

TOGETHER  
**NORTH  
JERSEY.**



**ENGAGING THROUGH**

**THE ARTS ALONG THE**

**MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY.**

June 2021

Together North Jersey Local Technical Assistance

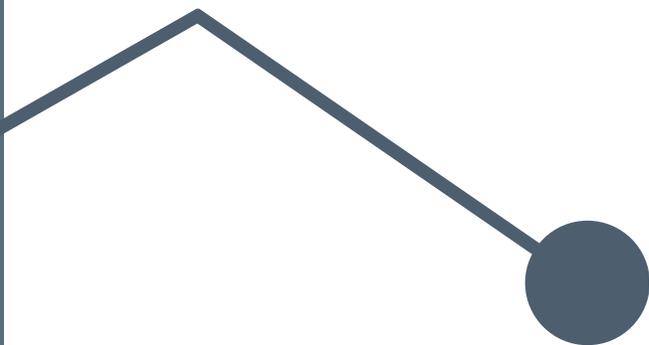
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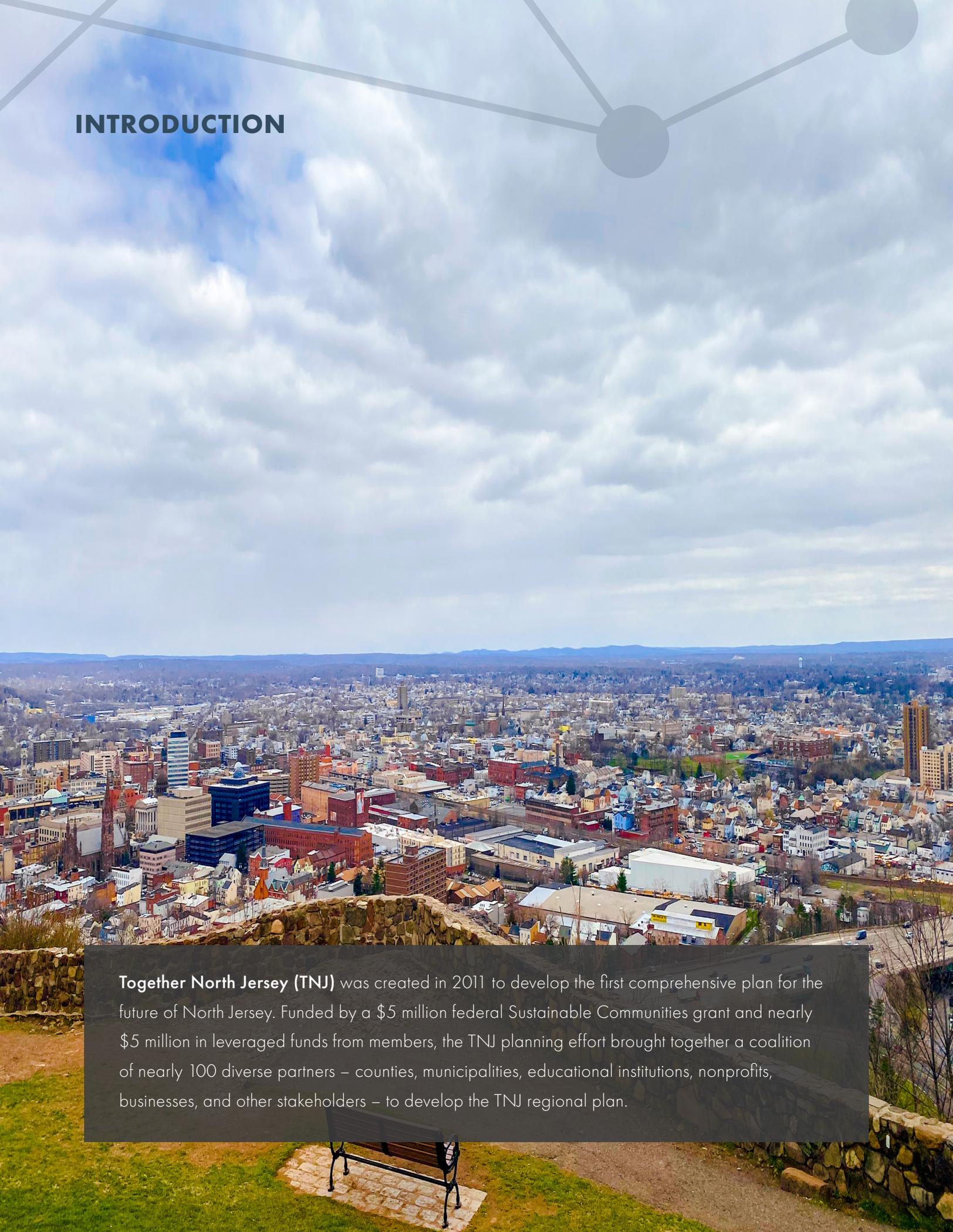
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An aerial photograph of a densely populated urban area in North Jersey, viewed from an elevated position. The city is filled with a variety of buildings, including residential houses, commercial structures, and a prominent church with a tall steeple. In the foreground, a stone wall and a black park bench are visible. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. A decorative graphic of grey lines and circles is overlaid in the top right corner of the image.

# INTRODUCTION

**Together North Jersey (TNJ)** was created in 2011 to develop the first comprehensive plan for the future of North Jersey. Funded by a \$5 million federal Sustainable Communities grant and nearly \$5 million in leveraged funds from members, the TNJ planning effort brought together a coalition of nearly 100 diverse partners – counties, municipalities, educational institutions, nonprofits, businesses, and other stakeholders – to develop the TNJ regional plan.

Together North Jersey (TNJ) was created in 2011 to develop the first comprehensive plan for North Jersey’s future. Funded by a \$5 million federal Sustainable Communities grant and nearly \$5 million in leveraged funds from members, the TNJ planning effort brought together a coalition of nearly 100 diverse partners – counties, municipalities, educational institutions, nonprofits, businesses, and other stakeholders – to develop the TNJ regional plan.

The TNJ planning process identified a shared vision for a prosperous future for North Jersey consisting of four themes: Competitive, Efficient, Livable, and Resilient. The Plan was issued in November 2015. Since then, TNJ partners have reconvened for further implementation of the Plan. NJTPA and the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (VTC) currently coordinate the TNJ Forum and Task Forces. Each of the four Task Forces is dedicated to furthering one of the Plan’s four themes. The TNJ planning region consists of the 13 counties in the NJTPA planning area: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren.

### **TNJ LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Funded by the NJTPA, the TNJ Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program provides VTC staff support and technical assistance to advance local initiatives that align with the vision of the Together North Jersey Plan. Eligible applicants for the program include municipal and county governments or non-governmental organizations.



*Morris Canal Greenway signage, Peckman Preserve*



## OVERVIEW AND PROJECT PURPOSE

As part of the LTA program, TNJ worked with the County of Passaic to develop a public art engagement plan for activating five site locations along the Morris Canal Greenway. This plan aims to provide a framework for using arts activations to enliven the Morris Canal Greenway and encourage visitors and new users to experience the cultural and mobility features of the Greenway.

The recommendations for these five sites are meant to serve as templates for engagement through the arts at other similar locations through the Greenway – both within Passaic County and beyond. The concept recommendations for these art installations were developed based on extensive public and stakeholder input, best practices research, and a detailed review of the sites. The engagement plan will serve as a framework for engaging local communities, artists, historians, and local officials to develop public art along the Morris Canal Greenway, enhancing each community’s artistic connection to the Greenway’s recreational and historical attributes.

### **The project scope includes four main tasks:**

**Task 1: Plan and Best Practices Review** – Drawing from existing county and local plans, TNJ prepared an overview of relevant engaging art ideas inspired by the existing interpretive themes of the county to set the direction for outreach strategies and prepare the engagement plan.

**Task 2: Screening and Site Selection** – TNJ worked with Passaic County to select five urban, suburban, and open space sites that would serve as the starting templates for Passaic County’s art destinations and public engagement along Morris Canal Greenway.

**Task 3: Public and Stakeholder Engagement** – The team sought input from residents, visitors, and other stakeholders to share their ideas and perceptions of the Morris Canal Greenway, as well as what changes they hoped to see in the future. This task identified key individuals and groups that need to be included in all steps of planning, decision-making, implementing and problem-solving for the Morris Canal Greenway.

**Task 4: Create an Engagement Plan** - Bearing in mind the county’s existing plans, best practices from communities in New Jersey and around the world, and the feedback from the public and other Passaic County stakeholders, the team prepared an engagement plan to guide the county in its placemaking process. This included descriptions about art installations, engagement strategies, possible partnerships, and other planning components that the county should consider in enhancing the Morris Canal Greenway.

TNJ and Passaic County established the following objectives to attract local communities, artists, historians, and local officials to develop public art along the Greenway

- » **Improve access and promote active transportation along the Morris Canal Greenway**
- » **Enhance and invest in art as a tool to connect with and engage the community**
- » **Promote countywide tourism and highlight community features and cultural assets**
- » **Create a framework for community engagement, place activation, and art-based programming that can serve as models for other areas along the Greenway**

### **BENEFITS OF PUBLIC ART**

Cities and places gain cultural, social, and economic value through public art. Placemaking through public art helps create a sense of safety, belonging, and connection to nature and community. It reflects and reveals people’s ideas about their past, present, and future and energizes public spaces. Because public art is free and accessible, people can experience direct encounters with it through daily life. It encourages social interaction and self-reflection. Public art can inspire people to pay attention to their surroundings, engage with the unique qualities of a place, and create rich connections to history, community identity, and nature. Places with active and dynamic cultural scenes sustain more business growth and are more attractive to residents and visitors. Strategic placement of public art in urban and natural spaces along the Morris Canal Greenway will serve to support healthy, active, and inspired lifestyles for all ages.

### **Morris Canal Greenway and the TNJ Plan**

TNJ’s assistance to Passaic County and the grant’s Art Advisory Committee demonstrates an effective approach for other North Jersey communities to implement creative placemaking strategies and art-based community development at the local level. Activating public spaces through the arts advances the four themes of the Together North Jersey Plan.



#### **COMPETITIVE**

Attract visitors to the Greenway, encouraging patronage of local shopping and dining options that



#### **LIVABLE**

Provide a vibrant and inviting space where community members and visitors can enjoy the arts and experience local history and culture in new ways.



#### **EFFICIENT**

Encourage walking, biking, and active transportation along the Greenway.



#### **RESILIENT**

Provide opportunities to educate the public on the natural environment and environmental features of areas surrounding the Greenway.



## THEMES FROM THE PLAN REVIEW

As part of the development of the engagement plan, the TNJ team reviewed relevant county and local plans that provide important context for the Engagement Plan, including:

- » *Morris Canal Greenway Feasibility study (2011)*
- » *Transportation Element of the Passaic County Master Plan (2012)*
- » *The Heritage Tourism Element of the Passaic County Master Plan (2013)*
- » *Great Fall Circulation Study (2016)*
- » *County-wide Interpretive plan for Passaic County (2020)*

These plans provided important context for developing guidance and recommendations along the Greenway. A full summary of the plan review is included in Appendix A.

Most notably, Passaic County's 2020 Interpretive Plan recommended three Interpretive Themes as a foundation of programming and media development for historic sites, museums, and parks. These themes provide countywide direction for artistic, historical, and cultural activations and programming. The TNJ team used these themes to provide an organizing framework for developing concepts, aligning the goals of the interpretive plan with this engagement plan. These themes are briefly summarized below, with additional detail found in Appendix A.

