



News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Public Information Contacts: Linda Van Zandt / Joanne Vuoso / Lisa Krueger
908.231.7020 publicinfo@co.somerset.nj.us

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Three Towns Receive Open Space Partnership Funds

The Somerset County Board of Freeholders recently presented \$665,000 in County/Municipal Open Space Partnership Program grants to three municipalities for four projects.

Created in 1995, the County/Municipal Open Space Partnership Program is funded through Somerset County's Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust, with a portion of this fund allocated annually to local property acquisitions. Since its inception, over \$13.3 million has been awarded to various municipalities for the potential preservation of 3,214 acres of public open space.

Freeholder Director Rick Fontana presented ceremonial checks at the board's Oct. 20 meeting. Towns and projects receiving funding from the 2009 program include:

- **Franklin Township**, which received \$140,000 for the reimbursement of the acquisition of 6.13-acres located at 291 Cedar Grove Lane, with access off of Weston Road. This property is sandwiched between residential properties, and is in close proximity to existing county-preserved farmland and open space. The Lake Open Space property is also located in the greenbelt surrounding the historic Middlebush Village, which has been designated a National Historic District. The township proposes to keep this property as passive open space, with the possibility of trails in the future.

- **Montgomery Township**, which received \$190,000 for the acquisition of the Potter Property, located on Grandview Road. The 10.23-acre parcel is adjacent to existing township-preserved farmland, and is in close proximity to the historic Hendrick Stryker House and the historic Mount Zion AME Church. The township proposes this property to serve as a trailhead to pathways and open space. The township also intends to document the diversity of plant species on the property, thereby creating an inventory.

- **Warren Township**, which received two grants:

One is for \$300,000 for the acquisition of the Mountain View Road/Pound Brook Property, located at 8 Gregory Lane. Of the total 23-acre parcel, 16.81 acres are proposed for passive open space and trailways. This property is in close proximity to the north and east to existing township-owned open space, and has been described by the township as a "critical linkage in the Pound Brook Stream Corridor."

A second grant of \$35,000 went to Warren Township for the acquisition of the Mountain Avenue Property, located on Mountain Avenue. The 3.3-acre parcel is sandwiched between existing township-owned open space. This property will be used for passive as well as active recreation, and serves as a linkage to the adjacent 99 acres of existing township-owned open space. The acquisition of this property fits securely into Warren's extensive planning goals for open space and trailway systems.

[Photo Gallery – Ceremonial Check Presentations](#)

Rick Fontana, Freeholder Director * Jack M. Ciattarelli, Freeholder Deputy Director
Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder * Robert Zaborowski, Freeholder * Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder
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