

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****DATE: September 19, 2018****Contact: Matt Holt, Freeholder Director**[jmholt@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:jmholt@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

## **County Proposes Milford Riverfront Open Space Preservation To Aid Tourism**

Hunterdon County is working with the State Green Acres program and Milford Borough on a project that would result in the County's first park on the Delaware River front and a connection from Milford to Frenchtown by park trail, in a direct effort to put the area on the 'must do' map for County tourism.

Once land purchases are finalized, the proposed project creates a new nearly seven-acre riverfront park, with connection to a seven-acre former rail corridor which will align with the Delaware and Raritan Canal Path trail that traverses Frenchtown, Alexandria, and Milford.

Freeholder Director Matt Holt stated, "The proposed riverfront park along the Delaware River in Milford, with a potential hiking trail and rail line connections, is a serious and unique opportunity for Hunterdon County. It unites open space preservation with tourism and economic development, and will put Milford on the must do map for Hunterdon County tourism."

The concept consists of a combined County and Green Acres preservation of the seven-acre Belvidere and Delaware River Railway rail line, that would allow for the completion of the D&R Canal Path to Bridge Street, in addition to preserving 6.7 acres of riverfront open space between Railroad Avenue and the Delaware River in Milford.

Milford Mayor Henri Schepens said, "The Riverfront is one of Milford Borough's best assets, which has never previously been developed for the public to enjoy. We are excited to be partnering with the County on a project of this magnitude that will bring visitors into Milford and greatly benefit our downtown merchants."

Hunterdon County Economic Development Director Marc Saluk stated, "Providing an economic catalyst to our river communities by stimulating tourism is perfectly in-line with the county's economic development strategy"

Milford already hosts several events that attract visitors to the area including the upcoming Milford Alive! festival that will be taking place on September 22nd. The festival includes train rides on the Delaware River Railroad sponsored by the NY Susquehanna and Western Technical Historical Society, the festival's famous bed races, live music, food, art, and much more. For more information [milfordalive.com](http://milfordalive.com).

"Adding a preserved riverfront park and a significant trail way connection for hikers and bikers, is a key component of the County's open space strategy, however, there remain a number of details that must be addressed for the proposed project to be finalized," Holt said.