

How can we use the newly created open space to benefit the community?



This is a photo of a restored native landscape in Woodbridge. The land was replanted with native plants, and a gravel walkway was installed to allow for passive recreation.

This photo shows a property in Woodbridge where the land is maintained as a mowed lawn. A few trees were planted around the property, and the grass is regularly mowed so that it remains an open field.



This is an example of an engineered design created for the City of Lambertville to reimagine two buyout properties as a multi-use space that provides access to the land and waterway, has benches for seating, and incorporates native plants for ecological benefits.



Land Use Considerations

Open Space Guidelines

Land acquired by Blue Acres must be maintained as open space. Here are some basic guidelines that must be adhered to:

- No pavement
- No vehicle use/parking or storage of equipment/materials
- No fences that would obstruct the flow of floodwaters or trap debris
- No walled structures



Enhance Floodplain Functions

A natural floodplain acts like a sponge, absorbing and storing floodwater so it can slowly sink into the soil below. The more water the floodplain collects and stores during storm events, the better protected the surrounding community will be from flooding. Ways to enhance floodplain functions include:

- Planting native flood-tolerant plants, which have longer roots to take up more water
- Preventing soil compaction
- Nature-based green infrastructure, like rain gardens and bioswales



Source: <https://www.earth.com/news/flooding-help-river-ecosystems/>

Check out these helpful resources!

Creating Flood-Resilient Landscapes: A Primer for New Jersey Communities

This document provides expert guidance on how to plan and implement restoration projects on flood-prone land.



Blue Acres Program Post-Buyout Land Management Field Guide

This is a guide created for local land managers which provides best management practices for maintaining buyout land.