



SOMERSET COUNTY PRESERVATION PLAN

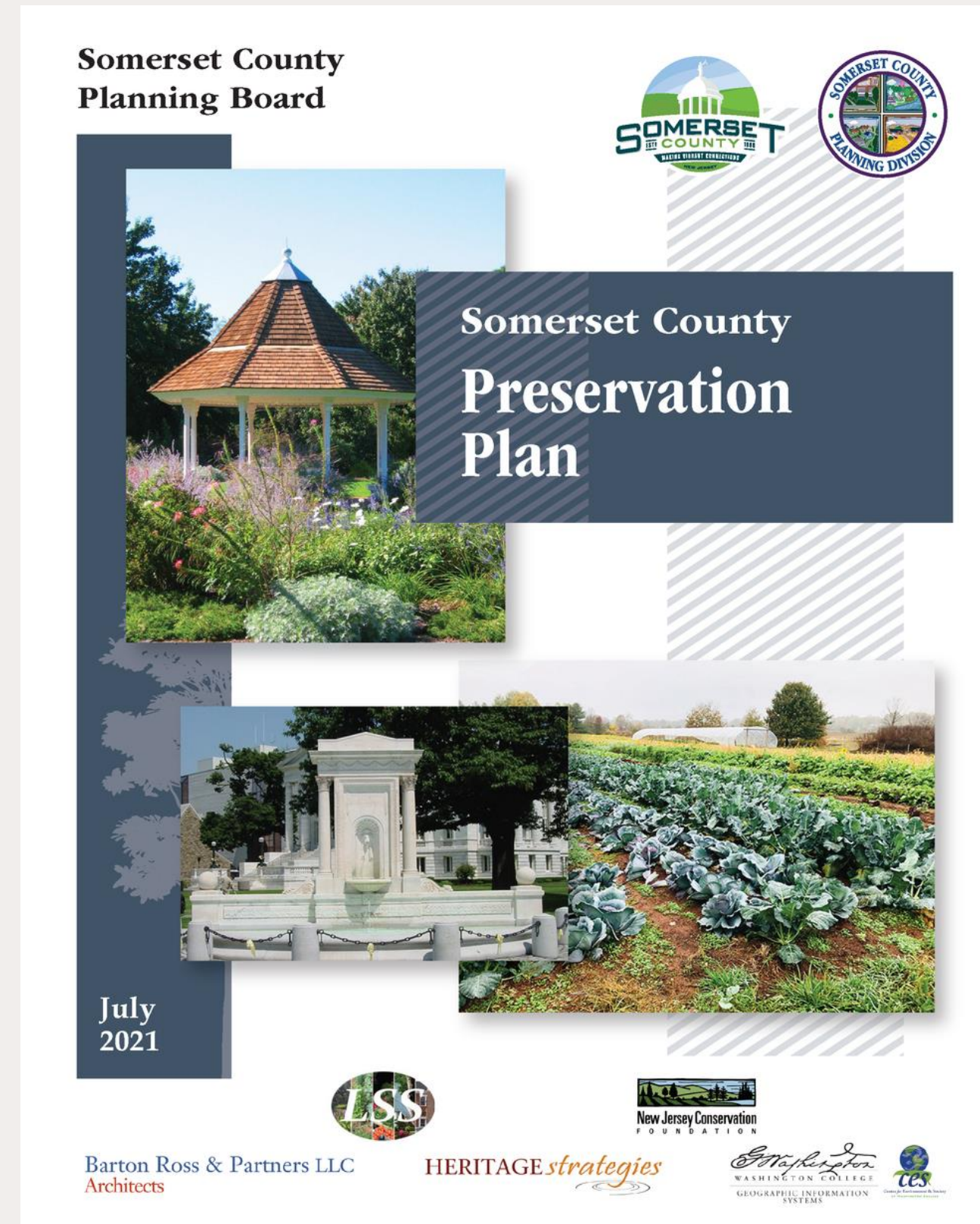
Draft Preservation Plan Virtual Review Meetings

September 22, 2021, September 28, 2021, September 30, 2021, October 5, 2021



OVERVIEW

1. Introducing the Preservation Plan
2. Landscape Context & History
3. Land Use Planning Context
4. Summary: Open Space Preservation Plan
5. Summary: Farmland Preservation Plan
6. Summary: Historic Preservation Plan
7. Public Education & Outreach
8. Gaining Tourism Benefits from Somerset County's Preserved Assets
9. Conclusion: Moving Forward



