

Delaware Township
Open Space and Agricultural Advisory Committees
2025 Annual Report

Preservation Closings:

- Block 33, Lot 10.01 (4.5+/- acres): On June 2, 2025, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) acquired the property on Worman Road through the Blue Acres Program. The property is adjacent to preserved open space, and the Wichecheoke Creek runs along the west side of the parcel. The property is public open space and will be managed by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.
- Block 19, Lot 26.01 (35+/- acres): On September 23, 2025, the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) acquired a farmland easement on a farm located on Kingwood Stockton Road. The farm is adjacent to other permanently preserved farms and SADC holds the easement.
- Block 3, Lot 12 (77+/- acres): On October 24, 2025, the SADC permanently preserved a farm on Boars Head Road. SADC holds the easement.

Active Projects:

- Delaware Township began the year with 5 active farmland preservation projects. Two of those farms were preserved in 2025, as described above.
- During 2025, the Township added 2 new farmland preservation projects. As of year-end, there are 5 active applications filed with SADC for a total of 213 acres.

Planning Documents:

Open Space Preservation through the NJ Green Acres Program:

- On July 8, 2025, Delaware Township finalized and approved its Open Space & Recreation Plan Update.
- On September 9, 2025, the NJ DEP Green Acres Program approved the Plan. In accordance with Green Acres regulations, the Township must solicit community feedback 5 years from the date the Plan was adopted and share the results with Green Acres. Aside from this required 5-year outreach, the Plan is valid for 10 years from the adoption date.

Farmland Preservation through the NJ State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC):

- On May 22, 2025, the SADC approved the Township's 2026 Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (MPIG) application, conditioned upon updating its Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan.
- On June 3, 2025, Delaware Township finalized and approved its Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan.
- On October 23, 2025, SADC approved the Township's Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan.

Outreach Activities:

- In February, the Open Space Committee mailed postcards to property owners with parcels of 10 acres or more. The goal of the postcard was to identify more potential parcels for preservation while also informing the public about the Township's preservation programs.
- The Open Space Committee launched the highly successful Open Space Explorers Program in March, and it concluded in November.

Hunterdon Land Trust Activities

Hunterdon Land Trust (HLT) was retained as the Open Space Coordinator for Delaware Township on September 1, 2025. Since that time, HLT has completed the following activities:

- Attended 3 Open Space Committee meetings and prepared materials for the Committee for 4 meetings.
- Attended 2 Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings.
- Prepared the annual Planning Incentive Grant application with an updated targeted farm list.
- Completed one site visit for a potential farmland preservation project (property is not eligible at this time).
- Completed one site visit for a potential conservation project and provided stewardship guidance (property not suitable for preservation at this time).
- Managed one Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Application (MPIG) and completed requests for proposals for survey and title.
- Worked with New Jersey Conservation Foundation on several potential projects.
- Performed outreach to 2 property owners with farms on the targeted farm list.
- Prepared maps for all current and potential preservation projects.