

VIII. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Master Plan serves as a guide for the governing bodies, Regional Planning Board, and the public on appropriate uses for vacant land in the Princeton Community. The Community is approaching build-out and less than 10 percent of the Princeton Community (approximately 969 acres) is identified as vacant or farmland on the tax rolls. Of these 969 acres about 689 acres are developable. However, additional development potential remains on lands owned by various institutions in Princeton; these lands are not included in the vacant acreage.

How we choose to utilize this limited commodity will shape the future development of Princeton. An examination of open space and recreation needs must take into account the competing needs identified in other elements of the Master Plan. This element contains a description of the Community's open space and recreation needs and identifies the existing and new facilities necessary to satisfy those needs.

In the late 1990's, at the recommendation of the Regional Planning Board, Township voters approved a one cent open space tax which the voters increased to two cents in 2000. In 2001, the Borough voters approved a one cent open space tax. These taxes can be used to: acquire, develop and maintain lands for recreation and conservation purposes; acquire farm land for farmland preservation purposes; preserve and acquire historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects for historic preservation purposes; and pay debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by the Borough or Township for any of the above-named purposes.

The open space tax provides a stable source of funding for the Princeton Community to meet many of its open space and recreation goals. As a result, many of the Master Plan's recommendations for acquisition, preservation, and active recreation are being implemented. The community is maintaining its long-standing goal of twenty-five percent open space (public or private). While the community should continue to acquire additional lands in accordance with this plan, as opportunities arise, the focus for future expenditures should be to provide linkages between parks as well as to maintain the existing parks and open space.

Our parks constitute a resource that is valuable both economically and ecologically, and they must be adequately maintained. Currently the Joint Recreation Department and the Borough and Township Public Works Departments, as well as some "Adopt-a-Park" volunteers, are responsible for the maintenance of the Community's open spaces.

Since the 1996 Princeton Community Master Plan was adopted, approximately 1,000 acres have been preserved and three new active recreation parks have been constructed. The Princeton Community consists of 11,789 acres of land and our inventory of open spaces (Appendix C) identifies 3,167 acres or 27% of the total land area as open space. Included in the inventory are publicly owned parks and natural areas, historical and cultural areas, as well as private lands restricted from development, including both golf courses and private natural areas. While not all

open space areas in the inventory meet the NJDEP Green Acres Program rules for open space and some may be developed, they all contribute to the special sense of place and community that is Princeton.

PURPOSE OF THIS ELEMENT

The Open Space and Recreation Element of the Master Plan seeks to define a comprehensive system of parks, recreation facilities, and open space areas including wildlife habitat, ground water and aquifer recharge areas, wetlands, and environmentally sensitive areas. Open space is viewed as an integral component of community development, not just as land that is unsuitable for development. This Element recommends the acquisition, development, and maintenance of an open space system that balances efforts to enhance biodiversity, natural preservation, and active and passive recreational opportunities with commercial and residential development and redevelopment throughout the community.

Specifically, this element will:

- identify open space and recreational goals;
- recommend strategies for achieving open space and recreation goals;
- identify existing recreation facilities and recommend improvements, as well as new recreational facilities;
- identify sites and recommend areas for public and private open space;
- provide guidance to the governing bodies on future park and open space acquisition as well as recommend critical sites for preservation; and,
- identify potential open space linkages and greenways to connect parks, open space areas, and historic sites throughout the community and with other communities.

Policy Statement

Our policy is to preserve, protect, provide, maintain, and enhance the open space and recreational resources identified as necessary to serve the Princeton Community. Preservation of parks and open spaces contributes to the natural beauty, variety of experience, ecological health, and sense of place that characterize Princeton and contribute to making Princeton a more sustainable community. Moreover, it is our policy in active recreation areas to strive for equal opportunities for both competitive and recreational sports, as well as to strike a balance between such areas and those dedicated to informal play and scenic vistas. Cluster development is also encouraged as an effective tool to preserve open space, protect environmentally sensitive lands, and provide areas for active recreation.

