

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Kingwood Township
Hunterdon County, New Jersey



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INTRODUCTION

Kingwood Township was established in 1746. Located in western Hunterdon County it is bordered on the west by the Delaware River, to the north by the Borough of Frenchtown and Alexandria Township, to the northeast by Franklin Township, and to the southeast by Delaware Township (see [Figure 1: Regional Location Map](#)). Kingwood Township is 35.7 square miles in area (approximately 22,848-acres) with a population of approximately 4,028¹. The rural character of the Township is the aspect of the community that most residents cherish and wish to preserve to the greatest extent possible. Kingwood Township's precious rural character is precisely what has attracted the many residents to reside in Kingwood, and continues to attract new residents. As residential development opportunities dwindle in the region in the coming years, Kingwood Township's open space preservation efforts will become increasingly important if its prized open and rural character is to survive.

Kingwood's terrain is characterized by an expansive plateau of farmland, rolling hills of farms and forests, winding, narrow rural roads and rock outcroppings along Route 29 that create the serene setting for the Township in the midst of suburbanizing communities in western Hunterdon County. Historically, the plateau area has been farmed and is characterized by extensive wetland areas in the Lockatong and Wickecheoke watersheds. Many small streams drain from the relatively flat plateau area and gently sloping eastern portion of the Township and in the western portion through steep ravines with scenic waterfalls to the Delaware River. The Delaware River is designated part of the National Wild and Scenic River System for its reach along Kingwood's riverbanks. Endowed with this unique array of natural and cultural resources that define the community character, Kingwood can ensure the protection of open space and natural resources.

Residential development of the Township, through subdivision of existing lands to create additional building lots, threatens, if left uncontrolled, to destroy the very qualities that make Kingwood Township so attractive to its residents, new and old. The use of existing open space preservation programs and outside funding sources can help relieve that development pressure by removing properties from the inventory of lands available for development. Township residents have demonstrated their commitment to the importance of preserving open space by approving the establishment of a General Capital Fund and Open Space Tax in 1997 to provide a stable source of funding for the preservation of the Township's agricultural base, rural character and natural resources. The local open space tax approved by voters is 3¢ for every \$100 of assessed value that is held in the Township's local open space trust fund, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Township's agricultural base, rural character and natural resources. This is an amount equal to the Hunterdon County 3¢ tax for Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

Kingwood Township's Agricultural Advisory and Open Space Advisory Committees have been diligently working to assist the Township Committee with Township efforts to preserve agriculture, and open spaces for the long-term protection of natural resources, and to make recreation available to all

¹ 2008 Census <http://factfinder.census.gov/> estimated population

residents and visitors. Likewise, the Township's Parks and Recreation Commission assists with Township efforts to ensure that there is an ample supply of active recreation for Kingwood's residents. Working with local organizations to protect open spaces, the Township provides residents the opportunity to enjoy the abundant natural resources with hiking and walking trails, horse trails, and active recreation areas. Providing passive and active recreation offers residents the benefits of an active and healthy lifestyle and increases the high quality of life available in the Township.

Active recreation open space is usually defined as public parkland that provides facilities for field games and team participation such as baseball, soccer, lacrosse, etc. Active recreation includes court facilities (i.e. basketball, tennis, bocce), running tracks, playground and tot lot facilities for the young, benches, game tables, picnic areas and pavilions, and facilities for specialized activities such as boat ramp and fishing docks, ice skating and hockey, as well as wide variety of other developed uses for public recreation and open space appreciation. Active recreation, as used in the plan, generally refers to outdoor recreation activities that require facilities and a somewhat intensive use of the land.

Passive recreation and open space is land that is generally acquired and maintained for natural habitat and/or natural resource protection, such as watershed protection. Limited public access facilities may be provided, such as hiking or bicycle trails, horseback riding, nature appreciation such as bird watching, and even picnic areas and waterfront facilities such as a ramp or a dock. However facilities are usually provided in a form and at a scale that limits disturbance and maintains natural functions of the land. It is not uncommon for some passive open space areas to be actively maintained, such as grassland bird habitat, which may require annual mowing to prevent successional growth that if left undisturbed may transform the landscape and the unique characteristics of the habitat. In general, passive open space areas are primarily left undisturbed and maintained in their natural state, and only limited public access facilities are normally provided, if at all.

This Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) identifies the current inventory of active and passive recreational areas, the needs of the Township for these lands, natural resources in need of preservation, and provides an action plan to acquire, manage and use open space and recreation facilities. The Open Space Advisory Committee has worked to compile this list, identifying a comprehensive inventory of the existing open space and recreation areas in the Township and providing an analysis of acquisition criteria for the purchase of additional lands. This guidance will help to ensure the continued effort of long-term open space and recreation planning in Kingwood Township.

GOALS

The purpose of the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is to provide guidance for current and future acquisition, preservation and management of open space and recreation areas in Kingwood Township. The following goals, taken from the Township's 2000 Open Space and Recreation Plan offer guiding principles when considering the acquisition and use of open space and recreation areas in the Township. These goals, like the rest of the Plan, are to be viewed as an organic document that has the ability to be flexible to the future changes and needs of the Township.

1. Preserve the rural character of the Township.
2. Preserve the presence and facilitate the viability of agriculture.
3. Make reasonable provision for the recreational needs of Township residents.
4. Provide for maximum flexibility for local property owners so that lands can be preserved through the program best suited to meet the needs and desires of each individual property owner.
5. Manage the growth and development of the Township.
6. Protect natural resources and sensitive environmental areas.
7. Identify and protect important historical elements within the Township.

In addition, the 2000 Open Space Plan identifies priority activities for advancing the goals and objectives set forth in the Plan. These activities remain relevant today and will serve as priority activities for this update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan element:

1. Adopt this Open Space and Recreation Plan as an element of the Master Plan.
2. Following adoption of this Plan by the Planning Board, the Township Committee should, by resolution, adopt [Figure 2](#), the Open Space and Recreation System Map as the official open space map for Kingwood Township after presentation of the map to the public at a duly noticed public hearing in accordance with NJDEP Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant Program requirements.
3. Submit this updated Plan and the adopted Open Space and Recreation System Map to the NJDEP Green Acres Program.
4. Develop a strategy to maximize the dollars available to the Township for open space acquisition, such as loans, donations, matching grants, etc.
5. Submit an application to NJDEP for a Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant to supplement the Township's Open Space Tax, making low interest loans and grants available to the Township.
6. Develop and refine a list of high priority properties for preservation.
7. Initiate contact with property owners and investigate their future plan and interest in selling the property or conservation easements.
8. Initiate purchase discussions with owners of the highest priority properties that are available. Initiate the acquisition process, subject to the resolution of any funding issues and funding availability.
9. Coordinate open space preservation efforts with county, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations and other private organizations and individuals.

10. Publicize open space preservation efforts, accomplishments, and goals through appropriate publications and mailings.
11. Establish strategic partnerships with conservation organizations and other non-profit, volunteer organizations to maximize the preservation of open space and minimize the Township's obligations with respect to monitoring conservation easements.
12. Review, at least biannually, this plan, efforts to implement the plan, and any changes in the goals and policies of the Township. Develop revisions to this plan so as to incorporate changes in goals, policies, and strategies to better effectuate the Township's goals and policies.

INVENTORY

The inventory of open space and recreation lands in Kingwood Township includes several municipally-owned sites, in excess of a dozen state-owned open space and recreation lands and a number of conservation easement areas. The municipal open space sites include areas for active recreation opportunities with facilities such as sports fields and playgrounds, and passive recreation with walking trails and nature study. State lands include both passive open space and active recreation areas. Privately-owned lands with conservation easements include passive open space and natural resource protection areas. Together, all municipal and state recreation, conservation easement, open space, and farmland areas total approximately 1,893 acres, or approximately 8% of the Township's total land area. The attached map entitled, "[Figure 2: Open Space and Recreation System Map](#)" depicts the location of these various parcels that comprise the Township's open space inventory (see Appendix A for Key Map inventory). The following is a brief description of ownership, size and type of parcels included in the inventory, including sites available to the public and privately owned sites where no public access is provided.

KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP LANDS

Table 1 below identifies Township-owned lands, including active and passive open space and preserved farmland. Kingwood Township owns a total of approximately 290 acres of land in the Township that are devoted to open space, outdoor recreation and preservation of rural character. These lands are listed in the table below.

Table 1: Township-Owned Lands by Block and Lot

Block	Lot	Address	Name/Type	Acreage
2	16	45 Oak Summit Rd.	Preserved farm	35.14
7	2.01	40 Oak Summit Rd.	Preserved Farm	53.64
19	5.01	284 Union Rd.	Preserved farm ²	82.67
19	7	216 Union Rd.	Kingwood Park	0.37
19	8	200 Union Rd.	Kingwood Park	51.46
20	1.01	Kingwood Rd. (CR519)	Preserved farm ³	63.73
38	12	51 Milltown Rd.	Vacant land	1.3
14	43	12 Fairview Rd.	Old Fairview School	2.0
17	30.01	178 Horseshoe Bend Rd.	Horseshoe Bend Park	106.40
TOTAL				369.72

Sites and Facilities

Block 19, Lots 7 and 8 comprise Kingwood Park, which is the centerpiece of active recreation in the Township. The Park includes three baseball fields, approximately 6 soccer fields, a picnic pavilion, a volleyball court, a tot-lot/playground, a basketball court and two parking lots. The site also includes a single-family dwelling that is occupied by a caretaker of the Park.



Block 19, Lot 5.01 which is located at 284 Union Road and the corner of Kingwood Road is the largest of the municipally-owned parcels with 82.67-acres of land. The site is preserved farmland and is leased by the Township for farming. The preservation of the site together with the parcel across the street (Block 20, Lot 1.01 discussed in the next paragraph) is an important rural element in the landscape that reinforces the rural character of the Township at the intersection of Kingwood Road and Union Road. There are breathtaking views from this spot that include actively farmed areas of the Township

² Preserved farmland with exception area to be used for affordable housing; and

³ Preserved farmland with exception area including Township DPW operations and portion of exception area to be used for affordable housing.

and distant views across the Delaware River to Bucks County Pennsylvania. At the time the farm was preserved, the Township retained an exception area of 7.8 acres that is currently planned for use as affordable housing, but which is a separate tax parcel (Block 19, Lot 5).

Block 20, Lot 1.01, consisting of approximately 63.7 acres of preserved farmland on the corner of Kingwood Road and Union Road. This site provides fishing access to the Lockatong Creek on the southeast side of the tract, and there is a pond on site that is seasonally stocked with trout for fishing. A trail along the Creek extends onto the Kingwood Township School adjacent to the site on the southwest and the trail extends across Union Road to Kingwood Park on the northeast side of Union Road. There is also a 10.7 acre exception area owned by the Township that is encircled by preserved farmland. This exception area includes the Township's Department of Public Works (DPW) operations, including the maintenance garage, storage shed and recycling center. A farmstead within the exception area adjacent to DPW operations is currently being considered for affordable housing.

12 Fairview Road (Block 14, Lot 43) is locally known as the "Old Fairview School". This quaint framed structure was formerly the Township municipal building and is presently a recreation resource used by the "Merry Mixers" senior organization, the Township historical society for meetings and by some non-profit groups.

The Gergar Farm (Block 2, Lot 16 and Block 7, Lots 2.01) was bequeathed to the Township in 2008 by life-time resident Helen Gergar. The total site is approximately 88 acres which is preserved in perpetuity for agricultural use.



Horseshoe Bend Park, Block 14, Lot 30.01, consisting of 106.41 acres was acquired by Kingwood Township using local open space funding on May 24, 2011. The park is located within an open space and farmland preservation project area where the NJDEP, private, non-profit organizations and private landowners have coordinated open space preservation. Public open space and recreation facilities at Horseshoe Bend Park consist of forested areas, open fields, free-flowing streams and a series of public trails that may be accessed by way of a driveway into the park from Horseshoe Bend Road, which connects to NJ State Route Highway 12 at the west end of Frenchtown Borough. Planned park facilities and enhancements include improvements the evolving trail networks under construction, way-finding signage and kiosks, trail markers, and a comfort station for the public. The park has a 7 acre "Leash Free Dog Area". In addition, there is a 9,750 square foot Morton building with bathroom facilities that is used for a variety of activities such as dog shows, wrestling, cheer leading practice and private parties. The adjoining non-municipally owned public lands at Horseshoe Bend Park provide additional open space and recreation opportunities to the public, which are managed by the Township through a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Department of Environmental Protection - Division of Parks and Forestry. The Township will seek State, County and other funding assistance to enhance public facilities offered at the Park.

COUNTY LANDS

The Township does not currently have any Hunterdon County owned open space parcels or parks. From the Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund, the County has contributed funds toward the purchase of two open space projects in consort with the Hunterdon Land Trust who has assumed ownership of the properties including Block 33, Lot 14.10 and Block 24, Lot 14.01. The Hunterdon County Farmland Preservation Program, administered by the County Agricultural Development Board (CADB) has provided farmland preservation funding for many parcels in Kingwood Township which is discussed further in the Inventory section of this document under Preserved Farmland.

STATE LANDS

Presently, state-owned lands in the Township total 1,603 acres. These are diverse variety of land holdings, which include lands that provide important and regionally significant public access to and along the Delaware River, and protect and preserve scenic corridors and natural resources. Additionally, the State holds a number of conservation easements that total approximately 299 acres and are listed and briefly described in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Conservation Easements in Kingwood held by State

Name / Location	Block / Lot	Acres	Description
Open Space – D&R Canal Watershed Greenway / Stompf Tavern Rd	40/24; 41/16, 23 and 41.01/1&2	234.33	The property includes two large tracts on either side of Byram-Kingwood Road. The southern tract includes S and SW forested slopes that lead to the Delaware River and small tributary along Stompf Tavern Road.
Open Space - Delaware River Bluffs / Fairview Road	28/2	49.812	Property is currently used for agricultural and wood lot management purposes. The landowner has subdivided lot 4.01 from the larger lot 4 prior to the easement recording. Lot 4.01 will be used as a future house site.
Open Space – Nishisakawick Greenway / Rte 513 (front), Creek Rd (back)	5.01/2	2	The general easement area consists of fields and brushy woods. The public area consists of more mature woodlands and floodplain forest with a dramatic slope to the Nishisackawick Creek. Adjacent to 25.29 acres in Alexandria Township
Open Space – D&R Canal Land Trust / End of Manchester Lane	4/7.22	6	This 6 acre easement (donation) with public access complements the fee purchase of lands to the north of Block 4 Lot 7 in Kingwood Township and Block 41 Lot 3 in Franklin Township.
Open Space – Delaware River Bluffs	50/1 & 5	7	offer # 2936.1. Date of Contract 7/19/00; Date of Deed 7/23/03
TOTAL ACRES		299.14	

Table 3 below identifies several easements that have been purchased with Green Acres funding assistance, which total approximately 299 acres. These easements provide natural resource protection

on privately held lands. A number of these conservation easements have been made possible through assistance from private, non-profit organizations that are active in natural resource and open space protection in Kingwood Township.

