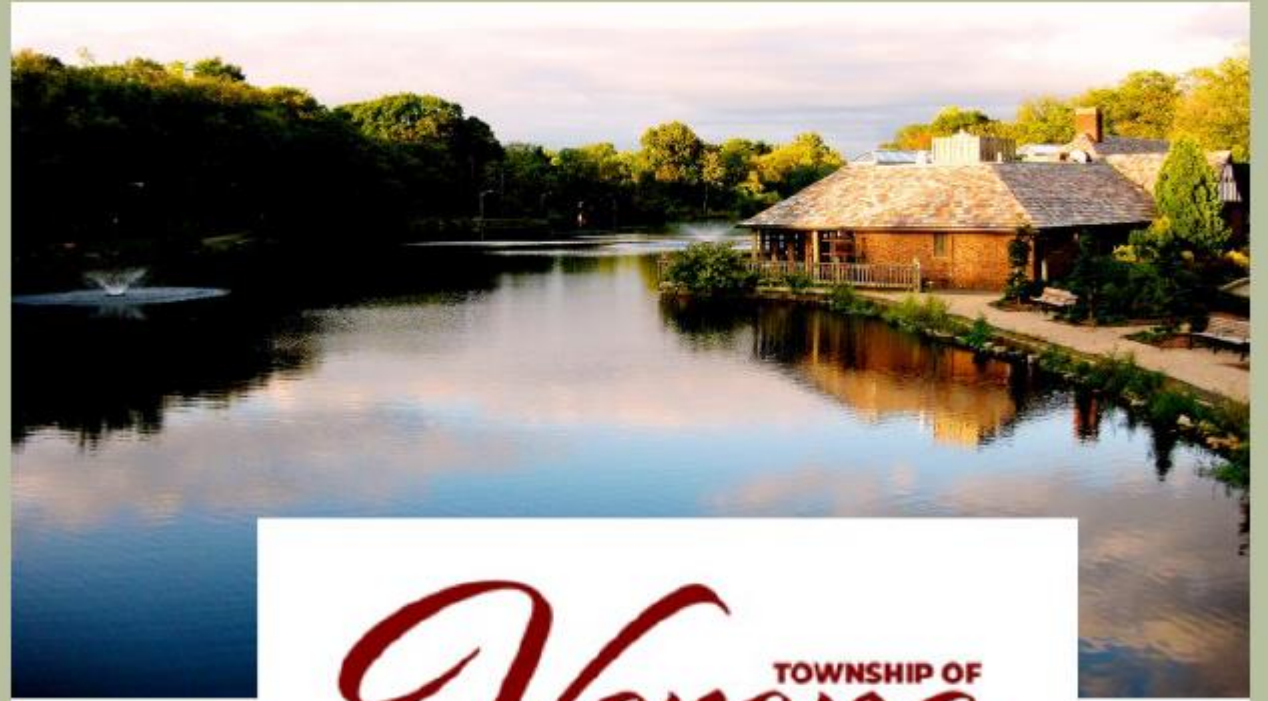


# 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Township of  
Verona

Presentation:  
June 7, 2021  
Township Council

## OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN



*Verona* TOWNSHIP OF



# Goals: 2021 Update

- Preserve remaining undeveloped land.
- Provide space for outdoor recreation.
- Improve existing open space and recreational lands.
- Mitigate or protect against flooding.
- Reduce the strain on existing infrastructure.
- Protect ecological functioning of waterways.
- Promote wildlife diversity.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Preserve historic sites and buildings.



# Open Space Funding:

- November 2019: Open Space Trust Fund (OSTF) approved
- January 2020: OSTF collects two cents (.02) per \$100
- OSTF generates \$420,000 annually
- Essex County grants: 4, totaling \$675,000
- \$5,139,601 in Green Acres grants



# Preserved Lands (Municipal) :

- Brookside Terrace (6.03 acres)
- Everett Field (2.89 acres)
- Veteran's Field (2.38 acres)
- Hilltop Reservation (12.57 acres)
- Freedom Field and Liberty Field, Hilltop Reservation (12.50 acres)
- Centennial Field (1.12 acres)
- Grove Avenue Park (2.23 acres)
- Verona Community Pool (7.78 acres)

## 2020 Acquisitions:

- Peckman Park (11.62 acres)
- Mount Prospect Park (14.28 acres)



# Mount Prospect Park:

- Block 501, Lot 83, 111 Mount Prospect Avenue
- 14.28 acres
- Adjacent to Essex County's Eagle Rock Reservation
- Predominantly forested, it has riverine wetlands associated with a tributary to the Peckman River.
- Pedestrian access via the trails in Eagle Rock Reservation.



# Peckman Park:

- Block 1201, Lot 3.01, 25 Commerce Court
- 11.62 acres
- The Peckman River flows along the western boundary
- Mixture of upland forest and early and late field vegetation.
- 8.12 acres are intended for recreational use
- Remaining 3.5 acres will be sold for residential development.