Our aim has been and continues to be the integration of open space and active recreation areas into the development pattern of the community. By integrating open space, we can reduce the burdens on infrastructure and services. Princeton's open spaces represent a rich cultural resource and natural beauty, which are fundamental to the character and quality of life in the community.

Improving the urban landscape and retaining the rural and scenic character of the community are important elements of the Princeton Community land use process. The preservation and integration of the natural environment into the plans and designs of all improvements and changes in land use are an integral part of what makes Princeton a sustainable community. Techniques routinely incorporated into site plans include preservation of existing trees; replacement of trees not preserved and inclusion of trees in parking lots to reduce heat sinks, requiring mixed evergreen and deciduous buffers between uses; and providing street trees along roadways and evergreen screens around utility systems and refuse collection areas.

Criteria for determining which sites should be preserved as open space and parks or developed as active recreation sites include:

- Availability of tract.
- Suitability for proposed use.
- Location and accessibility of the tract.
- Provision of a continuous link to publicly owned open space sites.
- Tracts that are environmentally sensitive, such as steep slopes, wetlands, floodplain.
- Historic significance.
- Wildlife habitat and corridors.
- Mature woodlands.
- Preservation of stream corridors, ponds, lakes, and the lands providing access to these resources.
- Preservation of ground water and aquifer recharge areas.
- Scenic character and view-scape.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

- I. Provide the necessary fields and facilities to meet the recreation needs of the Princeton Community.**
 - a. Provide athletic fields, open playfields, and other active recreational facilities to meet the needs of the Princeton Community through acquisition, partnering with appropriate organizations, or optimizing the utilization of current fields and facilities.
 - b. Work with the schools, governing bodies and Recreation Department to develop indoor recreation facilities.
 - c. Provide equal recreation opportunities for men and women during the planning/development of new facilities and during the rehabilitation of existing facilities in the spirit of compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

- II. Preserve additional land area as public open space, private open space, or parks.**

- a. Preserve, where possible, environmentally sensitive areas such as the Stony Brook, Harry's Brook and its various branches, Alexander Brook, Mountain Brook, the Ridge, and Lake Carnegie – areas that are characterized by the presence of wetlands, steep slopes, stream corridors, flood plains, boulder fields, and/or unique ecology.
- b. Preserve important visual amenities, placing special emphasis on the preservation of woodlands, vistas, corridors, agricultural lands, waterways, and other scenic resources.
- c. Preserve and protect areas with large and contiguous tree canopy. Reforest areas that have had their tree canopy removed or disturbed.
- d. Preserve and protect open spaces as a setting, or for historical context around important historical, architectural, and cultural sites.
- e. Identify strategies for preserving properties.
- f. Identify and preserve landscapes of exceptional landscape design and visual interest, where appropriate, through acquisition or easements.
- g. Encourage siting buildings and improvements in such a way as to maximize contiguous woodland areas, preserve wildlife corridors, and protect stream corridors, grasslands, and scenic vistas.
- h. Weigh the constant natural additions to the tree inventory and institute forest management practices to prevent encroachment on natural, recreational, and historic sites.

III. Enhance public access to Princeton's open spaces.

- a. Develop a network of linkages that connects existing and proposed open space areas within Princeton as well as with lands in adjoining towns.
- b. Obtain access easements, including utility easements, over private lands, to provide public access to existing and proposed open space areas.
- c. Encourage public use of the community's passive recreation areas.
- d. Develop a pathway system that connects existing and proposed open space areas and provide an alternative means of transportation to those areas.
- e. Provide transit and/or alternative means of transportation to existing and proposed open space areas.

- f. Provide small areas for parking of automobiles and bicycles to serve all possible open space access.

STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

The pressure to develop the remaining lands in Princeton for uses other than open space and recreation has placed a high priority on preserving and acquiring land for open space and recreation. Listed below, not in priority order, are proposed strategies to help the community meet each goal.

