



# Highlights

## Sussex County New Jersey

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Newton, NJ 07860  
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@sussex.nj.us  
www.sussex.nj.us

## Board of County Commissioners

**Chris Carney**  
Director

**Herbert Yardley**  
Deputy Director

**Dawn Fantasia**  
Commissioner

**William Hayden**  
Commissioner

**Jill Space**  
Commissioner

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## Grants Now Available to Sussex County’s Small Businesses and Nonprofits

To aid in our community’s continued economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, Sussex County’s Board of Commissioners has elected to allocate portions of the County’s American Rescue Plan Act funding to a grant supporting small businesses. A strong local economy is vital to any county’s quality of life, and we encourage all eligible small businesses and even nonprofit organizations to apply for this grant.

Below is an overview of the grant, including information on how to apply.

### Sussex County Small Business Grant Program

Sussex County recognizes the importance of supporting small businesses and nonprofit organizations in our community, especially in the face of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. To aid in their survival and recovery, the Sussex County Board of County Commissioners has allocated \$2 million from the American Rescue Plan Act funding for the Sussex County Small Business Grant Program.

The program aims to provide direct financial assistance to qualifying businesses and nonprofits that have experienced a decline in revenue or an increase in expenses due to the pandemic. Eligible businesses, business owners, and nonprofits can receive financial support of up to \$15,000.

To be eligible for the Sussex County Small Business Grant Program, applicants must meet certain criteria outlined in the program guidelines. The business or nonprofit must have been legally established in Sussex County as a Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, Corporation, Nonprofit, or LLC since January 1, 2019. The annual revenue of the business should be less than \$4 million, and it should have employed 50 or fewer full-time employees (part-time staff counts as half of a full-time employee) as of March 3, 2021. Grant funds will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis, and the costs to be reimbursed must have been incurred on or after March 3, 2021. The entity must have documented evidence of a decline in sales or an increase in expenses directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, the business must have an established location in Sussex County.

The Sussex County Small Business Grant Program is open to various types of businesses and nonprofits, including those in Agriculture; Forestry; Fishing & Hunting; Construction & Contracting; Finance & Insurance; Nonprofits; Professional, Scientific & Technical Services; Retail/Shop/Market/Store; Restaurants & Food Service; and Real Estate.

The grant funds can be used to cover eligible costs, which include goods and supplies that

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# BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



## CHRIS CARNEY DIRECTOR | TERM: 1/22 - 12/24

Dedicated to the betterment of his community, Chris Carney embodies what it means to be a public servant.

County Commissioner Christopher Carney assumed office in 2021, filling the recent vacancy. Prior to serving the people of Sussex County, Chris was the Mayor of Frankford Township where he fought to keep local government lean and efficient. He led efforts to protect local citizens personal freedoms and combat overburdening mandates from Trenton— principles he deeply believes in.

A 20-year member of the American Legion, Commissioner Carney’s father served our nation in Vietnam in the Air Force and again in Operation Desert Storm as a member of the Army National Guard. The impact his service had on him as a young man led then Mayor Carney to spearhead the fundraising, construction and completion

of the Frankford Veteran’s Memorial to honor all those who served.

Raised in Vernon, Commissioner Carney spent his formative years in Wantage, attended High Point Regional and then completed course work in the Mesa Arizona Community College System before returning back to Sussex County to start a family.

Prior to his elected service, Carney served as a member of the Park Commission and led efforts to protect local open space— he also served as the board’s Chairman. Active in the community, when he is not working his day job as a 20-year member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 825— Chris can be found coaching local youth, helping them develop the important life skills competitive team sports can provide.

Chris and his wife, an elementary teacher, continue to raise their three boys and two dogs in Frankford and are parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle in Sandyston.



