

South Branch of the Raritan – Brokaw Acquisition (26.4 Acres)

Readington Township and Hunterdon County have collaborated to preserve two parcels of land along the South Branch of the Raritan River upstream from the Rockafellows Mill dam. The parcels, approximately 11.5 and 14.9 acres respectively, further protect the floodplain, wetlands and several small streams flowing into the South Branch. The parcels will be added to the Hunterdon County South Branch Reservation. These parcels are contiguous with existing Readington Twp. open space and further preserve Readington’s portion of the river in this historic district. The lands frame the Ryerson house, the oldest farmstead in Readington Township, built by Marten Ryerson between 1726 and 1733, diagonally across the river from the colonial home of two-time acting Governor John Reading.



A view highlighting wetlands and a stream flowing toward the South Branch of the Raritan River.

The South Branch just east of Three Bridges Main Street was listed in 2020 as a C1 waterway, ranking that as amongst the cleanest waters in the state. The preservation of these parcels and the high-quality streams and riparian habitats it contains will help ensure that these important waterways stay healthy for generations to come. The Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board worked with the County Planning Dept. and County Parks to assess and initiate this preservation effort. The goal will be to protect these parcels in their natural state for wildlife protection. In recent years, Bald eagles are occasionally seen along this segment of the South Branch. The Open Space Advisory Board will also continue to evaluate additional lands suitable for protection along the South Branch.

Juergen Huelsebusch, Chair, Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board