Table 3: Easements purchased with Green Acres assistance

BLOCK	LOT	ACRES	TYPE	COMMENTS	OWNER
24	14.01	21	Non-profit		Trstensky
27.01	4	.25	Non-profit		VanHouten
40	23	24	Non-profit	CE held by State	Martin Woods
40	24	94.2	Non-profit	CE held by State	Mergott
41	16	135.0	Non-profit	CE held by State	Mergott
12	31.01	25	Non-profit		HLT-NJCF
TOTAL ACRES		299.45			

In Table 4, a comprehensive list of State-acquired properties is listed. The State of New Jersey purchased these properties directly from landowners as open space and passive recreation.

Table 4: State-acquired Properties

Project	Block / Lot	Acres	Date of Contract	Other Information
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	4 / 7.25	36.2	3/3/2006	
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	13 / 2	12.31	6/9/2006	
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	14 / 35.01	109.8	6/2/2006	
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	20 / 2.01	57.00	6/9/2006	
NJDEP	21 / 8.01	17.87		
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	23 / 1	1.75	6/9/2006	
Delaware River Bluffs	28 / 2.01	98.93	5/11/2007	
NJDEP	38 / 13, 13.01, 13.02	11.46		Footpath
Delaware River Bluffs	38 / 20	64.69	5/6/2008	Lockatong WMA
Delaware River Bluffs	38 / 24	.97		Lockatong WMA
Delaware River Bluffs	38 / 27	14.47	7/5/2007	Lockatong WMA
Delaware River Bluffs	38 / 36	133.78	5/6/2008	Lockatong WMA
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	38 / p/o 23	18.41	11/20/2003	
NJDEP	39 / 25	8		
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	40 / 3	1.68		
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	40 / 5	2.83	2/8/2007	
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	40 / 18.03	3	6/18/2007	
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	40 / 20	153.47	10/28/2004	
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	40 / 26	48.48		
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	40 / 26.01	3.4		
D&R Canal Watershed Greenway	40 / 100.5	4.23	3/10/2008	
NJDEP	42 / 8	.48		

NJDEP	50 / 4, 10, 16, 17	8.44		
D&R Canal State Park	50 / 100	58		Former railroad ROW
NJDEP	50.04 / 1	3		Rush Island
D&R Canal State Park	50.05 / 1	8.5		Bull's Island
D&R Canal State Park	51 / 2, 47, 100	15.35		Former railroad ROW
NJDEP	51.01 / 100	3.7		
TOTAL ACRES		900.2		

**Table 5: Local or State-owned Properties with Potential for
Conservation / Recreation Use**

Block	Lot	Additional Info	Address	Owner	Acres	Lot Usage
14	35.01		220 Fairview Rd	NJDEP	110	Vacant Land
19	7		216 Union Rd	Kingwood Township	0.37	Park
28	2.01		247 Fairview Rd	NJDEP	28.93	Vacant Land
38	12	NJ DEP	51 Milltown Rd	Kingwood Township	1.30	Vacant Land
50	1	State holds CE	Daniel Bray Hwy	Kingwood Township	5.50	Vacant Land
50	5	State holds CE	3033 Daniel Bray Hwy	Kingwood Township	1.50	Vacant Land
TOTAL ACRES					147.6	

Facilities

Bulls Island Recreation Area

Bulls Island is a 24-acre park located on the Delaware River at the southern end of Kingwood Township and the northern end of Delaware Township. The park is situated along the Delaware River and the Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Canal. The park offers a trail along the towpath of the D&R Canal, camping, fishing, a boat launch, a natural area and a pedestrian bridge across the Delaware River to Lumberville, Pennsylvania in Bucks County, where pedestrians and bicyclists can travel the towpath adjacent to the canal along the Delaware.

A Biking/Hiking Trail owned and maintained by the NJDEP is located between Route 29 and the Delaware River for the entire length of Kingwood's border, extending north to Milford and south to Trenton. The trail was made from a former railroad right-of-way. Parking access to the Biking/Hiking trail is available at Bulls Island Recreation Area, north of Byram at the old bridge piers across from Point Pleasant, PA, and south of Frenchtown, at the Kingwood Access.

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Kingwood Access provides a boat launch on the Delaware River, located approximately 1/2 mile south of Frenchtown on Route 29. The parking area is convenient to using the boat ramp or accessing the Biking/Hiking Trail.

Lokatong Wildlife Management Area

Among the most recent additions to the Township's inventory of open space is the Lokatong Wildlife Management Area, preserved in 2009, and High Falls Trail, created in 2010. This two-mile trail is located on a 495-acre parcel in the southern portion of the Township that is also partially located in Delaware Township. The trail is accessible from Route 519 south, about a ¼ mile past the Kingwood Township Methodist Church just north of Strimples Mill Road (see trail map attached as [Figure 10](#)).



High Falls

Hampton Road Section

This 60 acre public preserve is part of the Lokatong Wildlife Management Area owned by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife with habitat managed by D & R Greenway Land Trust. The former sod fields have been transformed to native wild flowers and grasses including Indian grass, big and little Bluestem and Switchgrass as habitat for endangered grassland birds. A trail runs around the perimeter of a wetlands complex constructed as habitat for amphibians, owls and herons. Parking access is on the east side of Hampton Road at a gravel parking area. Small game hunting and dogs are not permitted due to habitat management for endangered grassland birds.

The Township, with assistance from local non-profits and local organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, maintain these areas by constructing and maintaining trails, and replacing and installing signage.

NON-PROFIT LANDS

The Township includes several hundred acres of non-profit owned lands. These include properties owned and maintained by the D&R Greenway Land Trust (D&R Greenway), the Hunterdon Land Trust (HLT) and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF).

Facilities

D&R Greenway

Tables 3 and 5 above identify a number of properties acquired by the D&R Greenway. Areas such as the Delaware River Bluffs, the D&R Canal Watershed Greenway, and open spaces along the Nishisackawick Creek are typically open fields or wooded with dramatic slopes toward the Delaware River. Both large and small tracts have public access to explore the sites.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation

The NJCF helped to preserve, and presently maintains, the Wickecheoke Trail which is partly located in Kingwood Township where the trail extends along Wickecheoke Road and Kingwood-Locktown Road for short distances adjacent to the Creek. It is a great place for a hike in a beautiful, rural New Jersey setting. The trail follows the Wickecheoke Creek through dense forest and along scenic meadows that are found throughout the stream corridor. Loop hikes of varying distances are possible by combining sections of the trail with the areas quiet rural roads in Delaware and Kingwood Township. On preserved stream corridor lands in Delaware Township, walking is fairly easy as most sections of the trail are relatively flat, although some sections of the trail require walking over uneven ground. NJCF posts maps of the trail at various locations along the trail. Creek crossings are indicated on NJCF's trail maps; they can be difficult even when the water is low, but can be dangerous when the water is high, except in Kingwood, where the trail follows the Kingwood-Locktown Road bridge across the Creek.

Draining the rolling hills of southwestern Hunterdon County, the Wickecheoke Creek winds its way through bucolic farm fields and spills over rocky ledges on its way to the Delaware River. Since the 1980s, New Jersey Conservation Foundation has been preserving lands along this pristine creek from the wet forests of the Croton Plateau to Stockton Borough. To date NJCF has helped to preserve more than 20,000 acres in the Wickecheoke Creek greenway.

The Wickecheoke Trail traverses many of the preserved lands in the area and leads hikers along some of the most beautiful parts of the creek. The preserve is a work in progress, and hikers will sometimes have to walk along the quiet country roads in between trail sections. Combined with the nearby Towpath Trail of the D&R Canal State Park, the two trails meet in Stockton at the historic Prallsville Mill.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation along with HLT, Kingwood Township and State Green Acres funds, purchased a 25-acre tract (Block 12, Lot 31.01) on Horseshoe Bend Road in 2010 which is a public open space managed by NJCF. The yet to be named site adjoins a NJCF purchased easement of a 48-acre farmland parcel on Horseshoe Bend Road, ensuring that it remain in agricultural use forever. Funding for the farmland easement came from the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program.

Hunterdon Land Trust

The HLT facilitated the preservation of three public areas in Kingwood Township: Milltown Road Preserve (12 acres); Kugler Woods (220 acres); and Martin Woods (24 acres).

Milltown Road (Block 38, Lots 13, 13.01, 13.02) Preserve is an environmentally sensitive property with forested steep slopes exceeding 25% slope that had been purchased by a developer, subdivided, and was on the brink of development. Today, the land is open to the public for passive recreation activities such as hiking, photography, and birding. Future plans call for the creation of a woodland trail. Located adjacent to the Lockatong Creek, the site provides access to the Creek for fishing.

Kugler Woods (Block 40, Lots 20, 26, 26.01) is a 220-acre property, almost entirely wooded with mature specimen hardwoods. It is located along Route 29 just north of Byram-Kingwood Road and is a

well-managed forest that has a colonial history dating back to pre-revolutionary times. Kugler Woods adjoin another Green Acres property, Martin Woods, (Block 40, Lot 23) a 24 acre conservation easement, funded entirely by the New Jersey Green Acres Program. HLT has responsibility for monitoring the easements. Long term plans include development of a public access trail.

A recent purchase of 55-acres on an as yet unnamed property located along Barbertown-Idell Road (Block 33, Lot 14.10). This property features forested lands with a beautiful understory of native shrubs and plants and is part of the Lockatong Creek watershed.

Another property of 33 acres (Block 24, Lot 14.01) was recently purchased by HLT and is located in the Lockatong Creek watershed and will help protect the creek. It is currently being farmed but will be used for passive recreation in the future as meadows and woodland.

PRESERVED FARMLAND

Finally, it is important to note the amount of existing preserved farmland in the Township. Kingwood has a long history as a farming community and these activities are strongly supported by the Township and its residents. While preserved farmland does not attribute to publically accessible recreation activities, it does provide open space areas that contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem by relegating the lands to preservation instead of development. To date, there are 1,178.15 acres of farmland preserved through SADC, the County and Municipal Funding as outlined in Table 6. This accounts for approximately 5% of the area of the Township.

Table 6: Preserved Farmland by Agency

Type of Acquisition	Acres
Hunterdon County Easement Purchase Program	234.09
State Direct Easement	896.06
SADC Conventional Farmland Preservation Program and Federal Farm and Ranch Fund	48
TOTAL	1178.15

NEEDS ANALYSIS

There are two generally accepted methods of calculating municipal open space need which are used for recreation planning.

1. The Balanced Land Use Guidelines⁴ seek to establish a planning target for *identifying a minimum proportion* of a municipalities' developed or developable land for set aside as open space. The guideline generated a local yield of open space need for Kingwood Township at 647 acres, based upon 3% of the developed and developable acreage in the municipality. This is a minimum standard, and may not reflect local goals and objectives for open space preservation.

⁴ 2008 – 2012 New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), NJDEP.

Additionally, this method of calculating municipal open space demand does not address recreation facilities that are required to serve the recreation needs of the resident population.

2. The Acres/Population Standard⁵ provides a measure of the adequacy of active recreation lands in proportion to the local population. The application of these standards to Kingwood Township is briefly outlined below. This approach yields a municipal open space need of roughly 32 developed acres based on Kingwood's 2008 population of 4,028 persons. The Township currently maintains approximately 51 acres of land which include facilities for active recreation and play areas.

This standard contemplates a planning response to a range of estimated recreation facilities addressing the needs of a broad spectrum of age groups, which may be more reflective of urban recreation planning needs than local recreation planning needs, preferences and trends. For example, land consumptive recreation activities such as soccer, baseball, football, lacrosse and the like, require developed fields to serve local population needs. If there is one or more of these sports that is particularly popular among age groups for an extended period of time, the Acres/Population Standard may not be adequate to the task of local recreation facilities planning.

While Kingwood Township appears to be on par with these recreation planning standards, the application of these standards may not accurately portray the existing and potentially emergent needs of the community. It appears that the size, type, mix, and nature of recreation facilities provided in the Township may require a more careful examination to better assess and formulate a response to the needs of the intended users. In fact, the more recent publication by the National Recreation and Park Association - Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines (1995) has abandoned its acres/population standard and instead takes a more deferential approach than the 1983 guide to community judgment to determine community need, demand and preference for recreation facilities. Additionally, even though the SCORP provides balanced land use guidelines for planning purposes, these standards are more applicable to urban community planning, and do not reflect community preferences, location and the individual natural resource base and unique characteristics and opportunities in a community. As such, in a community such as Kingwood Township that is endowed with a wealth of regionally significant natural resources, these guidelines may serve to mislead local planners and create the false impression that land preservation and natural resource protection is assured by achieving the standard, when in fact the standard contemplates community design from the perspective of establishing minimum requirements.

NATURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

The rural character of the area makes living in Kingwood Township attractive and desirable. Suburban development witnessed throughout New Jersey has thus far managed to bypass Kingwood Township, but the opportunity for development to encroach upon the community has not been completely

⁵ Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, National Recreation and Park Association, 1983.

eliminated. The Township is currently undergoing a land use plan update that will guide the community's planning for growth in a manner that is consistent with local and regional carrying capacity and is also sensitive to the valuable resources and the agricultural landscape that is at the heart of the Township's identity.

In Kingwood Township, acquiring open space and creating additional recreational facilities are equally important to safeguard the viability of fragile ecosystems and to support the quality of life that residents associate with living in Kingwood Township.

Agricultural areas, forests, sloped areas, wetlands, stream corridors and other environmentally sensitive features are interconnected components that create an overall healthy environment. As seen on Table 7, the Township contains 36% forested areas, followed by 34% of agricultural lands, 12% urban areas, closely followed by 16% wetlands (Figure 3 & Table 7). The combination of these factors furthers the evidence of the Township's continued rural character and agricultural climate.

Table 7: 2002 Land Use/Land Cover of Kingwood Township

Type	Total	%
Agriculture	7,839.18	34.4%
Barren Land	63.17	0.3%
Forest	8,134.84	35.7%
Urban	2,656.69	11.7%
Water	455.52	2.0%
Wetlands (Non-agriculture)	2,511.64	11.0%
Wetlands (Agriculture)	1,140.76	5.0%
TOTAL	22,801.8	100.00%

Source: NJDEP 2002 Land Use Land Cover data.

Agricultural, Scenic and Historic Resources

The Township's rich cultural history is key to the vitality and sense of place that residents cherish. As identified above, and on Figure 4, about one-third of the Township's land uses are devoted to agriculture. In addition to preserving the historic and cultural aspects of the Township's agricultural past, natural resources also contribute to farming in the Township and are worthy of protection. Kingwood farmland is separated into three categories. *Prime Farmland* makes up 25.06% of the Township; *Farmland of Statewide Importance* accounts for 70.43% of land area in the Township; and lands categorized as *Not Prime Farmland* account for 4.51% of lands in the Township (See ERI Map Figure 4h Agricultural Soils⁶⁶). Since the majority of farmland in the Township is either Prime or of Statewide importance, and due to the historical prevalence of farming in the Township, Kingwood has made farmland preservation a priority.

⁶⁶ Kratzer, Deborah J., *Environmental Resources Inventory for Kingwood Township*, January 2009.