## HERBERT YARDLEY DEPUTY DIRECTOR | TERM: 1/21 - 12/23

Commissioner Yardley was elected to the Board in November, 2017. Mr. Herbert Yardley has over 36 years of experience in Public Health. He received his undergraduate degree from Newark State College (Kean University) and a master’s degree from Montclair State University. He has had a long and distinguished career having worked in Edison Township, Warren County, Denville, and then Sussex County. He became the Administrator/Health Officer of the Department of Environmental and Public Health Services for Sussex County in 2008.

As Administrator, Commissioner Yardley oversaw all programs within the Department of Environmental and Public Health Services including the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, Environmental Health, Public Health Nursing, Special Child, Mosquito

Control, HAZ-MAT, Weights and Measures, and Medical Examiner’s Office. The Health Department provided health and environmental services to 24 municipalities in the county. Since September 11, 2001, the field of Public Health has expanded to include preparedness for terrorist events involving biological and chemical agents. He has lectured at Warren County Community College and East Stroudsburg University on a variety of public health topics.

Commissioner Yardley has lived in Stillwater Township for over 36 years with his wife Pat. They have two sons Daniel and David, and have 4 beautiful grandchildren, Zachary and Drake who live in Stillwater and Amelia and James who reside in Tampa, Florida. He has served as a Stillwater Township Committeeman, a County Republican Committeeman, Deputy Mayor, and Mayor of Stillwater. He is presently a member of Stillwater Township Fire Department and Newton NJ Moose Lodge 432.

Herb can be seen throughout the County with his dog Baxter.

## Sussex County Commissioner Meeting Schedule

Regular County Commissioner meetings shall be held at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth WEDNESDAY of each month unless re-scheduled by The Board.

### Sussex County Administrative Center

First Floor, Commissioner Meeting Room  
One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey

Phone: 973-579-0250 | FAX: 973-579-0259 | E-mail: [clerk@sussex.nj.us](mailto:clerk@sussex.nj.us)

### June

Wed, June 28

### July

Wed, July 12

Wed, July 26

### August

Wed, August 9

### September

Wed, September 13

Wed, September 27

### October

Wed, October 11

Wed, October 25



## **DAWN FANTASIA** COMMISSIONER | TERM: 1/22 - 12/24

Dawn Fantasia grew up in Ogdensburg and moved to Franklin Borough in 2011; she has been a Sussex County resident for thirty years. She is a single parent of three children: Maria, Aidan, and Lila. She graduated from Wallkill Valley Regional High School, completed her undergraduate degree at Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia, and continued her studies with Rutgers Center for Effective School Practices. Most recently she earned an MS in Educational Leadership from Capella University as a recipient of the national Project Working Mom scholarship program.

Dawn has served Franklin Borough since 2014 in a variety of roles. She served on the planning board and zoning board and was first appointed to the economic development committee in 2014. She has been on the Franklin Borough Council for three years, and has served on multiple council subcommittees including finance, personnel, public safety, and buildings and grounds. Dawn was appointed Council President in 2018. During her tenure she helped pass the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) in order to put in place a means of supporting Franklin's dedicated first responders. Additionally, services for seniors and veterans are issues close to Dawn's heart due to her past work and volunteer experience with Meals on Wheels and the military service of her father and both grandfathers.



## **WILLIAM HAYDEN** COMMISSIONER | TERM: 1/23 - 12/25

Commissioner Hayden was elected to the Board on November 8, 2022. A longtime County resident, Commissioner Hayden currently works for the New Jersey Department of Transportation as a Region North Permit Supervisor that reviews plans, jurisdictional agreements, and titles and issues permits for utility companies. Commissioner Hayden also handles constituent issues for the Department. Working as a State of New Jersey employee has provided Commissioner Hayden with extensive experience with public employment, civil service and union collaboration.

Commissioner Hayden currently resides in Frankford Township and is the Commissioner liaison for 2023 to

the following municipalities: Newton, Hampton, Fredon and Stillwater. In addition to his municipal liaisons, Commissioner Hayden is also the liaison for the following Departments/Committees: Department of Finance and Library Services, SWAC, Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority, Sussex County Farm and Horse Show, Sussex County Technical School, Sussex County Planning Board, Sussex County Technical School Board of School Estimate, Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board and the Musconetcong River. Commissioner Hayden is a vocal advocate for the County employees and as a conservative Republican is an even stronger voice for the taxpayers of Sussex County.