**Theme 1. Freedom to Think, Invent and Innovate:** As a former center for manufacturing and industry, Passaic County is steeped in a history of innovation and ingenuity. It has been front-and-center in many inspiring ideas and movements, such as Alexander Hamilton's plan for a national manufacturing city in 1791, the Great Silk Strike of 1913, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s protest speech on the topic of poverty in 1968. Drawing from that, public art ideas along the Morris Canal Greenway can incorporate topics on:

- » Government and politics
- » Civil rights and social justice
- » American Revolution
- » Labor movement
- » Industrial power, engineering, and machinery
- » Transportation
- » Scientific discovery

**Theme 2. A Culturally Diverse and Creative People:** For centuries, Passaic County has been home to a wide spectrum of people – Native Americans, Dutch colonists and African slaves, 19th-century immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Poland, and other locations in Europe. Today, it is home to multi-ethnic communities from around the world. Art along the Morris Canal Greenway should reflect the identities and cultures of its people and may incorporate topics such as:

- » prehistory and native peoples
- » immigration and migration
- » architecture
- » ethnicity and race
- » customs and family life
- » cuisine
- » churches and schools
- » music
- » visual arts and sculpture
- » poetry and writing
- » performance arts
- » ethnic festivals and celebrations
- » wealth and social status in different times and places

**Theme 3. Nature's All Around You:** Parks and preserved open space are abundant in Passaic County, offering many opportunities to spend time outdoors and learn about natural history, evolved cultural landscapes, and environmental education. In addition, public art along the Morris Canal Greenway and throughout Passaic County should celebrate the area's varied geology and topography as well as the Passaic River, one of the region's most important water resources. Related topics include:

- » geology
- » geography
- » native plants and animals
- » water resources
- » scenic views and vistas
- » ecology
- » conservation of natural resources
- » pollution and the degrading of habitats
- » environmental remediation
- » agriculture
- » cultural landscape
- » landscape architecture and park design

## SITES SELECTED

In consultation with the county, the TNJ project team selected five sites to serve as pilot locations to develop the arts engagement plan. This selection was based on the following criteria:

- » **A mix of placetypes:** Passaic County is home to many neighborhood types. Therefore, the sites selected had to reflect urban, suburban, and open space characteristics typical to the region.
- » **Walkability and Accessibility:** Though not all the historic Morris Canal in Passaic is walkable, each site was evaluated and assessed regarding its proximity to constructed paths, bikeways, and bus and rail transit.
- » **Cultural significance:** Sites selected have historical and cultural significance or must have the potential to become active, flexible spaces for community building. Many of these places are also proximal to civic centers or existing attractions and social infrastructure like libraries, playgrounds, schools, downtown areas or main streets, and parks.
- » **Scalability:** This engagement plan is to serve as a template for other sites throughout the county. The sites selected should have characteristics that are applicable to similar places countywide.

### **Site Descriptions and Assets:**

This next section provides descriptions and photos of each site, including key features and surrounding assets (schools, historical sites, libraries, playgrounds, etc.). Site maps with detailed location information are included in Appendix B.

#### **Peckman Preserve, Little Falls**

This 12-acre passive preserve located off Wilmore Road in Little Falls. This parcel is one of the last remaining large undeveloped parcels in the southern portion of Passaic County and lies along the Morris Canal. This Greenway site is in the southern section of the Peckman Preserve between Wilmore Road and Cedar Grove Road. It is recognized as a historic place known as the “Morris Canal prism over Peckamin.” This is an important connection between the two completed sections of the Morris Canal Bikeway in Little Falls and provides multimodal access to the county-owned Peckman Preserve. In addition, a new access point including a pedestrian bridge is slated for completion later this year, connecting the Morris Canal over the Peckman River to either side in Little Falls.



### ***Wilmore Road Section, Little Falls***

In 2011, Little Falls completed its Morris Canal Bikeway, which runs along Wilmore Road, Browertown Road, and crosses Long Hill Road. The portion of Greenway along Long Hill Road is asphalt and adjacent to the Passaic Valley Regional High School along Browertown Road. This site runs through residential blocks and connects travelers to other key destinations in the township, such as Peckman Preserve and the downtown area.



### ***Garret Mountain Section, Paterson***

Garret Mountain Reservation is a 568-acre park located primarily in Woodland Park in southern Passaic County. Visitors are provided large grass fields, several miles of walking/running trails, basketball courts, and picnic areas. The Reservation is also an oasis of woodland in a mostly urban area, providing an important stopover point for migrating songbirds.



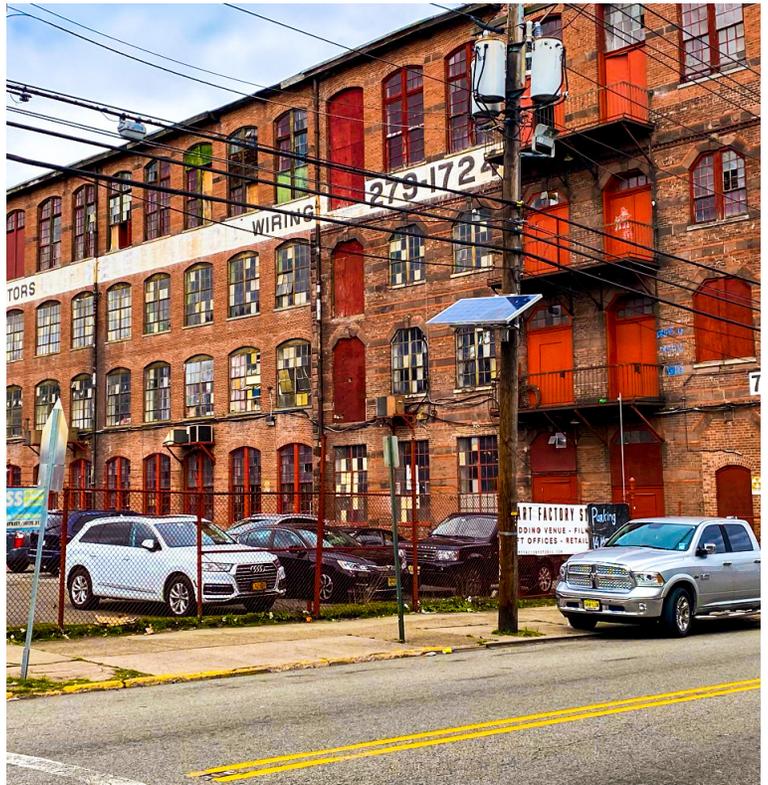
### **Bolds Mill Triangle Park, Woodland Park**

Located at the southwest corner of Browertown Road and Lackawanna Avenue, Bolds Mill was once one of the most significant businesses along the Morris Canal, serving as a private residence, a mill, tavern, and resting place for canal boatmen and passengers. Today the site serves as a pocket park with a bench and informational kiosk. The county recently added biking infrastructure along Browertown road as part of the Morris Canal Greenway. A constructed path, connecting the park to the roadway, goes further into this land area, leading to a bench and an informational kiosk/historic marker.



## Grand and Spruce Streets, Paterson

Located in the Great Falls Historic District, this site is on-road and mostly interpretive. Spruce Street is the gateway to the Great Falls National Historical Park.



# PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

## Public Engagement

The TNJ team developed an outreach strategy to gauge the public and other stakeholders' perceptions of the Morris Canal Greenway and what changes they hoped to see in the future. The outreach strategy aimed to reach a range of interested groups and collect ideas from residents, visitors, and other stakeholders about arts activities, installations, events, and other options for connecting these sites with arts and culture.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the project team conducted all promotion, engagement, and public outreach activities online. To promote the online engagement, the TNJ team coordinated with local libraries, local groups, and art and environment groups and launched social media and outreach campaigns through Facebook and mailing groups. In addition, the county distributed information about project public engagement opportunities through its email distribution list, reaching over 10,000 residents in Passaic County. All promotional and outreach material was available in both English and Spanish.

## Public Survey

The online survey featured a mix of open-ended questions, site-specific questions and some basic demographic questions. The survey was available in both English and Spanish. It was advertised in the Passaic County Arts and Cultural Affairs' newsletter, in partnership with local schools and libraries, and through various media news outlets such as TAPinto Paterson and the NJ State Magazine.

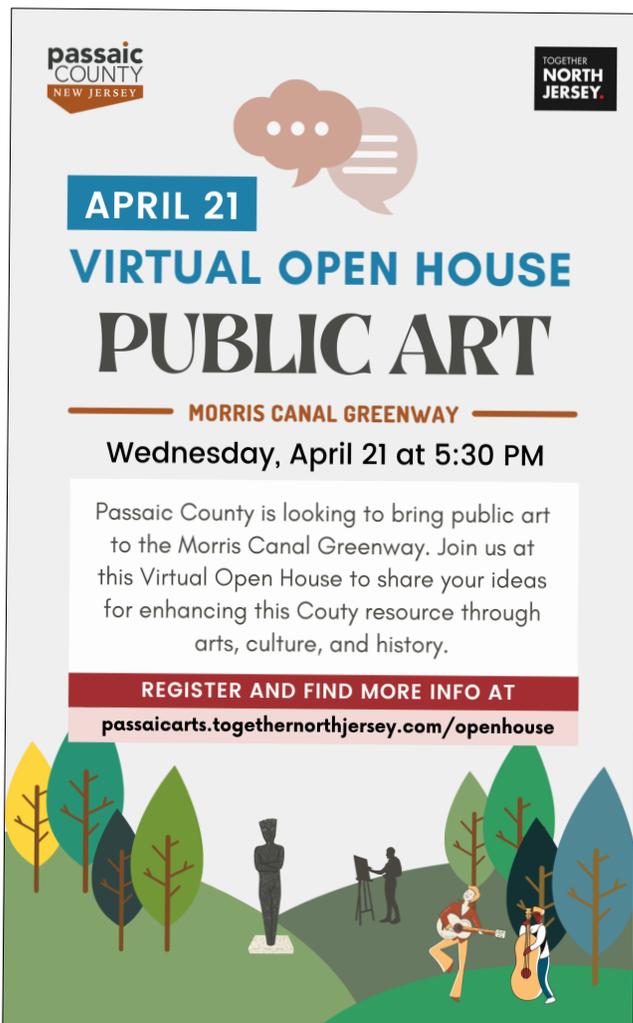
The project team collected 60 responses within two months. Of the survey respondents, 76 percent lived in Passaic County, while 14 percent visited the county, and the remaining 10 percent worked or volunteered in the county. Respondents were mostly self-identified as non-Hispanic white females aged 30-49 years old. See Appendix C Survey Report for full demographic breakdown.



## Public Open House on April 21

On April 21, 2021, the TNJ project team hosted a virtual public open house to discuss public art and engagement ideas for the Morris Canal Greenway. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit feedback from residents and visitors of Passaic County about specific art installations, activation ideas, and interactive experiences that they would like to see at the five sites. The public open house was advertised on various social media pages, the TNJ website, and the Passaic County Arts and Cultural Affairs newsletter and website.

The Open House began with a brief overview of the project, the sites selected by Passaic County and TNJ, and several installation and engagement ideas from best practices research and the public survey. The TNJ team then facilitated conversations about the applications of art concepts in each site, collecting local knowledge about conditions. The virtual meeting attracted approximately 25 attendees, a mix of residents, teachers, and local artists. The project team also consulted with various county stakeholders and subject matter experts. These stakeholders provided the team with important local context and expertise to refine concepts and generate engagement templates that suit the unique attributes of each site and the local community.



The poster features the Passaic County and Together North Jersey logos at the top. It includes a date box for April 21, a title for the Virtual Open House, and a description of the event. At the bottom, there is a call to action to register and find more info at a specific website, along with an illustration of people engaged in various art activities like painting, playing instruments, and viewing a sculpture in a park-like setting.

**passaic COUNTY NEW JERSEY**

**TOGETHER NORTH JERSEY**

**APRIL 21**

**VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**

**PUBLIC ART**

**MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY**

**Wednesday, April 21 at 5:30 PM**

Passaic County is looking to bring public art to the Morris Canal Greenway. Join us at this Virtual Open House to share your ideas for enhancing this County resource through arts, culture, and history.

