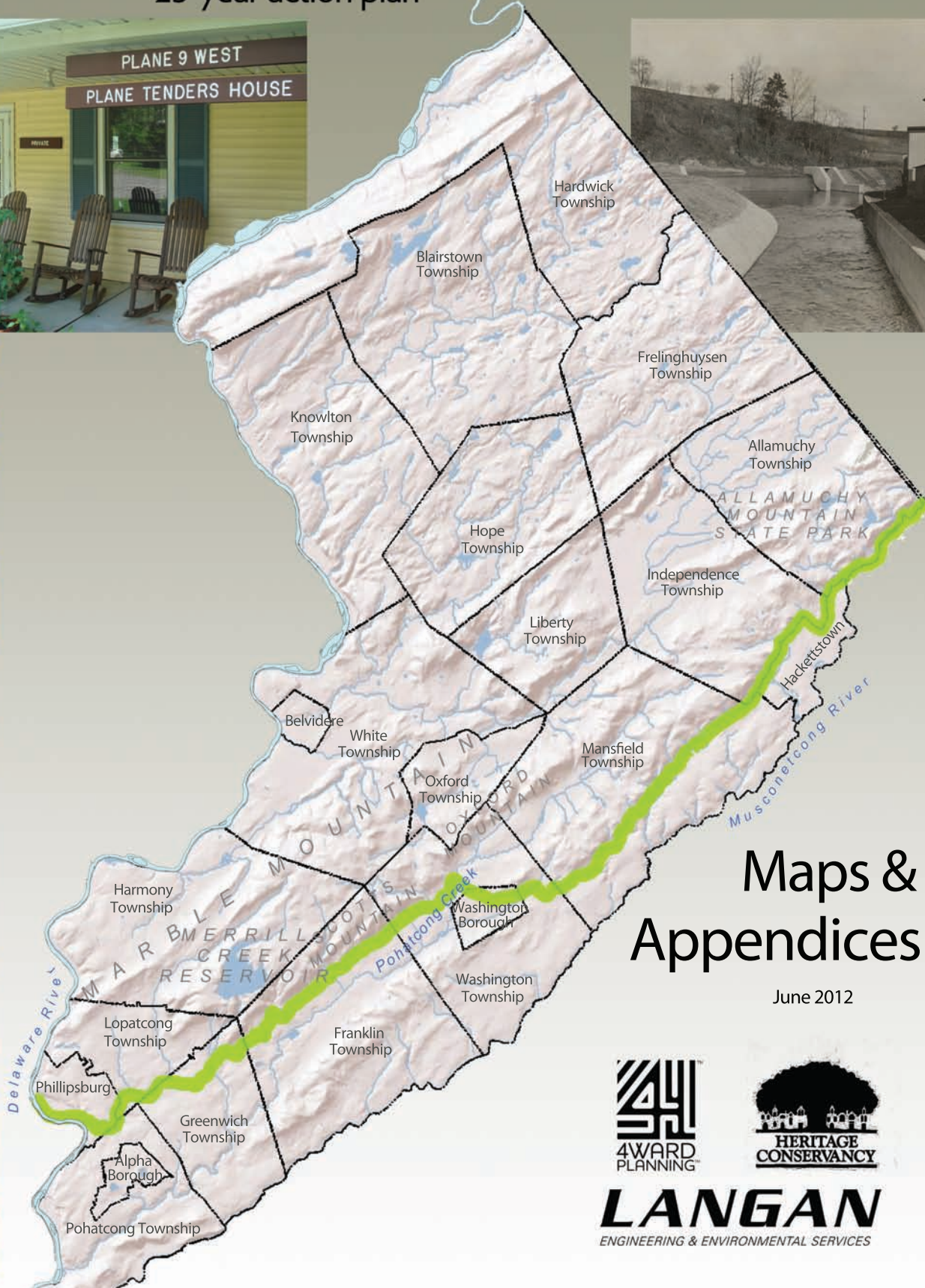
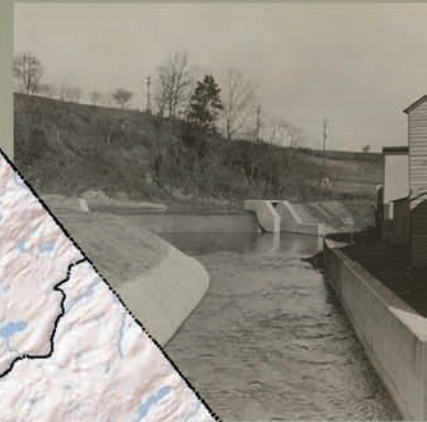


Morris Canal greenway

25-year action plan



Maps & Appendices

June 2012



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Appendix A:

Review of Existing Planning Documentation

Morris Canal Greenway 25-Year Action Plan

Current Planning Efforts

Statewide

New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan

This comprehensive document serves as a model by which county and municipal planning agencies and authorities should model their local master plans, investment decisions, and spending. The plan envisions New Jersey in the Year 2030 and establishes several goals by which the vision can be achieved, many of which are directly supported by the Morris Canal greenway project, including:

- Revitalize the state's cities and towns by encouraging infill, redevelopment and infrastructure improvements.
- Conserve the state's natural resource systems by planning growth to occur within designated centers away from environmentally sensitive areas.
- Promote economic growth in locations and in ways that improve the standard of living and quality of life for New Jersey residents.
- Preserve and enhance areas with historic, cultural, scenic open space and recreational value.
- Increase energy efficiencies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Plan 2035: Regional Transportation Plan for Northern New Jersey

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority serves as the federally-mandated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MTO) that provides local guidance and expertise in the effective allocation of federal transportation funding. The thirteen counties which it serves, including Warren county, constitute the fourth most populous Metropolitan Planning Organization region in the country. The regional transportation plan was established with the following goals in mind:

- Promote smart growth rather than continued sprawl.
- Make travel safer and more secure.
- Give highest funding priority to maintaining and repairing existing infrastructure.
- Expand public transit where possible
- Improve roads but limit capacity expansions.
- Move freight more efficiently
- Better manage incidents and apply new transportation technologies
- Support walking and bicycling

The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act of 2004

In order to protect the source of over 5 million New Jersey residents' drinking water, the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council enacted this act which created a master plan for the 860,000 acre area of the state designated as highlands. The act establishes carrying capacity of these sensitive areas with respect to potable water quality and availability. It also includes an assessment of scenic, aesthetic, cultural, historic, open space, farmland, and outdoor recreation resources of the region and determines overall policies

required to maintain and enhance these important assets. The Highlands Protection Plan aims to:

- Protect, restore, and enhance the quality and quantity of ground water within the planning area
- Preserve contiguous land parcels that have significant resources or unique natural, scenic or cultural properties that positively contribute to Highlands environment
- Protect the natural resources of the region including critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas like forests, wetlands and steep slopes
- Preserve farmland, historic sites and resources, and outdoor recreation opportunities including hunting and fishing grounds
- Promote agricultural, recreational and horticultural uses that are compatible with the Act's water protection and open space preservation goals
- Prohibit to the maximum extent any construction or development of this area that is not compatible with its preservation goals

NJ Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

Developed by the New Jersey Dept. of Transportation in conjunction with the three planning agencies operating in the state, this plan aims to advance the notion of walking and biking as a viable means of transportation. Walking and biking instead of driving reduces our reliance on natural resources, promotes healthy lifestyles, and is much more environmentally sustainable than driving. The plan calls for:

- Build existing infrastructure to be conducive to pedestrian and bike travel
- Retrofit existing infrastructure to have sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, traffic slowing-devices, street trees., etc. to benefit and encourage bikes and pedestrians
- Improve access to community points of interest, recreation facilities, and transit hubs and provide changing rooms, bike racks, maps, and other ancillary tools for pedestrians and bikers
- Revisit and update existing policies and procedures, making sure they accommodate for pedestrians
- Develop and education program to remind drivers how to interact with pedestrians when their paths intersect and strictly enforce rules to protect pedestrians and bikers, making them feel safer in their travels.
- Encourage public and private groups to foster a pro-biking ethic and mindset.

NJ Department of Transportation Smart Growth Plan- 2008

With an expanding population and deteriorating roads, the NJ DOT is looking to the future. Their 2030 plan seeks to:

- Maintain and renew existing infrastructure
- Expand public transportation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decongest the roadways
- Apply advanced technology to streamline highway travel and reduce frequency of accidents
- Further reduce auto trips by encouraging carpooling, employer-sponsored connector shuttles, improving facilities that support walking and biking

- Incentives and disincentives for not driving alone
- Adopt smart growth planning strategies to concentrate growth in areas with adequate public transportation and where frequent destinations are walkable
- Optimize freight distribution by relying more upon rail than trucks for transportation of goods.

Warren County

Warren County Open Space and Recreation Plan -2008

The open space plan provides a blueprint of suggested spaces to be preserved, regardless of current ownership, It outlines several projects of high priority, including the Morris Canal Greenway, and discusses the importance and scope of these projects. The plan also aims to meet governmental requirements which allow counties to establish trust funds for preserving open space. Its goals include:

- Land bank as much land as possible for future use or conservation.
- Acquire properties along established and proposed trails as well as streams, rivers, and environmentally-sensitive or culturally significant areas to create contiguous greenways or linear parks or conservation areas.
- Develop a modest, passive recreation system that allows activities like walking, hiking, and birdwatching in the short-term.
- Provide areas for traditional sports like hunting and fishing where appropriate.
- Interconnect various open space reserves.