In his free time, Commissioner Hayden races BMX and has earned numerous titles participating in the sport. Commissioner Hayden is also a horse enthusiast.



## **JILL SPACE** COMMISSIONER | TERM: 1/23 - 12/25

Jill Space was selected by the Sussex County Republican Committee to fill a vacancy on the Commissioner Board on April 30, 2022. Jill is proud to be a Sussex County girl! She attended Franklin Elementary School and Wallkill Valley High School before her family moved to Wantage Township. She graduated from High Point Regional High School in 1990.

She has been married to her high school sweetheart, Parker, for 29 years. Together they own and operate his family business, Space Farms Zoo & Museum, NJ's longest family owned tourist attraction started in 1927 by Parker's Grandparents. Since the young age of 22, Jill has been fully responsible for all indoor operations and financial aspects of the business. Jill understands how important small businesses are in Sussex County. She is also a member of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce.

Jill learned the importance of community service as a child while being a local girl scout. As an adult, she served 4 years as a girl scout leader. She served many years as an active member on the Sussex Wantage PTO. She also served on the Wantage Recreation Committee.

Jill has been a member of the Sussex County Republican Committee for nearly two decades. She served as the first vice chair from 2007-2022. She has been serving as a Republican State Committeewoman since 2009. All of which are volunteer positions. In 2016, she was a delegate representing New Jersey at the Republican National Convention. She was also the female representative from New Jersey to sit on the platform committee.

Jill is the mother of three grown children Hunter, Lindsey and Kelsey. All three attended Sussex County Charter School of Technology and have graduated from Sussex County Technical High School. She is a new grandmother of Weston Thomas Space born 5/8/22.



*Continued from page 1*

were not part of the company's sellable merchandise, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for customers and employees, personal sanitization supplies, disinfection and specialized cleaning supplies, protective barriers and installation of Plexiglass walls, social distancing markers, and testing equipment and supplies, including temperature check equipment.

Technology costs, such as new or additional merchant payment services and website enhancements for interactive showrooms or storerooms, are also eligible for reimbursement. Personnel costs associated with employee training to ensure compliance with state and Federal CDC guidelines for reopening can be covered by the grant. Property expenses, such as rent or utility payments, and mortgage (principal and interest only) for businesses with a non-home-based location, are also eligible.

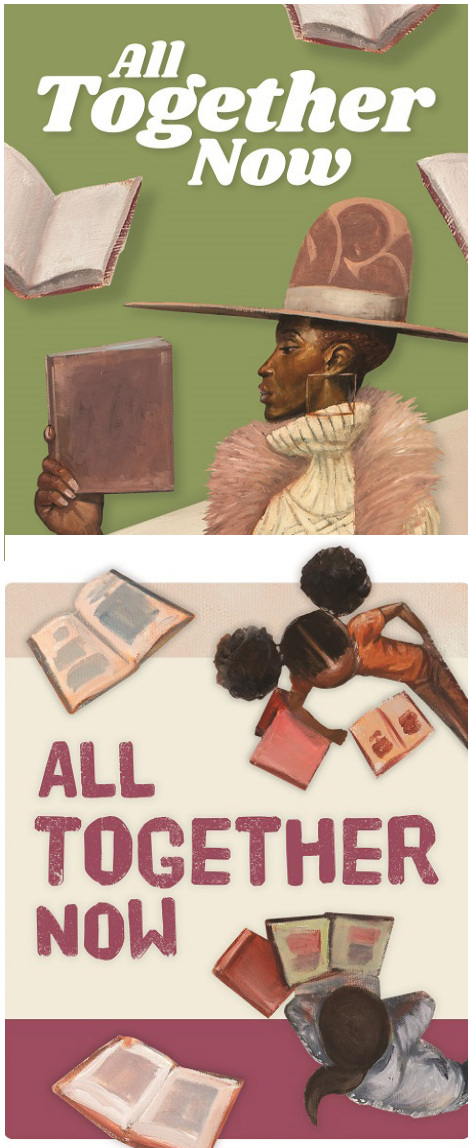
Business-related equipment expenses, including fixtures and equipment for updated sanitation devices and rental equipment, as well as furniture

expenses related to investing in business changes, such as buying outdoor tables, tents, and lighting, can also be reimbursed.

