

Characterized as the “environs” of centers for community growth, the policy objectives for the rural and environmentally sensitive planning areas such as Frelinghuysen Township promote the establishment of greenbelts and buffers in order to protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive features.

The goals proposed in the Frelinghuysen Open Space and Recreation Plan are consistent with the following goals put forth in the 2005 Warren County Strategic Growth Plan, as listed below: (Pg. 8-9)

- Preserve and enhance rural character as well as agricultural, natural, environmental, historic and open space resources and provide resources to achieve this goal.
- Protect and enhance water quality and quantity.
- Increase educational and cultural opportunities.
- Promote inter-municipal, county and state cooperation.

An important note to consider when Frelinghuysen applies for county funds to assist in land preservation is that in developing the 2005 Warren County Strategic Growth Plan, a public survey was undertaken. Ninety percent of survey respondents from Frelinghuysen indicated that areas such as farmland, waterways, mountainsides and ridgelines historic sites and rural roads should be “off-limits” to development. (Pg. 67)

As further discussed in the 2005 Frelinghuysen Township Master Plan Re-examination Report, the ‘planning philosophy’ driving land use decisions has been to endeavor to keep Frelinghuysen “a low-density, single-family bedroom community with strong agricultural and historic component.” It suggests a ‘conservation design approach’ to development approvals that would result in a cumulative increase in open space and be “more consistent with the policy objectives of farmland preservation, environmental protection and rural heritage conservation in Frelinghuysen Township.” (Pg. 18)

It’s important to note that the Re-examination Report recognizes the tremendous efforts made so far and applies the following objectives relative to goal #6: ‘maintaining a balanced Open Space Program’:

- Support protection of current open space resources and additional resources where appropriate;
- Support the retention and continued viability of farm and forest activities and resources; and
- Provide for recreation and cultural facilities, providing a variety of programs to meet the level of community interest. (Pg. 14)

According to Frelinghuysen’s 1996 Master Plan Open Space Element, the Township was advised to encourage developers to propose projects that are cognizant of the following goals for land use planning in Frelinghuysen Township: safeguarding environmentally sensitive land; linking contiguous open space where possible; maintaining scenic vistas; restoring historic Johnsonburg with the goal of providing a community center; plus, expanding farmland preservation efforts and recreation opportunities. The goals put forth during the process of

compiling this Open Space and Recreation Plan, closely mirror the objectives enumerated almost a decade ago.

PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Municipal Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

In 2005, 66% of voters in Frelinghuysen Township approved a referendum to amend their farmland trust fund to create a combined Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. This level of approval reflects the continued public support for open space preservation since 1999 when 66% of voters approved establishment of the original farmland preservation trust fund at one-cent (\$.01) per hundred dollars in assessed property value. Shortly afterward, in 2003, the Township increased collection to two cents. Approximately \$53,000 is collected for the Fund annually and as of April, 2005, it had in reserve \$118,000. Removing the exclusivity of the enabling legislation from farmland will expand its utility for preserving open space of all kinds, as well as recreation development. *(See Appendix - 2005 Tax Revenue Data and Farmland Preservation Trust Ordinance)*

In 2005, the Township also adopted a Farmland Preservation Plan as an element to the Master Plan and has an active Farmland Preservation Commission and Right-to-Farm ordinance.

Preserved Farmland

“Thank goodness our freeholders have been very strong in trying to help and protect the farmers. We’re going to keep the doors wide open to anyone who wants to get their farm in, we’re fortunate to be in good financial shape to do that.”

(Bob Resker, Warren County Land Preservation Department- quoted in The Express-Times, “Open space effort lauded”; 11-30-05)

Frelinghuysen Township has preserved 1,514 acres of farmland; in addition, approximately 36 acres of farmland are currently enrolled in 8-year preservation programs. *(See Appendix - 2005 Property Tax Lists for more detail)* This represents 14% of all farm assessed property in Frelinghuysen and 10% of the Township’s total land base. Thus, roughly 10% of all land in the Township has been saved from the threat of development by farmland preservation programs and remains in private agricultural and/or forest stewardship. The following listing represents the 13 farm tracts that are preserved.

Preserved Farmland				
Block	Lot	Owner	Class	Acreage
301	21	COMM OF THE SISTERS OF ST DOMINIC	3B/15D	90.36
502	7	COMM OF THE SISTERS OF ST DOMINIC	3B	49.77
101	11	JACOB & KAREN WESTBROOK	3B	9.73
701	10	JEAN SMOLHA	3B	104.24
701	11	JEAN SMOLHA	3A/3B	50.5
701	16	JEAN SMOLHA	3A/3B	50.69
1801	7.02	JEAN SMOLHA	3B	30.25
1101	12	JOSEPH P & SON INC YOUNG	3B	62.52

1301	15	MICHAEL & ALEXANDER STAUFENBERGER	3A/3B	131.33
1101	11.02	NEIL & DOLORES PARROTT	3A/3B	8.68
502	27.01	SAMUEL & CHAN MOORE	3B	9.46
502	32	SAMUEL & CHAN MOORE	3A/3B	67.26
1101	11	SIMONETTI JAMES J / CORLESS KELLY	3A/3B	117.04
1501	1.01	STEPHEN L GURBA REVOCABLE TRUST	3B	25.45
1601	16	STEPHEN L GURBA REVOCABLE TRUST	3B	10.06
1501	1	STEPHEN L GURBA REVOCABLE TRUST	3B	40.89
1601	16.01	STEPHEN L GURBA REVOCABLE TRUST	3B	10.28
1701	2	STEPHEN L REVOCABLE TRUST GURBA	3A/3B	50.88
1701	14	STEPHEN L/TRUSTEE GURBA	3B	4.17
1702	2	STEPHEN L/TRUSTEE GURBA	3A/3B	128.03
1301	4	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	15F	5.39
1301	20	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	15F	203.46
1101	15	THOMAS C BENNETT	3A/3B	89.5
1701	16.01	WILLIAM I & MARGARET SILVERSIDES	3B	49.03
701	18.01	WILLIAM P & DENA VAN GROUW	3A/3B	39.42
701	19	WILLIAM P & DENA VAN GROUW	3A/3B	72.82
701	20	WILLIAM P & DENA VAN GROUW	3B	2.94
			Total:	1514.15
Farms in 8 year Preservation Program				
Block	Lot	Owner	Class	Acreage
1701	11	GEORGE & LISA KUHN	3A	18.9
1701	11.01	LISA KUHN	3B	3.07
501	3.01	DAVID E SIZE	3A	14.24
501	3.02	DAVID E SIZE	3B	0.11
			Total:	36.32

Property owned by the Community of the Sisters of Saint Dominic comprise about 140 acres off Silver Lake Road and possess one of the most coveted views northwestward toward the Delaware Water Gap. Genesis Farm is a learning center for earth studies and a community supported biodynamic garden. Started in 1980 by the Dominican Sisters of Caldwell, New Jersey, Genesis Farm is trying to make small-scale farming productive and highlight the beneficial value of organic, sustainable agriculture.

Known and respected worldwide, this facility operates the Ecological Learning Center for many educational programs and workshops. A spin-off of their work has evolved into the Foodshed Alliance of the Ridge & Valley that works to help farmers in Warren and Sussex counties develop and maintain sustainable farms.