1. Land Acquisition: The purchase of land should be encouraged for those lands identified in this section. The open space tax funds of both communities should be utilized to leverage the New Jersey Green Acres program funds, Mercer County Open Space Funds, Federal funds and private contributions to defray the costs of land acquisition. In addition to acquisition of larger tracts, vest pocket parks in the more densely populated portions of the community should be acquired.
2. Development of New Facilities: New recreation facilities that would serve the growing recreational needs of both seniors and youth should be a high priority. Funding for these developments can be provided through the open space tax or in combination with other federal, state, and county funds.
3. Regulatory Provisions: The Township's residential cluster option includes an incentive to provide to the residents of the Princeton Community land suitable for active recreation in appropriate and convenient areas, as well as to preserve natural areas. Princeton's land use ordinances have provisions for siting buildings and improvements in such a way as to optimize land use and maximize contiguous woodland areas, preserve wildlife corridors, and protect stream corridors, grasslands, and scenic vistas. As part of its site development review and approval process, the Planning Board seeks dedications of public access easements to facilitate linkages of open space areas and parks.
4. Access Agreements: When possible, agreements should be sought to allow public access to open space areas of residential clusters, whether by easement or dedication to municipal ownership.
5. Conservation Easements: The purchase of or the requirement for conservation easements should be encouraged to preserve and to protect natural resources and critical environmental features.
6. Private Land Trusts and Donations: The efforts to preserve open space by encouraging donations of land or funds for acquisition projects and long-term maintenance should be continued.

7. **Management/Stewardship:** The professional management and stewardship of Princeton's open spaces and parks should be a priority to ensure that these areas are maintained and preserved to the highest standards. Any management/stewardship program should protect preserved lands, maintain and/or construct new trails, remove invasive plants, and provide for educational programs. This can be accomplished by municipal staff and/or by partnering with other organizations.

ACTIVE RECREATION AND FACILITIES

Existing

The Joint Recreation Board programs approximately 99.5 acres of active recreation land. The active recreation areas consist of six major parks: Grover Park (7.5 acres), Hilltop Park (11 acres), Community Park South (26 acres), Smoyer Park (19 acres), Greenway Meadows (11 acres), and Farmview Fields (25 acres).

Historically, Princeton University has opened its fields and facilities for active recreation by the Princeton Community. In recent years, an increase in the number of intercollegiate University sports teams of both genders as well as increased student interest in intramural and fitness programs have dramatically reduced the availability of such spaces for the community.

If the fields and facilities are no longer available, the community will need to replace these facilities either within or outside the borders of Princeton if current programming is to be maintained.

Over the past six years the community's participation in the programs offered or managed by the Joint Recreation Board has increased dramatically. The greater demand for athletic fields and facilities that has resulted has led to increased concern about whether the number of fields and facilities is adequate. In addition to the numerous programs offered by the Joint Recreation Board, Princeton Regional Schools also make use of many of the facilities in the parks for its extracurricular sports teams. Currently, girls' softball uses Community Park as do the high school tennis programs. Boys' baseball uses the fields at Hilltop Park and Barbara Smoyer Park. Princeton Charter School uses Hilltop Park for soccer and lacrosse. The Joint Recreation Board also uses school facilities, with the basketball program scheduling gym space, for example, and other recreation programs utilizing some of the smaller school fields

The following is a summary of the existing active recreation facilities.

Table 1 Existing Municipal Recreation Facilities		
Facility	Number Provided	Location
Tennis Courts	15	Community Park South
Softball Fields	5	Community Park South
	1	Hilltop Park
	1	Greenway Meadows
Soccer Fields	1	Community Park South
	1	Hilltop Park
	1	Barbara Smoyer Park
	2	Greenway Meadows
	2	Farmview Fields
Platform Tennis	4	Community Park South
Junior Baseball Field	3	Grover Park
	2	Coventry Farms
	1	Marquand Park
Baseball Field	1	Barbara Smoyer Park
Basketball Courts	1	Grover Park
	1	Hilltop Park
Swimming Pool	1	Community Park South
Multi-purpose Field	1	Barbara Smoyer Park

Recreation needs in Princeton change over time as shifts in the age of its population occur and various sports increase or decrease in popularity. Since 1996, the diversity of team sports and the schedule of multi-season sports being offered by the Joint Recreation Board have increased, and with them the demand for additional fields and facilities.