MAKING VIBRANT CONNECTIONS

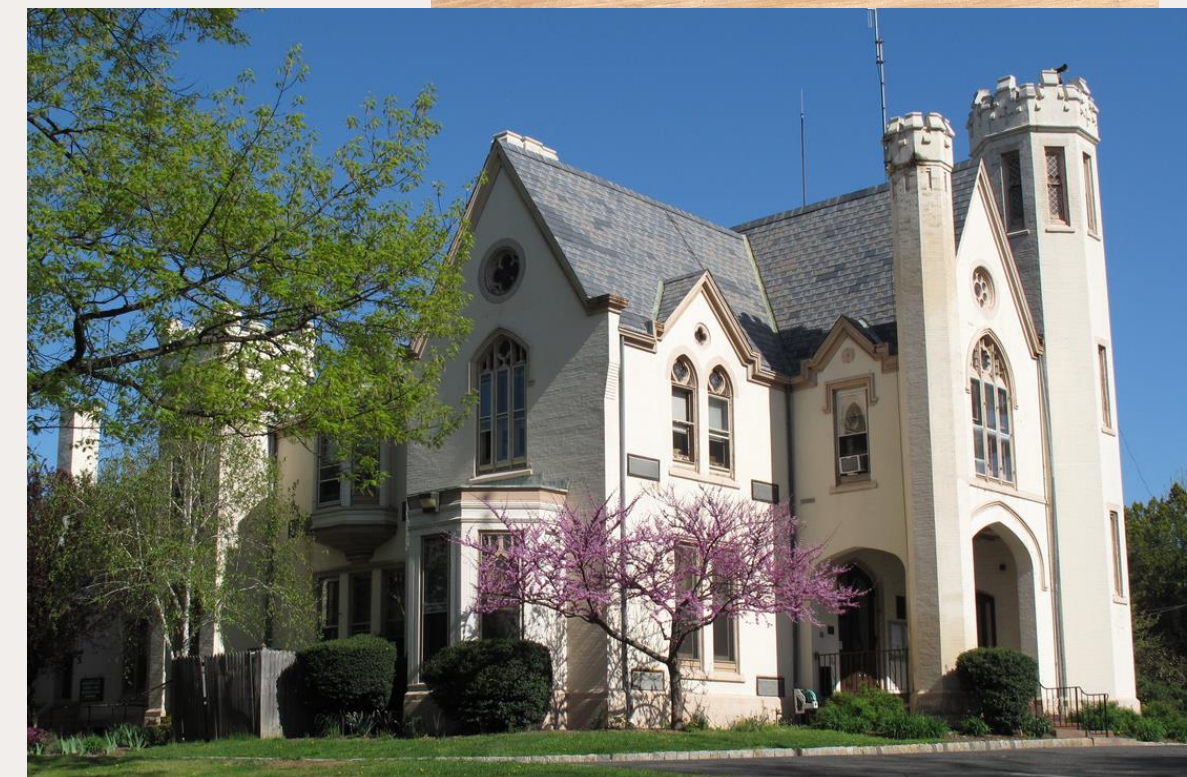
SHARED OBJECTIVE #1: KEEP SOMERSET COUNTY A HIGHLY DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE AND HELP OUR COMMUNITIES AND LANDSCAPES THRIVE

Imagine living in beautiful, historic towns and neighborhoods surrounded by vigorous natural areas, active farmland with access to local foods, and lively historic sites – all connected by greenways and a dense network of trails. This won't happen by accident.



