

# Liberty Township Open Space Plan

The Liberty Township Open Space Advisory Committee, after gaining input from the Environmental Commission, the Recreation Commission, and two public surveys, has targeted the following parcels for acquisition.

## 1. Public Access to Mountain Lake

The recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, and bird watching abound on and around Warren County's largest natural glacial lake. The following parcels are currently under contract to the Township:

- a. Block 52, lot 43
- b. Block 44, lot 1
- c. Block 52, lot 42

## 2. Warren Trail

The Warren Trail, as a Warren County initiative, will be a multi-use trail following the abandoned Lehigh-Hudson railroad bed. Upon completion it will run from Allamuchy to Phillipsburg. In Liberty this trail will run near the Pequest River. This is a cooperative project between both private and public landholders. The following parcel needs to be acquired for the connection in Liberty Township:

- a. Block 300, lot 2

## 3. Highlands Trail

This cooperative effort of the NY/NJ Trail Conference, state and local governments, conservation organizations, and local businesses will highlight the natural beauty of the New Jersey and New York Highlands region. This footpath only trail will extend over 150 miles from Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River to Phillipsburg, NJ on the Delaware River. In Liberty Township this footpath would along follow the Jenny Jump ridge. The NY/NJ Trail Conference has identified the following parcels as priority for acquisition or easement:

- a. Block 5, lots 7 & 28

## 4. Athletic Fields

The Liberty Recreation Commission has stated that additional athletic fields are needed for the youth sports program. The following parcels could be utilized for this purpose:

- a. Block 20, lots 74, 42, 75
- b. Block 1 lots 20,20.01, 18, 19

## 5. Public/Private Golf Course

The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act places 99% of the Township in the Preservation Area. A “Green Concept” golf course would help offset spiraling tax increases due to the elimination of commercial and industrial development and utilize innovative land use practices that will be in compliance with the Act. The proposed golf course would encompass the following parcels:

- a. Block 9 lots 9 & 22 – 230.71 acres

## 6. Passive Recreation

In the 2005 Open Space Survey passive recreation ranked second to preserving the rural character in ways residents would like to see Open Space Tax funds spent. The 2004 survey respondents placed preserving water quality as the top goal for an Open Space Plan. Preserving the following parcels would accomplish all three needs, and serve as connectors to other areas already preserved:

- a. Block 48 lot 9
- b. Block 23 lots 2, 60, & 1.01
- c. Buzzards Glory Road

## 7. Farmland Preservation

The following two farms in Liberty Township have expressed an interest in selling development rights:

- a. Block lot 35
- b. Block 11 lot 22