The Joint Recreation Board has also identified the need to rotate fields and to permit some fields to “rest.” If new fields are not provided to meet the growing need, other alternatives such as synthetic turf fields and field lighting will need to be investigated.

The Active Recreation Need chart presented below summarizes current need. (Need is based on a total population of 31,047 less 7,500 Princeton University students.)

Table 2 Princeton Recreation Department Active Recreation Need			
Facility	Fields Provided by Joint Recreation Board *	2008 Recreation Master Plan Field Needs Assessment	Acres Needed **
Soccer Fields	10	12	7.5
Baseball/Softball Fields	14	14	0
Football (Lacrosse) Fields	0	2	10.75
Basketball Courts	5	9	3
Tennis Courts	15	12	0
Community Center†	0	1	2
Gymnasiums†	0	2	-

**4 of the baseball fields and 2 of the soccer fields are multiuse (Community Park).*

***Includes buffer areas and parking.*

† Community Center and Gym needs were treated as separate items in the Brandstetter Carroll Recreation Master Plan, but it is suggested that they be combined as one site.

Vision for the Future of Recreation Facilities and Parks

Recreation facilities and programs are provided and parks are managed by the Princeton Joint Recreation Board through the Princeton Recreation Department, the Borough and Township, as well as by partnering with private organizations. The residents of Princeton are offered a wide variety of parks, recreational facilities and programs. However, the community has also recognized that there is a need for more parks, recreational facilities, and programs to serve the community. In 2007, Borough Council and Township Committee appropriated funds for the Recreation Commission to engage consultants Brandstetter Carroll, Inc., to complete a master plan recommending desired improvements over the next 10+ years.

Based on surveys, workshops, and community input meetings, the consultants made the following general recommendations in their report titled “Parks and Recreation Master Plan” dated July 18, 2008:

1. Replace, renovate, and upgrade facilities at the Community Park Pool Complex.
2. Develop one or more synthetic turf fields for the Princeton Recreation Department to use for numerous sports activities.
3. Develop additional athletic fields at existing recreation parks or on land to be acquired.
4. Construct a new indoor Community and Recreation Center, possibly in conjunction with new facilities for Corner House (in a separate Teen Wing).
5. Develop an integrated trail system of bikeways and walkways throughout the Borough and the Township, creating a Greenways and Trails Master Plan that explores potential routes in more detail.
6. Place a high priority on the acquisition of land that would link parks, neighborhoods, schools, and commercial areas with existing and newly acquired open space.
7. Establish the Princeton Parks and Recreation Department as a complete joint agency of the Borough and Township.

Recommendations for Parks, Playgrounds, and Plazas

Based upon the above analyses the Regional Planning Board of Princeton recommends designation of the following sites.

Municipal Lands at River and Herrontown Roads (80± acres): These parcels are owned by the municipalities. These lands contain substantial wetlands but also wooded areas and open areas with generally gentle slopes. Areas under review for constructing athletic fields include the land on top of the closed landfill. Because the landfill is not yet suitable for athletic uses, both municipalities are considering installing a one megawatt solar array on the landfill as a temporary use (15 years). Lighting may be practicable, given the remote location of these fields. However, it may be several years before the NJ Department of Environmental Protection will permit recreational development on the landfill acreage.

Gulick Farm (28 acres): The Gulick Farmstead consists of approximately 40 acres, and the Township has purchased 28 acres and placed development restrictions on most of the remainder. The 28-acre parcel contains both wooded areas and open meadow. Princeton Township purchased the land with the intent of using it for both active and passive recreation. Consideration should be given to developing active recreation facilities on this property, and the historical context of this property should be a factor in designing any active recreational facilities.

Washington Oaks Historic Overlook (19 acres): This publicly owned parcel (also referred to as Breuere's Hill) is a conservation and maintenance easement located off Route 206, just south of Route 533. There is no restriction on the development of this property for recreation use and it should be considered for further such development. Consideration of the historical context of this property should be a factor in designing any active recreational facilities.