AIMING FOR MEANINGFUL INVESTMENTS

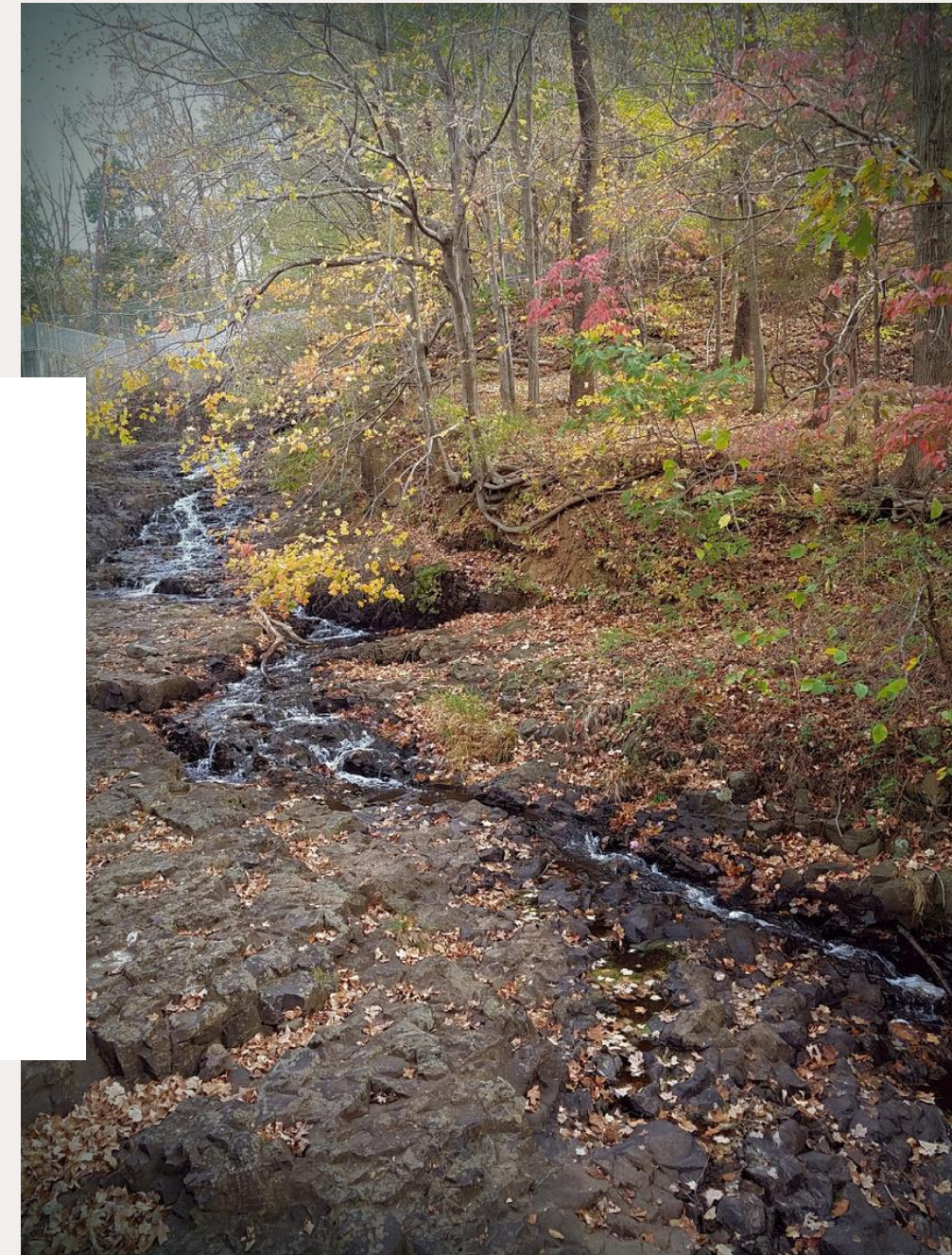
- Expanded greenways, parks, and natural areas that protects ecosystems and communities
- A trail system connecting communities across the County so residents are no further than a 15 minute walk to reach open space resources
- More accessibility to farm markets and local food
- More profitable farms
- No net loss of farmland - and more farmland permanently preserved
- No net loss of historic sites
- County-owned sites in outstanding condition.



MAKING VIBRANT CONNECTIONS

**SHARED OBJECTIVE #2: PROTECT
MORE LANDS VALUED AS OPEN
SPACE**

Parks and natural lands, greenways, stream buffers, trail connections, farmland - even lands associated with historic resources offer high-quality open spaces necessary to maintain our vibrant community.