**REGISTER AND FIND MORE INFO AT**  
**[passaicarts.togethernorthjersey.com/openhouse](https://passaicarts.togethernorthjersey.com/openhouse)**

## Passaic's Tourism Forum

On February 16, 2021, the county's Director of Cultural & Historic Affairs invited the project team to present at the Passaic County Tourism Forum. The team presented an overview of the project scope and objectives, as well as a description of the five selected sites. Following the overview, the team led the participants in a brief brainstorming activity to collect preliminary recommendations to assist the team in general direction and guidance for each site. Audience members were encouraged to take the online public survey and share it with their network. Participants at the Tourism Forum included representatives from local municipal historic preservation committees, public libraries, arts and cultural organizations, local colleges and universities, and other municipal/county officials.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

### **Arts Advisory Group**

Engaging directly with the local arts community was a key component of the stakeholder engagement strategy for this project. Local artists will play an important role in the ideation, planning, implementation, and execution of the proposed recommendation. Having early buy-in was an important objective for the project team.

To that end, the TNJ team worked with the Director of Cultural & Historic Affairs to establish an Arts Advisory Group to provide this expertise and assist the team in developing and refining public art concepts for each site. The Arts Advisory Group met three times throughout the project – an initial brainstorm meeting on March 23, 2021, in conjunction with the public open house on April 21, 2021, and to review the draft recommendations and inform the implementation and next steps for the County in June 2021. The group included members from Passaic County Community College, the City of Paterson, the City of Clifton, the Canal Society of New Jersey, Passaic Public Schools, William Paterson University, Paterson Public Schools System, and Creative Force Alliance for Education through Arts & Culture.

## **Engagement Findings**

### **General Findings**

Survey questions asked respondents to share the ways they obtain information on events and attractions in Passaic County. The top three ways residents and visitors stayed informed about local art and activities are social media, friends and family, and the Passaic County Website. Respondents also listed digital newsletters, NJDC Staff, Woodland Park Public Library, and local email news sources.

Roughly half of the respondents said they visit the Greenway to enjoy the scenic views of the county's natural landscape. Among the responses, exercise emerged as the second most common reason why people visited the Greenway. Most respondents preferred to walk or drive to their destinations.

For outdoor spaces, stakeholders are largely interested in toddler-friendly arts festivals, fairs, parades, music, theater performances, outdoor art installations, historic preservation lectures, and art walks.

For arts engagement or installations in urban spaces, stakeholders are largely interested in beautification improvements and art projects such as murals and historical tours to serve as educational and creative outlets for local schools.

### **Site-Specific Findings from the Survey, Advisory Group, and Open House**

Participants of the survey, advisory group, and open house were offered an opportunity to provide specific recommendations for activations they would like to see at each site. They are summarized in the bullets below.

- » **Wilmore Road section in Little Falls:** Most of the responses for this site focused on the flow and movement of people along the linear trail on this portion of the Greenway. Participants also favored the idea of integrated art and interactive experiences such as storytelling stations and arch trellises or creative sculptures to showcase the native flora and enhance the experience of pedestrians, cyclists, and joggers traveling along Wilmore Road in Little Falls. The work of Barbara Wallace and Rainworks could be an inspiration for this site.
- » **Triangle Park in Woodland Park:** Input from the different stakeholders determined that the garden rest stop would be an ideal concept for the site. Participants of the open house took warmly to the idea of inviting local students to paint friendship rocks and the installation of small sculptures of animals like that of popular artists such as Brian Mock. Suggestions also sought to incorporate environmental features, such as a butterfly garden with a water feature or a natural sculpture that relates this site to the significance of the historic Morris Canal.
- » **Auto Overlook at Garret Mountain:** Respondents envisioned this space as the venue for performance arts, events, and family-friendly activities. Suggestions included artistic and theatrical performances, music, playgrounds, and outdoor activities. A public outdoor performance pavilion could activate the site and bring in audiences from Paterson, Clifton, Woodland Park, and beyond to celebrate an outdoor arts festival. The concept is also complementary to the existing planned elements of the auto-overlook. Discussions included the possibility of adding outdoor musical instruments to the children's playground area.
- » **The intersection of Grand Street and Spruce Street in Paterson:** Ideas for this site included many suggestions for ways to use art for beautification while featuring local culture, talent, and celebrating the city's history. Functional art like colorful benches and utility boxes and temporary street art were ideal for creating buzz and attracting visitors to the downtown Paterson area. Participants were also interested in expanding mural art in that area, with a special interest in enhancing the underpass through murals.
- » **Peckman Preserve:** Participants in the survey, advisory group, and open house all generally felt that art concepts at this site should involve natural elements and highlight the natural features of the landscape. Whether through installations, activities, or educational opportunities, the respondents felt strongly that the environment was considered, preserved, and highlighted as a key feature of this area. clearly and effectively communicate issues to the municipal government, and simultaneously inform, promote and educate the public about what local businesses have to offer.

Participants were also interested in various interactive installments and creative programming to encourage co-creation and community storytelling. They envisioned the sites along Morris Canal Greenway as the location of pop-up events and street performances. They also expressed interest in installing permanent stations or boards that could hold seasonal or transient art like poetry, visual art, or photography from local artists in the county.



*Morris Canal Greenway, Peckman Preserve*

## SELECTED PUBLIC ART ENGAGEMENT CONCEPTS BY SITE

Based on the input received, best practices research, consultation with county partners, and takeaways from in-person site visits, the TNJ project team selected nine public art concepts across all five pilot sites. The following section summarizes key features of the selected art engagement activities, including a concept overview, proposed pilot site, relevant interpretive themes, implementation considerations, and potential partners. Several of the public art engagement concepts also included visual renderings to depict how the suggested concept could integrate into the landscape.

The following is a list of selected art-inspired engagement activities and corresponding pilot site:

1. Natural Sculpture Garden/Art Stations, Peckman Preserve (Rendering A, B)
2. Garden Rest Stop, Bolds Mill Triangle Park (Rendering C, D, E, F)
3. Arched Trellises with Native Flora, Constructed Path in Woodland Park (Rendering G)
4. Storytelling boards, Constructed Path in Woodland Park (Rendering H)
5. Outdoor Musical Instruments, Garret Mountain Reservation (Rendering I)
6. Performance Pavilion, Garret Mountain Reservation (Rendering J)
7. Functional Art, Intersection of Spruce and Grand Streets (Rendering K)

Natural Sculpture Garden/Art Station, Peckman Preserve,  
Rendering A



# Natural Sculpture Garden/Art Station, Peckman Preserve, Rendering B





## NATURAL SCULPTURE GARDEN/ART STATION, PECKMAN PRESERVE RENDERING A, RENDERING B

### **Engagement Activity Description**

Natural Sculptures use only natural components such as branches, twigs, acorns, rocks, and bark. They can be placed directly in the cleared field of the reserve with minimal impact on the natural landscape and native wildlife. Natural sculptures can be large, small, or interactive. This type of engagement falls under the category of environmental art that seeks to transform how the site is viewed while also revealing what was already there. Environmental art prompts viewers and visitors to rethink how they “see” the world around them and pay more direct attention to Passaic County’s natural landscape.

As depicted in **Rendering A**, the Peckman Preserve could feature a large twig sculpture garden that encourages exploration and interactivity. The sculptures would be spaced apart at the open field portion of the site, with enough room for open space play and relaxation. The installation would appeal to a wide range of visitors, those looking to run and move through and around the sculptures, and those who would like to wander, sit, and enjoy. The installation could be designed by one artist or feature several artists, each contributing one or two pieces to the preserve. The images used in Rendering A are based on a well-known twig sculpture artist Patrick Dougherty,<sup>1</sup> who has similar installations around the country. Rendering A also included deliberately planted local flora in groups to increase visual impact and awareness.

**Rendering B** shows a similar style of twig sculpture installation. However, this installation is located along a walking path leading into the preserve. This version of the twig sculpture installation has smaller sculptures that could represent local wildlife or flora. Descriptive art stations could be incorporated as part of the installation, as well. The ones depicted in Rendering B would provide information about the native species while also serving as etching templates for kids or other art-lovers to create rubbings of the images. In addition, the county could use such etching to organize short field trips with local schools to learn about preserving, wildlife, and exploring with art.

### **Related Passaic County Interpretive Themes:**

- » **Nature’s All around you:** This arts engagement uses all natural materials and accentuates the natural beauty and ecology of Peckman Preserve.
- » **A diverse and creative people:** “Visual arts and Sculpture” is one of the key components of this interpretive theme.
- » **Freedom to think, Invent and Innovate:** While less closely associated with this theme, it could be evoked by the content of the sculptures. The sculptures’ form could reference the history of the area or the people.

## **Site Selection**

Peckman Preserve was chosen as the appropriate pilot site for this arts engagement activity. This site has a clear field right at the center of the preserve that is currently well prepared for the installation of natural sculptures. However, the path to access the field is not well marked or easily traversed. Wayfinding signage and trail installation could improve the accessibility of the site and improve the visitor experience without jeopardizing the sensitive habitat or environment. This type of environmental art could be applied to various outdoor placetypes in the county, such as other preserves or conservation areas, gardens or arboretum, or public parks.

## **Audience: All ages**

This engagement activity can serve the large residential areas surrounding the Peckman River. The planned bikeway extension and pedestrian bridge at this site will increase the walkability of this area. There is an opportunity to attract shoppers from downtown to visit the natural sculptures and native wildlife. The activity is appropriate for all ages but could be designed to attract young children to explore and engage with nature. Interactive natural sculptures are a great way to encourage outdoor exploration and play.

## **Logistical Considerations:**

Art at this site might include use of natural and organic materials to create works that will have a minimal impact on the environment and will eventually decompose. In addition to professional artists, local schools can partner with the county for student volunteers to build the natural sculptures. The county may consider undertaking further study of what changes have occurred in native flora/wildlife to better understand and incorporate into the artwork.



***Painted Rock along the Wilmore Road Section of the Greenway in Little Falls, NJ***



## **GARDEN REST STOP, BOLDS MILL TRIANGLE PARK RENDERING C, RENDERING D, RENDERING E, RENDERING F**

### **Engagement Activity Description**

As Bolds Mill was once a resting place for canal boatmen and passengers, this small park could also serve as a resting place for cyclists traveling along the Greenway. A garden rest stop featuring small outdoor sculptures, water features, wind chimes, or a butterfly garden could activate the space and create a peaceful ambiance for visitors to rest and recover along their route. The recommended engagement activity will bring awareness to the rich history of this site and the Morris Canal without creating a visual distraction to road users.

The engagement recommended is a mix of functional and environmental art. When properly implemented, the Garden Rest Stop will infuse an artistic aesthetic into the natural environment and design with small-scaled greenspace and embellishments. Art at this site might include natural and organic materials used to create works that will have a minimal impact on the environment.

**Rendering C** depicts an interpretation of this garden rest stop evocative of a Zen or Asian garden. There are small sculptures for visual character and bamboo wind chimes hanging from the tree for an auditory experience. The garden also includes moss planted liberally around the basin to help drainage control and shade-loving plants native to Asia, such as bamboo and Japanese maple. The rendering also shows wooden partitions to separate the garden rest stop from the street and provide privacy from the neighboring backyards.

**Rendering D** shows a close-up of a concept for a sitting area that includes planters for ambiance.

**Rendering E** and **Rendering F** depict a second concept for the garden rest stop that celebrates the heritage of the Morris Canal by integrating a large wooden boat that doubles as seating area. The wooden boat structure also integrates with natural features of the site, avoiding excessive disturbance to the natural habitat. It is shown in **Rendering F** to include a mesh floor to avoid pooling of water, as well as allowing plants to grow up into the boat itself. Public engagement responses for this site favored the idea of a large, unique, eye-catching sculpture. This boat garden concept both provides the rest-stop function, while also drawing attention to the location as a unique work of art.