Scenic resources, in addition to the Township's farming history, provide a unique quality to Kingwood Township as sweeping views across flat farmland lead to the abrupt transition in landscape just above the Delaware River. Thick forests bordering these expansive open spaces also offer a unique experience. Narrow rural roads bordered by closed canopies of mature trees and historic stone bridge crossings offer glimpses of streams and dramatic views of wooded steep slopes, also known as the Delaware Bluffs, offer another look into the Township's history that is still very much alive today.

While no properties are currently listed on state or federal historical lists, volunteers through Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission have begun an inventory of historic homes for documentation and inclusion in the Hunterdon County Planning Board's "Sites of Historic Interest, Hunterdon County Master Plan", originally published in 1979. That inventory found 98 properties built prior to 1900 but with the use of better records, 222 properties have been identified.

National Wild and Scenic River Designation

In 2000, Congress approved a bill that that added a section of the lower Delaware River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, which was signed into law by President Clinton. The Lower Delaware National Wild and Scenic River includes a 38.9-mile section of the main stem Delaware (and about 28 miles of selected tributaries) linking the Delaware Water Gap and Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania. Kingwood Township has provided its support to the Lower Delaware River Wild and Scenic Management Plan, which outlines a number of goals for the protection of the Lower Delaware River, some of which are summarized below:

- **Water Quality**
 - Maintain existing water quality in the Delaware River and its tributaries from measurably degrading and improve it where practical.
- **Natural Resources**
 - Preserve and protect the river's outstanding natural resources, including rare and endangered plant and animal species, river islands, steep slopes and buffer areas in the river corridor and along the tributaries.
- **Historic Resources**
 - Preserve and protect the character of historic structures, districts and sites, including landscapes, in the river corridor.
- **Recreation**
 - Encourage recreational use of the river corridor that has a low environmental and social impact and is compatible with public safety, the protection of private property and with the preservation of natural and cultural qualities of the river corridor
- **Economic Development**
 - Identify principles for minimizing the adverse impact of development within the river corridor.
- **Open Space Preservation**
 - Preserve open space as a means of maximizing the health of the ecosystem, preserving scenic values, and minimizing the impact of new development in the river corridor

Kingwood Township's open space and recreation goals are consistent with the goals of the Lower Delaware River Wild and Scenic Management Plan. Kingwood Township sees itself and its private, non-profit partners as an important component of implementing the goals of the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan particularly since Kingwood Township is the steward of approximately 11 miles of the 38.9 mile reach of the river designated Wild & Scenic.

Forested Areas

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) publication titled "Protection and Care of Urban Forest" provides a detailed list of the resources that are protected and benefits offered by forested areas:

- Modify local climatic conditions near and within their boundaries
- Create a feeling of privacy
- Serve as recreational facilities
- Provide habitats for plants and animals
- Reduce surface runoff because of the high moisture holding capacity of the forest soils and tree canopy
- Enhance the visual characteristics of scenic corridors
- Reduce noise pollution
- Produce oxygen

The Township's forested areas make up another one-third of the Township's land uses at about 36%. While a majority of the forested areas are located along stream corridors, large swaths of forests can be found throughout the Township. Forested lands along stream corridors are vital to the maintenance of water quality by providing vegetative buffers to stream corridors and preventing soil erosion and bank loss. They are classified as forested wetland areas (see [Figures 5 and 6](#)). In addition, forested buffers provide shade to stream corridors, reducing water temperature and supporting aquatic life. These exceptional habitat areas also provide interconnected woodland habitat that allows for unrestricted movement of wildlife.

Wetlands

The New Jersey DEP places a high priority on the protection of wetlands. Wetlands perform many valuable functions that help to maintain balance throughout surrounding ecosystems.

- Wetlands protect drinking water by filtering out chemicals, pollutants, and sediments.
- Wetlands soak up runoff from heavy rains and snow melts, providing natural flood control.
- Wetlands release stored floodwaters during droughts.
- Wetlands provide critical habitats for a major portion of the State's fish and wildlife, including endangered, commercial and recreational species.

Township wetland areas are depicted on [Figure 7](#). As mentioned in the previous section, the largest areas of wetlands are forested and found along most of the stream corridors with smaller isolated wetlands located throughout the Township.

A special type of wetland, known as a vernal pool, warrants special attention. These wetlands contain no fish populations, have no permanent outflow, and are present only part of the year. Certain types of amphibians, some of which are threatened, endangered or special concern, use these wetlands. There are at least two vernal pools in Kingwood Township, and possibly many more. In the Highlands Region, DEP regulations require that vernal pools are to be protected by ‘buffer areas’ of 1,000 feet around the vernal pool, due to their unique capacity to support these fragile populations of amphibians. Unfortunately, no such protection is afforded by DEP in Kingwood Township, which is situated just south of the Highlands Region. As such, local land preservation efforts that may protect vernal pools take on added importance and assume a high priority in this plan.

Streams and Stream Corridors

Stream corridors are important features that provide aquatic habitat, semi-aquatic habitat, drinking and bathing water for wildlife and allow for movement of various species throughout an ecosystem. Stream corridors are vital to the health of streams, protecting watercourses through erosion control, pollution filtration and providing protected habitat for aquatic and semi-aquatic habitat. Stream corridors in the Township run through a variety of habitats including, forests, farm fields, grasslands and residential areas ([Figure 8](#)).

Waterways can be designated Category One (C-1) because of exceptional ecological significance, exceptional water supply significance, exceptional recreational significance, exceptional shellfish resource, or exceptional fisheries resource. The C-1 designation provides additional protections that help prevent water quality degradation and discourage development where it would impair or destroy natural resources and environmental quality. Adjacent to all C-1 waters and their upstream tributaries, 300 foot buffers must be maintained in a natural state. However, where the buffer is already disturbed, the width may be reduced in the disturbed area, but will not extend less than 150 feet from either bank. The buffer will not affect existing development. The buffer requirement can also be adjusted to reflect local conditions through the approval of a stream corridor protection plan as part of a regional stormwater management plan.

According to the Township’s Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI), prepared in 2009, five streams within Kingwood Township are designated C-1 by NJDEP, including Warford, Nishisakawick, Little Nishisakawick, Lockatong and Wickecheoke Creeks, including any unnamed tributaries of these creeks. In 2011, the Township Committee adopted an ordinance that details stream buffers.

Steep Slopes

Steep slopes are environmentally sensitive features that merit special protection. Forested steep slopes provide protection from many devastating environmental consequences. Loss of cover on slopes can:

- Increase soil erosion and sedimentation
- Decrease surface water quality
- Decrease soil fertility
- Increase overland flow and decrease ground water recharge
- Alter natural drainage patterns

The majority of Kingwood Township is relatively flat. However, steep slopes are located along the valuable forested stream corridors and the bluffs bordering the Delaware River (Figure 9). A steep slope ordinance was adopted by the Township Committee as mandated by the State of New Jersey in 2011.

New Jersey DEP Landscape Project

In order to address habitat loss, NJDEP's Endangered and Non-Game Species Program (ENSP) partnered with the Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA) at Cook College, Rutgers University and, utilizing Landsat Thematic Mapper satellite imagery, CRSSA mapped land cover for the entire State of New Jersey. After generalized cover types were classified in 20 different categories, detailed methodologies were developed to address the habitat suitability issues for each focus category, including beach/dunes, emergent wetlands, forested wetlands, forested areas and grasslands.

After reclassifying data based on standards developed for each category, the habitat data was intersected or combined with the Natural Heritage Program's Biological Conservation Database (BCD). This database is a Geographic Information System (GIS) coverage that provides information on the sighting of threatened and endangered species, based on the field-work of ENSP scientists and sightings reported by members of the public. It is the most comprehensive data available in digital form on the location of threatened and endangered species.

The Landscapes Program data provides users with scientifically sound, peer-reviewed information on the location of critical habitat based on the conservation status of the species that are present. Habitats are ranked on a scale of 1 to 5, based on the following criteria:

Table 8: NJ Landscape Program Ranking System

Rank	Indication
1	Suitable habitat, no special concern, threatened or endangered species sighted
2	Habitat patch with species of special concern present
3	Habitat patch with State threatened species present
4	Habitat patch with State endangered species present
5	Habitat patch with Federal threatened or endangered species present

Kingwood Township is rich in species habitat that is suitable to support populations of threatened and endangered species. According to the Township's 2009 ERI, the NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry *Natural Heritage Database* in December 2007 revealed the documented presence of two critically imperiled bird species (red-shouldered hawk and vesper sparrow), one imperiled bird (bobolink), one

rare bird (Cooper's hawk), two rare reptiles (map and wood turtles), and one imperiled amphibian (long-tailed salamander). Three imperiled or critically imperiled invertebrates are found within the Township (a mussel and two damselflies), as well as 6 critically imperiled vascular plants and 8 imperiled vascular plants. No lists are available for non-vascular plants. No species known to occur in Kingwood are found on the Federal endangered species list. (See Table 3.6 in the Kingwood Township ERI for more detail on these species).⁷

In addition, seven of the Landscape Project habitat categories are represented in the Township including Emergent Wetlands, Grassland, Forest Upland, Forest Wetland, Highlands Extended Boundary Species-based Patches, Wood Turtle habitat areas, and Streams that are designated suitable habitat and special concern.

There are many key habitat areas throughout the Township. Large patches of Rank 4 and 5 grasslands are scattered throughout the southern portion of the Township, south of Route 12. Similarly, large concentrations of Ranks 4 and 5 Forested Uplands and Wetlands only occur south of the Route 12 corridor. Rank 4 and 5 Emergent Wetlands are scattered throughout the central portion of the Township. The Township's ERI also states that sightings of the State-threatened long-tail salamander have occurred in the same vicinity, near the upper portions of the Nishisakawick Creek. The northern half of the Township boasts suitable habitat, and threatened & endangered Highlands Species-based Patches with concentrated areas of species in the northwest and eastern portions of the Township.

Wood Turtle habitat is concentrated in two areas with Rank 4 and 5 forested wetlands occurring in the southern most portion of the Township along the Delaware River and at the border of Frenchtown and along the Delaware River. The patches support species such as Wood Thrush, Upland Sandpiper, Bog Turtle, Spotted Turtle, and Fowlers Toad.

The Landscape Program data is intended to aid municipalities, County and State governments, conservation agencies and citizens in determining the extent of critical habitat within their respective jurisdictions and communities. After identifying critical habitat, a variety of measures can be employed to protect it, including the following:

- Prioritizing open space acquisitions based on the presence of habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Adopting regulations aimed at protecting critical habitat
- Adopting management policies for open space that are consistent with protection of critical habitat
- Permitting flexibility in development techniques that can accommodate the protection of critical habitat
- Promoting land stewardship practices that are consistent with the protection of critical habitat

Kingwood Township has chosen to utilize the New Jersey Landscape Project data to further define priorities for preservation, in keeping with the goals and policies of this plan.

New Jersey Audubon Society Important Bird and Birding Sites

The New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) has prepared a list of Important Bird Areas throughout the state. These sites provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds and provide a contribution to the long-term viability of native avian populations in New Jersey. NJAS offers guidance and a comprehensive look into the most important sites in NJ for breeding, wintering and migrating birds and for native bird populations in NJ.

Located in the Skylands Region, according to the NJAS there is one Important Bird Area in the Kingwood area, the Everittstown Grasslands. Important Bird Areas are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds and that make a contribution to the long-term viability of native avian populations in New Jersey.⁸ This area spans Alexandria, Kingwood and Franklin Townships and is a shifting mosaic of agricultural and fallow fields. Scrub-shrub habitat characterizes a portion of the site. These high priority grasslands extend from Frenchtown to Everittstown along County Route 513 in Alexandria Township. This site is located within the Highlands Preservation Area, a region of exceptional natural resource value designated by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act (Highlands Act).

Nesting birds include state-endangered Vesper Sparrows, state-threatened Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows and American Kestrels, and a state special concern, Eastern Meadowlarks.⁹

ACTIVE RECREATION ASSESSMENT

Kingwood Township hosts only a few active recreation facilities, which include soccer fields, baseball fields, and basketball facilities, all located at the Township's elementary school and Kingwood Park on Union Road (Figure 11). At a public meeting held on February 20, 2010, residents of Kingwood Township shared concerns and ideas regarding the existing conditions of and potential opportunities for open space and recreation throughout the Township.

Of most concern was condition of the existing recreation facilities at Kingwood Park on Union Road. Participants at the public meeting made suggestions for new and rehabilitated facilities at Kingwood Park and recommended that any new facilities proposed, should be located in the general vicinity of the existing facilities, creating a recreation center for the Township. Another general comment regarding Kingwood Park was that it is very open and although it is surrounded by forested area, there are few

⁸ NJ Audubon Important Bird Areas. www.njaudubon.org/portals/10/IBBA/PDF/AcceptedIBA_New_100.pdf

⁹ NJ Audubon Important Bird and Birding Areas. Everittstown Grasslands.
<http://www.njaudubon.org/SectionIBBA/IBBASiteGuide.aspx?sk=3052>

trees directly within the Park. Participants felt that native shade trees are needed, particularly near the playground. This will increase shade in that area and will cut down on any prevailing winds that may occur due to the open, flat land.

The following section refers to soccer fields on the eastern side of Union Road that are unusable due to wet conditions most of the year. Some participants of the workshop suggested that the areas in Kingwood Park that are unusable for sports due to wet conditions most of the year be converted to passive recreation use. Boardwalks could be constructed to accommodate activities such as hiking and birding. Interpretive signage could accompany the boardwalk from the field into the forested area. The same could be constructed on the western side of Union Road where forested areas are adjacent to the stream and additional farm fields.

In Kingwood Township, the recreation sports program is popular and children in the community participate in soccer, baseball, softball, football, basketball, and lacrosse. For the most part, the facilities at Kingwood Park are used for soccer, softball and baseball. Basketball practices and games are held in the Township elementary school and lacrosse and football is played at a field in Alexandria Township, or at the Delaware Valley Regional High School. This plan addresses each of the facilities provided for these activities, indicating where either a new facility is needed or if the existing facility can be upgraded.

SOCCKER FIELDS

The Kingwood Park consists of seven (7) soccer fields of varying sizes. There are three small fields, two medium-sized fields, and two large fields. There is an additional larger field at the northerly border of the park and is adjacent to a wetlands area and within floodplain, causing the field to remain very wet throughout the year. At the public meeting, participants indicated that this field is unusable and there is such demand for the use of all the fields that the problem needs to be remedied or the Township should provide a new field in a more appropriate location.

According to the Township Recreation Committee, the soccer fields are in constant use, unless one is rested for a year. There are approximately 125-150 children from 4 years old to high school-age that participate in the Township's recreation soccer program, Kingwood Recreational Soccer League (KRSL), in the fall and in the spring sessions. In addition, there is a local travel league, organized through Delaware Valley Soccer Club that practices on Kingwood Park soccer fields. The travel league consists of approximately 100-150 children on 5 or 6 teams.

All of these teams have similar schedules for practices and games, and while there have not been many scheduling conflicts, the fields are over-used. In some cases, two teams are practicing on one field at a time. As a last resort, if the fields are in poor condition due to weather or over-use, the Township recreation league will use a soccer field in Alexandria Township for practice and home games.

Participants at the public meeting suggested adjacent farm fields and vacant properties that may be available and appropriate for use as additional soccer practice or game fields. The Township is

investigating better drainage and stormwater management at the Park so that all fields remain usable year-round.