Preserved Parkland

Nearly 1,400 acres, or nine percent of Frelinghuysen Township's land base, may be classified as permanently preserved parkland owned by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection, The Nature Conservancy and the Ridge and Valley Conservancy. The N.J. DEP

owns almost half of the preserved parkland designated in Frelinghuysen. This includes Jenny Jump State Forest, the Paulinskill Valley Trail and almost 70 acres off Route 612 (Allamuchy Road). Jenny Jump State Forest occupies upland south of the Route 80 corridor along the southeast border with Independence Township. Extending across municipal boundaries, it comprises a total 4,244 acres with 57% of the property open for permitted hunting of small game species (*N.J. DEP hunting pamphlet; 2004-2005*).

In 1992, The N.J. DEP purchased the former New York – Susquehanna & Western railroad easement along the Paulins Kill to create the Paulinskill Valley Trail, a premier trail system that stretches from Columbia to Sparta. It provides a level course for hikers and equestrians. Fishermen have enjoyed easy access to the river and this corridor traverses a very rural landscape, allowing free passage for wildlife and humans alike. Maintained by the N.J. Division of Parks and Forestry, it is designated for passive recreation only and hunting is prohibited. Additional land was purchased by the State on the south side of the Paulins Kill Trail, midway across from Silver Lake and Kerrs Corner roads.

Wildlife Preserves, Inc., a private nonprofit land conservation organization, owns 143 acres off Old Stage Road, a country lane serving the Natyzak Farm off Route 661 (Ramsey Road). This organization has long held land across New Jersey that is open to the public for passive recreational use, environmental education and wildlife preservation. Located adjacent to land owned by The Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Preserves, Inc., tract in Frelinghuysen contributes to the Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve and features Mud Pond which is characterized by limestone sinkholes, caves and natural springs. Hiking trails are established throughout this property. Hunting and fishing as well as potentially adverse activities is prohibited. Camping is sometimes allowed. (*See Appendix – Wildlife Preserves, Inc. 2006 statement*)

A portion of the 3-acre Town Hall property in Johnsonburg was used to create Rydell Park, comprising recreation fields and a jungle gym. On November 22nd, the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders approved additional funding for land acquisition of adjacent property. The Township is considering possible condemnation of the property in order to build a larger recreation complex with possibly a community center.

Historic Preservation Measures

In 1992, the village of Johnsonburg was designated a historic district on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. By this move, Frelinghuysen took a step forward in trying to preserve historic treasures and a cultural identity. The 1991 *Warren County Cultural Resources Survey* indicates Johnsonburg is “one of the most well preserved early 19th Century towns in Warren County....” (*Pgs. III-3-7, II-13*)

The Frelinghuysen Historical Society, although presently in need of more members, has long been active and is always ready to share information and references about the Township’s rich cultural history. Frelinghuysen celebrated the American Bicentennial, with an event two years early in 1974, that highlighted the Township’s pioneer days with bus tours of historic sites, craftsman exhibits, an old-fashioned pig roast and musket shooting demonstrations and dedications.

Recently, a meeting was held with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Township Officials and the County Engineer to see what may be available, as well as allowed, to “spruce up” the village. It was subsequently decided that sidewalks will be installed on a portion of the north side of Main Street (Route 612) east of the Johnsonburg Hotel. (*Dave Hicks, County Engineer- Personal communication; 12-19-05*)

The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act

By virtue of having Jenny Jump Mountain in its land base, a small portion of Frelinghuysen Township at the southern border is situated in the New Jersey Highlands. This region was granted State oversight as per the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, signed into law in 2005. The Highlands Act calls for limiting development in environmentally sensitive areas and conversely directing growth where there is existing infrastructure and designated centers. These regulations now apply across about an 800,000 acre swath in North Jersey, effecting 88 municipalities. Divided about evenly, the region is either classified for Preservation with strict development rules to protect water supplies, steep slopes and forests or as a Planning Area, offering incentives to accept more growth. Frelinghuysen Township is classified in the Highlands Planning Area.

According to the 2005 *N.J. Highlands Water Protection & Planning Act Primer*, provided by ANJEC, municipalities designated in the Highlands Planning area can be assured “local zoning and planning boards will continue to be the ultimate authority over (land use). The Council’s recommendations will be advisory, and the new N.J. DEP regulations specified under the Act will not apply.”

INVENTORY OF OUTDOOR RESOURCES

This section of the Plan offers a comprehensive inventory of all public land, plus private land in Frelinghuysen Township, that may represent potential open space. Properties are divided into categories representing preserved land and potential open space. Permanently preserved parkland and farmland are herein listed and described. Vacant land; residential land greater than two acres in size; farmland-assessed properties; and, other tax exempt parcels have also been identified. (See Appendix – Property Tax Lists) The accompanying *Open Space Map* details the location of these properties and was developed using the computerized mapping program ArcView 3.2 based on information provided by the Township as well as several county agencies, as listed in the acknowledgements.

OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

Summary of Preserved Land

State Owned Open Space (N.J. DEP) =	689 acres
Preserved Farmland =	1,514 acres
Nonprofit Owned Open Space =	673 acres

Total: 2,876 acres

Summary of Potential Open Space

Federal Aviation Administration =	0.23 acre
Warren County Land (Johnsonburg Park) =	1 acre
State Owned Property (N.J. DOT) =	177 acres
Municipal Land (Frelinghuysen) =	71 acres
School Properties =	30 acres
Vacant Property =	489 acres
Farm-Assessed Properties =	8,972 acres
Wildlife Preserves =	143 acres
Church & Charitable Properties =	41 acres
Residential Properties > 2 acres =	1,647 acres

Total: 11,571 acres

Frelinghuysen Township encompasses a total of 15,104 acres. Roughly 2,876 acres, or 19% of the Township is classified permanently preserved, while another 11,571 acres, or 77%, of the Township's land base is potentially available for open space and/or farmland preservation, as described below.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

Preserved Land

State Land

The N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (N.J. DEP) currently owns a total of 28 parcels comprising **689 acres** in Frelinghuysen Township.

- ❖ *Jenny Jump State Forest* - The State of New Jersey is responsible for a significant amount of preserved parkland in Frelinghuysen Township. In total, the N.J. DEP owns nearly **540 acres** of land south of the Route 80 corridor in the southeast corner of the Township.
- ❖ *Paulinskill Valley Trail* - The N.J. DEP purchased the former New York - Susquehanna & Western railroad easement along the Paulins Kill to create the Paulinskill Valley Trail stretching from Columbia to Sparta, providing a level course for hikers and equestrians. State property along and/or adjacent to the trail comprises nearly **77 acres**.
- ❖ *Allamuchy Road Pond* - Recently, the N.J. DEP purchased nearly **62 acres** on the east side of Route 612 (Allamuchy Road) surrounding a wetland complex.

Preserved Farmland

To date, there are **1,514 acres** of permanently preserved farmland in Frelinghuysen. An additional **36 acres** represents two farms that are currently enrolled in the 8-year farmland preservation program.

Nonprofit Land

Recognizing the need to protect Frelinghuysen's unique and fragile environmental habitats, The Nature Conservancy, Ridge and Valley Conservancy, Inc. and New Jersey Green Acres own outright or in partnership a total **674 acres** in Frelinghuysen Township.

