Information
 - Benefits of historic preservation
 - Existing resources
 - Regulatory Framework
- ▣ History of Somerset County
 - Native American occupation
 - American Revolution
 - Ethnic settlement
 - Development of transportation, agriculture and industry
 - Demographic trends
- ▣ Funding
 - County grants
 - State & other grants
 - Leveraging of funding between programs
- ▣ Stewardship
 - Maintenance of existing resources
 - Impacts of existing municipal planning & zoning
- ▣ Issues Facing Historic Preservation
 - Restoration of historic sites
 - Interpretation of historic Sites
 - Historic trails
 - Tear down
 - Disaster Planning
 - Sprawl
- ▣ Education and Outreach
 - Reaching underserved populations
 - Programming through C&H
- ▣ Economic Development
 - CEDS and economic benefits of historic preservation
 - Cultural Tourism

Mapping

- ▣ The following maps will be updated or created as part of the new Plan:
 - Basemap – municipal boundaries, roadways, waterways
 - Preserved Land Map – farmland, open space and historic resources
 - Priority Preservation Areas – PPIA, Agriculture Development Areas, Greenways, Scenic Corridors, National Byway
 - Farmland/Open Space Overlay – map showing where Candidate Farms and Preserved Farms overlap with Targeted Open Space and Greenways
 - Open Space/Historic Overlay – map showing where Open Space and Greenways overlap with Historic Sites (preserved and unpreserved), Scenic Corridors and National Byway
 - Historic/Farmland Overlay – map showing where Historic Sites (unpreserved and preserved), Scenic Corridor and National Byway overlap with Candidate Farms, Preserved Farms, and Agriculture Development Areas
 - Farmers Markets and Local Foods
 - Recreation Sites
 - Historic Sites on the National Register
 - Historic Sites Open to the Public
 - **MUCH MORE!**

Public Outreach

- ▣ Consultant Team will present at a total of three public meetings
 - Kick-Off Meeting: January 2018
 - Initial Draft: June 2018
 - Final Draft: September 2018
- ▣ Consultant Team will present the Final Draft at one meeting of each of the following Boards/Commissions/Committees:
 - Somerset County Agriculture Development Board
 - Somerset County Planning Board
 - Somerset County Park Commission
 - Somerset County Open Space Advisory Committee
 - Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission
- ▣ All comments from Public Meetings and interactions with governing bodies will be reviewed and implemented as determined by Staff and the Steering Committee
- ▣ **Public Outreach is a main focus of the Plan** – extensive advertising and opportunities for comments will be a priority!



Building Upon Existing Planning Initiatives

- ▣ The Plan will incorporate and build upon the Somerset County Investment Framework, Wastewater Management Plan and updated Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ▣ The Plan will tie together the three primary preservation programs under the County umbrella, allowing for sounder and more sustainable planning
- ▣ Recent allocation from Corporate Business Tax funding will be stable but smaller – the Plan will identify leveraging opportunities in advance

Current Schedule

- ▣ First meeting of the Steering Committee was held in November – A number of site inspections have taken place across the County
- ▣ Surveys are being distributed to Open Space Coordinators and Recreation Directors to seek input on existing resources and future needs
- ▣ Surveys are being distributed to municipalities to ascertain existing historic preservation planning and zoning efforts
- ▣ First Public Meeting held on January 30, 2018 – opportunity to shape the Plan and provide valuable input
- ▣ Steering Committees meetings will be held in February

For questions/comments related to the overall Plan:

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