



## Executive Summary

Kinnelon Borough is uniquely situated within the Farny and Waughaw Mountains, foothills that shape the paths of four major New Jersey watersheds - Pequannock River to the north, Rockaway River to the south, Pompton River to the east, and tributaries to Split Rock Reservoir in the west. Rich in natural resources and 97% within the Highlands preservation region, Kinnelon's landscape is primarily wooded and characterized by rocky hills. The community is a vital steward for protecting New Jersey's drinking water supply, with four reservoirs located partially or fully within the Borough. A steady population growth since the 1960s threatens to impact the rural character of the community.

A total of 16% (1,948 acres) of Kinnelon's landscape has been preserved thus far. The open space planning process found that residents and local officials are most concerned about protecting scenic vistas and drinking water supply resources. These goals for an open space program in Kinnelon were determined in the fall 2004 through comments by residents at a public hearing and a mailed survey to every Kinnelon household. An open space preservation program can help Kinnelon retain its scenic, rural legacy.

In November 2002, residents of Kinnelon supported the establishment of a local open space trust to preserve land in their town. Established at one-half cent per \$100 of assessed property value, the trust was used to preserve a 34-acre addition to Pyramid Mountain county and state parklands. Trust funds can be used for the acquisition of property, development of lands acquired for recreation and conservation; preservation of historic sites and structures; and payment of debt service on indebtedness incurred by the preceding focuses. The survey found that residents support an increase of the tax up to two cents and the Borough Council responded by increasing the tax to one and one-half cents in March 2005.

Public participation through the planning process demonstrated that Kinnelon residents are interested in outdoor recreation and in land preservation in their community. Many residents support the establishment of safe pathways for walking and bicycling. Such pathways can provide opportunities for residents to enjoy their parks as well as link neighborhoods and recreation facilities within the Borough. Residents identify the rural character of the community as one of the most important features for living in their town. Residents also want to protect ground and surface water resources for drinking and recreation. Preserving forest cover, ridgelines, and natural, open areas will serve to protect Kinnelon's water resources, retain rural character and to safeguard the scenic vistas that define the community.

To achieve these goals, the Plan suggests five preservation areas in the Borough:

- **Pequannock River Greenway** – follows the Pequannock River from the Charlottesburg Reservoir and the associated tributaries to the Pequannock;
- **Stone House Brook Greenway** – follows Stone House Brook and encompassing Lake Kinnelon and the Butler Reservoir;
- **Waughaw-Towaco Greenway** – follows the Waughaw Mountains;
- **Rockaway River Greenway** – follows the tributaries in Kinnelon that flow to the Rockaway and encompassing the Taylortown Reservoir; and
- **Split Rock Ridge** – protects and overlooks the Split Rock Reservoir.

The Plan also identifies possible preservation partners, most commonly used techniques in preserving land, and potential sources of funding for open space and recreation. The open space preservation program, guided by the Open Space and Recreation Plan, will prove to be a valuable tool to shape the future growth and maintain the rural integrity of the community of Kinnelon.