- ❖ *Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserves* - The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owns almost **473 acres** in Frelinghuysen Township. Most of these landholdings comprise the Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserves north and south of Route 519 (Dark Moon Road). The northern tract in this land preservation complex surrounds most of Mud Pond. Sinkholes, caves and natural springs are found on the property.
- ❖ *Glovers Pond Preserve* - The Ridge and Valley Conservancy owns **69 acres** adjacent to the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Conference Center plus another **99 acres** nearby purchased in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and N.J. Green Acres program. This property is characterized by dense, deciduous and hemlock forests, swamps, and fields which support a high diversity of plant and animal species, some rare and endangered.

- ❖ *Greendell Ridge Preserve* – A similar partnership was forged to purchase **33 acres** called simply the Limestone Forest, on the northeast side of South Street. This limestone forest exhibits significant views westward. (www.rvc.org)

Potential Open Space

Conservation Easements

To date, municipal tax records show that Genesis Farm includes **86 acres** under a conservation easement. A detailed survey of conservation easements in Frelinghuysen Township was commissioned and is pending finalization of maps. This information would be valuable in assessing open space needs and possible preservation corridors. Needed to complete the project, the Warren County Planning Department recently released parcel-based GIS maps to Townships across the county.

Federal Land

The Federal Aviation Administration owns **0.23 acre** off Muller Road in Frelinghuysen. Placed atop a small hill, an aviation signaling tower offers a 360 degree view of the region.

County Land

Warren County owns a small 1-acre corner parcel at the intersection of Route 661 (Ramsey Road) and Route 519 (Dark Moon Road), where the Historical Society installed an attractive identification sign. The property is maintained by local volunteers and it has been called “Johnsonburg Park.” (*Memories...*, 2005; Pg. 114)

N.J. DOT Property

- ❖ The New Jersey Department of Transportation (N.J. DOT) owns highway easements for Route 94 and Route 80 in Frelinghuysen, totaling **177 acres** on 27 parcels. The most visible State DOT property represents the 2.5 acres off Route 94 housing the salt barn, maintenance yard and cell tower, camouflaged to look like a evergreen tree. N.J. DOT does not, to date, own property adjacent to Interstate Route 80.
- ❖ The next grouping of State DOT property represents the Lackawanna Cut-Off railroad easement. Aside from the rail line itself, the largest parcels near this corridor include about 6 acres on the east side of Camp Wasigan Road; 13 acres surrounded by the Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserve, on the north side of the easement; and, 15 acres on the south side of the easement adjacent to Green Township.

Municipal Property

- ❖ Frelinghuysen Township owns **71 acres**. The largest property comprises a recently purchased 59 acre tract off Route 94, adjacent to the Frelinghuysen School. At present, it is being farmed but holds the enticing promise for both future municipal use and the development of both active and passive recreation facilities.

- ❖ Utilizing a former school property, the Town Hall occupies almost **three acres** off Main Street (Route 661) in Johnsonburg. The rear of this property has been developed into Rydell Park, offering a baseball diamond, small soccer field and playground equipment.
- ❖ Frelinghuysen Township also owns **three acres** along the Paulins Kill on the west side of Spring Valley Road.

Vacant Land

Vacant land comprises **489 acres** in Frelinghuysen. The following list represents a few tracts that remain unpreserved and undeveloped.

- ❖ The largest vacant property comprises 27 acres adjacent to the Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve, off Route 519 (Dark Moon Road). It forms a horseshoe around the Westbrook commercial property. It abuts Bear Brook, a Category One tributary to Bear Creek which feeds the Pequest River.
- ❖ A 22-acre vacant tract exists on the north side of Route 94, just west of Marksboro. Other sizable vacant landholdings constitute clusters of adjacent parcels. One cluster comprises 34 acres near the Hope border off the Hope-Johnsonburg Road (Route 519); 33 acres off Route 661 (Main Street); and an 11-acre cluster off Silver Lake Road (Route 608).

Farm-Assessed Property

Excluding preserved farmland, Frelinghuysen has a total **8,972 acres** that are farmland assessed. This includes the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Conference Center comprising **340 acres**.

School Properties

Frelinghuysen School occupies roughly **16 acres** off Route 94. The school offers public school education for grades preschool through 6th grade. The Ridge & Valley Charter School occupies **14 acres** at the corner of Pippin Hill Road and Route 94.

Residential Properties > 2 acres

This Plan depicts all residential parcels greater than two acres in size. Land in this category totals **1,647 acres**. In relation to properties that have the potential to be further subdivided under the new 6-acre minimum lot size requirements, but excluding mitigating factors such as critical areas, the following list represents the largest residential landholdings.

- ❖ 52 acres off Route 612 (Allamuchy Road) that encompasses a portion of Bear Brook;
- ❖ 25 acres off Mott Road and adjacent to the Lackwanna Cut-Off railroad line;
- ❖ 21 acres off Kerrs Corner Road;
- ❖ 16 acres off Camp Wequa Road that has a portion of Bear Creek;
- ❖ 16 acres at the corner of Route 519 and South Town Road;
- ❖ 15 acres of Kerrs Corner Road;

- ❖ 15 acres at the corner of Lanning Road and Route 519 that has wetlands;
- ❖ 14 acres off Greendell Road that forms a boundary with Trout Brook;
- ❖ 13 acres off Route 519 that has a small pond and a tributary to Beaver Brook;
- ❖ 12 acres at the corner of South Town Road and Route 519;
- ❖ 12 acres off Stillwater Road; and,
- ❖ 12 acres off South Street

Private Recreation Lands

- ❖ Johnsonburg Presbyterian Conference Center off Route 519 (Johnsonburg-Hope Road) comprises **340 acres**. It is a religious-based retreat center whose mission is to provide spiritual guidance and respite for groups of all ages and ethnicities. (www.campjburg.org)
- ❖ Wildlife Preserves Inc., a private nonprofit land conservation organization, owns **143 acres** in Frelinghuysen Township off Old Stage Road and adjacent to the Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve. Although owned and managed by Wildlife Preserves, this property is not preserved indefinitely.
- ❖ Kids Camp, owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, occupies **24 acres** off Lincoln Laurel Road. Although the property appears fully developed with small camp facilities, it may benefit the Township to investigate whether existing trails have been developed and where they may lead.
- ❖ Smith Field, off State Park Road, comprises about **five acres**. It is privately owned but for more than 30 years has had a well-maintained and popular baseball facility available for lease.
- ❖ Four cemetery associations own a combined **11 acres** in Frelinghuysen Township. These graveyards date back to the Township's early pioneer days and hold a wealth of historical information as well as the remains of founding fathers.

Commercial Property

Approximately **67 acres** of commercially-assessed property is located in Frelinghuysen. The largest of these parcels represents nearly 23 acres off Lincoln-Laurel Road where a boat building business existed for many years, followed by the Forest Manor Retirement Home on State Park Road which occupies 15.5 acres.

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OUTDOOR NEEDS

The needs described in this section are derived from the goals expressed by participants at the Frelinghuysen Township Open Space and Recreation Plan public hearing held October 26, 2005, as well as general observations and personal communications. These goals are set forth in the Open Space Program section of this Plan. Often, multiple groups will have a stake in a particular project and should be involved in the planning process from the onset.

Partnership opportunities are an excellent way of leveraging available funds and ensuring a stronger consensus for an acquisition project or development of recreation facilities. Combining resources on projects that achieve multiple goals can be of great advantage to the Township's open space program. Coordinating the various conservation programs available would be ideal and meets Frelinghuysen's stated goals and objectives. The headings below suggest areas where Frelinghuysen may focus its efforts.

