

Plans, Master Plans and Amendments

Report to the Board July 9, 2021 through September 8, 2021

Municipality	Montville Township
Documents	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
Public Hearing	8/12/2021
Summary	Update of the 2011 Open Space Plan.

- The Montville Township Open Space and Recreation Plan (Plan) is an update of the 2011 Open Space Plan. The Plan details the activities of the Montville Open Space Trust Fund and provides a detailed inventory of all public open space, public and quasi-public lands (e.g. utilities, Board of Education) as well as privately owned lands, including private recreation, farmland, vacant lands and developed properties over two acres in size. A block and lot listing of these properties is included. All historical/cultural and recreation resources are also identified.
- The Plan includes a detailed analysis of inventoried properties and their intersection with a set of defined characteristics that are used to prioritize lands for future preservation. These include, but are not limited to protection of drinking water and water resources, relationship to existing preserved lands, historic sites and districts. Parcels are scored as Low, Medium or High Priority based on the defined priority characteristics. These properties are mapped on a parcel basis by their priority status to guide Montville in its future preservation efforts.
- Low-priority status is assigned to 609 parcels, totaling 476 acres. There are 531 parcels identified as Medium-Priority, totaling 1,404 acres. High-Priority status is assigned to 163 parcels totaling 1,278 acres.
- Short-term, mid-term, long-term and ongoing actions are proposed to implement the Plan:
 - Examples of short-term actions include re-enrolling in the Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant Program and conducting review of priority parcels using field visits and aerial mapping.
 - Examples of mid-term actions include evaluating farmland preservation opportunities in coordination with Morris County, developing a stewardship plan for maintaining municipally preserved lands and pursuing opportunities to reclaim properties around water bodies and streams to protect these resources.
 - Examples of long-term actions include the encouragement of tax incentives for the preservation/adaptive reuse of historic buildings, implementation of a park stewardship plan, investigating potential grant opportunities for the expansion of bicycle/pedestrian trails and meeting with regional and municipal committees, commissions and non-profit groups to discuss acquisition priorities.
 - Examples of ongoing activities include continued applications for open space grants, including the Morris County Open Space Trust and State Green Acres programs, continued funding of the municipal open space trust program and pursuit of additional open space acquisition opportunities.