

Morris County Preservation Trust
Recommended Open Space Projects for 2004



Summerhill Park Historic Greenway

Submitted by: **Madison Borough**

Type of Acquisition: Fee Simple
 Conservation Easement

Acres To Be Acquired: **1**

Grant Amount: **\$300,000**

Description:

This one acre property on Ridgedale Avenue, next to Summerhill Park near Madison High School, is a recharge area for the Chatham Valley Aquifer, part of the buried valley aquifer system. Preservation will protect both the historic value of the site and the groundwater aquifer critical to the borough. This acquisition will be another step in Madison's efforts to combine open space, history, and recreation in their preservation efforts.

The borough has reached an agreement with the owners to purchase the entire parcel, with the closing scheduled for December 15, 2004. Preservation of the undeveloped land surrounding the house and the forge will provide critical open space to a highly developed municipality, preserve the historic streetscape, and create a natural link to Summerhill Park. The borough will acquire the entire parcel, subdivide the Luke Miller House from the larger lot, and place an easement on the house to protect the site's historic integrity. That lot will then be resold to a private individual. The remaining land will be added to Summerhill Park. This new addition will feature park benches, a community garden, and a wooded pathway to give pedestrians access to trails within the park. This open space acquisition will also permanently preserve the historic forge located on this site.