Increased Farmland Preservation Preferred

Farming is responsible for the development of Frelinghuysen Township and adds an indelible dimension to the local way of life. Farms may have changed over time and new residents pursue careers and livelihoods elsewhere, but the rural fabric of Frelinghuysen Township remains strong. Roads dip and curve throughout the town much the same as they always have and the community gathers periodically for true homespun events. This is due to an ingrained rural mentality that started with farmers and continues to honor and give them due respect.

For this reason, preserving farmland was deemed a public priority in recent public forums. Frelinghuysen Township began land preservation efforts with the exclusive intent of preserving farmland and has succeeded to date in saving 1,514 acres. (See attached *Open Space Map*) In September 2005, the *Frelinghuysen Township Farmland Preservation Plan* was approved and adopted as an element to the Township Master Plan. It designates seven farmland preservation regions that encompass most of the land base in Frelinghuysen Township and offers preservation priorities and strategies. The genesis for development of this Open Space and Recreation Plan began when the Township Farmland Preservation Commission and Environmental Commission jointly agreed that new and innovative methods should be explored in order to preserve land for not only its agricultural value, but its natural resource attributes and recreational value as well.

Protection of Old Growth Forests & Specimen Trees Needed

Protecting age-old forest tracts was suggested as a public goal for implementation of this Plan at the public hearing on October 26th. It was agreed that old-growth forests are important for maintaining the integrity of wildlife, soil profiles, water resources and also contributing to the rural character seen from many of the evocative county lanes traversing Frelinghuysen Township. A few isolated climax forests remain along South Town Road, near Mud Pond, at the

Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp and at Jenny Jump State Forest. General observations during development of this Plan found other potential old-growth forests along Henfoot and Kerr Road. The 1989 Township *Environmental Resources Inventory* calls on preserving these tracts “because of their rarity and beauty.” (*Frelinghuysen E.R.I., 1989; Pgs. 42-58*)

Specimen trees are valued throughout New Jersey and their health and eventual mortality don't go unnoticed. Many such trees are often carved into fanciful statues when they prove inconvenient or too dangerous to leave standing. While alive, these trees no doubt give pause for passersby to reflect on days gone by and marvel at their resilience. Such trees live in Frelinghuysen Township. The button ball, or likely London Plain tree, at the corner of Kerrs Corner Road and Route 608 (Silver Lake Road) is well known to those who traverse Frelinghuysen. It sits far back off the roadway on private property. Another specimen tree is a solitary oak tree that stands proudly in the middle of horse pasture off Route 612 (Allamuchy Road).

Protection of Contiguous Forests Helps Sustain Wildlife Habitats

Contiguous forests provide necessary migration corridors for wildlife and contain treed habitats that are essential for food and shelter. Large mammals such as bear, coyotes and bobcats need free passage through their territorial region to forage, breed successfully and lessen adverse interactions between humans and wildlife. Situated under two major avian flyways that crisscross over Frelinghuysen for raptors and migrating songbirds, Frelinghuysen provides essential habitats and serves as an important rest stop. Migrating songbirds, for example, returning in early spring to the region feed on the scales, or small insects that live on the bark of trees to sustain themselves and gain nutrients until flowers blossom. (*B. Canace, R.V.C. - Interview with WNTI Contours radio program; 2/05*)

Expansion of Pedestrian / Equestrian Pathways Needed to Capitalize on Frelinghuysen's Rural Character

A primary goal expressed during the process of creating this Open Space and Recreation Plan was to create more trails. In order to do so, Frelinghuysen Township may use public right-of-ways, old logging roads, conservation easements and rural country roads to designate the roads less traveled as also serving for pedestrian or equestrian access. Numerous right-of-ways and dead-end roads exist and may offer potential trail connections. It is conceivable to link them and create significant trail systems throughout the Township. Frelinghuysen has a deep rural character that can be enhanced and preserved through a network of “green pathways” connecting residents and visitors to the natural environment.

During preparation of this Plan, an impromptu meeting was held at the Town Hall on November 15th to discuss ways trails may be developed in Frelinghuysen Township. This meeting was attended by Morris Land Conservancy staff, a Township Environmental Commission member, a representative from the Skylands Trails Association, (an equestrian group) and an interested resident. This meeting proved very insightful regarding the type and location of trails suitable for bridle trails versus hiking, bicycling, etc. It also helped highlight trails currently in use and discuss the merits of proposed trail systems.

Both the northern and southern ends of town have established trail systems. The Paulinskill Valley Trail and trails throughout Jenny Jump State Forest, respectively, could possibly be linked with nearby local easements and rural roads in order to create lengthy, spectacular trail networks. Signs at road access points would not only warn motorists that they should watch out for hikers and/or horses, but also foster community ownership. Trails names could correspond to the destination point with appropriate signage.

These linear corridors serve as special attributes or mini-greenways within the larger frame or region targeted for preservation and can inspire more public use. Whether hiking, bicycling or horse riding, residents and visitors alike appreciate trail networks for recreation. Over-reliance on automobile transport is a recognized consequence of rural development in today's world. It contributes to air pollution and causes greater hazards to pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages, as well as increased household expenses related to gas prices and automobile costs. Trail networks and pathways allow people to stay physically fit and aware of the natural environment.

Minimal Existing Recreation Facilities



"I think (recreation) is a lot better than it was but there's a lot of room for improvement. The only way to improve is to have proper facilities."

(Chip Greene, Recreation Director- Tel. Communication; 8/05)

Frelinghuysen currently has only one baseball diamond with an adjacent soccer field at Rydell Park behind the Town Hall off Route 661 (Main Street) in Johnsonburg. Also located nearby is a basketball hoop. Volunteers this summer installed a jungle gym overlooking the sports fields (shown above). The baseball diamond at Rydell Park is just "okay" but rather small and only appropriate for "little guys," said Recreation Director, Chip Greene, in telephone interviews.

Smith Field, located off State Park Road diagonally across from the newly established Dark Moon Restaurant (formerly the Big K Restaurant), comprises nearly five acres and is privately owned. A baseball diamond has existed at this site for about 30 years and is currently

used by the Blirstown Men's Softball League. A nominal rental agreement to cover insurance costs exists between the Smith family, who own and maintain the field, and the new owners of Dark Moon Tavern to continue using the baseball diamond. However, their Right of First Refusal on the field expires in less than two years and Emily Smith, current property owner, said the Township "would be welcome" to propose acquisition since it's considered "one of the best recreation fields in the area." (Tel. communication; 11-28-05)

Smith Field was mentioned in the 1996 Township Open Space Element as a "satellite" facility that should be considered to expand the Township's recreational opportunities. The Plan further mentioned that "serious attention should be paid to acquiring and improving additional open space parcels for active recreation (because) in rural municipalities such as Frelinghuysen, there are limited opportunities, especially for children, to find safe and convenient recreation close to home." (Pgs. 4-8)

The Township currently rents the new gym constructed at the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center off Route 519 for use by its childrens' basketball teams.

Future Residential Growth Would Require More Recreational Facilities

According to the active recreation Facilities Needs Assessment generated for the 2005 Bear Creek Greenway Application for land preservation, there is an existing need to plan for and develop active recreational facilities in the Township. This document was submitted for review by the Warren County Municipal and Charitable Conservancy Trust Fund Committee to help fund purchase of five acres located adjacent to the municipal property. The proposal calls for a new baseball field, soccer field and possible recreation / community center with a walking trail around the perimeter.