Nassau Builders/Lanwin (90 acres): These tracts of land off Mount Lucas Road and Herrontown Road are environmentally critical due to stream corridors, wetlands, woodlands, and steep slopes. Approximately 10± acres provide a large level area located toward the front of this property on Herrontown Road that may be suitable for active recreation. In any new development on the property, clustering should be recommended in order to obtain a conservation easement over the environmentally sensitive portions on this site.

Vest Pocket Parks/Plazas: Small parks or plazas, such as Hinds Plaza next to the Library, should be created whenever infill development or redevelopment takes place in Princeton. These areas provide significant enhancements and maintain the vitality of Princeton. Pocket parks, plazas, and gardens create focal points for the community and provide public and semi-public spaces that address neighborhood open space needs. Included in this category are the landscape treatments of public streets and small parks. The goal of such small-scale open spaces is to provide welcoming, friendly, and visually pleasing community amenities.

Existing Fields: The high cost of land acquisition in Princeton puts a priority on greater utilization of existing lands and facilities. Strategies to increase the durability of playing fields should be developed and implemented in order to maximize field usage.

Lighted Fields: Attempts to light fields to extend play have met with resistance from various groups and neighborhoods. However, wherever lighting not impacting on adjacent neighborhoods can be provided, fields should be lighted to extend their evening and seasonal use.

OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

The Princeton Community has always valued open space for its inherent worth in providing walking, biking and hiking trails. Preservation, protection, and maintenance of the natural environment is important in safeguarding and enhancing the Princeton Community's quality of life. All development plans and changes in land use are carefully reviewed for its impact upon the natural environment. When the cost of development or the impact is too great, the community has chosen to preserve lands through acquisition, conservation easements or by encouraging cluster development.

Recently, Township Committee has placed a higher priority on the preservation of land within the environmentally sensitive Princeton Ridge area. The Princeton Ridge area comprises land in the northern section of the Township. Preservation of these areas would provide for unique educational and recreational opportunities for the Princeton Community. Strategies to preserve and protect these lands should be considered through various methods, including acquisition and preservation of lands within the Princeton Ridge area through various public and private

initiatives. Two examples of such agreements are the recently completed purchases of 14 acres (the Ricciardi Tract located off of Bunn Drive) with the NJ Conservation Foundation and 35 acres of land adjacent to Herrontown Woods (All Saints Tract) with the D & R Greenway. The Ricciardi Tract is heavily wooded and contains both uplands and wetlands. The All Saints Tract contains extensive wetlands as well as mature woodlands. Both tracts together create a linkage to municipal and county-owned open space.

Not included in the inventory, are those non-protected lands owned by the Princeton Regional School Board and the various institutions within Princeton. These areas also contribute to the community's open space. These institutions are encouraged to consider the preservation of open space in their master plans and development applications as well as to place conservation easements on open space areas within their campuses.

Recommendations for Open Space Preservation

Listed below are lands recommended to be preserved through acquisition, regulatory provisions, conservation easements, private land trusts, and/or donations for passive open space preservation.

Township Lands:

Textile Research Institute (15 ± acres): Portions of the site are wooded with many large specimen trees. The rear portion of the site provides access to and excellent views of Lake Carnegie. In any new development on the property, clustering should be recommended in order to obtain a permanent conservation and access easement for a portion of the property.

Stony Brook Floodplain including Worth Mill & Millrace Pond (7± acres): The Planning Board has supported the development of a greenway along the Stony Brook. In addition to supporting the development of a greenway, Worth's Mill has historical significance as one of the first structures in Princeton and is in a National Landmark area. A permanent conservation easement should be obtained over this area.

Stony Brook Flood Plain - Quaker Road (46 acres): The flood plain area between the Stony Brook and Quaker Road should be preserved. This area is subject to flooding and a conservation easement should be obtained.

New Jersey American Water Company/Charles Rodgers Wildlife Refuge (46 acres): The Charles Rodgers Wildlife Refuge off West Drive is owned by the New Jersey American Water Company and is one of the most important bird sanctuaries along the eastern flyway. A permanent conservation easement or acquisition should be sought for this property and for any of its historic structures.