BASEBALL FIELDS

Kingwood Park consists of three (3) baseball fields. An additional baseball/softball field is located at the Township elementary school. None of these fields are regulation size making it difficult to hold home games and for older youth to properly train for high school teams. Baseball, Softball, and T-ball leagues are organized through the Delaware Valley Athletics Association (DVAA). According to the organization's website, the DVAA has listed goals for the season and beyond. Among others, they include: New fields at Alexandria Park, Riegel Ridge, and Kingwood Park; and continuation of field maintenance and improvement projects.

Participants at the public workshop also suggested that a new baseball and/or softball field should be constructed in a more suitable location. These comments were raised with regard to the fact that the current location is very wet. One young participant at the workshop stated that her baseball team was not able to have one home game last year because the field was too wet.

Basketball

Presently, the only indoor recreation facility is located at the Township elementary school. The Kingwood Basketball League (KBL) affords an opportunity to all residents of Kingwood Township and surrounding areas, grades K-8, to play league basketball. The program begins in late November and ends in mid-March. Games are typically played on Friday evenings and/or Saturdays. Practices are held during the week in the evenings. The KBL intends that all applicants who apply in time will be allowed to play. However, if the registration numbers exceed gym space, the league takes registrants on a first come, first served basis.

Recommendations for additional basketball facilities were suggested to be located at the Horseshoe Bend Road property which is slated for preservation in the coming months and has a large barn on the property. According to participants at the workshop, it was suggested that this barn could accommodate a basketball court, football and cheerleading practices, as described below.

POP WARNER FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING

The Del Val Dawgs a member of the Mountain Valley Conference of the Pop Warner league, which serves over 5,000 boys and girls from 5 to 15 years old in the Central Jersey Area in the counties of Somerset, Hunterdon, Union, Middlesex, Warren and Morris. Football and cheerleading with the Del Val Dawgs is open to kids who live within the Townships of Alexandria, Frenchtown, Holland, Kingwood, Milford and Lambertville. There are six Football teams and six Cheerleading teams, each consisting of about 20 kids.

Games are currently held at the Del Val High School football field and practices are held on the soccer fields at the Township elementary school from August to October. At the public meeting, it was suggested that the Township find a different location for the football and cheerleading teams to practice in order to preserve the condition of the soccer fields as much as possible. With the pending

preservation efforts of the Horseshoe Bend Road property, there is an opportunity to utilize the existing barn on the property for football, cheerleading, and other sports, like wrestling and basketball.

OTHER ACTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

The Horseshoe Bend Road property has been an important topic of discussion since the notion of preserving it was put on the table. The property, a 131-acre parcel, has a number of opportunities due to its size, location, and existing amenities. The parcel is a large open farm field with an existing barn structure that, as has been mentioned, would be ideal to accommodate indoor sporting activities that currently play on over-used facilities.

The property also has trails that could be maintained and used for horseback riding or hiking. The trails lead to the vicinity of Route 29 across from the D & R hike and bike path.

The Township has also discussed banning the use of ATV's on public property following the lead by the State of New Jersey. According to participants at the workshop, ATV use in forests and along streams, especially, has caused damage to streams and stream banks. However, there has been some interest expressed concerning the need for places for ATV use. An effort to address the desire for these types of facilities was attempted in Woodland Township, Burlington County in the NJ Pinelands in central New Jersey. The park operated for approximately 10 years, but closed in 2007 due to safety concerns and unauthorized use of adjacent lands that were not open to ATV use. In Woodland Township, it was reported by Burlington Central Dispatch, that there were 370 emergency calls in 67 months. The difficulties in addressing this need locally include safety and liability concerns, as well as the potential popularity of an ATV park in the region that may result in the unauthorized ridership on adjacent private lands. Because of these considerations, it is concluded that these vehicles should not be permitted for use on preserved land that is open to the public.

There is a Bocce league that plays in Kingwood Park. It is a league for adults, although youth are welcome to participate.

ACTION PLAN

In order to carry out the objectives of this Open Space and Recreation Plan, a number of actions must be carried out by the Township and its officials. As stated previously, the Township more than meets the minimum requirements set by the Balanced Land Use Concept. However, Kingwood has decided to evaluate any existing deficiencies and assess appropriate measures to increase the recreation and open space holdings in the Township. There are a number of cost sharing options the Township can utilize to help manage the costs of acquiring and developing recreational lands. The following is a summary of acquisition criteria, potential acquisitions/conservation easements, and implementation approaches and resources that can be used as guidance to current and future decision makers.

ACQUISITION CRITERIA

Future additions to the open space and recreation inventory of the Township will need to be evaluated in order to determine continuity with the Open Space and Recreation Plan. As part of the NJDEP Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant Program, municipalities are encouraged to identify all lands that may be potential open space and recreation acquisition or preservation targets. In this plan, Kingwood Township identifies almost all undeveloped lands and partially developed lands that are at least twice the minimum lot size of 7-acres (i.e. parcels 14-acres and larger) as potential open space and recreation targets (see [Figure 2 – Open Space and Recreation System Map](#)). While this may seem to be aggressive in identifying open space and recreation acquisitions, the purpose of the broad based approach is to allow the Township to take advantage of the streamlined funding application process if important lands become available for acquisition. In this way, the Township may also avert the expense of potentially costly and time-consuming application procedures in the future as open space and recreation funding is requested to assist with local acquisitions. The following criteria will help guide decision-making for future purchases.

Critical environmental features

Preserving critical environmental features is a mainstay of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Protecting a variety of interconnected systems, such as stream corridors, forested areas, wetlands, steep slopes, critical habitat, etc. is a key factor in the overall open space system. When evaluating potential purchases, properties containing multiple critical environmental features should be highly valued, especially when they adjoin other environmentally sensitive areas. When environmentally sensitive properties are acquired, passive recreation should be the end use, provided this is conducive to the preservation of the valued feature(s).

Development pressure

Development pressure can also expedite purchase of available lands. Available parcels may be attractive for potential development. If this is the case, and the parcel meets one or more of the criteria or goals of the Plan, acquisition priority should be given where it can provide a valuable addition for passive or active recreation, for preservation of water quality or for preservation of endangered species. Preservation and enhancement becomes increasingly important in locations of the Township where development density is high and no preserved open land exists.

Greenways/Linkages/Trails

Parcels that connect existing or proposed open space, expand existing or proposed greenways/linkages or provide additional opportunities to expand trail systems are valuable additions to the overall open space system in the Township. A linear or contiguous system of open space that provides access for the

greater population and preserves uninterrupted habitat, is a stated goal and important to protect. This criterion can be used to evaluate potential acquisition sites for both passive and active recreation facilities.

Increase contiguous holdings

The contiguity of parcels to existing or proposed preserved areas should be an influencing factor. Areas that can contribute to contiguous open space will help to achieve goals regarding expanding open space, preserving habitats and environmental features and maintaining the rural character of the Township. Both active and passive recreational facilities can be examined using this evaluation criterion.

Develop new linkages

As parcels become available and purchased over time, new or expanded linear opportunities may become evident. In this event, parcels that may add connectivity to a new system should be given priority for purchase. Passive and active open space assessments can use this as an evaluation criterion.

Cultural/historical lands

Preserving historically or culturally significant sites is also a consideration when purchasing properties. These significant lands can help to preserve the character and historically rich identity of the Township. Preservation of these lands should generally be geared towards an end use of passive recreation.

Scenic Viewsheds

Maintaining the rural character and vistas in the Township can also be a consideration when purchasing lands. Scenic viewsheds offer a sense of place and feel to a community, not only for residents but also for those traveling through an area, and are worthy of protecting. Preservation of these lands should be considered for passive recreation and open space, since development would most likely alter the scenic qualities.

Evaluation for active recreation

As noted above, the Township currently provides active recreation at Kingwood Park on Union Road and at the Township Elementary School on CR 519. It has been determined that the Township requires additional space for active recreation due to the over-use on all of the fields and due to the poor conditions on some of the fields. Consideration of the size of the parcel, topography, soil conditions, location and access to the site should be influential to the purchase of a site. If a parcel is well suited for active recreation, the next step is to determine the development potential of the site for the proposed activities. A consideration for these sites would include proximity to populated centers or other regions where location would promote accessible use to the greatest proportion of the Township's residents. If the site is large enough to accommodate the proposed facility and meets the requirements set forth in the Action Plan it should be considered for purchase.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

2000 Kingwood Township Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Township prepared an Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2000 which identified the following items as part of the Action Plan:

- Adopt this Open Space and Recreation Plan Element as an element of the Master Plan.
- Develop a strategy to maximize the dollars available to the Township for open space acquisition, such as loans, donations, matching grants, etc.
- Submit an application to NJDEP for a Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant. Kingwood Township already has a funding mechanism for open space acquisition, the Open Space Tax. Upon acceptance of the Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Planning Board and Township Committee, the Township will be eligible for funding from the Green Acres Incentive Program. This will make low interest loans and grants available.
- Develop and refine a list of high priority properties for preservation.
- Initiate contact with property owners and investigate their future plans and interest in selling the property or conservation easements.
- Initiate purchase discussions with owners of the highest priority properties that are available. Initiate the acquisition process, subject to the resolution of any funding issues and funding availability.
- Coordinate open space preservation efforts with County, State, and Federal agencies, non-profit organizations and other private organizations and individuals.
- Publicize open space preservation efforts, accomplishments and goals through appropriate publications and mailings.
- Establish strategic partnerships with conservation organizations and other non-profit, volunteer organizations to maximize the preservation of open space and minimize the Township's obligations with respect to monitoring conservation easements.
- Review, at least biannually, this plan, the efforts to implement this plan, and any changes in the goal and policies of the Township and develop revisions to this Plan so as to incorporate changes in goals, policies, and strategies and to better effectuate the Township's goals and policies.

Active Recreation Facility and Open Space Management

The proper management of Township-owned parcels is necessary to ensure the long term health and viability of open space and recreation areas. Management of Township-owned facilities and areas should be assessed for optimum benefit to users and habitat maintenance. Additionally, there is a need to set forth policy for the continuing maintenance of open space areas. For example, an open field purchased for preservation should be maintained by the Township to allow for continued grassland habitat and not be allowed to go fallow.

Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park (D&R Canal)

The D&R Canal State Park is a 70-mile state park, of which approximately 11 miles extend through Kingwood Township. It is one of central New Jersey's most popular recreational corridors for canoeing,

jogging, hiking, bicycling, and fishing. The canal and the park are part of the National Recreation Trail System. This linear park is also a valuable wildlife corridor connecting fields and forests. The upper portion of the feeder canal follows the Delaware River through historic New Jersey towns such as Stockton and Lambertville. Kingwood Township is one of five boat launch access points to the Delaware River. The D&R Canal State Park and the Lower Delaware River Wild & Scenic designation of the river through Kingwood provides a logical basis for future open space preservation and acquisition planning, particularly if environmentally sensitive and scenic lands become available. Adjacency to the Park and River is a desirable consideration for future open space and natural resource acquisition and protection.

Public access to the Delaware River and the D&R Canal trail along the river is provided at several locations along Route 29 in Kingwood Township. These locations are listed below from south to north and can be easily found by using the State highway mile markers along the roadside:

- Mile 26.6 – Boat Launch - Delaware River Access with parking area accommodating boat trailers and access to the trail;
- Mile 27.5 – Parking area with trail access;
- Mile 30.6 – Access to the trail with no parking area;
- Intersection of Route 29 and Warford Road – Access to the trail with no parking area;
- Mile 33.3 – Access to the trail with no parking area; and
- Mile 33.7 – Kingwood Boat Launch with parking area accommodating boat trailers and access to the trail.

The Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park - Bulls Island public access area is located just to the south of the Kingwood Township municipal boundary with Delaware Township at Raven Rock. Bulls Island includes park offices, comfort station, parking, a boat launch, a picnic area with play equipment, campgrounds, access to the trail and a pedestrian bridge across the River to Lumberville, PA. In Lumberville, there is public access to a trail along the Delaware Canal State Park that is located on the Pennsylvania side of the river and extends between Easton and Bristol PA.

Delaware River



Viewed from one of the many access points located
along the D&R Canal hiking path.

New Jersey Trails Association (NJTA)

NJTA is a cooperative project of environmental organizations, dedicated to making free information conveniently available to the public about places to walk. NJTA assembles information on trails open to the public, and posts the information on their website (www.njtrails.org). NJTA works with state, county, local, and non-profit land preservation groups and parks agencies to plan more trails. Kingwood Township should partner with NJTA to enhance awareness of trails in the Township as well as in trail development and planning.

Community Education

Educating residents on ways to preserve and conserve natural resources can be a valuable tool for expanding open space resources in the Township. Providing educational materials and informative seminars at a Township or neighborhood level may encourage residents to place conservation easements on their property or help to encourage others in the community to do so.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES AND RESOURCES

A coordinated open space and recreation effort should integrate environmental, cultural and social protection strategies as core elements of the preservation effort. The Township will utilize this approach, as outlined in this plan. The programs and approaches outlined below represent a menu of implementation strategies which the Township will research in order to determine their merit and application in Kingwood Township's continued preservation efforts.

Open Space Tax

Kingwood Township had adopted an Open Space Tax which generates three cents per hundred dollars (\$0.03/\$100) of assessed value. These revenues can be used to fund the acquisition of land for open space preservation, farmland preservation, historic site preservation, and recreational purposes.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program

In 1999 the State Legislature passed the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund, securing funding for a state-wide open space and recreation plan for New Jersey. In order to provide support to local governments who have adopted an open space tax and prepared an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP), the Green Acres Program developed the Planning Incentive Grant (PIG). This program provides 50% matching grants to local governments for the acquisition of land for recreation and conservation purposes. To be eligible for funding, local governments must have a Green Acres approved OSRP, and either an open space tax, or an approved alternative funding source which is stable and sufficient, such as an annual tax levy. The Township is a participant in the PIG program by virtue of its open space tax and 2000 Open Space Plan.

The Kingwood Township Open Space and Recreation System Map (Figure 2) should be adopted by the Township Committee once the OSRP is adopted by the Planning Board. It will serve as a 'capital spending plan' to the extent that any "Potential Open Space and Recreation Acquisition" identified on

the map will be eligible for PIG funding from Green Acres once [Figure 2](#) is adopted by the Township Committee at a duly noticed public hearing. This map is an essential requirement of Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) program.

Hunterdon County Open Space Preservation Program

Hunterdon County provides assistance for the acquisition of open space properties. A county-wide 3 cent tax funds this program. Land that provides regionally significant open space opportunities for a large majority of the County's residents is preserved, maintained, and operated by the County. The County has prepared an Open Space and Recreation Plan that identifies short and long-term goals related to acquisition and maintenance. Many of the acquisition priorities relate to expanding or enhancing existing park and trail systems. These include areas such as stream corridors, greenbelts, and expansions of existing facilities.

The Environmental Infrastructure Trust Financing Program

This program provides low interest loans to municipalities, counties and authorities for clean water-related activities, including land acquisition when watershed management and water quality benefits are provided. With funding from both NJDEP and the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, the program utilizes a Federal Priority System developed each year by NJDEP. Loans are made for 20-year terms at a blended interest rate. Local governments receive 0% interest rate for half of the allowable costs and market rate interest rates for the remainder.