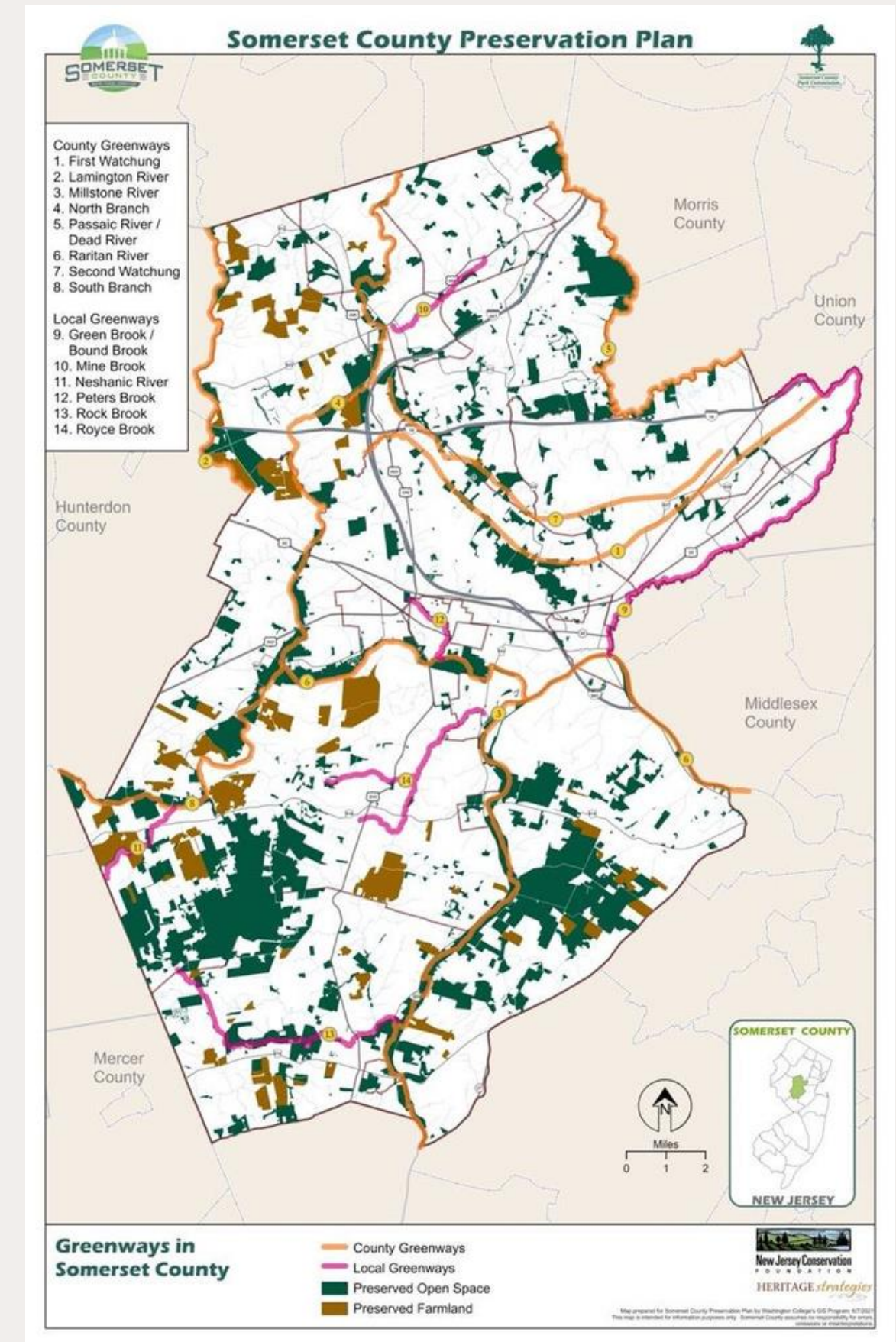
OUR CHANCES TO PROTECT OPEN SPACE PERMANENTLY GROW MORE CHALLENGING BY THE YEAR.

RENEWED DETERMINATION

On average, New Jersey has saved about one-third of its land and has developed about one-third. The final third will be committed by 2050.

IN SOMERSET COUNTY:

- Acreage preserved as open space:
14,701 acres
- Acreage preserved as farmland:
8,373 acres
- Acreage preserved with historic sites:
1,120 acres
- **TOTAL PRESERVED: 24,194 acres**



MAKING VIBRANT CONNECTIONS

**SHARED OBJECTIVE #3: BUILD
PEOPLE INTO THE SYSTEM**

The result of the Preservation Plan should be healthy residents enjoying an ever-improving quality of life.



