



ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP

2024 OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE



PUBLIC MEETING: NOVEMBER 12, 2024,
7:00 PM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

An Open Space and Recreation Plan

- describes a municipality's vision for preserving open spaces and enhancing recreational opportunities and
- provides a roadmap for implementation.

Municipalities with such plans qualify for **NJDEP Green Acres Funding** to acquire lands identified within the plan.

Rockaway Township's first Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed in 1998 and updated in 2013. To maintain eligibility for Green Acres funding, Rockaway Township has partnered with **The Land Conservancy of New Jersey** to update its Plan.



As of 2023, Rockaway's Open Space Trust Fund has collected

\$6,806,062

to finance its open space and recreation program.



Morris County has awarded

\$21,287,084

to preserve open space and farmland in Rockaway.

This has been done in partnership with the MCMUA and MCPC.



NJDEP Green Acres and the SADC has awarded

\$3,911,000

for open space and farmland preservation.

OPEN SPACE GOALS

PROTECT

Expand **greenways** of preserved lands and public open spaces to protect natural resources.

Secure the **Beaver Brook watershed** and its aquifer, ensuring the resiliency of Township's drinking water supplies.

Support ongoing partnerships to protect the town's **history and culture** which is the foundation of its landscape.

STEWARD

Safeguard the town's unique **natural areas** for their habitat value, their recreational opportunities, and their water recharge value.

Manage the town's intact **forests** which sequester carbon and offer shade from the heat.

Control the growth of **non-native plants** in the understory.

PROVIDE

Identify opportunities for **enlarging** existing parks and creating new recreational areas.

Improve **accessibility** of the town's parks and public lands to allow residents of all abilities to enjoy the Township's beautiful open spaces.

Offer **trails** and paths to connect people to parks, schools, and community spaces.

COMPONENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Highlights the community's recreation and ecological amenities and open space successes.

OPEN SPACE GOALS Offers a picture of why the town wants to preserve land.

HISTORY OF OPEN SPACE Provides information on the town's Open Space Trust Fund, grants received, and land preserved.

LAND USE INVENTORY Documents preserved, public, and private land in Rockaway Township.

RECREATION RESOURCES Inventories recreational areas and facilities within the Township.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL SITES Provides a picture of locally and regionally important sites in the Township.

PLANNING REVIEW Ensures consistency between the Open Space Plan and other planning documents.

RECOMMENDATIONS Recommends opportunities for preserving additional land and existing resources.

ACTION PLAN Provides a list of tasks for meeting Rockaway's open space goals.

KICKOFF MEETING
with Township representatives
June 24

SITE VISIT AND TOUR
with Township representatives
July 9 and August 28

1ST PUBLIC MEETING
to solicit resident input
November 12

DRAFT PREPARATION
by TLCNJ for town review

2ND PUBLIC MEETING
to present the draft plan to residents

FINAL PLAN
by TLCNJ for town review

PLAN ADOPTION
Rockaway will approve and adopt Plan Update as an Element of its Master Plan and submit to NJDEP Green Acres



Egbert's Lake Park

Questions?

Contact David Dyer, Rockaway Township Recreation (ddyer@rockawaytownship.org)

Barbara Heskins Davis, The Land Conservancy of NJ (bhdavis@tlc-nj.org)