The application process for the Sussex County Small Business Grant Program involves submitting the application and required documents. Each application will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility on a first-come, first-serve basis. Upon successful submission, applicants will receive a confirmation email. In case of missing information, applicants will be notified and given seven calendar days to resubmit the missing or incomplete information to secure their place in the submission process. [Access the online application portal, here.](#)

## Working Together for Continued Recovery

Sussex County is committed to supporting community pillars like small businesses. The County's commissioners have also approved grants for agriculture, rural development and other vital aspects of life in Sussex. Together, we will continue to rebuild and thrive, creating a stronger and more resilient Sussex County. [Learn more about these and other grant opportunities, here.](#)



## Summer Reading 2023 - All Together Now

**NEWTON NJ** - The Sussex County Library System (SCLS) Summer Reading Program kicked off on Saturday, June 24 with a special opening event at each branch celebrating the summer reading theme: **All Together Now™**, a celebration of kindness, friendship and unity.

The celebration began with Pearl Observatory's amazing, inflatable planetarium making stops at three library locations: the Main Library, the E. Louise Childs Branch, and the Dennis Branch. Visitors age 3 through adult explored the night sky, located planets and stars, and even touched a meteorite.

For those enchanted by earthbound wonders, the Eyes of the Wild exhibit allowed animal enthusiasts of all ages to get up close and personal with a variety of exotic rescue animals. The smooth, scaly, furry and fun collection of critters made three stops: the Dorothy Henry Branch, the Franklin Branch, and the Sussex-Wantage Branch.

Kickoff programs were just the beginning. Every SCLS location will host a wide variety of programs from Lapsits for our future readers (6-18 months old), to separate Summer Storytimes for toddlers and pre-K. The Kindness Club for ages 5-9 will focus on stories with themes of friendship and inclusion. Teens can get involved through volunteering, and attending Teen Nights with special crafts like tie-dying and papermaking for very personalized journals. Adults are also encouraged to get in on the fun through book clubs, craft programs, meditation and more.

There are plenty of Summer Reading incentives and prizes, too. Children, teens and adults all earn points/raffle tickets for each book read or listened to and for attending programs. From building blocks for babies to a family trip to Legoland, the library has prizes both big and small to award. The SCLS would like to thank Thorlabs, and all the wonderful local businesses who contributed to the Summer Reading prize pool.

Summer Reading registration began June 17, but logging reading and activities runs from June 24-July 29, and prize winners will be contacted in early August. There are two ways to participate: sign up at any SCLS location, keep a reading log and enter paper raffle tickets, or use [READSquared](#), an online tool that allows participants to log their reading and earn points for attending programs. Participation is open to all SCLS cardholders. SCLS library cards are free to anyone who lives, works or attends school in Sussex County (except Sparta).

Stop by your local branch or go to the Summer Reading page at [sussexcountylibrary.org](https://sussexcountylibrary.org) for complete details on Summer Reading registration, program dates and times, and a list of all the prizes generously donated by local businesses.



## Vaccine Programs for Children and Adults

The Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing offers immunizations to our underserved and at-risk populations through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program and the 317-Funded Adult Program. These programs ensure that all children, adolescents, and adults are vaccinated in accordance with the ACIP-recommended schedule which is the best way to protect individuals and communities against vaccine preventable diseases. The VFC and 317 programs make vaccines available to children, adolescents, and adults who might otherwise go unvaccinated because of an inability to pay for the vaccine. The New Jersey VFC program works to ensure that processes are as streamlined as possible and that providers have timely access to vaccines for their patient populations.