A goal mentioned at the October 26th public hearing for this Plan was that recreation areas should be evenly distributed throughout the Township. Indeed, it would be ideal if Frelinghuysen could purchase and thereby "bank" large properties throughout the Township for future conversion to recreational use. (*J. Madden, Consultant Planner; Planning Board workshop, 2-9-06*) For now, the proposed acquisition adjacent to Rydell Park may be a step forward toward pro-active recreation planning and it would consistent with the Township's 1996 Open Space Element in that it would enhance "recreational opportunities within the Township with a focus being at the existing Municipal Complex... (and provide) a Community Center with adequate and convenient parking." (Pg. 8)

A Recreation Committee exists in Frelinghuysen charged with providing sports and community activities. Approximately 100- 110 children, in four co-ed divisions, are currently engaged in soccer. A Little League Charter with Blirstown Recreation allows 90 boys and 40-45 girls, (5th through 12th graders,) to participate in baseball/softball.

Girls' and boys' basketball is provided at the Frelinghuysen elementary school with extra practice time available through a rental agreement between the Recreation Committee and the Johnsonburg Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center off Route 519 to use it's new gym for co-ed clinics offered to about 100- 120 Frelinghuysen children. (*Chip Greene, Recreation Director-Tel. communications; 8/05, 11/05*)

Frelinghuysen, Blairstown, Knowlton and Hardwick belong to the North Warren Regional High School district, which accommodates 7th & 8th graders in the middle school and 9th through 12th grade students at the high school. Both buildings share a campus off Lambert Road in Blairstown. According to Athletic Director, John Simonetti, Frelinghuysen currently has sixty (60) children enrolled in the Fall sports programs. This level of involvement places Frelinghuysen third among the districts. The following breakdown represents the sports offered in the Fall, which has the largest level of participation, and the number of Frelinghuysen participants:

<u>Middle School</u>	<u>#. participants</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u># participants</u>
Cross Country =	5	Cross Country =	10
Field Hockey =	2	Field Hockey =	5
Boys Soccer =	4	Boys Soccer =	8
Girls Soccer =	6	Girls Soccer =	8
		Football =	12

Winter sports offered include basketball, wrestling and cheerleading, while Spring adds golf and lacrosse to the sports menu. Exact enrollment figures are pending. Next Spring, the High School will have the use of a new park off Route 94 where two fields have been developed to offer lacrosse, soccer and a practice field for football. Lacrosse has proven so popular, the High School is planning to offer it at the junior varsity level for middle school students.

A survey sent out by the school in September to students to gauge satisfaction with current programs did not point to any other sports they found lacking. The school strives to keep all students on campus if possible. (*J. Simonetti, Athletic Director - Tel. communication; 12/05*)

New this year, the Ridge & Valley Charter School was constructed off Route 94, just east of Pippin Hill Road, in Frelinghuysen. Their mission is based on improving education through integrated coursework and instilling an appreciation for the environment. They offer classes for kindergarten through 8th grade students, with class size averaging 15 students each.

Last year, 7th & 8th graders used their math lessons and geometry skills to design and build composting bins. Students also conducted service work at Princeton-Blairstown Center, in Hardwick, building trails. A large teepee has been erected on the east side for use as outdoor classroom space. Matriculation is based on individual assessments. A private agreement with a neighboring property owner allows access to the Paulinskill River. The school site was chosen because its soil was certified organic enabling students to practice gardening in a safe environment plus it offers "quite a bit of room to explore." (*N. Dvorsky, Administrative Coordinator - Tel. communication; 12/05*)

Pocket Park Should be Considered for Marksboro

Pocket parks provide breaks in the residential landscape of communities. Tot lots provide a place for little ones to play and areas where parents and caregivers can get together. Marksboro is a linear community bisected by N.J. Route 94. Although traffic along the state highway in this area is relatively low, at least two major accidents have occurred in less than

five years in town. The *Open Space Plan and Recreation Plan* for Frelinghuysen Township has identified three vacant lots which may be considered for possible acquisition to give this northern, historic community a greater sense of identity and a safe, gathering place. (See *Appendix - Open Space Map*)

Small jungle-gyms and imagination stations like the one recently installed at Rydell Park should be provided for Historic Marksboro Village as well. Park benches could be provided on Township property offering scenic vistas and nearby parking. The three acres available along the Paulins Kill in Marksboro may serve this purpose and foster awareness of historic resources as well as provide a possible fishing spot.

Community Center Needed for Events & Gatherings

As many as thirty (30) seniors are actively involved in the Frelinghuysen Seniors Club. Their meetings take place at the Town Hall, where many members enjoy knitting and everyone looks forward to the periodic bus trips. Their most pressing need at this time is for an outdoor pavilion to provide cover for outdoor gatherings. They've long used one in Blairstown but scheduling has been difficult due to increased demand. Another need is for shuttle bus service in the area to facilitate doctors' visits and errands. (*Fran Muller, Frelinghuysen Senior Club - Tel. communication; 12/05*)

Other recreation activities designed to provide fun for all ages is organized by the Frelinghuysen Recreation Committee. If not possible to hold an activity on-site at the Town Hall or at the Frelinghuysen School, the municipality will "sponsor" an activity elsewhere and also on private property, thus covering insurance. At present, these activities include aerobics, piano, ski club, karate, and movie night as well as an annual catch and release fishing derby. The Founders Day picnic takes place at the Frelinghuysen School. The Haunted Hay Rides / corn maze and barbeque is facilitated by local farmers and property owners. Casino Night takes place at the Dark Moon Restaurant, formerly the Big K. These are some of the fundraising events help fund recreation programs and are popular to residents and visitors alike.

Although the Town Hall has always been a welcoming public building, no doubt Frelinghuysen's full slate of community events has long benefited from the largesse of residents and local businesses. A dedicated community center would thus serve the public well and possibly provide the indoor "community house" called for in the 1996 Township *Open Space Plan*.

The proposed new recreation / community center at the corner of Route 661 (Main Street and Ramsey Road) would create a centrally located major facility accessible from main arterial roads. Close enough to the historic center of the Township, it will expand upon Rydell Park and connect to the current Town Hall site and thus maintain a sense of community pride and identity for Frelinghuysen residents.

Historic Structures At Risk



A comprehensive historic preservation plan is needed for Frelinghuysen Township. Adopted as part of the Township Master Plan, renovation / construction guidelines may be suggested to prevent deterioration of the numerous historic landmarks found throughout the Township.

Occupying one of the most historically significant spots in Frelinghuysen Township, the Johnsonburg Hotel (shown above) closed in the 1970's and suffered from neglect until efforts were recently made to spruce up and secure the façade. Still, it remains an eyesore at the center of town and no longer serves as a credit to the industriousness of former Township residents.

Another goal set at the October 26th Public Hearing was to restore Historic Marksboro Village. Marksboro offers a quaint picture of country life to travelers taking relatively busy Route 94. The 1991 *Warren County Cultural Resources Survey* found the hamlet eligible for designation as a national historic district due to its distinction as the homestead of Colonel Thompson, an important Revolutionary figure as well as its "association with the early settlement and industrial development of northwestern New Jersey (and) its colonial, Italianate and Victorian" structures still standing. (*Appendix C*)

Mostly kept in good order, a few structures remain in open need of special care. Purported to be one of the oldest structures, the stone building on the northeast corner of Hardwick Road and Route 94, once housed the Marksboro Post Office and Squire Lanning's general store. (*Memories...., 2005; Pg. 63*) Inside is alleged to be marks made by a young John Blair. Blair became famous throughout the region as a 19th Century railroad magnate. Unfortunately, the building is now shuttered and crumbling. A larger frame Victorian across from Silver Lake Road and thus in full view to anyone entering Marksboro from the west or south is vacant and has just recently suffered severe dilapidation.

