

Darts Mills Village – Darts Mill parcel / Acquisition (1.5 acres)

Readington Township has accepted a donation of a Darts Mill parcel, which encompasses the 1800 Mill House, the mill foundation site and an approx. 350' portion of the South Branch of the Raritan River. The parcel site is just east of the current CR523 bridge between Raritan and Readington townships and will be assessed in early 2023 for Township, County, and State historical and preservation value.

Several environmental partners, including Raritan Headwaters, Hunterdon Land Trust and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation will be engaged in advising and assisting Readington Twp. with future site planning and grant acquisition projects.



The current Mill House, a former General Store and Blacksmith shop – November 2022

This strategic parcel will over time contribute to stream restoration as well as the ongoing and overall protection of the South Branch of the Raritan. The stream portion of the site has both old dam and old road debris, which negatively impacts the surrounding water. Future efforts to restore this site are expected to benefit the entire South Branch watershed. Readington’s Open Space Advisory Board, Readington Water Watch and Hunterdon County have all made preservation of the South Branch of the Raritan a priority and are working to protect more land in Hunterdon County along this stream while continuing to improve water quality.



A view of the South Branch of the Raritan including the Readington stream portion of the parcel

This preservation project was the result of a five-year effort and discussions with a longtime owner of the parcel, who has donated the parcel to the township. The project will now become a collaboration effort between the township, County / State and environmental partners such as Raritan Headwaters, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and the Hunterdon Land Trust. This furthers the goal of protecting this strategic Hunterdon County greenway corridor. The intention is to preserve these parcels in their natural state for wildlife and watershed protection.

One proposed project under consideration is the restoration of the portion of the South Branch at this site to remove a remnant dam. This will improve the stream channel, water flow, lower water temperature, and improve trout habitat, as well as reduce future flooding. The parcel is expected to be assessed and carefully monitored in 2023 for future historical and environmental improvements. Residents interested in volunteering to help with this project should contact the Readington Waterwatch committee to learn more.

Juergen Huelsebusch, Mayor & Chair, Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board