MAKING VIBRANT CONNECTIONS

SHARED OBJECTIVE #4: ENSURE THAT SOMERSET COUNTY IS AN INCREASINGLY RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE TO LIVE

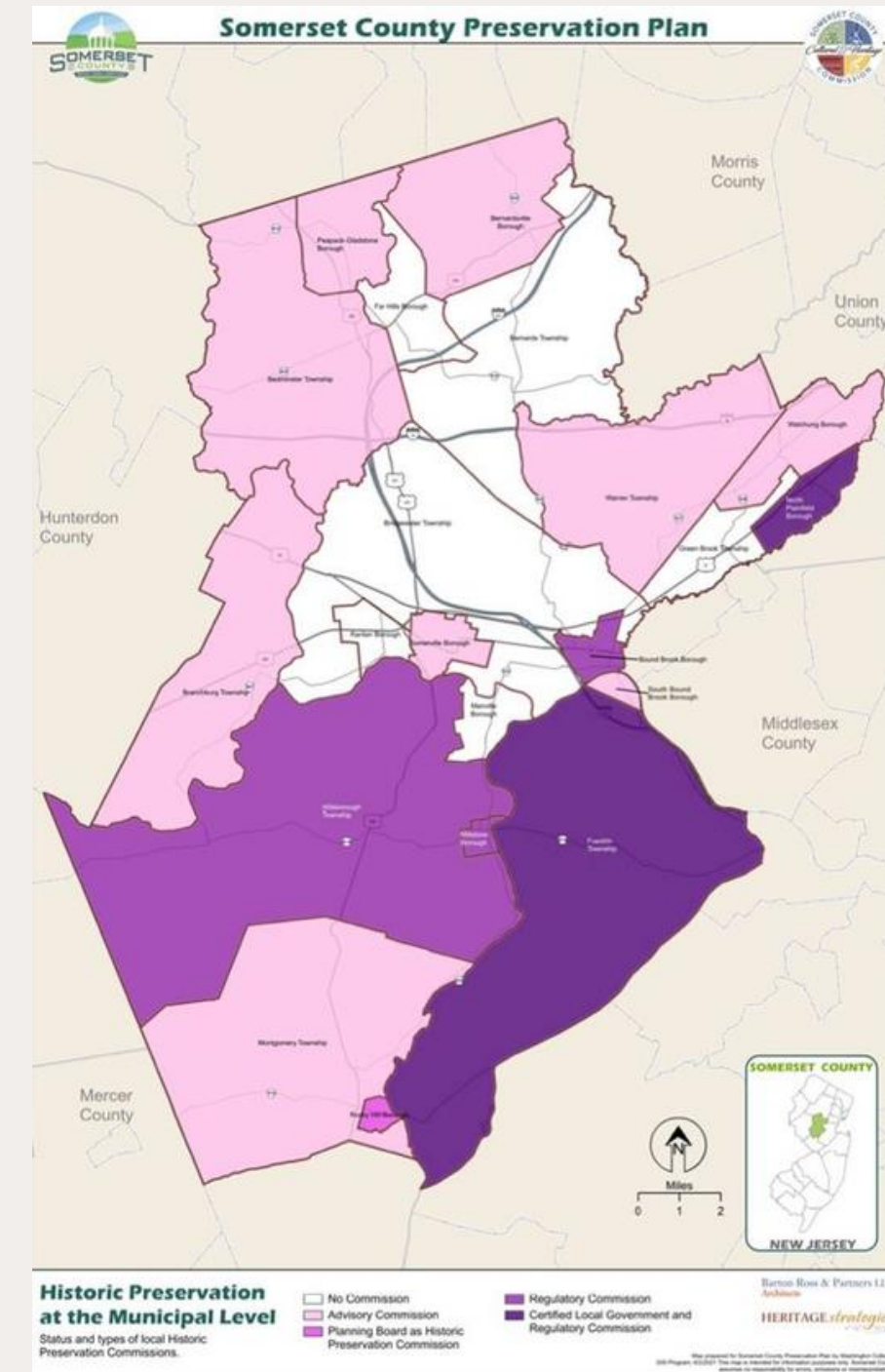
Careful attention to enduring landscapes, natural resources, and healthy streams will maintain Somerset's desirability to residents, businesses, and investors. This work will also sustain the local economy.