Princeton University's Floodplain Land Adjoining the Charles Rodgers Wildlife Refuge (35 acres): The lands lying between the Stony Brook and West Drive are a critical part of the wildlife area and should be kept in a natural state. A conservation easement should be obtained for these lands.

Thompson River Road Site (10 acres): This site is floodplain for the Millstone River and is adjacent to 40 acres of municipally owned property. The preservation of this area will ensure a contiguous open area along the Millstone River. A permanent conservation easement should be obtained for this property.

Devils Cave (3.7 acres): This property consists of two lots located north of John Witherspoon Woods. The lots contain a unique geological formation known as Devil's Cave and would be desirable additions to John Witherspoon Woods.

Nassau Builders/Lanwin (90 acres): These tracts of land off Mount Lucas Road and Herrontown Road are environmentally critical due to stream corridors, wetlands, woodlands, and steep slopes. A large level area that may be suitable for active recreation is located toward the front of the property on Herrontown Road. In any new development on the property, clustering should be recommended in order to obtain a conservation easement over the environmentally sensitive portions on this site.

Old Trolley Lines (varies): The abandoned trolley line from Johnson Park School to the Princeton – Lawrence boundary south of the intersection of Rosedale Road and Province Line Road provides a greenway corridor. Conservation easements should be obtained for other abandoned trolley lines as greenway corridors or for possible use for transit access.

Princeton University's Crew Race Area at the Eastern End of Lake Carnegie (6 acres): The community has enjoyed this access point to Lake Carnegie off Princeton-Kingston Road for many years. A permanent access easement should be obtained to provide continued access to the Lake at this vantage point.

Glassberg Property: This 21.92 acre parcel, adjacent to the Autumn Hill Reservation, is heavily wooded and shares many of the characteristics of the Autumn Hill Reservation. Access to the property is limited to a 44-foot-wide frontage area along Herrontown Road. Consideration should be given to either acquisition or a conservation easement over all or a portion of the property.

Lanwin/Province Line Woods: This 152.7 acre parcel contains wetlands, woodlands, and other environmentally sensitive features which should be preserved. It is one of the few remaining undeveloped tracts in the Township. If developed, conservation easements over the more environmentally sensitive areas should be obtained. Whether or not the parcel is developed, easements should be obtained to connect to the existing trail system from Montgomery Township.

Route 206 North: This area of approximately 25 acres, under multiple ownership and consisting of woodlands with extensive wetlands, should be considered for acquisition and/or preservation. These lands received an approval for low-density senior housing. If the site is no longer viable or the approval for senior housing is abandoned, the vacant lands should be considered for preservation.

Gulick Farm Access: This 0.30-acre parcel is land remaining from the Dodds Lane/Shadybrook Estates development and could be used to facilitate parking/turn-around access to Gulick Farm in connection with the unused portion of Terhune Road.

Borough Lands:

Mercer Street: This 2.1-acre property owned by the Princeton Theological Seminary is adjacent to Marquand Park and located at the corner of Hibben Road and Mercer Street. Consideration should be given to obtaining deed restrictions limiting the parcel's development rights.

Nassau Street and Scott Lane: These two lots are currently owned by the adjacent bank as a passive park and provide a buffer between residential properties and commercial uses. Preserving this property through deed restriction or other ways to limit development rights should be considered.

Merwick/Stanworth/YMCA/YWCA Area: As this area is redeveloped, retention of the playing fields along with the preservation of the central wooded portion of this area and the historic garden of Merwick Mansion should be considered. Any future development or redevelopment of this area should be concentrated to provide for public and quasi-public access to these features. Preservation can be accomplished through conservation easements or deed restrictions.

OPEN SPACE LINKAGES

Greenways are trails, walkways, and/or bikeways bordered by natural vegetation or other natural features that serve recreation and local commuting in a natural setting. Open space linkages include greenways as well as other connections that may or may not be bordered by natural vegetation. Greenway corridors connecting existing open spaces and recreational facilities are an integral part of the Princeton Community's Master Plan. These corridors are needed to protect environmentally sensitive lands and to provide an alternative means of travel around town. Greenways and linkages also provide opportunities for walking and jogging.

