

## **Action Program and Recommendations**

*“We must handle the woods, the water, the grasses so that we will hand them to our children and our children’s children in better and not worse shape than we got them.”*

*-- President Theodore Roosevelt*

The *Action Program* suggests projects that the Township should pursue to implement the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The activities listed for the first year after the completion of the Plan are the most urgent and will further Morris Township’s open space program immediately. The “three year” recommendations are also important, but will take some time to complete. The “five year” projects should take place in the appropriate time frame, as opportunities arise. The Open Space and Recreation Plan is not a static document. The *Action Program* should be updated every year, and progress should be reported to the governing body.

### ***First Year***

- Adopt the Open Space and Recreation Plan 2004 Update as an amendment to the Township of Morris’s Master Plan.
- Submit the Open Space and Recreation Plan 2004 Update to Green Acres.
- Update the Township’s Recreation and Open Space Inventory to include parcels preserved using the Township’s Open Space Trust Fund.
- Examine Town-owned properties and consider placing some of them on the ROSI for permanent protection.
- Review and prioritize the properties highlighted in the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Visit the properties and prioritize potential properties for acquisition.
- Share acquisition priorities with potential funding partners, including the National Park Service, Morris County Park Commission, and local land trust and watershed organizations.
- Prepare at least one application per year for the Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust.
- Continue to work with Morris County to permanently preserve Washington Valley and extend Patriots’ Path in the Township.
- Meet with local watershed groups including the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee and Great Swamp Watershed Association to identify properties of joint interest for preservation.

### ***Within Three Years***

- Identify locations or opportunities, in or around Morris Township, where partnerships can be formed to better utilize available recreational space.
- Meet with the Morris County Department of Planning, Development, and Technology and Morris County Park Commission to discuss the expansion and connection of walking and bicycling trails through Morris Township.
- Educate the public on the benefits of placing conservation easements on their property.
- Continue to reach out to the owners of the remaining farmland in the Township for preservation.
- Meet with adjacent municipalities in Morris County to discuss open space objectives and common programs and goals.
- Continue to enact, or enhance, existing critical areas ordinances to protect, at a minimum, floodplains and wetlands, stream corridors, steep slopes, and groundwater recharge areas. This should be done in concert with the Planning Board.
- Review the Open Space and Recreation Plan yearly to update the properties and information, and submit the update to Green Acres.

### ***Within Five Years***

- Continue to meet with Morris County to discuss the development of the neighboring Greystone complex as a recreational facility.
- Discuss preservation priorities and other work being done by non-profit land trusts active in the area to form partnerships.
- Reach out to local educational institutions to retain open lands in their natural state.
- Develop a formal network of trails and pathways throughout Township.
- Make a list of properties and be ready to acquire if the opportunity for redevelopment occurs.