MAKING VIBRANT CONNECTIONS

**SHARED OBJECTIVE #5:
ENCOURAGE COMPREHENSIVE,
COORDINATED LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ACTION**

The Preservation Plan is designed to result in County and municipal planning efforts that reinforce all forms of preservation and the county-municipal partnerships that leverage local government resources.



SOMERSET COUNTY WILL DEPLOY COUNTY STAFF AND FUNDS STRATEGICALLY TO ASSIST AND RESPOND TO MUNICIPAL PLANNING PRIORITIES.

MAKING VIBRANT CONNECTIONS

SHARED OBJECTIVE #6: PURSUE PARTNERSHIPS

Local government cannot do it all. This plan encourages working with nonprofit land trusts and other organizations, volunteers, property owners, and businesses to encourage their contributions toward this plan's implementation.



LONG-RANGE PLANNING

- Create a fully developed Cultural Heritage Trail
- Undertake a long-range cultural heritage tourism plan to support interpretive, recreational, and agricultural sites and programs, consisting of strategies for:
 - Branding
 - Marketing
 - Investments
 - Collaboration
 - Monitoring & reporting on progress



TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

1. Eco-tourism, outdoor recreation, gardens:
“Ready to go”
1. Agritourism: “Ready to go” – but needs more experiences
2. Heritage tourism: Needs more outdoor interpretation, events, and available hours.
3. Arts tourism: “Ready to go” – more experiences always a good thing



OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PLAN

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OVERVIEW

1. Introduction
2. Open Space and Recreation Resources
3. Open Space Preservation Funding
4. Somerset County's Park System
5. Open Space Issues and Needs
6. Open Space Preservation Partners
7. Stewardship for County Parks
8. Conclusion: Moving Forward