Recommendations for Open Space Linkages

Trail and Pathway Linkages:

Listed below are lands, trails, and pathways that should be preserved through acquisition, regulatory provisions, conservation easements, private land trusts, and/or donations.

Greenbelt Trails Network: A connecting linkage should be created starting at Mountain Lakes Preserve, extending west to the Stony Brook, thence along the Stony Brook connecting to the Institute for Advanced Study lands, thence along the D & R Canal north to River Road through the PSOC lands to Autumn Hill Reservation, thence through Herrontown Woods and back to Mountain Lakes using the TRANSCO right-of-way.

Jasna Polana to Washington Oaks Overlook: A pathway should be extended from the Stony Brook along the eastern edge of the Jasna Polana Golf Course out to Route 206 to a safe crossing

connecting the Washington Oaks Overlook. The Open Space Map indicates possible branches of a greenway network running through the Overlook.

Additional Greenway Linkages: Linkages off the main network described above should be considered connecting to Mountain Lakes, Woodfield Reservation, Institute Woods, Charles Rodgers Wildlife area, Van Dyke-Wight Woods, Princeton Ridge area, Mountain Brook, and the Stony Brook.

Lawrence-Hopewell Trail Connector: A combination walking and bike trail should connect from Greenway Meadows Park to ETS and the Lawrence-Hopewell Trail.

Downtown Pathway: A connecting path from the Harrison Street Park through downtown and the cemetery terminating at Community Park should be created. This path could start at the Harrison Street Park, continue to Harrison Street and Nassau Street, thence west to Queenston Place, through Quarry Park, thence west along Spruce Street to Moore Street to Willow Street, through existing alleys and parking lots to the Borough-owned properties on Spring Street, through the Princeton Cemetery, thence to the Valley Road facilities and west over to Community Park.

Waterfowl Flyway: Consideration should be given to preserving corridors along the Stony Brook, Delaware and Raritan Canal, and various streams and floodplain areas in Princeton. Of particular importance is the waterfowl flyway. An accepted rule of thumb is that preserved area adjacent to water bodies and associated wetlands should be a minimum of 250 to 300 feet to assure sufficient habitat.

In addition to the above linkages, the community should evaluate the potential for additional open space or new linkages that may occur as a result of redevelopment. Emphasis should be placed on providing linkages or connections between existing parks and trails. Recommended linkages are depicted on the open space map.

Historical Linkages:

The Princeton Community Master Plan supports creating linkages among the various historical sites in Princeton and supports the National Scenic Byway designation along appropriate routes.

Washington-Rochambeau National Heritage Trail: A feasibility study of the Washington-Rochambeau National Heritage Trail was authorized by Congress on January 24, 2001. The Washington-Rochambeau Trail is a 600-mile route starting in Rhode Island crossing through New England and the Middle States, ultimately ending in Virginia. The route travels through New Jersey along the Millstone Valley to Princeton, on to Trenton, and then across the Delaware River arriving in Philadelphia. The designation is an effort to raise to a higher level the quality of heritage preservation along its route.

Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area: The Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area was designated in October 2006. While the National Heritage Areas spans 14 counties in New Jersey, it includes the following sites in Princeton: the Princeton Battlefield State Park, Nassau Hall, and Bainbridge House. The goals

of the Crossroads Association are to cultivate popular understanding of the historical significance of these sites; to provide an area-wide network between established historical sites, state parks, private property owners, local governments, nonprofits, and other civic organizations in order to facilitate further preservation (including open space preservation); and to offer a forum for new initiatives on site use, management, education, and historical interpretations.

The following linkages and byways have been identified:

Millstone Scenic Byway and Corridor: The Byway and Corridor is along Route 27 in Kingston, crossing the D & R Canal and Millstone River onto River Road in Princeton, continuing north into Montgomery and creating an expanded Kingston Mill Historic District. Roadside markers should be installed at intervals along the route.

Kings Highway Historic District: This linkage identifies the Kings Highway spanning along Route 27 from Franklin, turning into Princeton on Princeton-Kingston Road and onto Stockton Street to Lawrenceville-Princeton Road.

replace with Open Space Map