Rt. 57 Warren Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan-2010

This recent plan extolls the scenic, historical, and environmental value of Rt. 57 and lays out strategies for the protection of its rural character and proper maintenance. The Morris Canal parallels Rt. 57 through Warren County and interacts closely with it in several locations. Because of its proximity, the Corridor Management Plan drew from the canal's innovative history and used it as a major thematic element in its visioning process. As the Morris Canal Greenway's mission is intrinsically connected to that of the Heritage Byway's, the Corridor Management Plan explicitly states that a strategy for implementation is to support the initiatives of the Morris Canal Greenway project. The overarching goals of the Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan are to:

- Preserve and enhance the beauty of natural, cultivated and built landscapes and their relationship to our history, culture, and future.
- Enhance tourism in proximity to centers of recreation and commerce.
- Encourage land uses that create and complement scenic viewsheds, vistas, and panoramas.
- Highlight historic sites and, through heritage tourism, help residents and tourists discover the stories in the landscape.
- Mitigate the tensions between preservation and development.

Municipal

Allamuchy Twp. Master Plan and Development Regulations Periodic Re-examination and land use plan update report- 2005

Adhering to the zoning designation for the township provided by the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment plan, this plan sets strong environmental, cultural and scenic preservation standards for its Open Space Plan, which outlines the importance of acquiring land for the purpose of creating greenways, recreation areas, and conservation zones.

Allamuchy Twp. Open Space Plan- 2005

Acquiring new lands for preservation or to be used for recreation is the predominant goal of the township's open space plan due to the demonstrated need for recreational facilities. The township has an open space tax by which it collects some of the funding for purchasing new land for preservation. The plan also acknowledges the importance of the township's rural character and considers preserving farmland to be paramount. It discusses the need for a wide, contiguous band of open land for recreational use and preservation purposes in the form of a greenway; the suggested location for such a route coincides with the junction of the two distinct physical areas of the township: undeveloped forested land on steep slopes and flat, fertile farmland.

Allamuchy Twp. Master Plan Part V: Traffic and Circulation Plan- 1993

Does not address Morris Canal Greenway or even the importance of encouraging pedestrian and bicycle travel.

Franklin Twp. Land Use Plan – 2001

The zoning regulations in this plan place the Morris Canal within the Rural Conservation district, a zone designed to address the goals of protecting groundwater quality, conserving the scenic rural character of the area and promoting continued agricultural opportunities. However, the portion of the Morris canal that passes through Franklin township is mostly owned by private parties unwilling to allow access to their land through the institution of a greenway. The plan laments the township's general lack of trails and recreation facilities and considers the creation of additional public open space to be of great importance. The township plans to adhere to the county's greenway vision to keep a 300' buffer on either side of the canal for recreational and conservation purposes.

Franklin Twp. Open Space and Rec Plan- 2006

This plan inventories the current natural, historic and recreational resources the township has and discusses its needs for new outdoor and recreational resources. It lists partners and funding sources as well as recommendations for land preservation. Among these resources is the NJ Landscape Project, an ecosystem-based mapping system developed by the New Jersey DEP. The Landscape Project identifies Scott's Mountain, located above the Morris Canal, as important forest habitat for multiple threatened species of birds, mammals, and amphibians.

Franklin Twp. Master Plan Re-Examination Report- 2006

In addition to updated landuse policies, the master plan adopted a historic preservation plan element which indicates the importance the township places on its historically significant resources. This plan specifically calls for the preservation of the Morris Canal in its present condition and requests that developers dedicate its right away when development occurs.

Lopatcong Twp. Master Plan Re-Examination- 2004

Like Allamuchy Township, Lopatcong township also has an open space tax by which they have raised over 500,000 for the purchasing of lands for open space and recreational use since its institution in 1999. The township has given a great deal of thought to a trail system that will connect schools, cultural and recreational resources and specifically names the Morris Canal greenway as a possible linkage.

Mansfield Twp. Master Plan Periodic ReExamination- 2008

A very basic document which outlines the general changes to the last re-examination of the township's master plan. Does not mention the Morris Canal specifically.

Borough of Washington Conservation and Open Space Amendment to Master Plan- 2000

Outlines the township's topography, wetlands, flood-prone areas, soils, geology, vegetation, existing open space, and open space needs. Maps of each of these items.

Contains:

- Inventory of publically and privately owned open space and recreation facilities and the uses of each
- Discussion of the NJ Green Acres Grant program and its requirements and recommendations
- Discussion of the National Recreation and Park Association, an organization that promotes recreational opportunities by setting standards of acreage of open space per number of residents
- Results of a recreation survey which showed that residents particularly wanted biking jogging, walking, rollerblading/skateboarding facilities as well as sports fields and courts targeted toward youth and teens
- Recommendations for future open space acquisition
 - Current plans for a "downtown development" along the Shabbecong Creek corridor to interface historical/cultural experience, opportunity for borough-wide greenway linkage

Washington Twp. Master Plan Re-Examination- 2007

The goals and objectives of each section of the master plan and the changes made thereto, and the reasoning behind those changes. Emphasis placed on the importance of LEED certified development projects. Contains:

- List of acceptable shade tree species for buffers between houses/streets
- Regulations for conservation easement areas