# Garden Rest Stop, Bolds Mill Triangle Park, Rendering C



Garden Rest Stop, Bolds Mill Triangle Park,  
Rendering D



Garden Rest Stop, Bolds Mill Triangle Park , Rendering E



Garden Rest Stop, Bolds Mill Triangle Park,  
Rendering F



### **Related Passaic County Interpretive Themes:**

- » **Nature's all around you:** This concept uses the natural landscape to create a restful garden amid the trees.
- » **Freedom to Think, Invent and Innovate:** The boat rest stop concept celebrates the history of the Morris Canal and Passaic County

### **Audience: Cyclists**

This specific site is most easily accessed via the bike lane on the roadway. Cyclists traveling along the Greenway can use this space as a place to stop and rest. Currently, the site is not particularly accessible for pedestrians, vehicular traffic is heavy and high-speed, and the crossings, though well-marked, can be challenging. In addition, it is difficult to access the site by car. There is no convenient nearby parking.

### **Site Selection**

The triangular pocket park is located at the southwest corner of Browertown Road and Lackawanna Avenue in Woodland Park. This type of installation could be implemented at other points along the Greenway where there is a small lot of green space adjacent to a heavily trafficked bike or pedestrian-friendly portion of the Greenway. It could serve as a theme for a series of rest stops at key locations along the Greenway – either paved or interpretive sections.

### **Logistical Considerations:**

As mentioned above, the site can be a useful rest area for cyclists passing by on the new bike lanes/Greenway. However, the site is currently not easily accessible by foot. The county might want to consider expanding pedestrian access to more fully utilize the pocket park. This can be done by adding/widening sidewalks or widening the bike path. It might be helpful to have an alternate access path directly from the bike lane. In addition, the county may want to work with a landscaper to check the slope of the site and perhaps modify the grade. The municipal or county arborist should check on the tree health at the site and remove unhealthy/dying trees. Landscape architecture expertise will be needed for this recommendation. The county can also partner with local school art programs to have students build other garden elements like wind chimes or painted rocks.

**ARCH TRELLISES, CONSTRUCTED PATH AT WILMORE ROAD IN LITTLE FALLS, RENDERING G**



# Arch Trellises, Constructed Path at Wilmore Road in Little Falls, Rendering G

## **Engagement Activity Description**

Arch trellises with native flora can frame sections of the paved path along the Greenway. Traditionally, Trellises are often used to provide privacy, define a space, or serve as a passageway that can support climbing vines and plants. For this location, free-standing or anchored arch trellises can be designed and created by local artists using Passaic County native flora for embellishment. The arches provide a visually exciting way to emphasize different sections of the Greenway. Etchings of wildlife and native plants can be imprinted into the metal or wood trellis. Moreover, the artist can shape the trellises into more complex sculptural forms. The arch trellises are picturesque and can be placed strategically at the entrance of the paved linear path to invite passersby onto the Greenway.

Arched trellises in this context represent a form of functional art that serves the visitor or user as they travel along the constructed Greenway in Little Falls. Not only will these trellises provide exciting visuals for users, but they can also provide shade and serve as wayfinding or mile-markings at key points along the path. In addition, these engaging functional art installations along this lengthy trail can create a buzz and bring more people to this space.

As depicted in **Rendering G**, the arch trellises focus the user's attention on the path, leaving the surrounding space open. The arched trellises support vining native plants such as Trumpet Vine, Allegheny Vine, and Virginia Creeper. The rendering also depicts a gravel path to emphasize the natural aspect of the installation.

## **Related Passaic County Interpretive Themes:**

- » **Nature's all around you:** The arched trellises create an effect of moving through nature. Nature is all around you as you explore the Greenway at this site.

## **Audience: All ages and abilities**

This passive art engagement activity is intended for all residents and visitors to the Greenway.

## **Site Selection**

The Wilmore Road section of Little Falls is a constructed path of the Greenway that runs along Wilmore Road, Browertown Road, and crosses Long Hill Road. This site will not need any preparation for this art installation. The Greenway here is well-paved, well-marked, and has plenty of clearance on either side of the pavement to support the installation. This type of installation could be placed at any construction path along the Morris Canal Greenway.

## **Logistical Considerations**

The site is heavily trafficked by pedestrians and cyclists, and the trellises must be designed not to obstruct visibility or otherwise interfere with users. Further, this portion of the Greenway runs through residential areas; noise disturbances should be considered when anchoring the arch trellises along the path.



Wood is the most common material for both arches and trellises. It is a versatile option because it can feature either a natural wood finish or paint to match the rest of your landscape. However, wood is prone to rotting, warping, and insect damage; resistant wood like cedar or pressure-treated pine are longer-lasting choices. Wrought iron is the most common metal used for garden arches and trellises. Durable and strong, metal arches and trellises are prone to rust, but a weather-resistant powder-coated finish can help prevent rusting. Expertise from landscape architects and designers would be needed for this engagement activity. Potential partners include county staff and local/regional artists.

## **STORYTELLING STATIONS, CONSTRUCTED PATH AT WILMORE ROAD IN LITTLE FALLS , RENDERING H**

### ***Engagement Activity Description***

Storytelling has been a reoccurring theme for this site because of its linear nature. Poets or visual artists can engage this space by illustrating their work on station boards along this constructed path. The experience can be slowly revealed as visitors move along the path. The county could invest in permanent stations/boards that display poetry, visual art, etc., and the county could host a different featured artist. This could be integrated into the Passaic County programming on an ongoing basis. Successful examples of this type of art engagement include implementation in NYC subways and Takoma Park, Maryland.

**Rendering H** depicts an example of storytelling stations along the constructed path at Wilmore Road in Little Falls. The storytelling boards in this example depict a poem by William Carlos Williams, a Passaic County native and one of the most revered poets in American literature. The lines from the poem are displayed over the course of several boards that can be experienced by walkers, runners, and cyclists as they travel the Greenway. Though the rendering only shows one segment of this linear path, the concept is imagined as extending the entire length of this stretch of Greenway, perhaps highlighting other famous New Jersey poets, such as Alan Ginsberg or Walt Whitman, or providing a platform to showcase local work from the Poetry Center at Passaic Community College. The storyboard stations could also depict graphic art, connecting images to tell a story as one passes by each station.

Storytelling Stations, Constructed Path at Wilmore Road in Little Falls, Rendering H





**Related Passaic County Interpretive Themes:**

- » **A Culturally Diverse and Creative People:** These storytelling stations highlight poetry, creative writing, and visual art. The art could draw inspiration from the cultural diversity of Passaic County's population, past and present.
- » **Freedom to Think, Invent and Innovate:** Storyboards could also showcase history vignettes that tell the story of Passaic County and the Morris Canal.

**Audience: All ages and abilities**

This passive art engagement activity is intended for all residents and visitors to the Greenway.

**Site Selection**

The Wilmore Road section of Little Falls is a constructed path of the Greenway that runs along Wilmore Road, Browertown Road, and crosses Long Hill Road. This site will not need any preparation for this art installation. The Greenway here is well-paved, well-marked, and has plenty of clearance on either side of the pavement to support the installation. This type of installation could be placed at any construction path along the Morris Canal Greenway.

**Logistical Considerations**

The site is heavily trafficked by pedestrians and cyclists, and the storytelling boards must be designed not to obstruct visibility or otherwise interfere with users. Further, this portion of the Greenway runs through residential areas; noise disturbances should be considered when installing the boards along the path.

## **OUTDOOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, GARET MOUNTAIN RESERVATION, RENDERING I**

**Engagement Activity Description**

Outdoor musical instruments are a unique experience that can connect people to their musical creativity in outdoor environments. They provide an opportunity for creative sensory play and are also a thoughtful consideration for inclusivity. By bringing outdoor musical instruments to the open courtyard near the auto-overlook, Passaic County will create an inclusive experiential play area. Sensory therapy has been proven to support learning, independence, and confidence for all ages, especially for the deaf and the blind. By bringing outdoor musical instruments to the open courtyard near the auto-overlook, Passaic County will create an inclusive experiential play area. Instruments can be sounds of both wooden and metal instruments that range from low tones to angelic chimes. Local schools can use this space to connect the history and music of the canal with the students.

Outdoor Musical Instruments, Garrett Mountain Reservation, Rendering I





**Rendering I** depicts a conceptual play area with outdoor musical instruments. In the rendering, the instruments are placed along a path that stretches between and connects two distinct play areas, one for ages 2-5 and one for ages 5-12. This concept builds off a proposed redesign of the Garret Mountain reservation to include these play areas. In the rendering, the musical instruments are largely spread apart not to create noise that is too disruptive to other visitors to Garret Mountain, yet include certain instruments grouped to encourage the children (and adults!) to undertake cooperative play.

**Related Passaic County Interpretive Themes:**

- » **A Culturally Diverse and Creative People:** A Culturally Diverse and Creative People: This installation activates “a culturally diverse and creative people” by encouraging the spontaneous creation of music.

**Audience: Children and Caregivers**

While this installation would be more suitable for children twelve and under, outdoor musical instruments can engage visitors of any age. Parents, grandparents, caregivers, and friends will enjoy interacting with children at this site. Other visitors may enjoy the unique sounds and ambiance they create.

**Site Selection**

Passaic County already has developed plans for a renovation and improvement of Garret Mountain Auto-Overlook. These plans include installing two distinct play areas, one for younger kids (2-5 years old) and one for older kids (5-12 years old). The outdoor musical instruments are a way to enhance the play areas already in consideration by adding music and artistic exploration. This type of installation could be useful for any portion of the Greenway with amenities for children such as parks, rest areas, small pavilions, etc.

**Logistical Considerations**

The county should undertake this art installation in close coordination with other planned renovations to Garret Mountain Reservation.

## **PERFORMANCE PAVILLION, GARET MOUNTAIN RESERVATION, RENDERING J**

**Engagement Activity Description**

Garret Mountain reservation has a large gathering area near the auto overlook and the Greenway, making it perfect for a performance space. There are free and un-ticketed performances in Garet Mountain on the grounds of Lambert Castle. The county can bring outdoor performances back to the reservation with a flexible pavilion that can accommodate various live performances utilizing the landscape views as a natural backdrop to enhance the experience.

Performance Pavillion, Garrett Mountain Reservation, Rendering J





**Rendering J** depicts the integration of a performance pavilion into the existing framework of the proposed granite block seating area that is included as part of the planned enhancements of the Garret Mountain Reservation. The performance circle has been placed at the foot of the granite seating area and includes several holes within it, allowing for alternate configurations of backgrounds and props. In addition, **Rendering H** depicts the use of natural wooden backdrops to enhance the organic feel of the performance space. The flooring is also made of natural stone. Audience members can sit on the granite benches or enjoy the performance from the surrounding lawn.

**Related Passaic County Interpretive Themes:**

- » **A Culturally Diverse and Creative People:** Performance art could showcase the talent and creativity of local performers – either professionals or amateur/student. Performances could also reflect the diverse culture, presenting music/art that reflects the county’s minority and immigrant population.
- » **Nature’s all around you:** Placing a performance pavilion at the top of this historic landmark with its breathtaking views evokes the feeling of being surrounded by nature and highlights the unique attributes of Garret Mountain.
- » **Freedom to Think, Invent and Innovate:** The county could commission original work that explores the history of Passaic County, including historical events, important historical figures, or vignettes of everyday life of the past.

