

# Sparta Township

Update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan  
Public Meeting

June 13, 2024



**Sparta**  
Township

While we wait to get started, please join our Poll Everywhere  
by scanning this QR code:  
(or visiting <https://pollev.com/barbaradavis928>)





# The Land Conservancy of New Jersey

We preserve, restore, and care for land and water resources, inspiring and empowering individuals and communities to protect open space.





# Why update the Open Space Plan?


The Township's current Open Space Plan (2003) is out of date.

The Plan identifies locally important lands for conservation and protection.

Completing an Open Space Plan yields 10 points towards Sustainable Jersey Certification.

The Township received a grant from the Highlands Council to cover 100% of the cost to update the Open Space Plan.





# **Green Acres Guidelines**

Completing an Open Space Plan opens the opportunity for state grants.

The Township would qualify for Green Acres Planning Incentive Grant funding:

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres>



# Components of an Open Space and Recreation Plan

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## Executive Summary

Highlights the community's recreational and ecological amenities and open space successes.



## Goals of the Open Space Program

Offers a picture of why the town wants to purchase and preserve land for open space and recreation.



## Community Meetings

Engaging the public is a key part of the Open Space Plan.



## History of the Open Space Program

Provides information on the town's Open Space Trust Fund, grants received, and land preserved.



# Maps and Planning

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## Open Space Inventory

Documents preserved, public, and private land in Sparta Township.



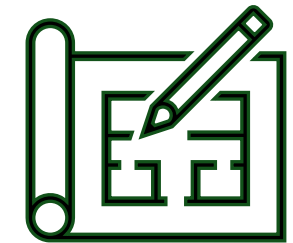
## Recreation Resources

Inventories recreational areas and facilities within the municipality.



## Historic and Cultural Resources

Provides a picture of locally and regionally important historic sites in the municipality.



## Planning Consistency

Ensures consistency between the Open Space Plan and the Master Plan.



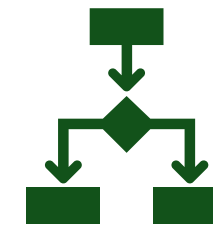
# Recommendations

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## Preservation Recommendations

Recommends opportunities for preserving additional land and improving existing resources.