The 1966 *Frelinghuysen Township Master Plan* proposed a bypass on the south side of Marksboro to safeguard the village from future widening of Route 94 that would impact historic structures because of their proximity to the right-of-way. A bypass would also allow development of sidewalks in the village that would perhaps link the general store, Marksboro Church and commercial property at the intersection of Route 94 and Route 608 (Silver Lake Road).

Safeguarding Water Resources a Must

The abundant water resources in Frelinghuysen Township are evidenced by the many natural springs found in almost every sector of the community. Geologically, the Paulins Kill and Pequest River watersheds offer highly productive aquifers. All drinking water in Frelinghuysen Township is derived from these ground water resources. Therefore, water quantity and quality has always been of primary concern.

A gasoline spill from the Esso, subsequently the Exxon station in Johnsonburg, caused a scare in the 1970's. The N.J. DEP ordered removal of the underground tanks and continued monitoring of neighboring wells. Litigation resulted in Exxon having to drill two new wells for several nearby houses and the Johnsonburg Hotel, plus pay some restitution to property owners. The Township was not required to install a public water system. (*Memories...*, 2005; Pgs. 98-99)

A former municipal dumpsite / incinerator off Greendell Road also caused concern about the same time, but no record of follow up action has been found, to date. (*G. Sipple, Senior Planner, Warren County Planning Dept. / D. Natyzak-Osadca / B. Canace - Tel. & e-mail communications; 12/05*)

N.J. DEP stream monitoring studies in Frelinghuysen have shown some impairment of water quality exists in the Paulins Kill and the vicinity of nearby Shades of Death Road, in Allamuchy. Bear Brook is an N.J. DEP Category One stream capable of trout production. Land preservation in this vicinity is critical to maintaining water quality.

Railroad Sidings Should be Acquired to Preclude Commercial Use

It may benefit Frelinghuysen to assess and perhaps acquire large lots, or sidings, adjacent to the railroad line itself if possible. This would preclude use by independent contractors who have been known to lease the land from railroads to store and/or transfer waste material. Several municipalities with active railroad lines have found themselves in the untenable position of having open-air dumpsites operated in their midst. Exempted from State regulation due to connection with the railroad and thereby protected by Interstate Commerce laws, these sites have plagued local officials and residents alike.

Several petitioned the State legislature to pass laws that would allow local environmental and traffic regulations to apply to these sites. "Some of the most contentious stations are the five in North Bergen along the New York-Susquehanna & Western Railroad line. Most of them handle construction and demolition debris, though one handles radioactive and chromium-laced soil." (*Star-Ledger, "Towns petition the feds on railroad trash stations"; 10-28-*

05) The N.J. DEP is powerless to control the situation as a Federal court judge ruled it is beyond their jurisdiction. "Local and State authorities have had trouble controlling the waste along the tracks because of an old federal law giving dumping rights there to interstate railroads (however) the judge also allowed the State to investigate whether the stations are truly railroad facilities or are actually waste handlers operating under the auspices of a railroad." (North Bergen Reporter.com, "Judge rules that trash can stay"; 11-6-06)

In Frelinghuysen, the N.J. DOT owns 13 acres on the north side of the Lackawanna Cut-Off that is surrounded by the Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserve. By itself, it offers no direct road access, however, 24 acres on the opposite side of the railroad is a sizable farm-assessed property offering 843 feet of frontage on Route 519 (Dark Moon Road). The Township should perhaps pursue farmland preservation of said farm tract. Another 15 acres owned by N.J. DOT is located on the south side of the easement along the Green Township border. It borders Frances Lake. A third sizable 6 -acre flag lot is located off Camp Wasigan Road.

Rapid Residential Growth Can Erode Rural Character of the Township

Frelinghuysen's new designation within the Highlands Planning Area may have a possible spill-over of residential growth from neighboring municipalities with more restrictive land use regulations. In 2005, the Township authorized a hydrologic study to determine the septic carrying capacity prevalent in Frelinghuysen. Septic systems add nitrates to the environment so it was necessary to create a model with which to test potential effects. Conducted by Maser Consulting, this study determined that average minimum lot sizes should be 5.8 acres per septic system throughout the Township. (Frelinghuysen Township Master Plan Re-examination Report, 2005; Pg 9, 10)

Hunting & Fishing Needs Support & Access

Fishing and hunting are past-times that have long been practiced in Frelinghuysen Township. Participants at Frelinghuysen's October 26th Public Hearing to set goals for this Open Space and Recreation Plan said it should be allowed wherever permissible in order to control wildlife and offer recreational activities. Local hunters need support and access to hunting grounds as they have proven conscientious and law-abiding for many years. In addition to enjoying an intergenerational past-time, local hunters maintain and monitor property they lease. According to Angelo Leoncini, 84, principal founder of the Johnsonburg Gun Club, his group respects property rights and postings and is not involved in what he called "hijacking" game, or poaching, which unfortunately happens too often. (Tel. Communication; 12/05)

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THE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM FOR FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP

Open space is an infrastructure that needs to be designed and planned just as utilities, roadways and pipelines. When planned as a system, this infrastructure provides many benefits to the community.

Community Benefits of Open Space Preservation

Natural lands and recreation space provide the following functions that promote a healthy community.

- Protects drinking water quantity and quality
- Preserves habitat for all living organisms, including people, plants and animals
- Offers a variety of outdoor recreation experiences
- Balances growth and development to sustain economic vitality in the community
- Provides opportunities for residents to keep fit and healthy
- Aids in promoting a sense of community
- Connects residents to their community's heritage by preserving historic landmarks and sites
- Prevents erosion and conserves soil, a nonrenewable resource
- Contributes to landscape diversity and a scenic environment
- Controls flooding
- Maintains a community's character

A well integrated open space system will achieve these benefits for Frelinghuysen Township. The following recommendations will outline how the Township can build on existing protected lands to create a viable land preservation network.

Preserving the Roads Less Traveled Will Preserve a Rural Countryside

Frelinghuysen Township is characterized by many winding country roads that developed slowly as the need arose to serve farms and hamlets. These roadways are evocative of an agrarian landscape and to date remain predominantly rural with low traffic volumes. Unheard of in more urban areas, it is not uncommon to be able to stop a vehicle in the middle of the road to chat with neighbors or simply photograph the landscape. Route 661 (Main Street), Johnsonburg, is likewise a quiet country street where children and pets often run free without

fear of many passing vehicles. Several roads remain less traveled, thus less maintained, such as the extension through the Pittenger Farm off Route 519 (Dark Moon Road), Old Stage Road, Kerr Road and Camp Wequa Road and Heller Road. These forgotten roads offer exciting possibilities for future trail use. A truly rural countryside depends on the country lifestyles and attitudes that support it. Celebrating and fiercely maintaining a rural way of life, albeit with less road improvements except where needed for safety.