**Site Selection**

Garret Mountain Reservation is a 568-acre park located primarily in Woodland Park in southern Passaic County, providing visitors with large grass fields, several miles of walking/running trails, basketball courts, and picnic areas. The auto overlook captures the beauty of woodland while being surrounded by urbanism. This site is currently undergoing design upgrades, and the art engagement activities at this site should be complementary. There is a large gathering space near the auto overlook with ample parking. Though Garret Mountain Reservation is a unique asset in Passaic County, this type of outdoor performance pavilion could be installed at other large outdoor gathering spaces adjacent to the Greenway.

**Audience: All ages and abilities**

Garret Mountain Reservation is the largest source of passive and active recreation in the county, with features like basketball courts, picnic areas, an equestrian center, and a boathouse. Visitors could be history buffs, birdwatchers, cyclists, pedestrians, and families. Passaic County can develop programming in part with artists and local schools and Passaic County’s Historical Society.

**Logistical Considerations:**

The materials chosen for the performance pavilion will be determined by the artist and the designers. However, natural materials that are environmentally sustainable are recommended for this site. A landscape architect’s expertise will be needed for the design of the performance pavilion.

# FUNCTIONAL ART, INTERSECTION OF SPRUCE AND GRAND STREETS, RENDERING K





### **Engagement Activity Description**

The broad type of engagement recommended for this type of site is functional art, a genre of art that refers to the design and embellishment of public-owned objects like benches, utility boxes, telephone poles, or street signs. These become aesthetic objects that serve practical purposes. This genre of art will improve visitor's interaction with the visual culture of the Great Falls Historic District. Functional art infuses aesthetics into practical publicly owned objects through design and embellishment. Utility boxes are examples of functional street infrastructure that can serve as a canvas for public art. The Grand Street and Spruce Street area includes utility boxes, public benches, light posts that can benefit from eccentric functional art.

**Rendering K** depicts artistic enhancement of utility boxes and electrical poles. Each of these objects has been covered with an artistic design. This look is achievable through various materials/methods, including vinyl wraps, decals, posters, stencils, airbrush, oil-based chalk, and all varieties of paint. Ideally, local artists would design these installations, or alternatively, student artists from the local schools can participate. The artwork could change annually to feature different artists and sustain interest in the intersection.

In addition, **Rendering K** shows additional shade tree installations to improve the overall ambiance of the intersection.

### **Related Passaic County Interpretive Themes:**

- » **A Culturally Diverse and Creative People:** The art could showcase local talent or represent the area's diverse cultures.
- » **Freedom to Think, Invent and Innovate:** Wrappings could showcase history vignettes that tell the story of Passaic County.

### **Site Selection**

Spruce street and Grand street is an urban intersection located in the Great Falls Historic District. This site is on-road and mostly interpretive. Spruce Street is the gateway to the Great Falls National Historical Park, the Downtown Commercial Historic District, and the Dublin Historic District. The consensus from the Art Advisory Group, survey responses, and the public open house was that the site could benefit from streetscape beautification.

The Great Falls Circulation Study highlighted the importance of advancing improvements for the Spruce Street Bridge (also known as the War Memorial Bridge) and Spruce Street that calm traffic, improve pedestrian safety, and begin the process of overcoming the impacts of traffic and congestion that hamper the quality of life every day for Paterson residents. Rush hour traffic should be considered when prepping the site for a functional art installation to avoid other traffic impacts. This type of art installation could be implemented at other urban or suburban intersections along the Morris Canal Greenway, where the Greenway is interpretive.

### **Audience: All ages and abilities**

Improving the aesthetics of functional objects at this intersection will serve the charter and public school students in that area. Additionally, this site is referred to as “the gateway to the Great Falls and Downtown Historic Districts,” and visitors may walk to these districts if the pedestrian streetscape is improved. Functional art should be designed for universal use.

### **Logistical Considerations:**

Some of the utility boxes in the area need repairs. This should be undertaken before they are used as subjects for functional art. In addition, functional art is a great opportunity to engage with local schools, especially the schools in the nearby area. Students can partner with the county for student volunteers to design functional art displays.

### **Other Concepts**

Several other public art concepts collected throughout the project could provide potential inspiration for additional arts activations in the future. The project team was limited in the number of concepts to cover in this initial technical assistance project. However, the following ideas should be documented and memorialized for future planned engagement or additional sites along the Greenway:

- » **3-D Sidewalk or Street Art:** The intersection of Grand Street and Spruce is near the Paterson Great Falls National Park, so there is an opportunity to use engaging art to direct visitors to the historic site. 3D sidewalk chalk art can trick the eyes of passersby into seeing 3-dimensional sceneries and objects on flat surfaces. The spacious sidewalks along Spruce Street can accommodate a large 3D illusion of a waterfall leading to the actual Great Falls.
- » **Poetry Readings:** Passaic County has been home to some of the most prominent and prolific American poets, such as Alan Ginsberg and William Carlos Williams. Events that celebrate the rich tradition of poetry and inspire new generations of poets would be a fitting and worthwhile endeavor for public art events. These events could take place at the proposed performance pavilion at Garret Mountain Reservation but could also be imagined as pop-up events along the Greenway at other locations, such as the intersection of Spruce and Grand or the constructed path along Wilmore Road. The Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College could be a key partner in such events.
- » **Underpass Mural Art:** Many survey respondents and advisory group members expressed an interest in installing additional murals, especially at underpasses at or near the Morris Canal Greenway. These murals could represent cultural aspects of the communities nearby, depict the rich history of Passaic County, or celebrate natural features, such as the Great Falls. Some underpasses along the Morris Canal that are well-suited for murals include the McBride Avenue underpass, Grand Street underpass, Route 19 ramp, Marshall Street underpass, South Broad Street underpass, and Allwood Road underpass.
- » **Colorful Landscape Treatments:** Bright rock pathways or colorful tree treatments can create an enhanced sense of place and a safe, creative, and whimsical atmosphere for children and visitors. Such an artistic display would fit sites such as Peckman Preserve or the Bolds Mill Triangle Park and attract visitors and encourage a short stop for exploration.

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- » **Oversized Sculpture Installation:** Survey respondents indicated a preference for a large-scale single outdoor sculpture, something eye-catching and visible from the road to attract visitors and encourage social media posting and sharing. A large, oversized sculpture placed in a visible location, such as the Bolds Mill Triangle Park, could evoke the history of the canal, perhaps a millwheel or something reminiscent of the area's industrial history.
  - » **Outdoor Arts Festivals and Events:** The large open space at Garret Mountain Reservation near the auto overlook is an excellent venue for a large-scale outdoor art festival. Such a festival can feature local artists, cultures, and creative opportunities to bring visitors from around the region to explore the park and support the local economy. Survey respondents and advisory group members repeatedly mentioned wanting additional arts and culture-related events that could feature local artists and celebrate the diverse cultures in the county.
  - » **Participative Sculptures:** An interactive sculpture garden like Grounds for Sculptures in Hamilton, NJ, could be created at sites along the Greenway, with rotating exhibitions and lectures from local and regional artists. The sculptures could be developed as interactive with references to the Morris Canal and the county's history.
  - » **Public Pianos:** Public pianos have been installed and featured in urban and suburban areas throughout the United States. Often the pianos are donated, refurbished, and then painted by local artists or art students and strategically placed throughout downtown for use by the public. Such an installation could also feature live performances by professionals during peak hours. Survey respondents raised the idea of developing a walking path called "Piano Alley" along Grand Street.
  - » **Large Scale Outdoor Pictures:** A recommendation from a survey respondent was to have pictures and education about native wildlife and conservation. Peckman Preserve can feature local artists to develop these oversized pictures that blend easily into the natural environment.
  - » **Flowing Temporary Flag Exhibit:** The Golden Gates in Central Park was an engaging temporary exhibit that encouraged millions of visitors to explore the park, take photos, and take new paths through the park. A similar temporary flag exhibit could be installed along the constructed Greenway in Little Falls and other parts of the Greenway throughout the county. The flags should be built tall enough not to obstruct the view of cyclists.

- » **Art Contests/Engagement for Kids and Teens:** A recurring theme throughout the public and stakeholder engagement for this project was to engage local kids and teens through art. Using public art as a vehicle for channeling the creativity of local youth into something for the public to enjoy and appreciate could serve multiple purposes – engage youth, deepen community connections, and provide a low-cost way to create public art. Partnerships with schools or youth organizations could be fruitful collaborations for a countywide public art program.

## NEXT STEPS AND IMPLEMENTATION

### *Timeline and steps for implementation:*

Each of the concepts presented in this report is unique and requires specific, detailed implementation and site plans out of the limited scope and budget for the TNJ Local Technical Assistance program. However, some general steps, milestones, and implementation guidelines should be broadly adhered to for each of these public art engagement activations. Note that these general guidelines will vary depending on whether the art installations are permanent or temporary.

Step/Action	Description
Step 1: Conceptual Design	This TNJ Local Technical Assistance project represents the conceptual design phase of a public art project. Through best practices research, community engagement, and stakeholder participation, the county and the project team develop specific public art engagement concepts for each selected site.
Step 2: Site Selection	For this TNJ project, the sites for art installations were selected first, and the development of concepts was tailored to the specific sites. However, it is also possible to develop a concept for a public art installation and then decide on the best location for the selected concept. Passaic County could undertake a community inventory of potential sites for future use should the public art program expand beyond the five pilot sites.
Step 3: Set Parameters	An artist, or other professionals who will be hired to develop the specific art installation, will need more specific parameters to work within. Even if volunteers develop the art, they'll need a framework to guide execution. For example, the county needs to articulate if there is a specific theme, material, color, size, or experience this art is intended to include. The renderings included in this project report provide some very broad parameters, but the county will need to define these further in order to ensure that the installations meet expectations. However, parameters should not be so restrictive that they preclude an artist from bringing his/her creativity to the project.
Step 4: Define Costs	Passaic County will need a general estimate of costs for each concept that is to be implemented. While each art installation is unique, the county could collect estimated costs from artists or by contacting host organizations for similarly styled public art installations in other places, some of which have been provided as part of the best practices research. A general cost estimate will help determine the level of funding needed for implementation.



Step 5: Identify Funding	<p>According to conversations with county staff as part of this project, most of the funding for implementing these public art installations will likely come from County operating budgets. However, depending on the size and scale of the installations, additional funding from grants (public or private), individuals, or sponsorships could help bolster the budget. Local organizations, schools, and other nonprofits can also provide in-kind support, such as assistance with labor, site cleanup, or supplies from a local business.</p>
Step 6: Establish a committee	<p>For each pilot site implementation, the county should work with the appropriate municipality to establish a local implementation arts advisory group. Like the advisory group for this planning effort, the local advisory group could consist of individuals from various backgrounds, artists, environmentalists, residents, local historians, teachers, elected officials, or other interested parties. This advisory committee will help shepherd the process, review applications from artists, finalize plans, organize volunteers, and engage the community at key milestones. The advisory group could also help coordinate the necessary municipal approvals, permits, and other regulatory measures. The committee can also work with the county to set up a maintenance plan for permanent installations to maintain a state of good repair.</p>
Step 7: Hire an Artist	<p>While the conceptual plans will serve as a starting point, each of these concepts will need an artist to bring the project to fruition. Passaic County should distribute a “Call for Artists” listing all the details available on the selected arts engagement installation. The county should ensure that the Call for Artists has a wide distribution, especially reaching into low-income or under-served communities. While it is not always possible, selecting a local artist for a public, community-based art installation will help ensure that the work reflects the culture and spirit of the surrounding community.</p>
Step 8: Prepare the site and installation	<p>Most public art installations included in this plan involve natural landscapes, such as the Peckman Preserve, the Bolds Mill Triangle Park, the constructed portion of the Greenway, and the Garret Mountain Reservation. Before any public art installation or engagement, these sites need to be prepared and carefully reviewed. Depending on the site’s specifics and final installations/engagement, the site might need clearing, landscaping, or other changes to accommodate the installation and the visitors who will enjoy it. As needed, the county should coordinate with these specialists. Detailed installation plans for each arts engagement activity should prescribe the types of physical improvement needed at the site. The county may need an RFP for a professional landscape architecture firm as part of the project team.</p> <p>Once the site is ready, the artists can work with the project team, including other specialists (architect, site engineer, artist, arborist, environmentalist) to install.</p>

Step 9: Launch	Each of these pilot sites and public art installations should be publicized broadly throughout the county. As one of the goals of this project is to connect residents and visitors with the Greenway and arts engagement opportunities, it is important that information about these installations/engagements is thoroughly distributed. The county should partner with schools, libraries, arts organizations, and other relevant groups to share information about the upcoming launch. In addition, each pilot site should have a “ribbon-cutting” ceremony to spotlight the new attraction. Such an event could feature additional activations, like live music, food, and other festivities.
Bonus step: Build a Brand!	In order to maximize the impact of the county’s investment in public art and engagement along the Morris Canal Greenway, the sites and installations should have a consistent brand and messaging campaign to tie them together. As the county moves forward with art at each pilot site (and hopefully beyond), it will be important that promotional materials, signage, wayfinding, and other collateral for the sites/installations have are consistent with the county’s Morris Canal Arts District logo concept. Building a public art brand for Passaic County will not only help residents and visitors know when they have arrived at a Passaic County art site but come to trust that their expectations will be met when they get there. Building a brand will also help Passaic County leverage its investments, bring recognition, and attract high-caliber artists to participate.