The Office of Public Health Nursing hosts Child Health Conferences (Well-Child Clinics) and Health Check Clinics monthly throughout the year, except for the months of April and July.

The Office of Public Health Nursing already held two clinics on June 27:

A **Child Health Clinic** was held at the Office of Public Health Nursing. The Child Health Conference offered complete physical exams, screenings, and age-appropriate immunizations for uninsured children from 0-5 years old.

A **Health Check Clinic** was held at the Office of Public Health Nursing. The Health Check Clinic offered vaccines for adults and school age children who are uninsured or with select insurance policies.

Pre-registration is required and participants must have an appointment to attend these clinics. Please call the Office of Public Health Nursing at 973-579-0570 to obtain additional information or schedule an appointment for either of these clinics. To obtain clinic schedules, visit the Sussex County website at [www.sussex.nj.us/nursing](http://www.sussex.nj.us/nursing).

## Sussex County’s Fourth Annual Senior Olympics

This year, the Sussex County Division of Senior Services, the Senior Quality of Life Foundation and the Township of Hardyston hosted the Fourth Annual Senior Olympics at Wheatsworth Park on Wheatsworth Road in Hardyston Township. Six teams of seniors representing various towns competed with one another in six events for a day full of comradery, activities, food, entertainment, and fun, culminating with an award ceremony. This event provides Sussex County seniors a chance to get out into the community, engage in health activities, meet new friends, and enjoy themselves.

## SCLS Staff Honored at Annual NJLA Conference

**NEWTON, NJ** – Several Sussex County Library System (SCLS) staff members were recognized during the Counties Section luncheon at the annual New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) conference, held in Atlantic City May 31-June 3.

Associate Library Director Ellen Callanan was named Staff Member of the Year. According to Library Director, Will Porter, this well-deserved designation was awarded for many reasons including Ms. Callanan’s “attention to detail, strong sense of mission, 20-plus year institutional memory, and genuine concern for every member of the SCLS staff.”

Headed by Branch Manager Sara Branagan, the Circulation Committee received the Great Team award for creating and maintaining a reference and training manual for public-facing staff. “There have been a lot of changes in recent years,” stated Mr. Porter. “Our ever-expanding Library of Things items come with their own checkout protocols; adapting to, and back from, COVID procedures required extensive coordination. Sara and her team helped ensure that Library services remain standardized and reliable from one location to another.”

## Sussex County Office of Public Health Nursing Participates in Breast Cancer Survivor Event

The mission of the Sussex County Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health, Office of Public Health Nursing is to protect and promote good health for all Sussex County residents through direct and responsive community endeavors. As part of this mission, the Office of Public Health Nursing attends various events throughout the year as a preventative and educational approach to advocating for the health and wellness of its residents.

On Saturday, June 10, 2023, members from the NJ Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED) and Chronic Disease Program participated in Project Self Sufficiency’s annual breast cancer survivor event. The event was held at Project Self Sufficiency in Newton and was open to the public. The day included guest speakers, cooking demonstrations, health and wellness vendors, and live music. NJCEED and Chronic Disease participated together as a vendor with a table to provide information on screening clinics, disseminate educational information, and offer a time for open communication with the community.

To learn more about the services available through the Office of Public Health Nursing call 973-579-0570 or visit [www.sussex.nj.us/nursing](http://www.sussex.nj.us/nursing).