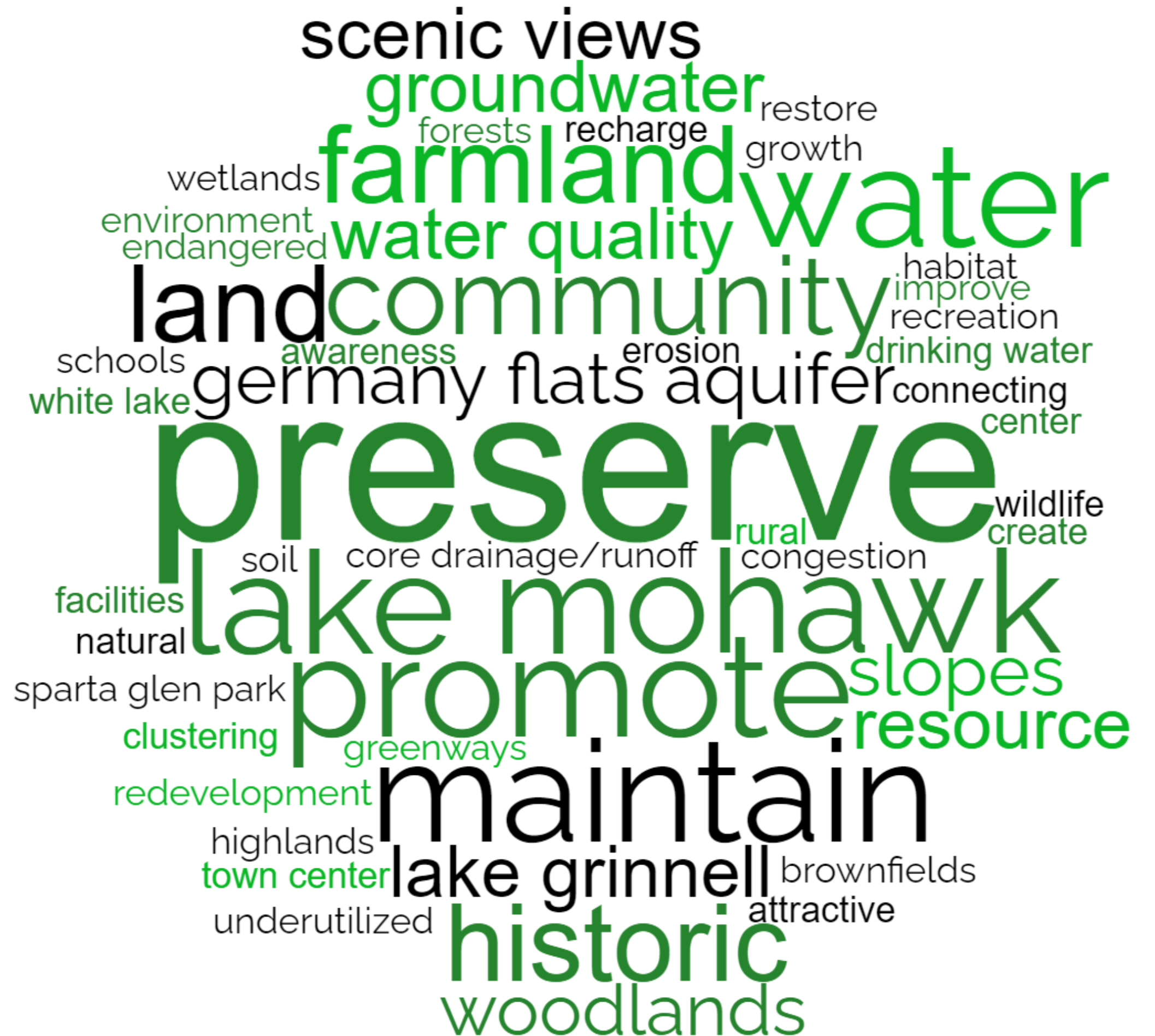
## Action Plan

Provides a general timeline for meeting Sparta's open space goals.




# Open space and recreation priorities

# Township Master Plans (1960-2020)







# Open Space Goals

*Our questions, your suggestions  
for the 2024 Update*

1

Why do you live in Sparta Township? What makes it so special?

2

What park do you visit the most? Why do you like it so much?

3

Why should Sparta update its Plan? What would you like to see as an outcome of the Plan?

4

What recreation facilities could use an upgrade? What new things would you like to see added to the parks?

5

Where would you like to see land preserved in Sparta? Why?



# Live Questions Using Poll Everywhere

Poll Everywhere is a live polling platform that can be used to gather audience responses in real time.

To join our poll, scan this QR code:

OR visit

<https://pollev.com/barbaradavis928>

OR download the Poll Everywhere app and enter the presenter username barbaradavis928.





# Questions or Comments





# Schedule and Deliverables

 = We are here

## Kickoff Meetings

With the Environmental Commission, Staff and Recreation Dept.

March-June 2024

## First Public Meeting

Hosted by the Environmental Commission

June 13, 2024

## Second Public Meeting

To present and review the Plan Update

## Plan Adoption

Township will approve and adopt the Plan Update as an Element of the Master Plan and submit to Green Acres



## Site Visit

TLCNJ attended site visits and tour with the Environmental Commission and Staff

May 23, 2024 and April 8, 2024

## Draft Preparation

TLCNJ will prepare drafts for review

## Final Plans

TLCNJ will provide the final Plan Update



# Next Steps

1. Prepare Draft Report
2. Review by Environmental Commission and Township Staff
3. Present to Planning Board and Public
4. Adopt as an Element of the Township Master Plan
5. Submit to NJDEP Green Acres







# Thank You

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