***The Importance of Collaboration and Co-creation***

A combination of natural materials and vibrant colors, permanent and temporary installments, quiet, reflective sites, and social spaces can grab the attention and inspire the imagination of residents and visitors alike. But public art can also be a platform for raising public awareness about important community issues, like environmental stewardship and respect for diversity. The county’s vision for a connected and enhanced Greenway seems to align well with the community’s desire for dynamic and inspiring public spaces.

However, the process of creating art for public spaces is not an isolated endeavor. To encourage public participation in the place-making process, Passaic County should continue to put communities at the center of the decision-making process and include local artists in all phases of the project. The county should also continue to create opportunities for the public to become decision-makers for their communities and empower local artists, educators, and community leaders to share in the creation and ownership of public spaces. Private developers, funders, infrastructure consortia, museums, galleries, schools, libraries, and private industry could contribute to the planning and implementation of this project.

***Final thoughts: The COVID-19 Context***

This TNJ Local Technical Assistance study was completed during the COVID-19 pandemic. As Passaic County looks to implement recommendations in this report, it should do so with consideration for current and evolving health and safety protocols in mind. The pandemic has brought new attention to the importance of outdoor recreational opportunities, and the county’s interest in providing outdoor arts and exploration activity that is safe and enjoyable is both timely and critical to the quality of life for residents and visitors. Though the pandemic will hopefully recede in the coming months, the trend of (and interest in) these types of outdoor experiences is likely to continue. An investment in public outdoor art today will benefit both current and future residents.

**APPENDIX A**

**PASSAIC COUNTY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Linear Arts District Engagement Plan  
for the Morris Canal Greenway

**COUNTY PLAN  
REVIEW AND  
BEST PRACTICES  
REPORT**

**MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY**



## **I. Introduction**

Together North Jersey (TNJ) was created in 2011 to develop the first comprehensive plan for the future of North Jersey. Funded by a \$5 million federal Sustainable Communities grant and nearly \$5 million in leveraged funds from members, the TNJ planning effort brought together a coalition of nearly 100 diverse partners – counties, municipalities, educational institutions, nonprofits, businesses and other stakeholders – to develop the TNJ regional plan.

The TNJ planning process identified a shared vision for a prosperous future for North Jersey consisting of four themes: Competitive, Efficient, Livable, and Resilient. The Plan was issued in November 2015. Since then, TNJ partners have reconvened for further implementation of the Plan. NJTPA and the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University (VTC) currently coordinate the TNJ Forum and Task Forces, with each of the four Task Forces dedicated to furthering one of the Plan’s four themes.

The TNJ planning region consists of the 13 counties in the NJTPA planning area: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren.

### **TNJ Local Technical Assistance Program**

Funded by the NJTPA, the TNJ Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program provides VTC staff support and technical assistance to advance local initiatives that align with the vision of the Together North Jersey Plan. Eligible applicants for the program include municipal and county governments or non-governmental organizations.

## **II. Overview and Project Purpose**

As part of the LTA program, TNJ worked with the County of Passaic to develop a public art engagement plan for activating five site locations along the Morris Canal Greenway. The goal of this plan is to provide a framework for using arts activations to enliven the Morris Canal Greenway and encourage visitors and new users to experience the cultural and mobility features of the Greenway.



The recommendations for these five sites are meant to serve as templates for engagement through the arts at other similar locations through the Greenway – both within Passaic County and beyond. The concept recommendations for these arts installations were developed based on extensive public and stakeholder input, best practices research, and detailed review of the sites. The engagement plan will serve as a framework for engaging local communities, artists, historians, and local officials to develop public art along the Morris Canal Greenway, enhancing each community’s artistic connection to the recreational and historical attributes of the Greenway.

The project scope includes four main tasks:

- » **Task 1: Plan and Best Practices Review** – Drawing from existing County and local plans, TNJ prepared an overview of relevant interpretive themes and ideas to set the direction for outreach strategies and the preparation of the engagement plan.
- » **Task 2: Screening and Site Selection** – TNJ worked with Passaic County to select five urban, suburban, open space sites that would serve as the starting templates for Passaic County’s art activations and public engagement along Morris Canal Greenway.
- » **Task 3: Public and Stakeholder Engagement** – The team sought input from residents, visitors, and other stakeholders to share their ideas and perceptions of the Morris Canal Greenway, as well as what changes they hoped to see in the future. This step in the process identified key individuals and groups that need to be included in all steps of planning, decision-making, implementing, and problem-solving for the Morris Canal Greenway.
- » **Task 4: Create an Engagement Plan** - Bearing in mind the county’s existing plans, best practices from communities in New Jersey and around the world, and the feedback from the public and other Passaic County stakeholders, the team prepared an engagement plan to guide the county in their placemaking process. This included descriptions about art installations, engagement strategies, possible partnerships, and other planning components that the county should consider in enhancing the Morris Canal Greenway.

### **Project Purpose and Objectives**

TNJ and Passaic County established the following objectives for the effort to attract local communities, artists, historians, and local officials to develop public art along the Morris Canal Greenway

- » Improve access and promote active transportation along the Morris Canal Greenway
- » Enhance and invest in art as a tool to connect with and engage the community
- » Promote countywide tourism and highlight community features and cultural assets
- » Create a framework for community engagement, place activation, and art-based programming that can serve as models for other areas along the Greenway

## BENEFITS OF PUBLIC ART

Cities and places gain cultural, social, and economic value through public art. Placemaking through public art helps create a sense of safety, belonging, and connection to nature and community. It reflects and reveals people's ideas about their past, present, and future and energizes public spaces. Because public art is free and accessible, people can experience direct encounters with it through daily life. It encourages social interaction and self-reflection. Public art can inspire people to pay attention to their surroundings, engage with the unique qualities of a place, and create rich connections to history, community identity, and nature. Places with active and dynamic cultural scenes sustain more business growth and are more attractive to residents and visitors. Strategic placement of public art in urban and natural spaces along the Morris Canal Greenway will serve to support healthy, active, and inspired lifestyles for all ages.

### Morris Canal Greenway and the TNJ Plan

TNJ's assistance to Passaic County and the grant's Art Advisory Committee demonstrates an effective approach for other North Jersey communities to implement creative placemaking strategies and art-based community development at the local level. Activating public spaces through the arts advances the four themes of the Together North Jersey Plan.



#### COMPETITIVE

Attract visitors to the Greenway, encouraging patronage of local shopping and dining options that



#### LIVABLE

Provide a vibrant and inviting space where community members and visitors can enjoy the arts and experience local history and culture in new ways.



#### EFFICIENT

Encourage walking, biking, and active transportation along the Greenway.



#### RESILIENT

Provide opportunities to educate the public on the natural environment and environmental features of areas surrounding the Greenway.



### III. Themes from the Plan Review

As part of the development of the engagement plan, the TNJ team reviewed relevant County and local plans that provide important context for the Engagement Plan, including:

- » Morris Canal Greenway Feasibility Study (2011)
- » Transportation Element of The Passaic County Master Plan (2012)
- » The Heritage Tourism Element of The Passaic County Master Plan (2013)
- » Great Falls Circulation Study (2016)
- » Interpretive Plan (2020)

These plans provided important context for developing guidance and recommendations along the Greenway. A full summary of the plan review is included as Appendix A.

Most notably, Passaic County's 2020 Interpretive Plan recommended 3 Interpretive Themes as a foundation of programming and media development for historic sites, museums, and parks. These themes provide County-wide direction for artistic, historical, and cultural activations and programming. The TNJ team used these themes to provide an organizing framework for developing concepts, aligning the goals of the interpretive plan with this engagement plan. These themes are briefly summarized below, with additional detail found in Appendix A.

**Theme 1. Freedom to Think, Invent and Innovate:** As a former center for manufacturing and industry, Passaic County is steeped in a history of innovation and ingenuity. It has been front and center in many inspiring ideas and movements such as Alexander Hamilton's plan for a national manufacturing city in 1791 and the Great Silk Strike of 1913 as well as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s protest speech on the topic of poverty in 1968. Drawing from that, public art ideas along the Morris Canal Greenway can incorporate topics on:

- » government and politics
- » civil rights and social justice
- » American Revolution
- » labor movement
- » industrial power, engineering and machinery
- » Transportation
- » scientific discovery

**Theme 2. A Culturally Diverse and Creative People:** Over the centuries, Passaic County has been home to a wide spectrum of people – Native Americans, Dutch colonists and African slaves, 19th-century immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Poland and other locations in Europe. Today, it is home to multi-ethnic communities from around the world. Art along the Morris Canal Greenway should reflect the identities and cultures of its people and may incorporate topics such as:

- » prehistory and native peoples
- » immigration and migration
- » Architecture
- » ethnicity and race
- » customs and family life
- » Cuisine
- » churches and schools
- » Music
- » visual arts and sculpture
- » poetry and writing
- » performance arts
- » ethnic festivals and celebrations
- » wealth and social status in different times and places

**Theme 3. Nature's All Around You:** Parks and preserved open space is abundant in Passaic County, offering many opportunities to go spend time outdoors and learn about natural history, evolved cultural landscapes and environmental education. Public art along the Morris Canal Greenway and throughout Passaic County should celebrate the area's varied geology and topography as well as Passaic River, one of the region's most important water resources. Related topics include:

- » Geology
- » Geography
- » native plants and animals
- » water resources
- » scenic views and vistas
- » Ecology

#### IV. Sites Selected

In consultation with the County, the TNJ project team selected five sites to serve as pilot locations for the development of the arts engagement plan. This selection was based on the following criteria:

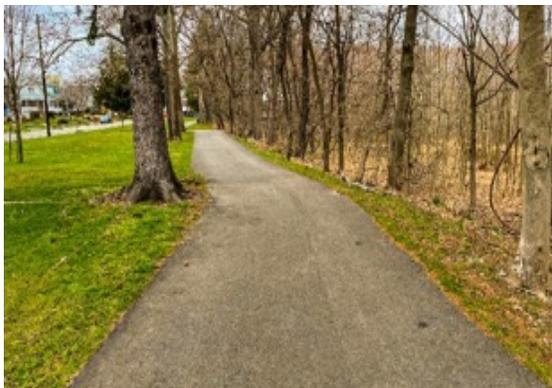
- » **Mix of place-types:** Because Passaic County is home to many neighborhood types, the sites selected had to reflect urban, suburban, open space characteristics typical to the region.
- » **Walkability and Accessibility:** Though not all of the historic Morris Canal in Passaic is walkable, each site was evaluated and assessed with regards to its proximity to constructed paths, bikeways, and bus and rail transit.
- » **Cultural significance:** Sites selected have historic and cultural significance or must have the potential to become active, flexible spaces for community building. These places must also be proximal to civic centers or existing attractions and social infrastructure like libraries, playgrounds, schools, downtown areas or main streets, and parks.
- » **Scalability:** This engagement plan is to serve as a template for other sites throughout the county. The sites selected should have similar characteristics that are applicable countywide

#### Site Descriptions and Assets

This next section provides descriptions and photos of each site, including key features and surrounding assets (schools, historic sites, libraries, playgrounds, etc.). Site maps with detailed location information are included in Appendix B.