Land Preservation for the Globally Rare

Aggressive land preservation in Frelinghuysen Township has had the benefit of protecting endangered and threatened flora and fauna, some endemic only in Frelinghuysen and thus of global importance. Whereas traditional land preservation may rest with the idea that the land is saved from development, it is recognized in Frelinghuysen that it contributes to a larger, interconnected ecosystem. The large preserves that have been created in Frelinghuysen and the surrounding region serve as stepping stones toward sustaining the integrity of natural habitats. Connecting the various wildlife preserves with trail systems fosters awareness and appreciation of natural resources among constituents. Their support is vital monetarily as well as to ensure continued stewardship of protected landscapes.

Wildlife Corridors Ensure Species Survival

Environmental land use planning is integral to the survival of Frelinghuysen Township's wildlife habitats. Preservation of available limestone forest habitats give large mammals in particular the safety and security of traveling throughout their territories for nourishment and breeding. Jenny Jump Mountain serves as a major corridor for wildlife transmigration. The Paulinskill Valley Trail does likewise. By ensuring a network of greenway corridors to branch out from these routes, Frelinghuysen will expand these safe corridors and contribute to species survival.

Farmland Preservation Maintains a Sense of Place

Strong agrarian values have forged Frelinghuysen's identity and are responsible for its development as a rural community. The farms scattered throughout the Township offer pastoral views with active livestock or crop management. It is not uncommon to turn a corner and come across evocative old farmsteads with distinctive red, white or weathered gray barns. Many historic, these structures add a dimension to the landscape that is irreplaceable and comforting.

Agricultural Land Preserves the Economic Vitality of the Township

The economic vitality of Frelinghuysen Township has always been tied to agriculture and industry. In addition to preserving the large farm tracts still in existence throughout the Township, it's important to preserve the livelihood and financial stability of the farmers themselves. Frelinghuysen Township should play a strong role in lobbying efforts that seek more equitable land appraisals for farmers.

Changes in minimum lot size requirements via new zoning standards is often seen by large landowners as an unwelcome loss in equity. Land values in northwest New Jersey put Warren County in an unfair disadvantage when seeking State funding, as money offered to buy development rights is characteristically lower than the amount offered by developers. Every effort should be made to reach out to these property owners to discuss all available options as has been suggested in Frelinghuysen's 2005 *Farmland Preservation Plan*. These concerted efforts can be augmented by leveraging local Trust Fund monies with State and County funds to preserve land in the Township.

Continued sponsorship of local, country events such as the Haunted Hayrides and Founders Day picnic serve the dual purpose of knitting the community together with a series of fun events and also fostering awareness of Frelinghuysen's rich heritage. Offering a venue for local produce such as organic garlic, honey, eggs and the myriad of other specialty crops grown in Frelinghuysen is a welcome addition to any community event and promote local commerce.

Protection of Stream Corridors Considered Vital

In addition to stepped-up soil erosion control measures, preservation of riparian stream corridors and natural springs is crucial to maintaining water quality. The Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserves, Glovers Pond Preserve and Allamuchy Road Pond project site each recognize the value of protecting the Pequest River watershed. Sand aquifers in this region offer abundant ground water supplies and their fragility to land disturbance has been documented. In addition, preservation efforts should be targeted in the Paulins Kill valley as it remains relatively undeveloped.

A recent hydrologic study to determine the nitrate dilution level that would be appropriate for safe, septic system operation in the Township, determined that residential properties should average 5.8 acres per lot. This finding was based on a nitrate dilution model based on 2.0 mg/liter. This information was critical for justifying the Township's new measure to set residential zoning standards at a minimum six acres per lot. (*Frelinghuysen Master Plan Re-examination Report, 2005; Pg. 9*)

Protection of Ridge Tops and Rural Landscape Maintains Visual Character

Frelinghuysen Township exhibits impressive long views of the Kittatinny Ridge and Delaware Water Gap westward from State Park Road, Lincoln Laurel Road, Kerrs Corner Road and Allamuchy Road. These scenic vistas impart the feeling of having glimpsed a relatively untouched countryside in Northwest New Jersey. These attributes are the direct result of limited development, allowing passersby to enjoy the natural landscape. Rooftops have not cluttered the hilltops, farm fields or forests. With greater promotion of these viewsheds and focused land conservation, public appreciation will ensure that increased preservation efforts succeed.

Trails Enhance Recreation Opportunities

The existing open space system in Frelinghuysen Township includes nearly 2,876 acres of preserved land, representing active agricultural stewardship as well as environmental preserves. Totalling 19% of the Township's total land base, these parcels offer a unique opportunity to create linkages that serve the natural environment and offer recreation opportunities. Trails would offer wildlife corridors to and from these preserves and passage ways for humans to experience the natural environment.

Historic Preservation Maintains Cultural Identity

Development of a comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan to complement the soon to be updated *Township Master Plan* will provide a concise inventory of historic limekilns, barns, homes, tunnels, bridges, caves and other structures or sites with the goal preserving Frelinghuysen's historic treasures. Historic Marksboro should join Johnsonburg on the State and National Historic Registers as this community is directly subject to state road improvements to Route 94.

Limekilns and cave structures abound in Frelinghuysen Township and add immeasurably to the landscape. Strong Township regulations and enforcement, plus official recognition of these sites, albeit discreet to avoid vandalism, are needed to preserve these attributes and thus maintain local streetscapes.

The Hardwick Cemetery, a.k.a. Old Dyer Burial Ground, off Dark Moon Road, dates back at least 255 years and holds the remains of Frelinghuysen's early settlers. Located on private property, access is not readily available. It may prove beneficial for historical research and the site can serve as a destination point for trail enthusiasts.

Diverse Recreation Opportunities Provide for Community Health

The Frelinghuysen Recreation Committee recently recognized the need for a simple jungle gym at Rydell Park for parents to entertain smaller children while their siblings play active sports nearby. Whether it is parents in need of a place to push the stroller and commune together, older children needing more sports fields, equestrians needing bridal trails or dog owners looking for safe places to walk, recreation contributes to the overall health and well-being of a community. Additional playgrounds, memory parks or overlooks provide that chance for respite so rare in these busy times. Bisected by a busy State highway, Marksboro may benefit from such facilities.

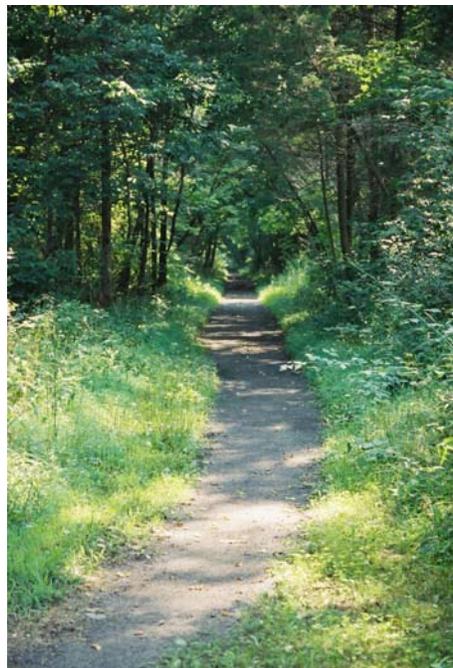
The proposed sports complex near Johnsonburg, at the northwest corner of Route 661 should meet Frelinghuysen's recreational needs well into the future, as well as the possible construction of a community center. Efforts should be made to secure the Smith Park ball field for municipal use.

The 59 acres owned by Frelinghuysen Township off Route 94 may provide opportunities to build facilities for active recreation and/or Township needs such as road maintenance

buildings or other municipal services. Trails may be developed through the property to link with adjacent properties and landmarks.