Somerset County
Park Commission

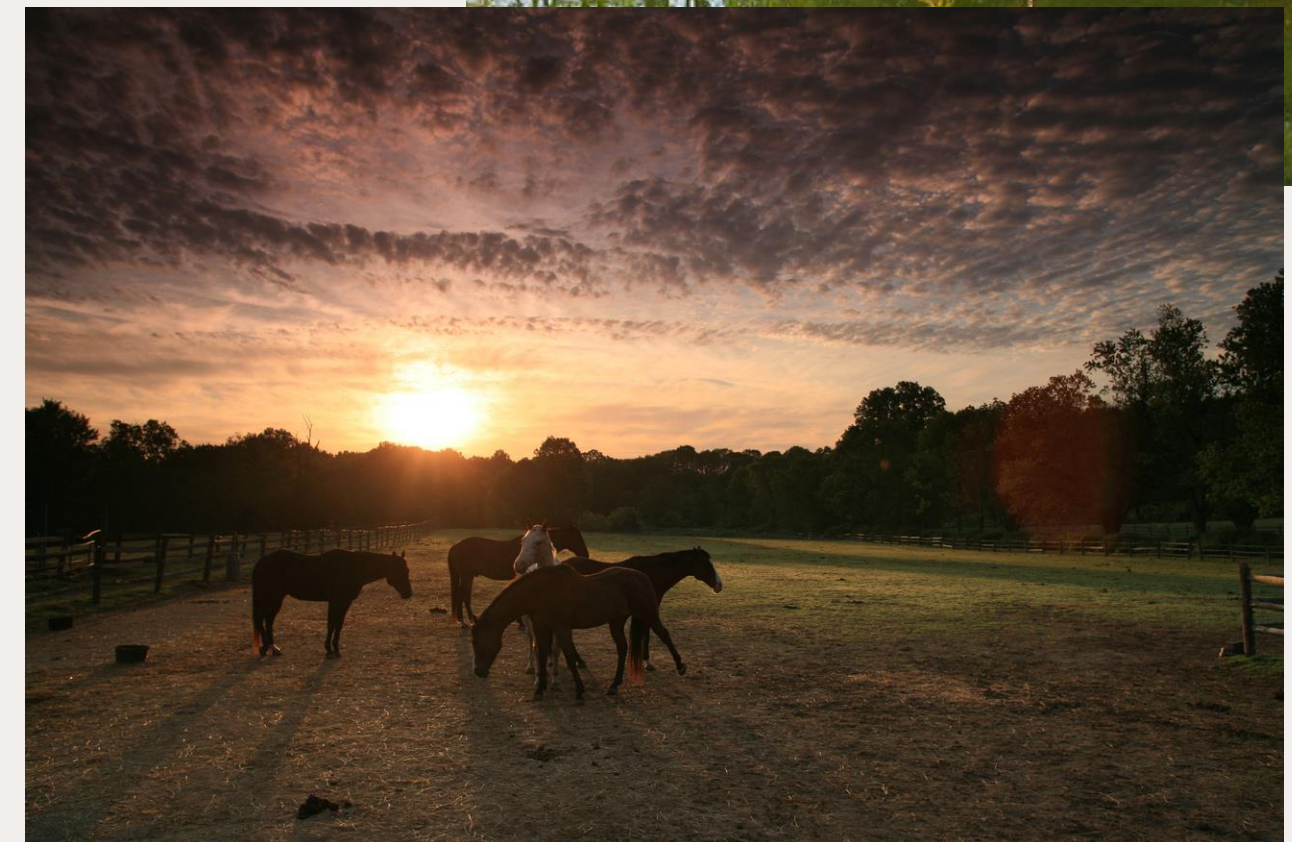
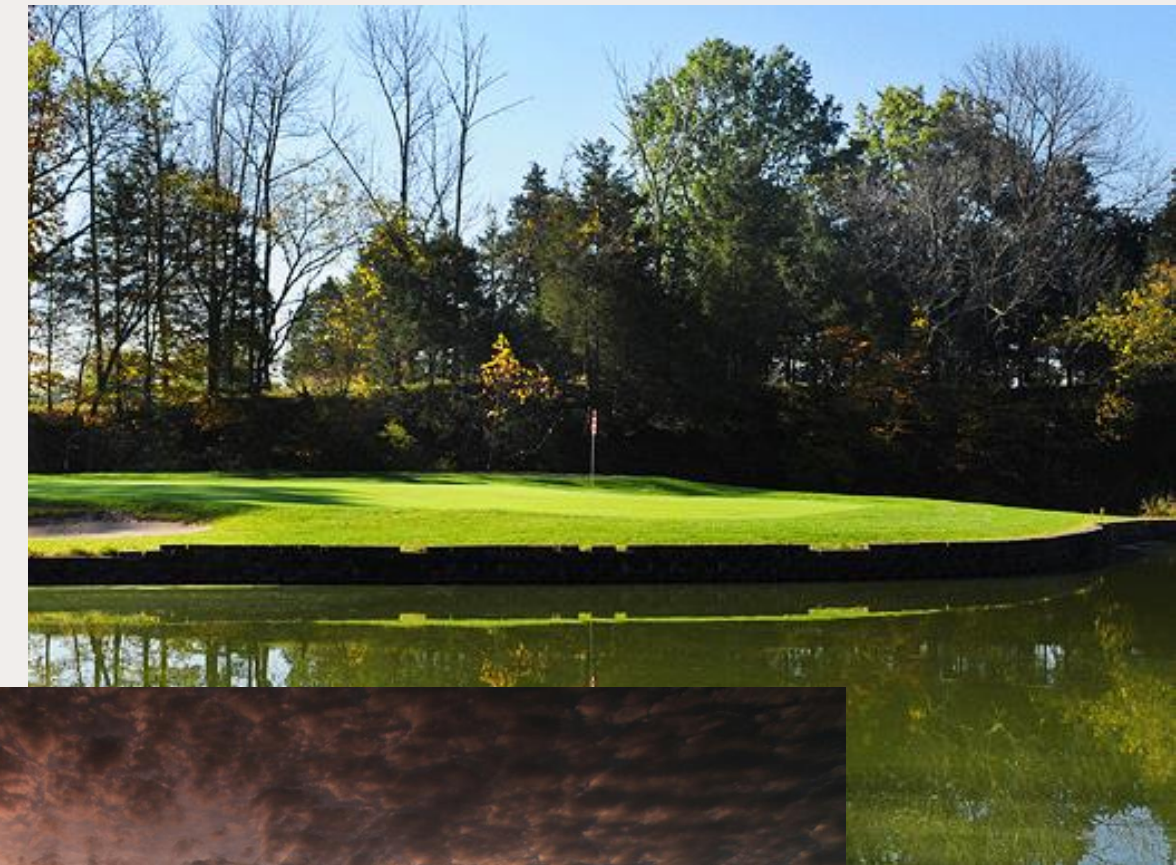


Somerset County
**Open Space
Preservation Plan**



GOALS FOR PARKS & RECREATION

- **Goal 1:** Create an open-space system preserving lands of county-wide significance.
- **Goal 2:** Preserve open space to protect critical environmental resources of Somerset County.
- **Goal 3:** Provide open space for a diverse mix of high-quality recreational experiences appropriate for a county park system.
- **Goal 4:** Provide county parks where they will most easily serve the greatest population concentrations.