##### *Peckman Preserve, Little Falls*

The Peckman Preserve is a 12-acre passive preserve located off Wilmore Road in Little Falls. This parcel is one of the last remaining large undeveloped parcels in the southern portion of Passaic County, and lies along the Morris Canal. The natural landscape is made up of open space areas, meadows, wetlands, and plenty of wildlife which inhabit the land. A pedestrian bridge will be built later this year and will serve as an important connection between the two completed sections of the Morris Canal Bikeway in Little Falls.



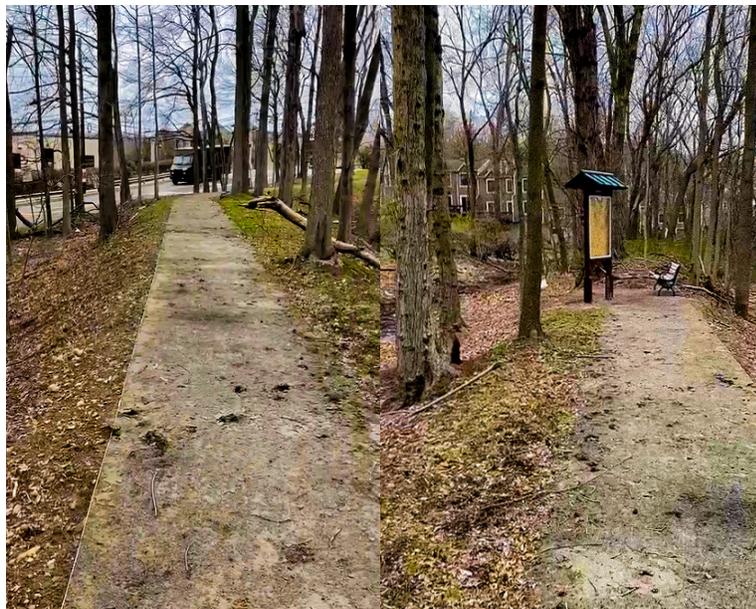
### **Wilmore Road Section, Little Falls**

In 2011, Little Falls completed its Morris Canal Bikeway which runs along Wilmore Road, Browertown Road, and crosses Long Hill Road. The portion Greenway along Long Hill Road is asphalt and adjacent to the Passaic Valley Regional High School along Browertown Road.



### **Bolds Mill Triangle Park, Woodland Park**

Located at the southwest corner of Browertown Road and Lackawanna Avenue, Bold's Mill was once one of the most significant businesses along the Morris Canal serving as a private residence, a mill, tavern and resting place for Canal boatmen and passengers. Today the site serves as a pocket park with a bench and informational kiosk. A bike lane has recently been installed along Browertown road inviting new users to this space.



### **Garret Mountain Section, Paterson**

Garret Mountain Reservation is a 568-acre park located primarily in Woodland Park in southern Passaic County. Visitors are provided large grass fields, several miles of walking/running trails, basketball courts and picnic areas. The auto overlook captures the beauty of woodland while being surrounded by urbanism.



### **Grand and Spruce, Paterson**

Located in the Great Falls Historic District, this site is on-road and mostly interpretive. Spruce Street is often seen as the gateway to the Great Falls National Historic Park. The section of the Greenway is in close proximity to the Paterson Arts and Science Charter school and Dawn Treader Christian School.



## **V. Public and Stakeholder Engagement**

### *Public Engagement*

The TNJ team developed an outreach strategy to gauge the public and other stakeholders' perceptions of the Morris Canal Greenway, as well as what changes they hoped to see in the future. The outreach strategy aimed to reach a range of interested groups and collect ideas from residents, visitors, and other stakeholders about ideas for arts activities, installations, events, and other options for connecting these sites with arts and culture.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the project team conducted all promotion, engagement and public outreach activities online. To promote the online engagement, the TNJ team coordinated with local libraries, local groups, and art and environment groups and launched social media and outreach campaigns through Facebook and mailing groups. In addition, the County distributed information about project public engagement opportunities through its email distribution list, reaching over 10,000 residents in Passaic County. All promotional and outreach material were available in both English and Spanish.

### Public Survey

The online survey featured a mix of open-ended questions and site-specific questions. It also included some basic demographic questions. The survey was available in both English and Spanish. The survey was advertised in the Passaic County Arts and Cultural Affairs' newsletter, in partnership with local schools and libraries, and through various media news outlets such as TAP-IntoPaterson and the NJ State Magazine.



The project team collected 60 responses over a 2-month period. Of the survey respondents, 76% lived in Passaic County, while 14% visited the County and the remaining 10% worked or volunteered in the County. Respondents were mostly self-identified as non-Hispanic white females aged 30-49 years' old. See figures below for full demographic breakdown.

### *Public Open House on April 21*

On April 21, 2021, the TNJ project team hosted a virtual Public Open House to discuss public art and engagement ideas for the Morris Canal Greenway. The purpose of the meeting was to solicit feedback from residents and visitors of Passaic County about specific art installation, activation ideas, and interactive experiences that they would like to see at the five sites. The Public Open House was advertised on various social media pages, the TNJ website, and the Passaic County Arts and Cultural Affairs newsletter.

The Open House began with a brief overview of the project, the sites selected by Passaic County and TNJ, and several installation and engagement ideas from the Best Practices document. The TNJ team then facilitated conversations about the applications of art concepts in each site as. Additionally, local knowledge of site conditions was collected. The virtual meeting attracted approximately 25 attendees who were a mix of residents, teachers and local artists.



## Stakeholder Engagement

In addition to public engagement, the project team consulted with a variety of County stakeholders and subject matter experts. These stakeholders provided the team with important local context and expertise to refine concepts and generate engagement templates that suit the unique attributes of each site and local community.

### Passaic's Tourism Forum

On February 16, 2021, the County Director of Cultural and Historic Affairs invited the project team to present at the Passaic County Tourism Forum. The team presented an overview of the project scope and objectives, as well as a description of the five selected sites. Following the overview, the team led the participants in a brief brainstorming activity to collect preliminary recommendations that served to assist the team in general direction and guidance for each site. Audience members were encouraged to take the online public survey and share it with their network. Participants at the Tourism Forum included representatives from local municipal historic preservation committees, public libraries, arts and cultural organizations, local colleges and universities, and other municipal/county officials.

### Arts Advisory Group

Engaging directly with the local arts community was a key component of the stakeholder engagement strategy for this project. Local artists will play an important role in the ideation, planning implementation, and execution of the proposed recommendation and having early buy-in was an important objective for the project team.

To that end, the TNJ team worked with the Passaic County Director of Cultural and Historic Affairs to establish an Arts Advisory Group to provide this expertise and assist the team in the development and refinement of public art concepts for each site. The arts advisory group met three times throughout the project – an initial brainstorm meeting on March 23, 2021, in conjunction with the public open house on April 21, 2021 and to review the draft recommendations and inform the implementation and next steps for the County in June 2021. The Art group included members from Passaic County Community College, the City of Patterson, the City of Clifton, the Canal Society of New Jersey, Passaic Public Schools, William Patterson University, Paterson Public Schools System, and Creative Force Alliance for Education through Arts & Culture

## Engagement Findings

### General Findings

Survey respondents were asked to share the ways they obtain information on events and attractions in Passaic County.



The top three ways that residents and visitors stayed informed about local art and activities are: social media, friends and family, and the Passaic County Website. Respondents also listed digital newsletters, NJDC Staff, Woodland Park Public Library, and local e-mail news sources.

Roughly half of the respondents said they visit the Greenway to enjoy the scenic views of the county's natural landscape. Among the responses, exercise emerged as the second most common reason why people visited the Greenway. Most respondents preferred to walk or drive to the destinations.

For outdoor spaces, stakeholders are largely interested in toddler-friendly arts festivals, fairs, parades, music and theater performances as well as outdoor art installations and historic preservation lectures and art walks.

For arts engagement or installations in urban spaces, stakeholders are largely interested in beautification improvements, and art projects such as murals and historical tours that can serve as educational and creative outlets for local schools.

### **Site-Specific Findings from the Survey, Advisory Group, and Open House**

Participants of the survey, Advisory Group, and Open House were offered an opportunity to provide specific recommendations for activations they would like to see at each site. They are summarized in the bullets below.

- » **Constructed portion in Little Falls:** Majority of the responses for this site focused on the flow and movement of people along the linear trail on this portion of the Greenway. Participants also favored the idea of integrated art and interactive experiences such as storytelling stations and arch trellises or creative sculptures to showcase the native flora and enhance the experience of pedestrians, cyclists, and joggers travelling along Wilmore Road in Little Falls. The work of Barbara Wallace and Rainworks could be inspiration for this site.
- » **Triangle Park in Woodland Park:** Feedback from the different stakeholders determined that the garden rest stop would be the most ideal concept for the site. Participants of the Open House took warmly to the idea of inviting local students to paint friendship rocks and the installation of small sculptures of animals like that of popular artists like Brian Mock. Suggestions also sought to incorporate environmental features, such as a butterfly garden with a water feature or a natural sculpture that relates this site back to the significance of the historic Morris Canal.
- » **Auto Overlook at Garrett Mountain:** Respondents envisioned this space as the venue for performance arts, events, and family-friendly activities. Suggestions included artistic and theatrical performances, music, playgrounds, and outdoor activities. A public outdoor performance pavilion could activate the site and bring in audiences from Patterson, Clifton, Woodland Park and beyond to celebrate an outdoor arts festival. The concept is also complimentary to the existing planned elements of the auto-overlook. Discussions also included the possibility of adding outdoor musical instruments to the children's playground area.

- » **Intersection of Grand St. and Spruce in Paterson:** Ideas for this site included many suggestions for ways to use art for beautification while featuring local culture, talent and celebrating the history of the city. Functional art like colorful benches and utility boxes, and temporary street art were thought to be the most ideal for this site to create buzz and attract visitors to the Downtown Patterson area.

Participants were also interested in a variety of interactive installments and creative programming to encourage **co-creation and community storytelling**. They envisioned the sites along Morris Canal Greenway as the location of pop-up events and street performances. They also expressed interest in the **installment of permanent stations or boards** that could hold seasonal or transient art like poetry, visual art, or photography from local artists in the County.

### **Engagement Templates by Site:**

Based on the input received, best practices research, consultation with County partners, and takeaways from in-person site visits, the TNJ project team selected nine public art concepts across all five pilot sites. The following engagement templates summarize key features of the selected art engagement activities, including a concept overview, relevant interpretive themes, implementation considerations, materials, potential partners, and, where possible, funding opportunities. Several of the engagement templates also include a visual rendering of suggested concepts. The following is a list of selected activations for each of the pilot sites:

1. Peckman Preserve
  - a. Natural Sculpture Garden
  - b. Arts Stations
2. Bolds Mill Triangle Park
  - a. Garden Rest Stop
3. Auto Overlook at Garrett Mountain
  - a. Performance Pavilion
  - b. Outdoor Musical Instruments
4. Constructed Path in Woodland Park
  - a. Storytelling stations
  - b. Arched Trellises with Native Flora
5. Intersection of Spruce and Grand
  - a. Functional Art
  - b. Street Art



## VI. Other Considerations

There were several other public arts concepts collected throughout the project that could provide potential inspiration for additional arts activations in the future. The project team was limited in the number of concepts to cover in this initial technical assistance project. However, the following ideas should be documented and memorialized for future planned engagement or additional sites along the Greenway.