National Recreational Trails Program

NJDEP provides financial assistance for developing and maintaining trails and trail facilities for non-motorized, motorized and multi-use purposes. The maximum grant award is \$25,000, and projects are funded on an 80% federal share and 20% matching share basis.

Conservation Easements

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a nonprofit land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect important conservation values while continuing to allow landowners to own, use, sell or pass the property on to heirs. Recreational land, both passive and active, can be made more accessible with access provided through conservation easements. Conservation easements typically encompass some desirable environmental resource, such as a stream, floodplain or steep slope area, and provide a measure of protection against development to that resource. Limited access permitted through conservation easements is a means to make certain lands more accessible to the public. Access through conservation easements should promote the creation or expansion of linked open space corridors or other recreational areas to create or enhance a network of open space that can be accessed by means other than automobile, and should not impact the resource protected by the conservation easement. Conservation easements should be encouraged for all properties with habitats that support threatened or endangered species.

Partnering with Other Agencies

There are a number of agencies in Hunterdon County that are active in land preservation initiatives. The State of New Jersey is most prominent in Kingwood Township and will likely continue to purchase land for both passive and active recreation facilities. The Township can work in concert with the State Green Acres, DEP, and other agencies, as well as with non-profits such as the Hunterdon Land Trust and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation in order to promote the preservation of key environmental resources identified in this plan and the Master Plan.

Non-profit groups, such as the HLT, can often provide leveraging funds to municipalities or other agencies and are critical to the overall process. These groups can also serve to educate the public about preservation efforts and provide financial support to preservation projects where needed.

SUMMARY OF ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan provides a toolbox for the Township to assist in the identification, selection, and implementation of acquiring open space and recreational areas. Identifying potential acquisition parcels can be attained by using the acquisition criteria which have been identified as features that are environmentally, socially or culturally significant to the Township. These include critical environmental resources, linkages, contiguous holdings and the like. Once the Township has identified potential parcels, these lands can be acquired or protected through a variety of means. Partnering with the State, County and private organizations and reaching out to private landowners helps to bolster open space preservation. Consequently, the Action Plan can be viewed as a guidebook to create a long lasting agenda of open space and recreation opportunities in the Township.

Kingwood Township Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey

With financial assistance provided through a 2009 Smart Growth Grant awarded by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, Kingwood Township prepared a survey for residents to voice their opinions on local open space and recreation needs and preferences. The objective was to gather citizen input for the Township to assist in updating the Kingwood Township Open Space and Recreation Plan.

The following overview of the top responses to survey questions was taken from survey results compiled by Deborah Kratzer, of the Environmental Commission, who participated on the ANJEC Grant coordinating team for this project. The complete survey results may be found in an Appendix to this Open Space and Recreation Plan:

Out of 58 respondents to the survey:

- 33 indicated that “the preservation of additional land for passive recreation (e.g. hiking, walking)” was very important.

- 31 residents rated the “preservation of land for the protection of groundwater” as “very important”, while 12 indicated “important”, 2 “somewhat important” and 5 indicating this was “not important”.
- Approximately one-half of respondents (28 responses) indicated that two open space initiatives were “very important”, including (1) the “preservation of land to create greenways connecting recreation areas or existing open space areas” and (2) the “preservation of land to shape growth and/or maintain the character of the community”.
- In response to the question asking residents “What types of recreation/facilities and park areas do members of your household use currently in Kingwood Township?” the top response indicated was a total of 31 expressing their preference for “walk/bike/jog path” as the top preference for new recreation facilities.
- When asked “What other type(s) of recreation activities/facilities would you participate in/use if available in Kingwood?” a wide variety of responses were received, however “equestrian trails/parks” received the most of any single response provided with 10 responses indicating that this activity as the one they would use.

The comprehensive survey results provided in the appendix to this plan provide a basis to inform and evaluate local open space and recreation needs. However despite a vigorous outreach that attempted to encourage the broadest participation among Kingwood Township’s residents, only 58 responses were ultimately received.

Recommendations

- Upgrade existing facilities;
- Create a centralized location for facilities;
- Design buffering between neighboring properties (Green Acres will require landscaping);
- The Open Space and Recreation System Map needs to be kept updated with any new acquisitions or information changes;
- A system of naming trails and open space properties is needed (in cooperation with Historic Society);
- A coordinated system of signs should be developed – directional, site identification and within the parks and open space properties;
- Continue to build partnerships with State, County and private non-profit agencies to acquire open space and utilize available funding for both preservation and passive and active recreation facilities development; and
- Periodically conduct citizen outreach and survey the residents to determine local open space and recreation needs.

SYSTEM MAP

The Kingwood Township Open Space and Recreation System Map depicted in [Figure 2: Open Space and Recreation System Map](#) identifies existing open space lands at the municipal, county and state level and private and quasi-private areas, including lands with open space or conservation easements. This map also identifies potential open space and recreation acquisition lands and is the primary basis for identifying future land acquisitions and preservation funding opportunities and needs. This map identifies the existing inventory of preserved and protected lands to assist Township open space planners and their partners in identifying future acquisition priorities. Preserved farms and target farms are also included on [Figure 2](#), as they are depicted on [Figure 4](#), to identify where open space opportunities may build upon preserved and targeted farmland that have been or will be preserved through taxpayer-funded public funding sources.

In accordance with NJDEP Green Acres Program requirements for Planning Incentive Grant funding for open space and recreation land acquisition, [Figure 2](#) should be adopted by the Township Committee at a duly noticed public hearing following the adoption of the Open Space and Recreation Plan by the Planning Board. Once adopted by the Township Committee as the Township's official open space map, and upon submission and approval of the adopted map to Green Acres, Kingwood Township will be able to access Green Acres funding for any "Potential Open Space and Recreation Acquisition" that is identified on [Figure 2](#).

Appendix A: Open Space and Recreation System Map Keyed Index

Index	Block	Lot	Acres	Description
Township Owned				
1	2	16	35.14	Township Owned – Preserved Farm
2	7	2.01	53.64	Township Owned – Preserved Farm
3	14	43	2	Township Owned - Old Fairview School
4	19	5.01	81.67	Township Owned – Preserved Farm
5	19	7	0.37	Township Owned - Kingwood Park
6	19	8	51.46	Township Owned - Kingwood Park
7	20	1.01	63.73	Township Owned - Preserved Farm
8	38	12	1.3	Township Owned - Vacant Land
44	14	30.01	106.41	Township-Owned – Horseshoe Bend Park
Conservation Easements				
9	4	7.22	6	State Held Conservation Easement
10	5.01	2	2	State Held Conservation Easement
11	12	31.01	25.1	NJCF/HLTA
12	24	14.01	33.3	HLTA
13	27.01	4	0.25	Green Acres Easement
14	33	14.10	55	HLTA
15	40	23	24	HLTA Conservation Easement
16	40	24	119.1	State Held Conservation Easement
17	41	16	113.9	State Held Conservation Easement
18	41	23	0.2	State Held Conservation Easement
19	41.01	1	3.6	State Held Conservation Easement
20	41.01	2	2.5	State Held Conservation Easement
21	50	1	5	State Held Conservation Easement
22	50	5	2	State Held Conservation Easement
State Acquired				
23	4	7.25	36.2	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	13	2	12.31	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	14	35.01	109	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	20	2.01	57	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	23	1	1.75	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	38	23	18.4	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	40	3	1.68	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	40	5	2.83	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	40	18.03	3	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	40	20	153.47	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	40	26	48.48	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	40	26.01	3.4	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
23	40	100.05	4.23	State Acquired - D&R Canal Watershed Greenway
24	14	28.02	131.4	State Acquired
25	28	2.01	98.93	State Acquired - Delaware River Bluffs

Kingwood Township Open Space and Recreation Plan
May 2011; Amended July 10, 2014

Index	Block	Lot	Acres	Description
25	38	20	64.6	State Acquired - Delaware River Bluffs
25	38	24	0.97	State Acquired - Delaware River Bluffs
25	38	27	14.47	State Acquired - Delaware River Bluffs
25	38	36	133.78	State Acquired - Delaware River Bluffs
26	38	13	2.6	State Acquired
27	38	13.01	3.2	State Acquired
28	38	13.02	4.9	State Acquired
29	39	25	8	State Acquired
30	42	8	0.48	State Acquired
31	50	100	58	State Acquired - D&R Canal State Park
31	50.05	1	8.5	State Acquired - D&R Canal State Park
31	51	2	15.35	State Acquired - D&R Canal State Park
31	51	47		State Acquired - D&R Canal State Park
31	51	100		State Acquired - D&R Canal State Park
32	50	4	8.44	State Acquired
33	50	10		State Acquired
34	50	16		State Acquired
35	50	17		State Acquired
36	50.04	1	3	State Acquired
37	51.01	100	3.7	State Acquired
Potential Open Space/Recreation Areas				
38	14	35.01	110	Local or State Owned with Potential Open Space/Recreation Use
39	19	7	.03	Local or State Owned with Potential Open Space/Recreation Use
40	28	2.01	28.93	Local or State Owned with Potential Open Space/Recreation Use
41	38	12	1.3	Local or State Owned with Potential Open Space/Recreation Use
42	50	1	5.5	Local or State Owned with Potential Open Space/Recreation Use
43	50	5	1.5	Local or State Owned with Potential Open Space/Recreation Use

Open Space and Recreation Plan Amendment July 10, 2014

The Kingwood Township Open Space and Recreation Plan Element was adopted on May 12, 2014. This amendment to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Element of the Master Plan consists of the following revisions to the adopted Plan. **The amendment has been inserted into the Plan in green text:**

1. Revise the cover of the Open Space and Recreation Plan by adding: “Amended: July 10, 2014” under the date.
2. On Page ii., insert the following text in the Table of Contents between “Appendix A. Open Space and Recreation System Map Keyed Index . . . 33” and “LIST OF FIGURES:”

“Open Space and Recreation Plan Amendment, July 10, 2014,” and renumber the pages in the Open Space and Recreation Plan and Table of Contents according to the changes resulting from this Master Plan Amendment.

3. On Page 5, revise “Table 1: Township-Owned Lands by Block and Lot,” by inserting a new line at the bottom of the list of Township-Owned sites to include: Block 14, Lot 30.01, with the address 178 Horseshoe Bend Road , with the Name/Type designation “Horseshoe Bend Park,” the acreage: 106.41 acres; and replace the acreage “TOTAL” for Table 1 to now read: 396.72 acres, as follows.

Table 1: Township-Owned Lands by Block and Lot

Block	Lot	Address	Name/Type	Acreage
2	16	45 Oak Summit Rd.	Preserved farm	35.14
7	2.01	40 Oak Summit Rd.	Preserved Farm	53.64
19	5.01	284 Union Rd.	Preserved farm ¹⁰	82.67
19	7	216 Union Rd.	Kingwood Park	0.37
19	8	200 Union Rd.	Kingwood Park	51.46
20	1.01	Kingwood Rd. (CR519)	Preserved farm ¹¹	63.73
38	12	51 Milltown Rd.	Vacant land	1.3
14	43	12 Fairview Rd.	Old Fairview School	2.0
14	30.01	178 Horseshoe Bend Rd.	Horseshoe Bend Park	106.41
TOTAL				396.72

¹⁰ Preserved farmland with exception area to be used for affordable housing; and

¹¹ Preserved farmland with exception area including Township DPW operations and portion of exception area to be used for affordable housing.

4. On Page 6, under the discussion: “Sites and Facilities” add the following paragraph describing Horseshoe Bend Park as the last paragraph immediately preceding the heading “County Lands:”

Horseshoe Bend Park, Block 14, Lot 30.01, consisting of 106.41 acres was acquired by Kingwood Township using local open space funding on May 24, 2011. The park is located within an open space and farmland preservation project area where the NJDEP, private, non-profit organizations and private landowners have coordinated open space preservation. Public open space and recreation facilities at Horseshoe Bend Park consist of forested areas, open fields, free-flowing streams and a series of public trails that may be accessed by way of a driveway into the park from Horseshoe Bend Road, which connects to NJ State Route Highway 12 at the west end of Frenchtown Borough. Planned park facilities and enhancements include improvements the evolving trail networks under construction, way-finding signage and kiosks, trail markers, and a comfort station for the public. The park has a 7 acre "Leash Free Dog Area". In addition, there is a 9,750 square foot Morton building with bathroom facilities that is used for a variety of activities such as dog shows, wrestling, cheer leading practice and private parties. The adjoining non-municipally owned public lands at Horseshoe Bend Park provide additional open space and recreation opportunities to the public, which are managed by the Township through a Memorandum of Agreement with the State Department of Environmental Protection - Division of Parks and Forestry. The Township will seek State, County and other funding assistance to enhance public facilities offered at the Park.

5. On Page 33, “Appendix A: Open Space and Recreation System Map Keyed Index,” revise the table under the heading “Township Owned” to include Horseshoe Bend Park as the last listed Township Owned site, as follows:

Index	Block	Lot	Acres	Description
Township Owned				
44	14	30.01	106.41	Horseshoe Bend Park