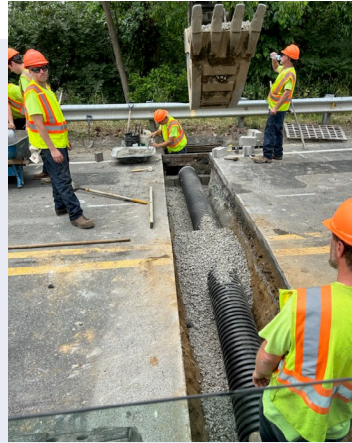


The Great Solution award went to the Youth Services team headed by librarian Deb Fagnan, for their efforts to expand library offerings to neurodiverse children by first winning a Library Services and Technology Act Grant (LSTA) from the New Jersey State Library, and then using the funds to train and equip the Youth Services staff to offer special Sensory Storytimes for children with sensory processing issues. Ms. Fagnan also spearheaded the SCLS’ first-ever Autism Resource fair which brought families, nonprofit organizations, state and local social services, and more, together at the library, fostering a sense of access and community among the attendees.

The annual NJLA Conference invites all types of librarians, library workers, supporters and vendors to engage in discussions, workshops and presentations, that help libraries network and share ideas to improve and expand services for all.



## SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS



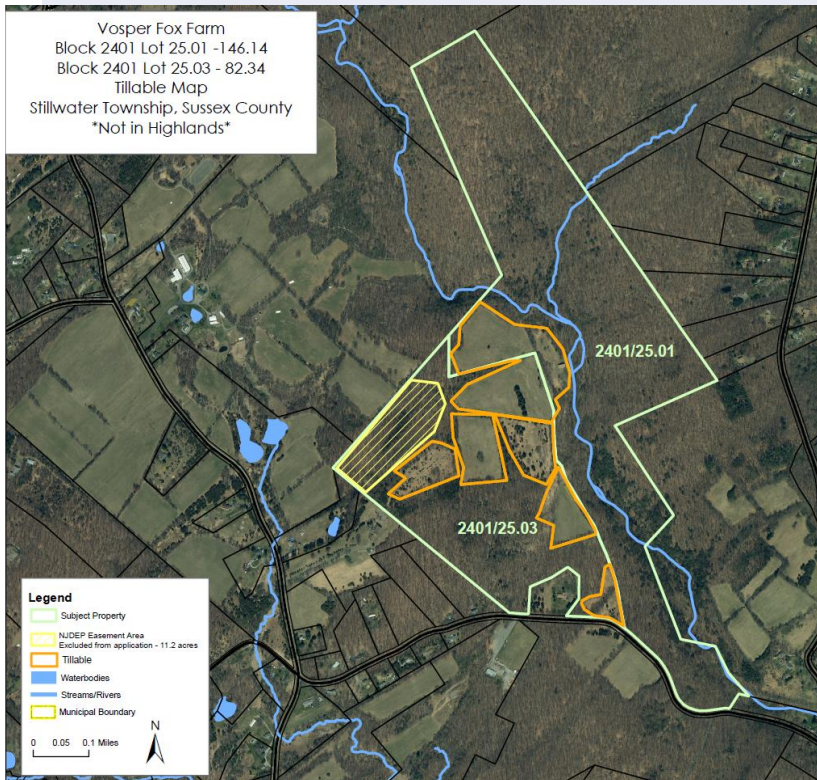
### Project:

Pipe Replacement. Typical example of a stormwater pipe replacement. Pipes are normally replaced with a pipe of the same size but made with a more durable material.

### Milestone Achievement:

DPW crews work to replace pipe on CR 602 in Hopatcong. The old, deteriorated metal pipe is being replaced with a new plastic pipe.

## SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



### Project:

Farmland Preservation Acquisition

### Milestone Achievement:

Easement acquisition through the Farmland Preservation Program involves many steps. These include parcel evaluation, application preparation and submission, Green Light Approval, appraisals, appraisal certification, final approval from all project partners, deed preparation, and encumbering funds.