GOALS FOR PARKS & RECREATION

- **Goal 5:** Provide open space to enhance the quality of life throughout Somerset County.
- **Goal 6:** Leverage the Somerset County Preservation Trust Fund.
- **Goal 7:** Preserve County-owned Historic Sites
- **Goal 8:** Cultivate partnerships.





FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

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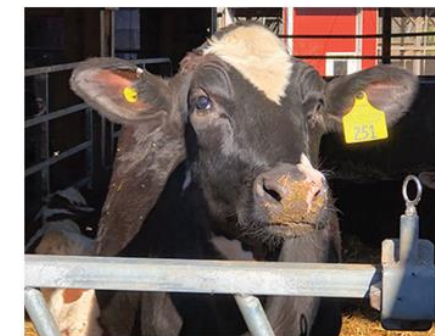
September 22, 2021, September 28, 2021, September 30, 2021, October 5, 2021



OVERVIEW

1. Introduction
2. Agricultural Land Base & Industry
3. Farmland Preservation Program
4. Stewardship, Post-Preservation Issues, and Right to Farm
5. Agricultural Economic Development; Industry Sustainability, Retention and Promotion
6. Natural Resource Conservation, Sustainability and Resiliency
7. Public Outreach
8. Conclusion: Moving Forward

Somerset County Agricultural Development Board



Somerset County
**Farmland
Preservation Plan**



GOALS FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

- **Goal 1:** Build community awareness and support for local farming, local foods, and local food security.
- **Goal 2:** Build partnerships to preserve farmland.
- **Goal 3:** Aggressively pursue efforts to preserve farmland in Somerset County.
- **Goal 4:** Increase economic opportunity and food security in Somerset County through farming.



GOALS FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION

- **Goal 5:** Increase the number of next-generation farmers available to undertake farming in Somerset County.
- **Goal 6:** Direct county resources where possible to increase farmland preservation and encourage agricultural economic development.





HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

Draft Preservation Plan Virtual Review Meetings

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OVERVIEW

1. Introduction
2. Somerset County History
3. The Benefits of Historic Preservation
4. Historic Preservation Planning and Regulatory Framework
5. Historic Resources in Somerset County
6. Historic Preservation Issues and Funding Opportunities
7. Moving Forward: Historic Preservation Goals & Strategies

Somerset County
Cultural & Heritage Commission



Somerset County
**Historic
Preservation Plan**



GOALS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- **Goal 1:** Identify, protect, and promote Somerset County's unique historic resources, including communities, landscapes, buildings, and traditions.
- **Goal 2:** Promote coordination and consensus in the preservation of historic resources among a wide variety of interested parties across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.



GOALS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- **Goal 3:** Pursue and coordinate incentive programs and protection measures to preserve Somerset's historic and archeological resources.
- **Goal 4:** Position Somerset County to be a prominent part of the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution as led by the New Jersey Historical Commission and the United States Semiquincentennial Commission.



MOVING FORWARD

1. Keep Somerset County a highly desirable place to live
2. Protect more lands valued as open space
3. Build people into the system
4. Ensure that Somerset County is an increasingly resilient and sustainable place to live
5. Encourage comprehensive, coordinated local government action
6. Pursue partnerships



NEXT STEPS

1. Comment Period Remains Open For Three Weeks After Last Public Meeting - **October 26, 2021**
2. Comments Will Be Reviewed And Updates Made To Plan - **November 2021**
3. Adoption Process By County Planning Board Tentatively Scheduled to Begin - **December 2021**
4. Adoption Will Occur In **Early 2022**



THANK YOU!

THERE ARE FOUR BREAKOUT ROOMS FOR COMMENTING:

- GENERAL/PRESERVATION PLAN
- OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION
- FARMLAND PRESERVATION
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PLEASE NOTE YOU ARE ABLE TO MOVE
BETWEEN ROOMS. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS
CAN BE MADE ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE:

co.somerset.nj.us/PresPlan21