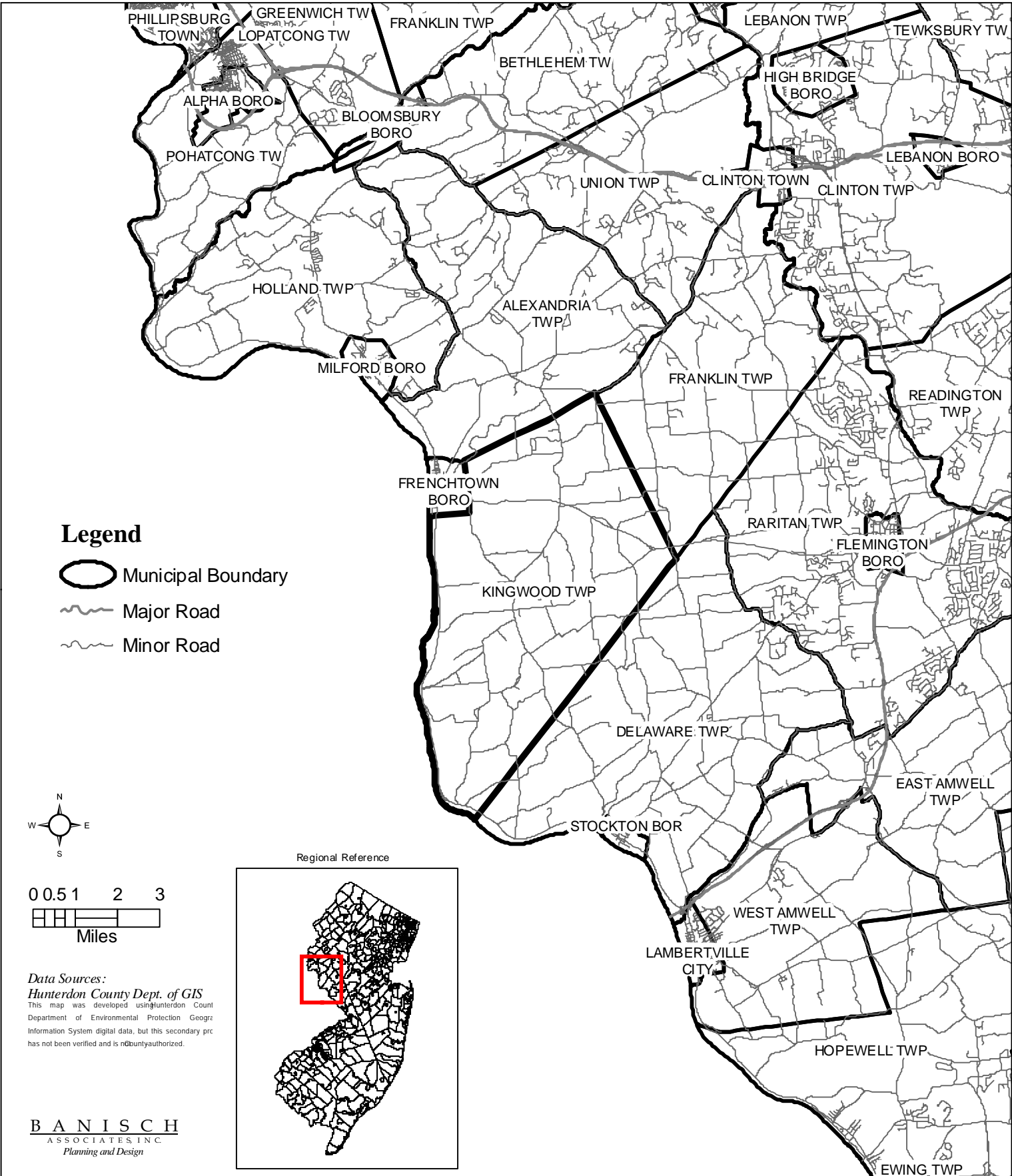
6. Replace Figure 2 and Figure 2a with the following two new Figures, which identify Horseshoe Bend Park, an Index key number for the park, which two Figures are now titled as follows:
 - a. “Figure 2 Open Space and Recreation System Map, Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, April 2011, Revised July 2014;” and
 - b. “Figure 2a Open Space and Recreation System Map, Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, April 2011, Revised July 2014.”
7. Add this “Open Space and Recreation Plan Amendment, July10, 2014” following Appendix A in the Open Space and Recreation Plan Element of the Master Plan.

End of Master Plan Amendment

Kingwood Township

Hunterdon County, New Jersey
April 2011

Figure 1
Regional Location



Kingwood Township












Hunterdon County, New Jersey

April 2011

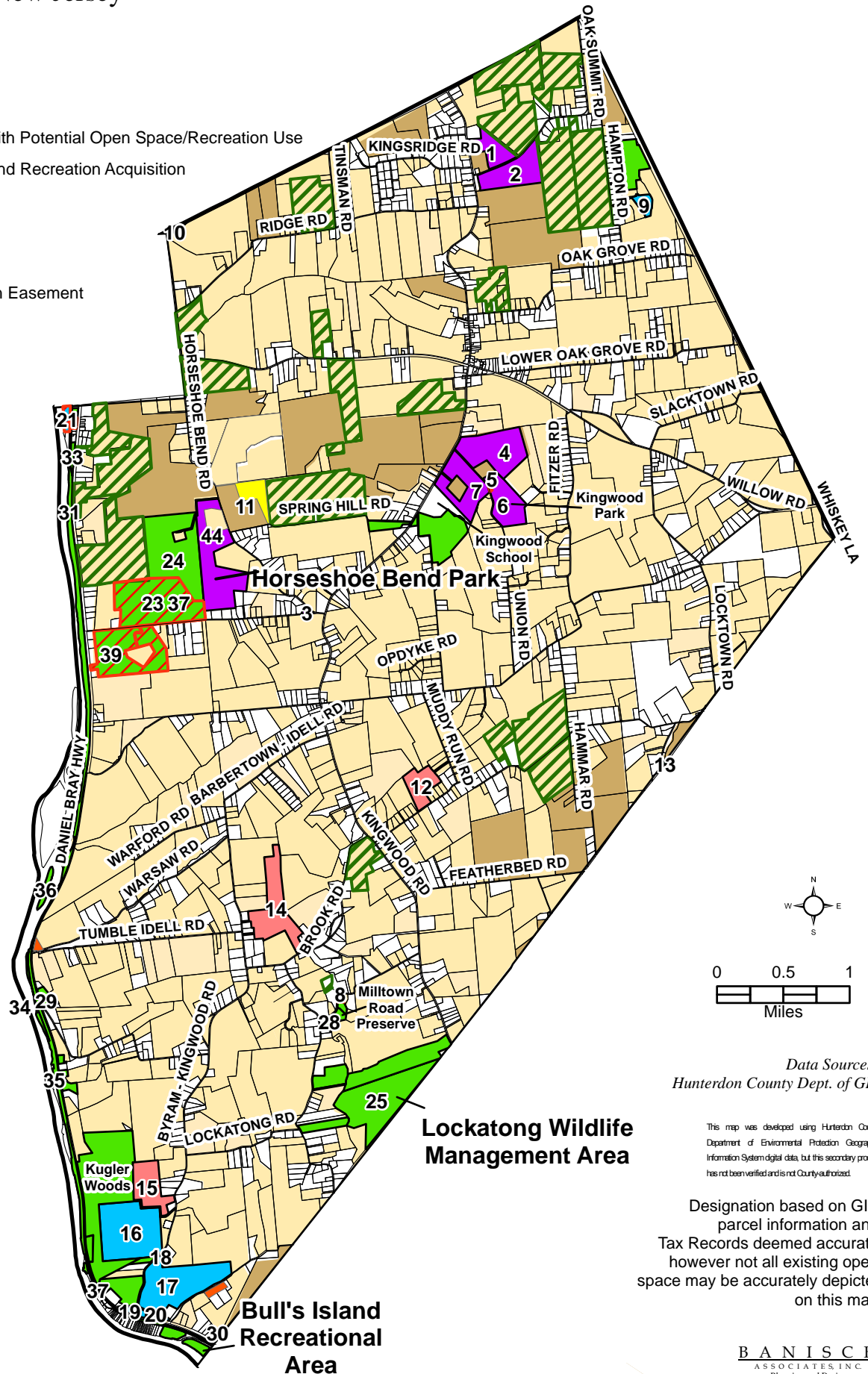
Revised July 2014

Figure 2
Open Space and Recreation System Map

Legend

-  Local or State Owned with Potential Open Space/Recreation Use
-  Potential Open Space and Recreation Acquisition
-  Target Farm
-  Township Owned Land
-  State Acquired
-  State Held Conservation Easement
-  Green Acres Easement
-  HLTA
-  NJCF
-  Preserved Farm
-  Parcel

*See Appendix A in OSRP
for index table



Data Sources:
Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS

This map was developed using Hunterdon County Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified and is not County authorized.










Designation based on GIS parcel information and Tax Records deemed accurate, however not all existing open space may be accurately depicted on this map.

Kingwood Township

Hunterdon County, New Jersey

April 2011; Revised July 2014

Legend

-  Target Farm
-  Parcel
-  Preserved Farm
-  Township Owned Land
-  State Acquired
-  State Held Conservation Easement
-  Green Acres Easement
-  HLTA
-  NJCF

Potential Open Space and Recreation Acquisition




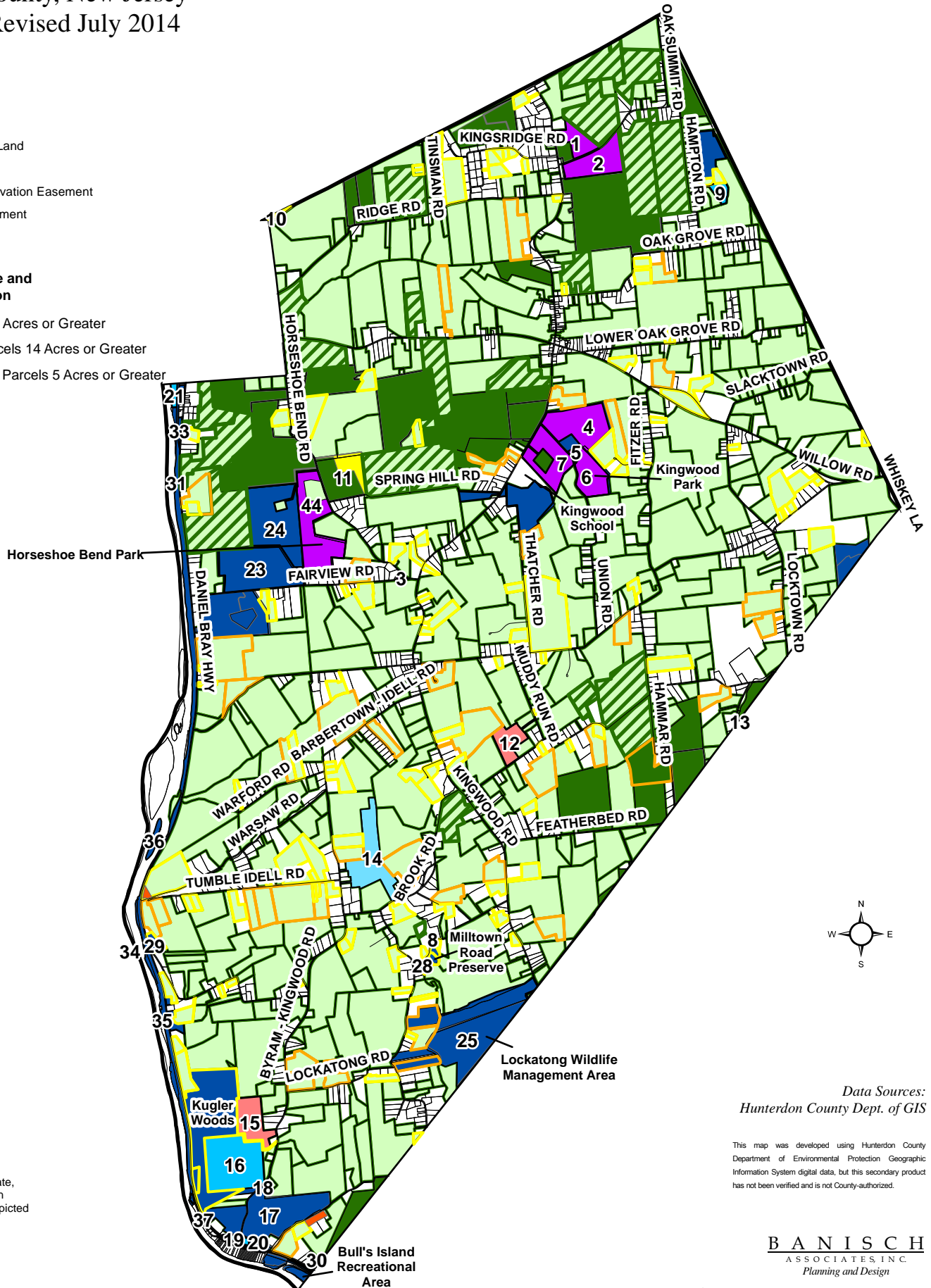
-  Vacant Parcel 2 Acres or Greater
-  Residential Parcels 14 Acres or Greater
-  Farm Assessed Parcels 5 Acres or Greater

Figure 2a
Open Space and Recreation System Map



Designation based on GIS parcel information and Tax Records deemed accurate, however not all existing open space may be accurately depicted on this map.

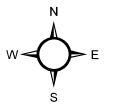
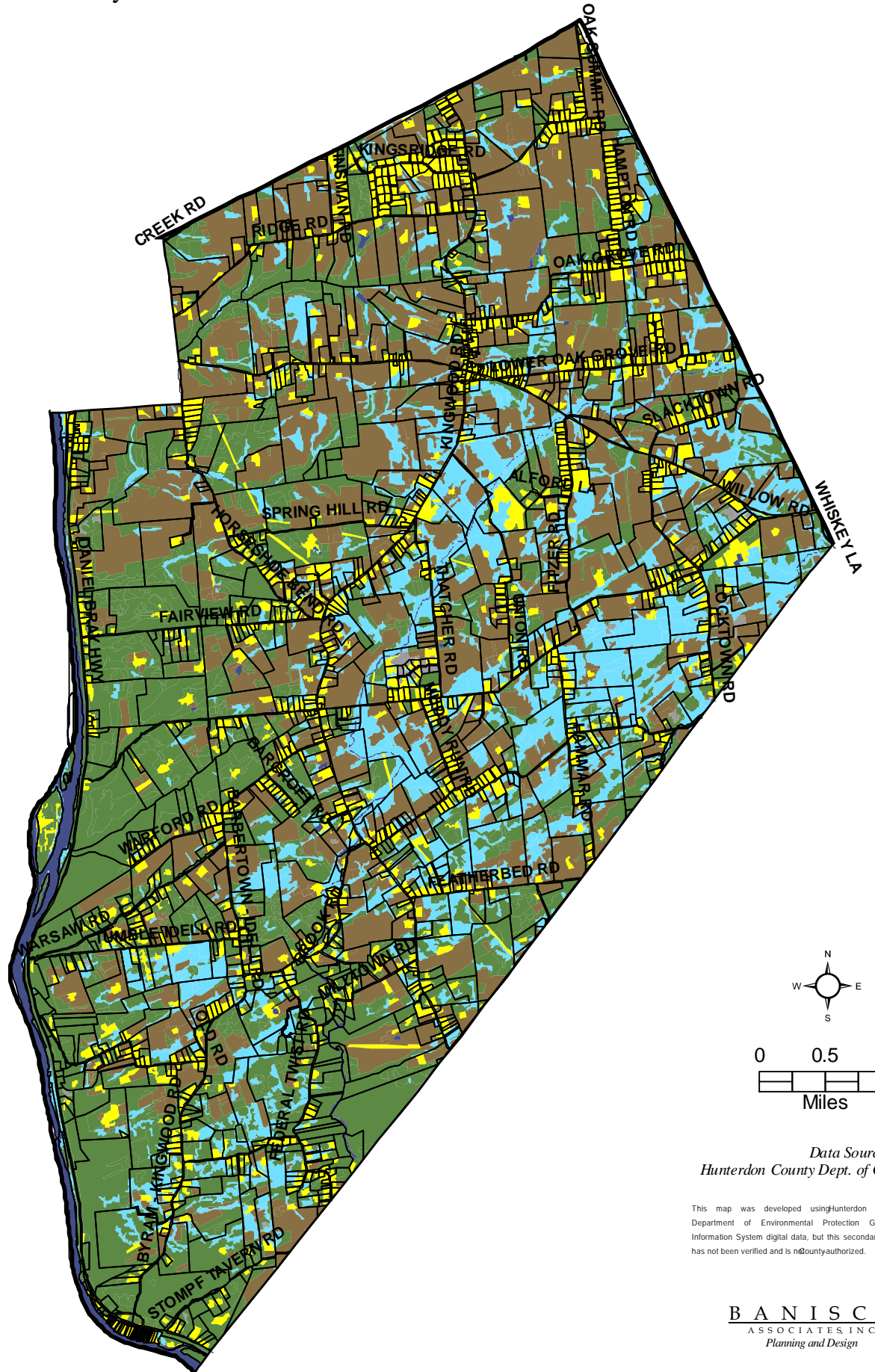
Data Sources:
Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS

This map was developed using Hunterdon County Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified and is not County-authorized.