## Milestone Status:

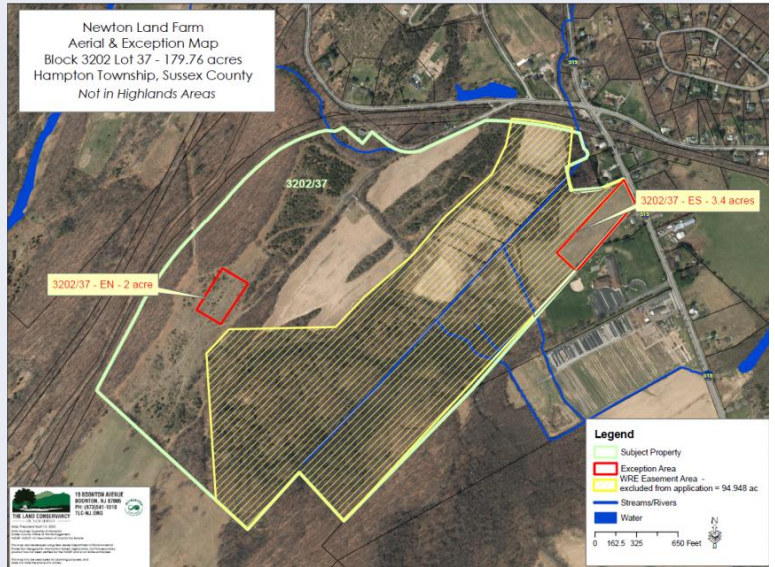
Calculated preliminary ranking score for Vosper Fox Farm and Newton Land Trust, LLC using State criteria of: size, tillable acres, soil types, boundaries and buffers, local commitment, and agriculture density to the SCADB.

SCADB reviewed preliminary scores and granted Preliminary Approval for Newton Land Trust, LLC and Vosper Fox Farm.

## Next Steps:

Prepare SCADB & BCC preliminary approval resolutions.

Prepare Green Light Approval Applications and submit to SADC.



## SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF ENGINEERING



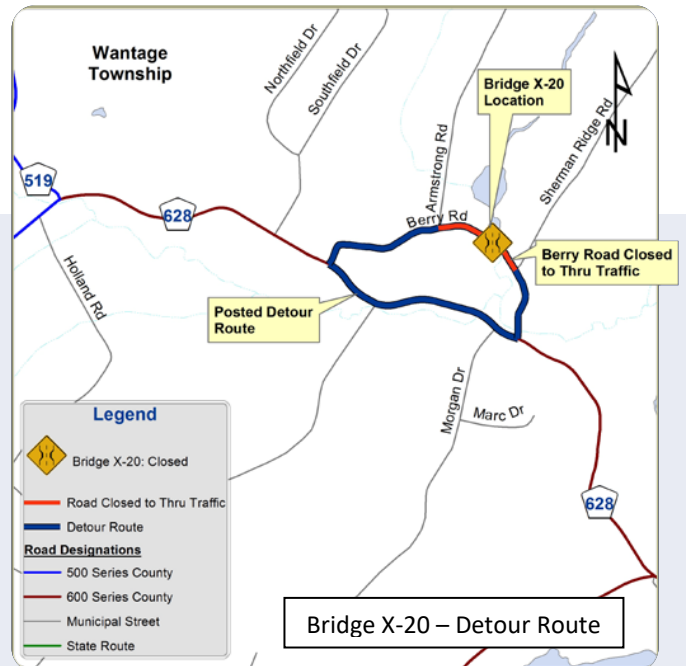
Bridge X-20 – Closed to Traffic due to Storm Damage to Substructure & Roadway Embankments

## Project:

Design for Replacement of Sussex County Bridge X-20 carrying Berry Road in Wantage Township.

## Milestone Achievement:

The design work for the replacement of Bridge X-20 continues. This past week the designer, Genesis Engineering, submitted an application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the necessary permits for the replacement of the bridge by in-house County forces.



Bridge X-20 – Detour Route

## Milestone Status:

- |                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Design                   | Material Purchasing                |
| Field Survey             | Substructure Installation          |
| Preliminary Design       | Timber Superstructure Installation |
| NJDEP Permit Application | Roadway Reconstruction             |
| Final Design             | Reopening                          |
| Construction             |                                    |

**Design Cost:** \$108,325.00