Ecotourism Capitalizes on Preservation Efforts

Ecotourism, as a desired regional goal, would be enhanced by the creation of trail networks and bicycle routes through Frelinghuysen. Conversion of the old Susquehanna and Western Railroad bed near Marksboro into the the Paulinskill Valley Trail (shown here) traverses a pristine and rural landscape and is valued by hiking enthusiasts and equestrians. With adequate promotion of these special attributes such as all potential bridle paths, fishing spots, hiking trails, scenic views, historic structures and farm markets, Frelinghuysen may once again serve as the heart of rural northwest New Jersey; a way station offering quaint farmstands and country stores for local produce, beverages and supplies.



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PROPOSED GREENWAYS & PRESERVATION CORRIDORS

This Open Space and Recreation Plan integrates known data with a vision ascertained from the public and stakeholders as to future land preservation efforts in Frelinghuysen Township. The attached *Greenway Map* is herein summarized below from approximately due north clockwise top to bottom, with proposed trails and corridors expressed where appropriate. Frelinghuysen is advised to periodically review the map to ensure that land recommendations remain accurate.

Paulinskill River Recreation Corridor:

This Corridor is firmly grounded in the Paulins Kill and associated Paulinskill Valley Trail which occupies Frelinghuysen's northern border. This area encompasses land along the Paulins Kill. It represents a prime riparian corridor and the multi-faceted recreation opportunities available therein, as well as unique ecosystem values and needs. Considered one of Frelinghuysen's more rural landscapes, this Greenway would capitalize on the dense forest and limestone outcrops along Hensfoot Road and thereby preserve ecological values and habitats.

Views northward from Lincoln Laurel Road are outstanding. Pippin Hill Road is a dead-end country roadway off Route 94 that may connect to trail systems for either pedestrians or equestrians to explore the countryside.

The Paulinskill Valley Trail offers the best opportunity to link up with nearby preserves. Just north of the trailhead at Spring Valley Road is a linkage to the Warren County and N.J. DEP White Lake Wildlife Management Areas in Hardwick Township, offering almost 800 acres of preserved land. Also nearby is the Hardwick Meadows Preserve featuring environmentally sensitive natural habitats. Regional trails from Frelinghuysen to these sites will aid valuable research studies and foster an even greater appreciation of regional attributes.

Kids Camp, off Lincoln Laurel Road, offers 24 acres of recreational land currently owned by the Catholic Archdioceses of Newark. Such camps are often willing partners in hosting community events, sharing facilities and creating trail networks.

The historic values presented by Marksboro Village offer a reminder of Frelinghuysen's industrious past. The former mill and historic structures leading down toward the Paulins Kill gorge are notable for their exceptional condition. A system whereby visitors and residents can visit this area would benefit the village and possibly lead to economic development. A bypass was once proposed for Marksboro that would help alleviate traffic and damage to historic structures.

Special attributes include:

- Paulins Kill River
- Paulinskill Valley Trail
- Scenic Views
- Fishing
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Limestone Outcrops
- Dense Forests
- Country Roadways

- Historic Farmsteads
- Marksboro Historic Village
- Marksboro Mill
- Historic Stone Bridge
- Wildlife Corridors
- Ridge & Valley Charter School
- Kids Camp
- Pippin Hill Road

Martinsburg Ridge Greenway:

This Greenway encompasses a large territory between Route 519 (Hope-Johnsonburg Road), extending up to Route 94 and Lincoln Laurel Road. Acquisition of the 59 acre farm tract adjacent to the Frelinghuysen School offers many exciting possibilities for recreation and/or municipal use. Large enough to accommodate several different uses, the property is also situated across from the northern Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserve, whereby trails are proposed and/or exist nearby to encourage visitation of Mud Pond, as well as the Yellow Frame Cemetery holding the remains of 22 Revolutionary War heroes.

The Federal Aviation Signaling Tower off Muller Lane offers a 360 degree view of the surrounding countryside. Muller Lane and Kerr Road are dead-end, country roadways. These rural lanes may be classified as perhaps the least traveled in Frelinghuysen Township and may serve as multi-use trails, where appropriate, for pedestrians, bicyclists or equestrians. Regional bicycle groups often utilize Route 519 (Hope-Johnsonburg Road) to access Hope or conversely, Sussex County. Golden Chain Road off Route 608 (Silver Lake Road) offers pastoral views and possible access to the Lackawanna Cut-Off railroad easement.

The Martinsburg Ridge Greenway would capitalize on the shale geology that lends rolling topography to the region. The 2005 Frelinghuysen Township *Farmland Preservation Plan* calls for preserving most of this region as it represents the physical divide between the Paulins Kill and Pequest watersheds. It comprises some of Frelinghuysen's most productive farm tracts, including the preserved tracts belonging to Genesis Farm, the Bennett Farm off Route 94 and Route 661 (Ramsey Road), as well as the Moore and Young farmsteads. French Lake, Wasigan Lake and Genesis Farm are vital components to the region, offering spectacular viewsheds. Wasigan Lake once served as a summer girls' camp near the historic hamlet of Ebenezer. Now quietly on the market, the property contains a pristine and highly visible lake. A priority suggested at the October 26th Public Hearing to develop this Plan was to gain access to Wasigan Lake for fishing.

The Johnsonburg Historic District was declared eligible for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1992. It is recognized as one of Warren County's most well-preserved historic enclaves. Off the beaten track, it has remained a quiet, country village with distinctive remnants of a much more vibrant economy. Including the Johnsonburg Historic District as an overlay to the Greenway system herein proposed is a way to recognize its exceptional value and function at the core of life in Frelinghuysen Township.

Special attributes include:

- Beaver Brook
- Johnsonburg Historic District
- Johnsonburg Methodist Cemetery
- Johnsonburg Christian Cemetery
- Town Hall
- Rydell Park
- Johnsonburg Hotel
- Cave systems
- Wasigan Lake
- French Lake
- Preserved farms
- Historic structures
- Scenic Views
- Pastoral country roads
- Mott Road limekiln
- Johnsonburg Corner Park
- Ramsey Road railroad culvert
- Wasigan Road railroad culvert

Dark Moon Greenway:

The Dark Moon Greenway encompasses the Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserves, located north and south of Route 519 (Dark Moon Road). This area includes land managed by Wildlife Preserves, Inc. Both of these tracts feature highly sensitive ecosystems warranting efforts to limit land disturbance. Bear Brook is classified as a Category One stream flowing from Green Township. Wildlife Preserves Inc. has allowed a local boy scout troop to develop trails on their property. The Nature Conservancy allows limited hunting on their tract to control turkeys. Located directly across from the Township's 59-acre farm tract off Route 94, the Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserve and Wildlife Preserves, Inc. properties may provide a trail network that would offer direct access from Old Stage Road to Route 94. The preserved tract south of Greendell Road is actively farmed.

Another intriguing trail system may be developed utilizing the original Dark Moon Road easement. This trail would allow access to the Hardwick Cemetery, a.k.a. Old Dyer Burial Ground.

Special attributes include:

- Old Stage Road
- Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve
- Mud Pond
- Wildlife Preserves
- Yellow Frame Caves
- Dark Moon Extension
- Historic Farmsteads
- Johnsonburg Swamp Wildlife Preserve
- Octagon House
- Rt. 519 Railroad culvert
- Frances Lake
- Yellow Frame Cemetery
- Hardwick Cemetery