BANISCH
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Planning and Design

Legend

-  Agriculture
-  Barren Land
-  Forest
-  Urban
-  Water
-  Wetlands



0 0.5 1
 Miles

Data Sources:
 Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS

This map was developed using Hunterdon County Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified and is not county authorized.



Kingwood Township

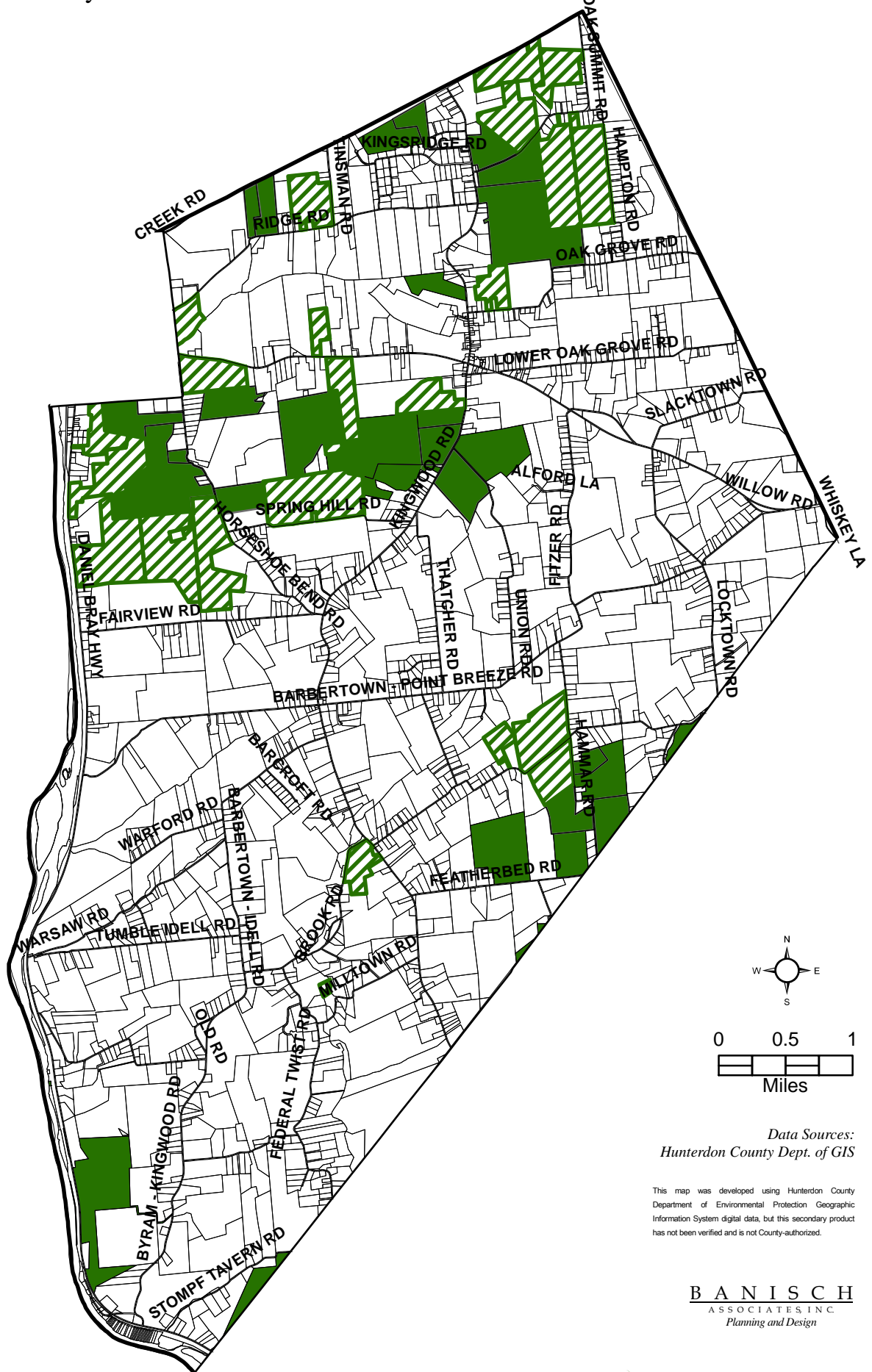
Hunterdon County, New Jersey

April 2011

Figure 4
Preserved and Targeted Farmland

Legend

-  Target Farm
-  Preserved Farm



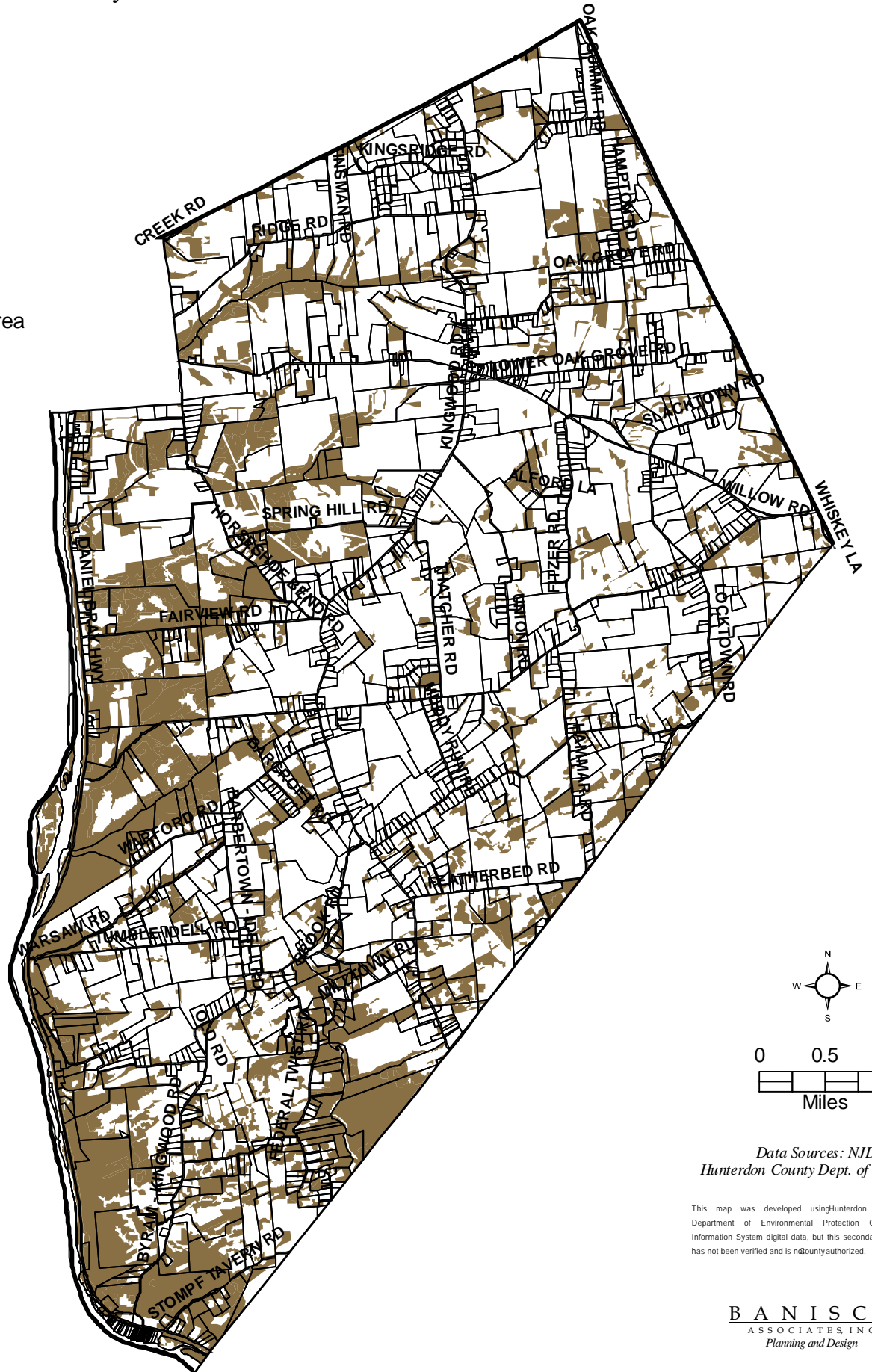
Data Sources:
Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS

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BANISCH
ASSOCIATES, INC.
Planning and Design

Legend

 Forested Area

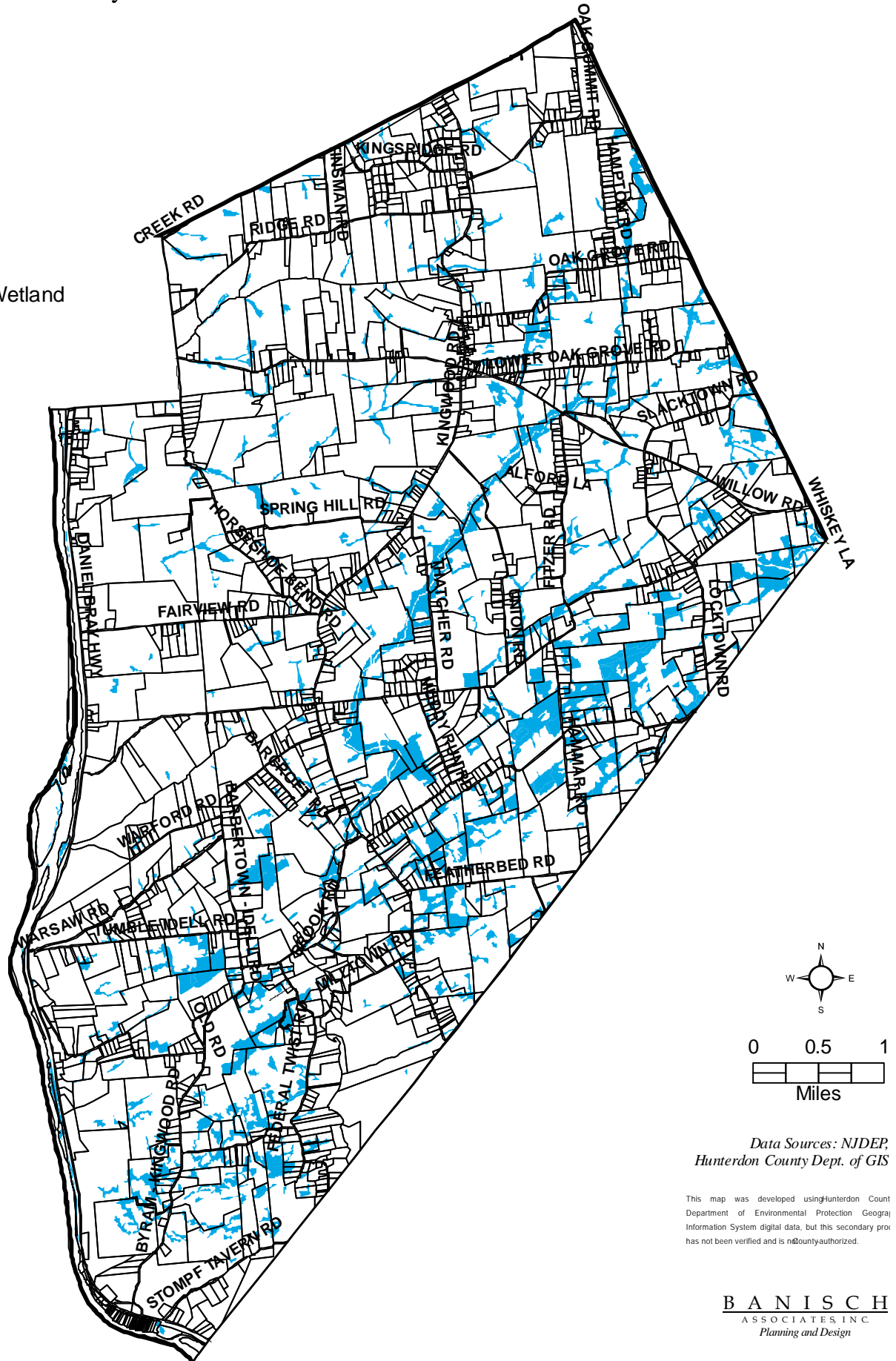


*Data Sources: NJDEP,
 Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS*

This map was developed using Hunterdon County Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified and is not county authorized.

Legend

 Forested Wetland

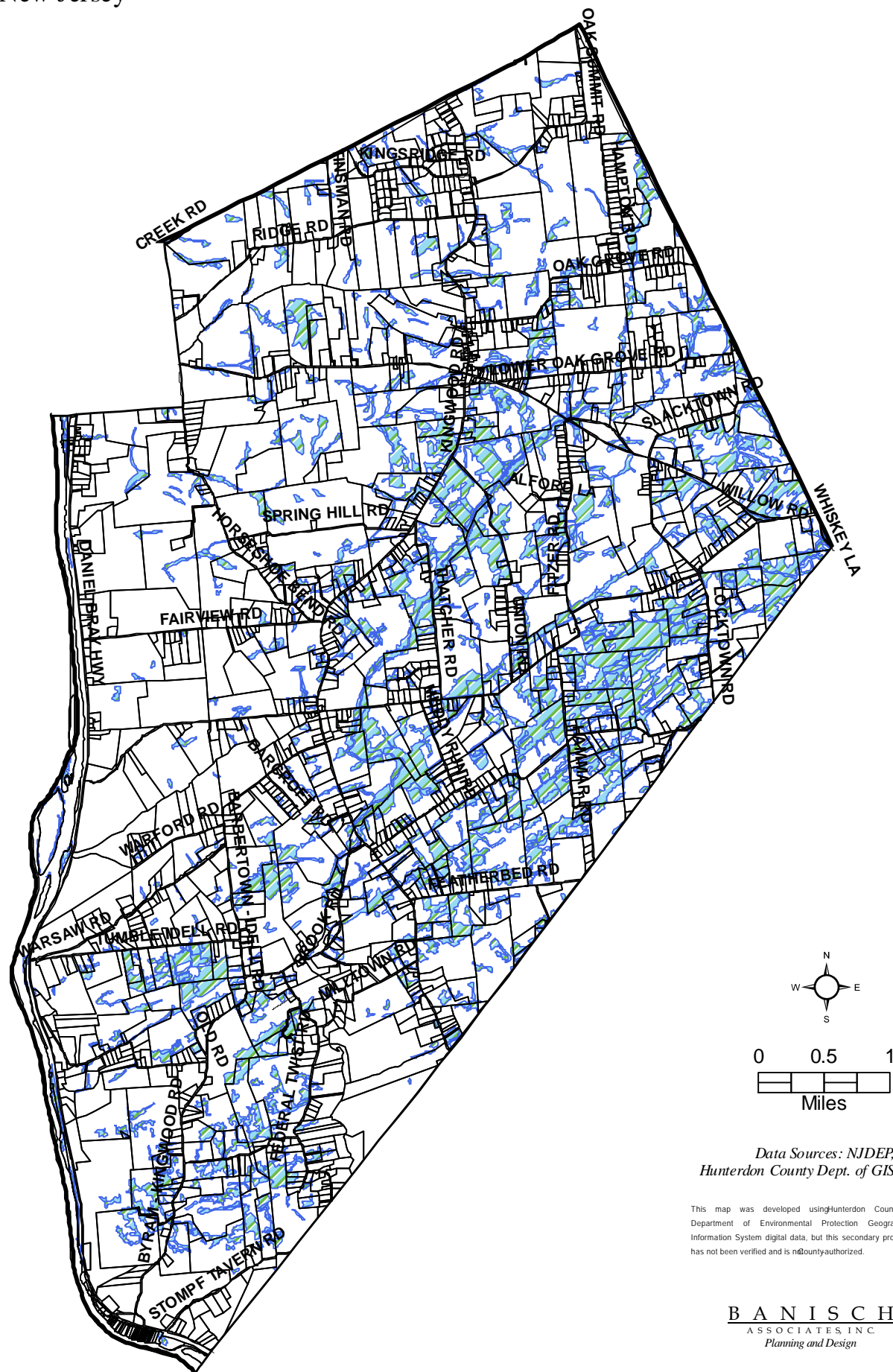


*Data Sources: NJDEP,
Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS*




This map was developed using Hunterdon County Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified and is not county authorized.