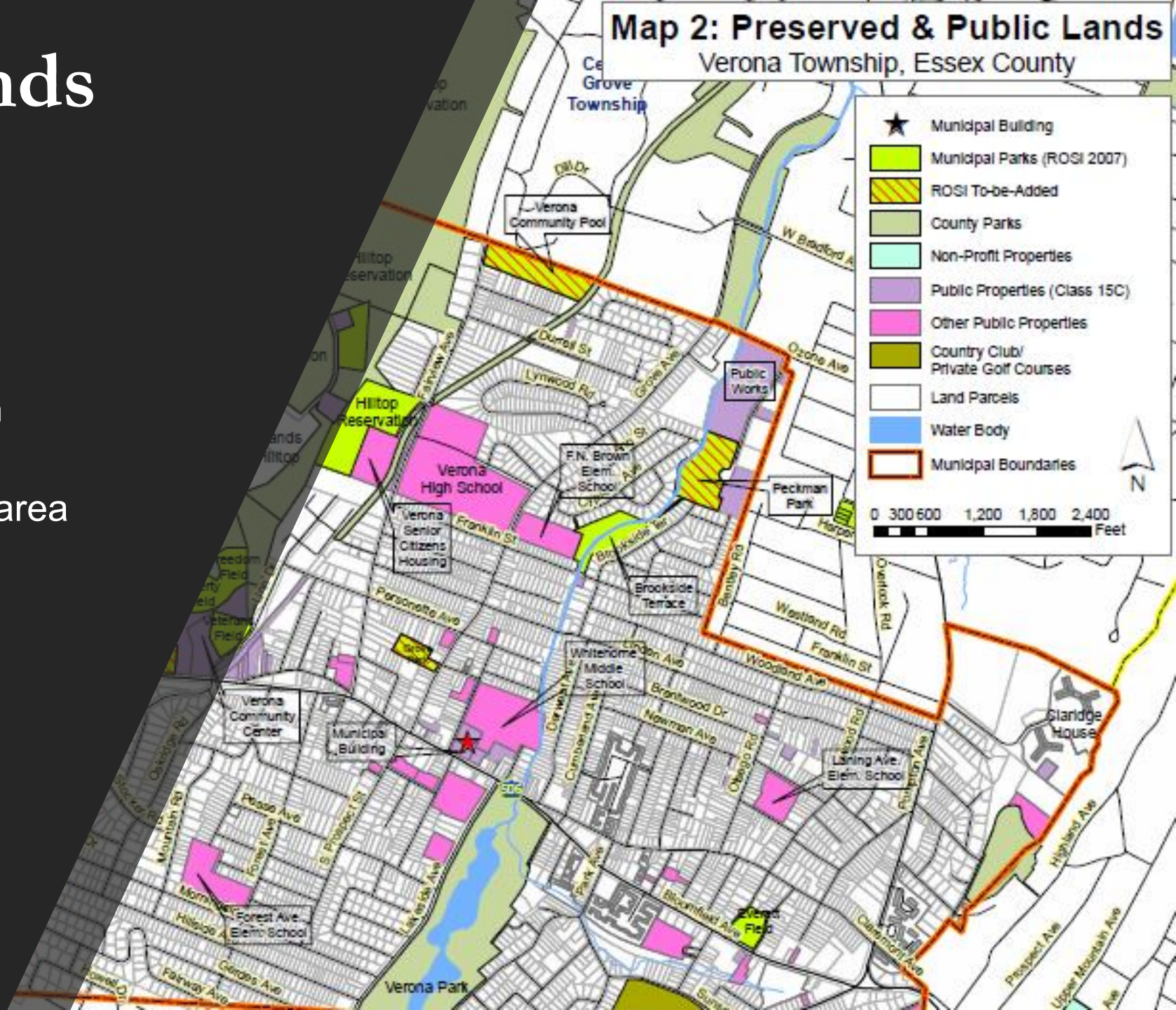
# Preserved Lands (County) :

- Eagle Rock Reservation (33.90 acres)
- Hilltop Reservation (93.65 acres)
- Kip's Castle (7.71 acres)
- Verona Park (54.34 acres)
- West Essex Trail (6.00 acres)



# Preserved Lands Summary:

- 263 acres of preserved land in Verona Township
- 14.7% of the Township's total area





# Recreation

- Expand recreation opportunities:
  - Increase access to facilities and trails. Add walking trails and pathways in parks to connect to sidewalks and neighborhoods.
  - Build additional basketball courts, tennis/pickleball courts, and a bocce ball court which could help encourage teenagers and adults ages 50-70 to engage in outdoor recreation.
  - Add overhead lighting in the heavily trafficked fields. In late fall it can be difficult to play as the sun begins its earlier descent.



# Action Plan

- Enroll in the Green Acres Planning Incentive program.
- Adopt the *Open Space and Recreation Plan* as part of the Master Plan.
- Submit the *Open Space and Recreation Plan* to the Green Acres program.
- Complete the update to the Recreation and Open Space Inventory, including the subdivision and vacation of Commerce Court for Peckman Park.
- Appoint members to the Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Committee.





# Thank You

**Contact:**

**The Land Conservancy of New Jersey**

**Barbara Heskins Davis, PP, AICP**

**Email: [bhdavis@tlc-nj.org](mailto:bhdavis@tlc-nj.org)**