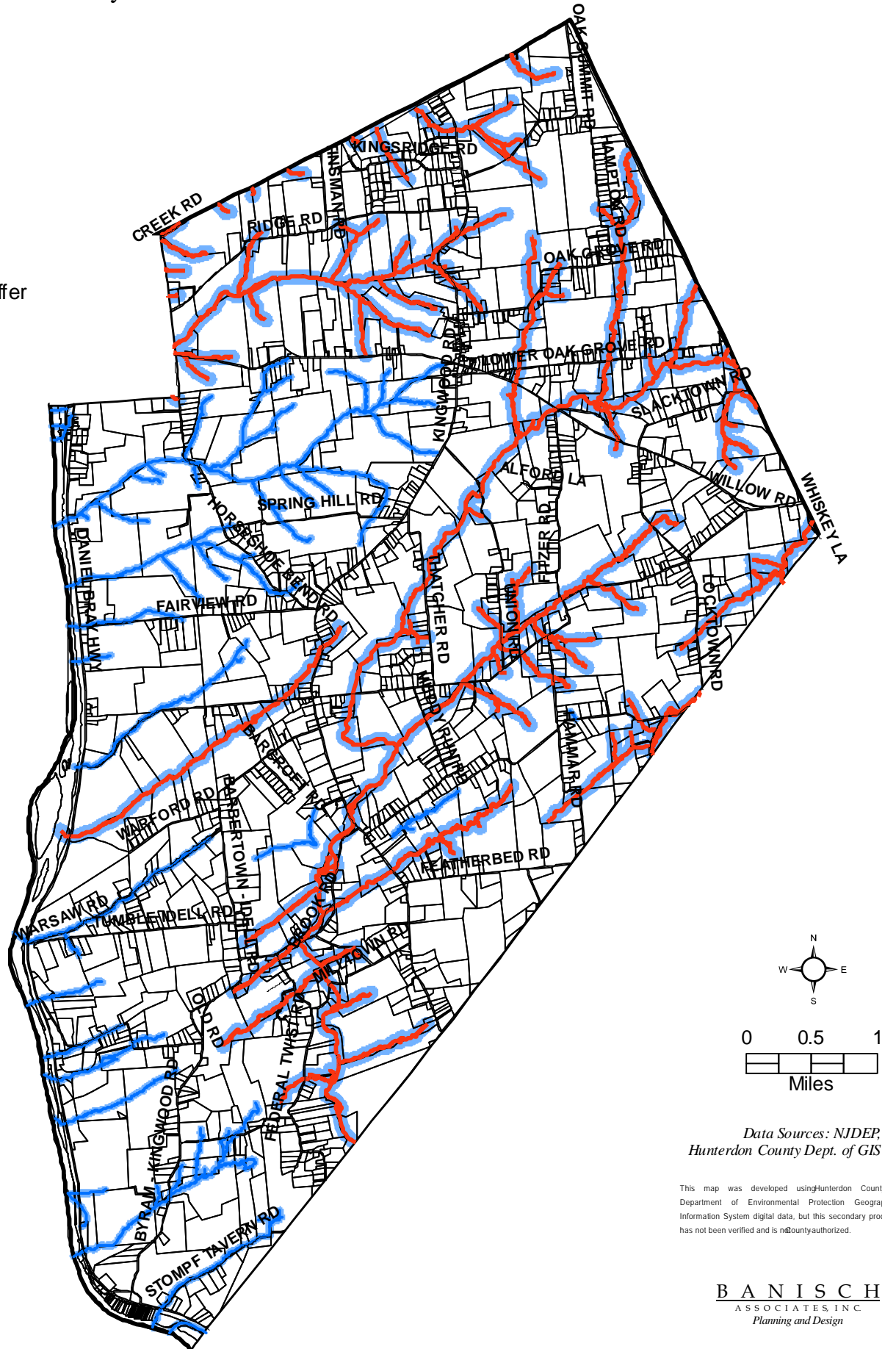
Hunterdon County, New Jersey
April 2011

Figure 7 Wetlands



Legend

-  Stream
-  C1 Stream
-  Stream Buffer

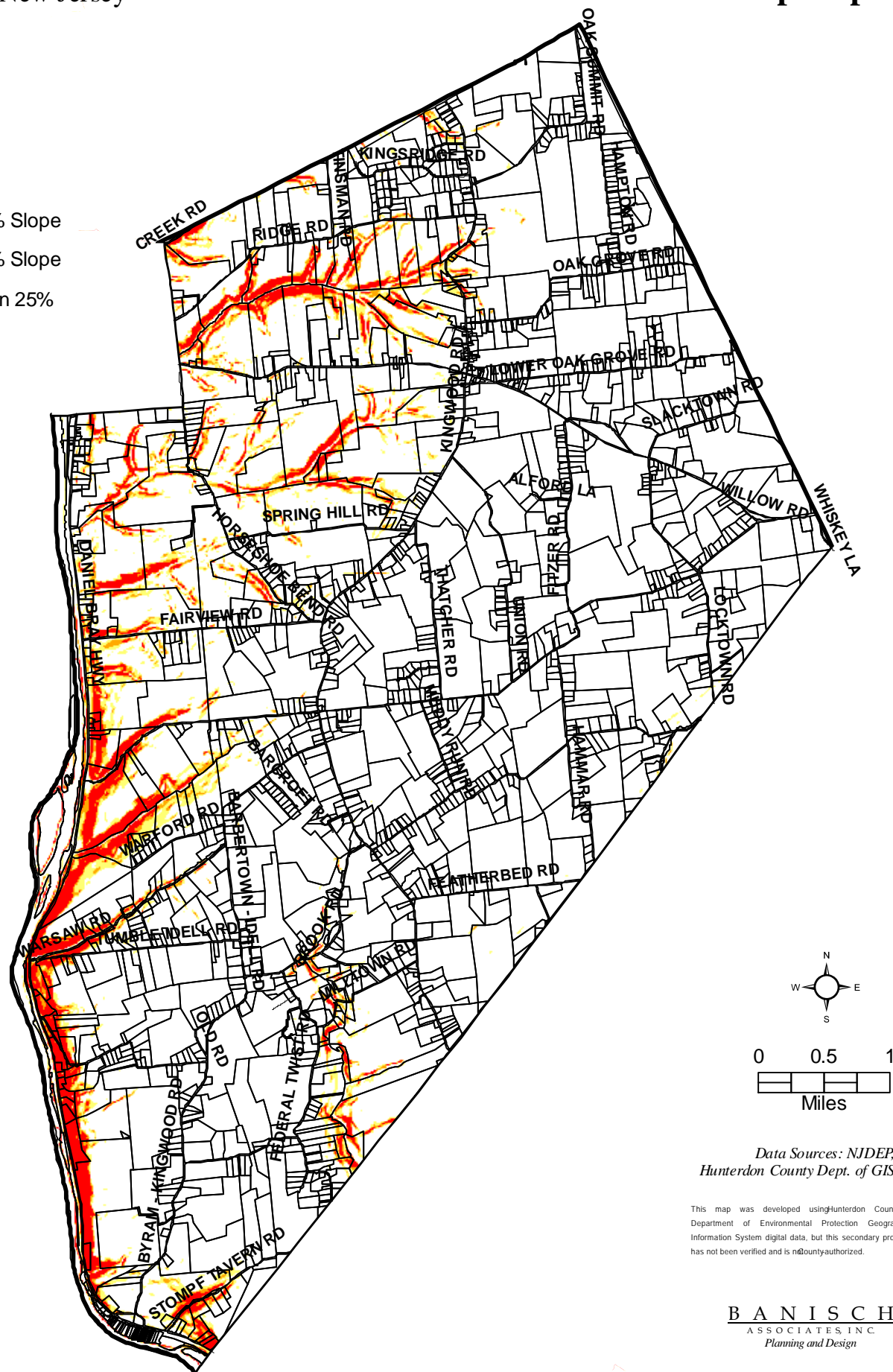


*Data Sources: NJDEP,
 Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS*

This map was developed using Hunterdon County Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified and is not county authorized.

Hunterdon County, New Jersey
April 2011

Figure 9 Steep Slopes



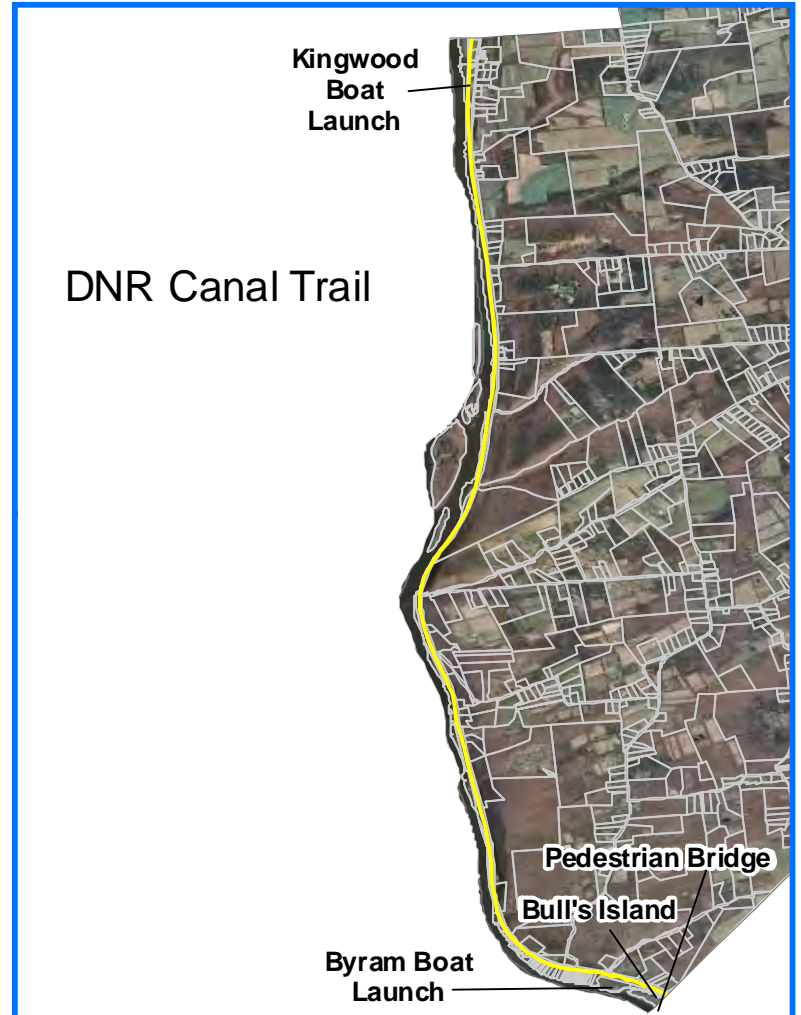
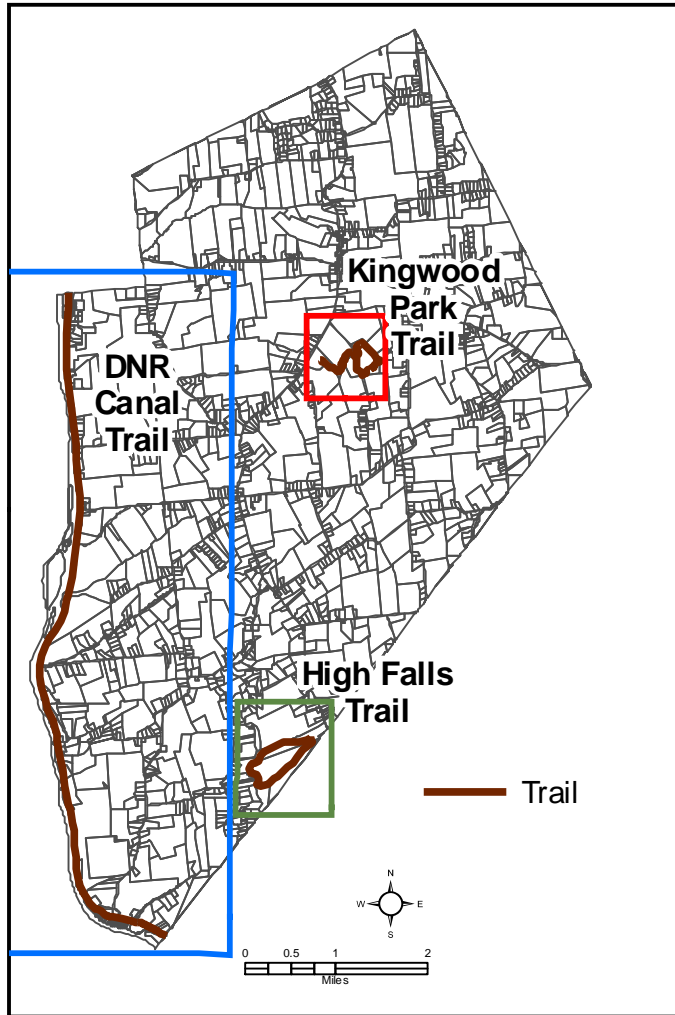
Trails

Kingwood Township,
Hunterdon County, NJ

Figure 10

April 2011

BANISCH
ASSOCIATES, INC.
Planning and Design



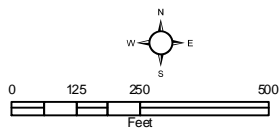
Data Sources: Kingwood Township,
NJDEP 2007 Aerial Photo,
Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS

This map was developed using Hunterdon County
Department of Environmental Protection Geographic
Information System digital data, but this secondary product
has not been verified and is not County-authorized.

Kingwood Park

Kingwood Township,
Hunterdon County, NJ

Data Source: NJDEP 2007 Aerial Photos



Trail

Figure 11

April 2011

BANISCH
ASSOCIATES, INC.
Planning and Design



Data Sources: NJ SADC,
Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance,
Hunterdon County Dept. of GIS

This map was developed using Hunterdon County
Department of Environmental Protection Geographic
Information System digital data, but this secondary product
has not been verified and is not County-authored.