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts has various grant opportunities for local governments, non-profits, and art-driven organizations to support various forms of art programming including community art projects. Below is a list of potential funding opportunities for the County.

### General Program Support (GPS)

GPS grants are awarded to New Jersey based agencies, institutions, and units of local government to help secure major, ongoing arts programs. GPS grants are typically awarded with a three-year commitment, subject to contract stipulations and available funds. Information about the next funding round for GPS grants will be available in fall of 2021.

### Local Arts Program (LAP)

The Council awards multi-year LAP grants annually to County Art Agencies to support their local arts development programs, activities, planning, administration, and professional development.

## VII. Next steps and Implementation

### Engaging with Local Communities: Co-Creation, Collaboration, and Empowerment

A combination of natural materials and vibrant colors, permanent and temporary installments, quiet introspective sites, and social spaces can grab the attention and inspire the imagination of residents and visitors alike. Public art can also be a platform for raising public awareness about important community issues, like environmental stewardship and respect for diversity. The County's vision for a connected and enhanced Greenway seems to align well with the community's desire for dynamic and inspiring public spaces.

However, the process of creating art for public spaces is not an isolated endeavor. In equitable placemaking, collaboration among diverse people and committed partners is key. To nurture an environment for co-creation, Passaic County should continue put communities at the center of the decision-making process and include local artists in all phases of the project.

## **Partnerships for Regeneration<sup>1</sup>**

Public art partnerships are opportunities for cultural expression and building social value. They also serve as catalysts for revenue and economic development. Private developers, funders, infrastructure consortia, museums, galleries, schools, libraries, and private industry provide valuable contributions to the planning and implementation of the project. To create value for all, Passaic County should also include artists, planners, engineers, designers, elected officials, and community stakeholders in visioning, planning, implementation, and problem-solving.

## **Changing Needs and Strategies for Collaboration<sup>2</sup>**

The pandemic has prompted many communities to rethink their goals and long-term priorities and redefine their spaces to be more inclusive and responsive to new norms and changing needs. This has created promising ground for public engagement, participative decision-making, and community collaboration. Conventional community engagement focuses on informing and consulting the public while maintaining a top-down approach to decision-making. The objective of engagement is usually to convince the public to agree with the project and propose a program. This approach is neither inclusive nor meaningful. To encourage public participation in the placemaking process, Passaic County should continue to create opportunities for the public to become decision-makers for their communities and empower local artists, educators, and community leaders to share in the creation and ownership of public spaces.

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1. Americans for the Arts. (2010). Green Paper: Why Public Art Matters. In Americans for the Arts. Retrieved from website: [https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/PublicArtNetwork\\_GreenPaper.pdf](https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/PublicArtNetwork_GreenPaper.pdf)

2. Tamarack Institute. (2020, November 26). Creating Equitable and Resilient places. Retrieved May 14, 2021, from [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lToq7I936eY&ab_channel=TheTamarackInstitute) website: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lToq7I936eY&ab\\_channel=TheTamarackInstitute](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lToq7I936eY&ab_channel=TheTamarackInstitute)

**APPENDIX B, SITE MAPS**



**Legend**

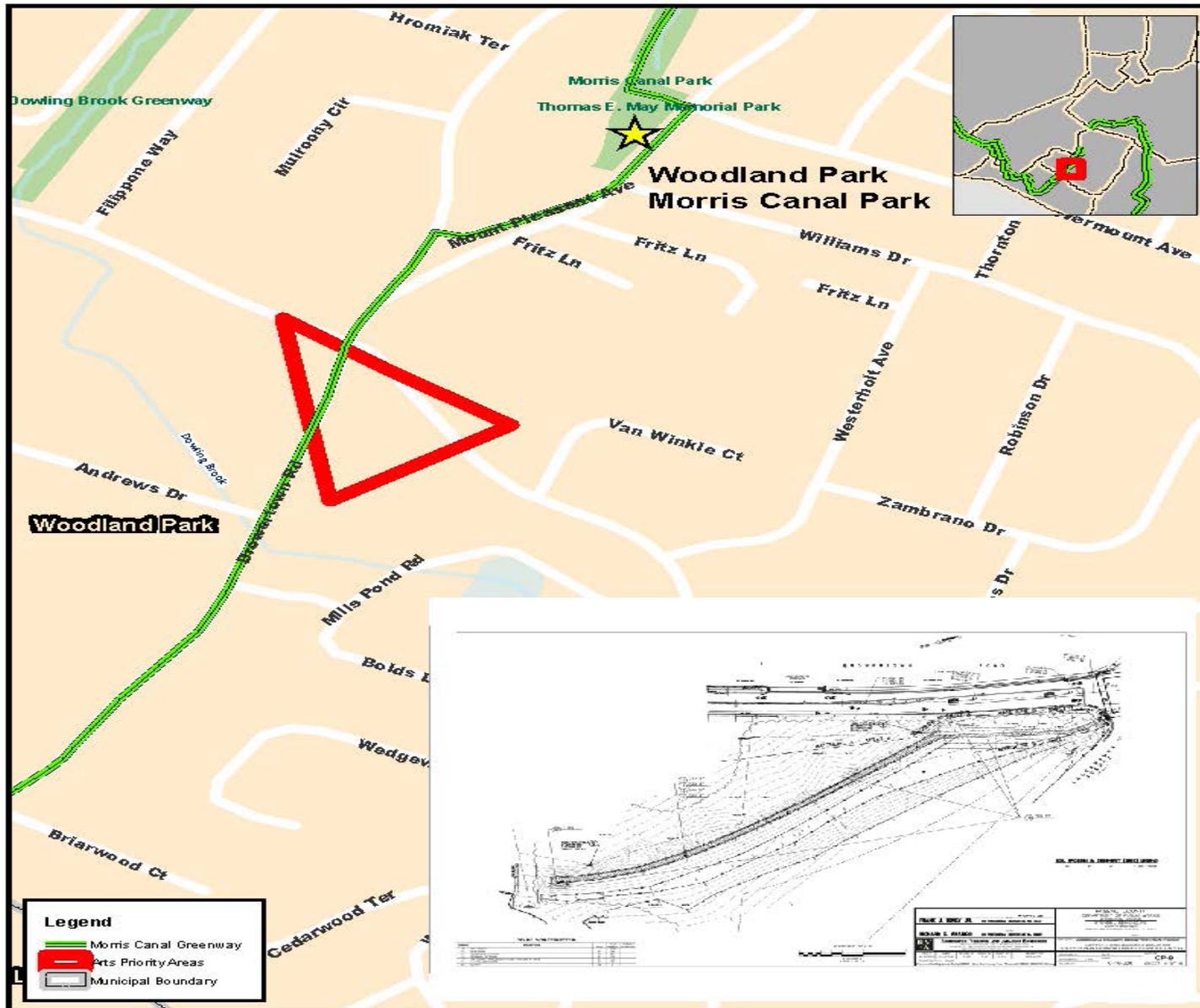
- Morris Canal Greenway
- Arts Priority Areas
- Municipal Boundary



**Garret Mountain Reservation  
Auto Overlook Area to Lambert Castle**

TNJ Technical Assistance Grant  
Morris Canal Greenway Linear  
Arts Plan - Passaic County

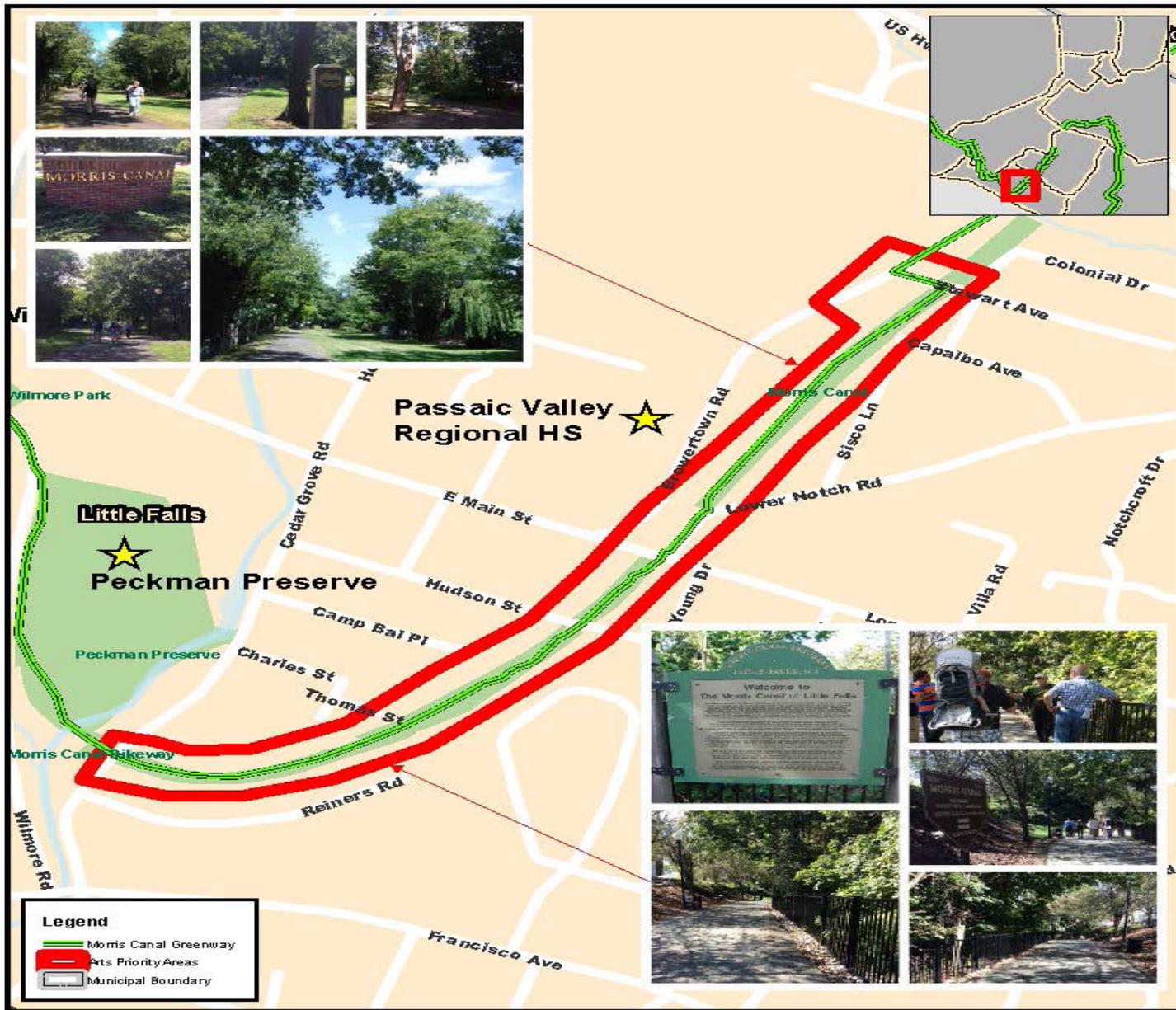
2/23/2021



**Bolds Mill Path  
Corner of Browertown Road & Lackawanna Avenue  
Woodland Park, NJ**

TNJ Technical Assistance Grant  
Morris Canal Greenway Linear  
Arts Plan - Passaic County

2/23/2021



Little Falls Morris Canal Park  
Little Falls, NJ

TNJ Technical Assistance Grant  
Morris Canal Greenway Linear  
Arts Plan - Passaic County

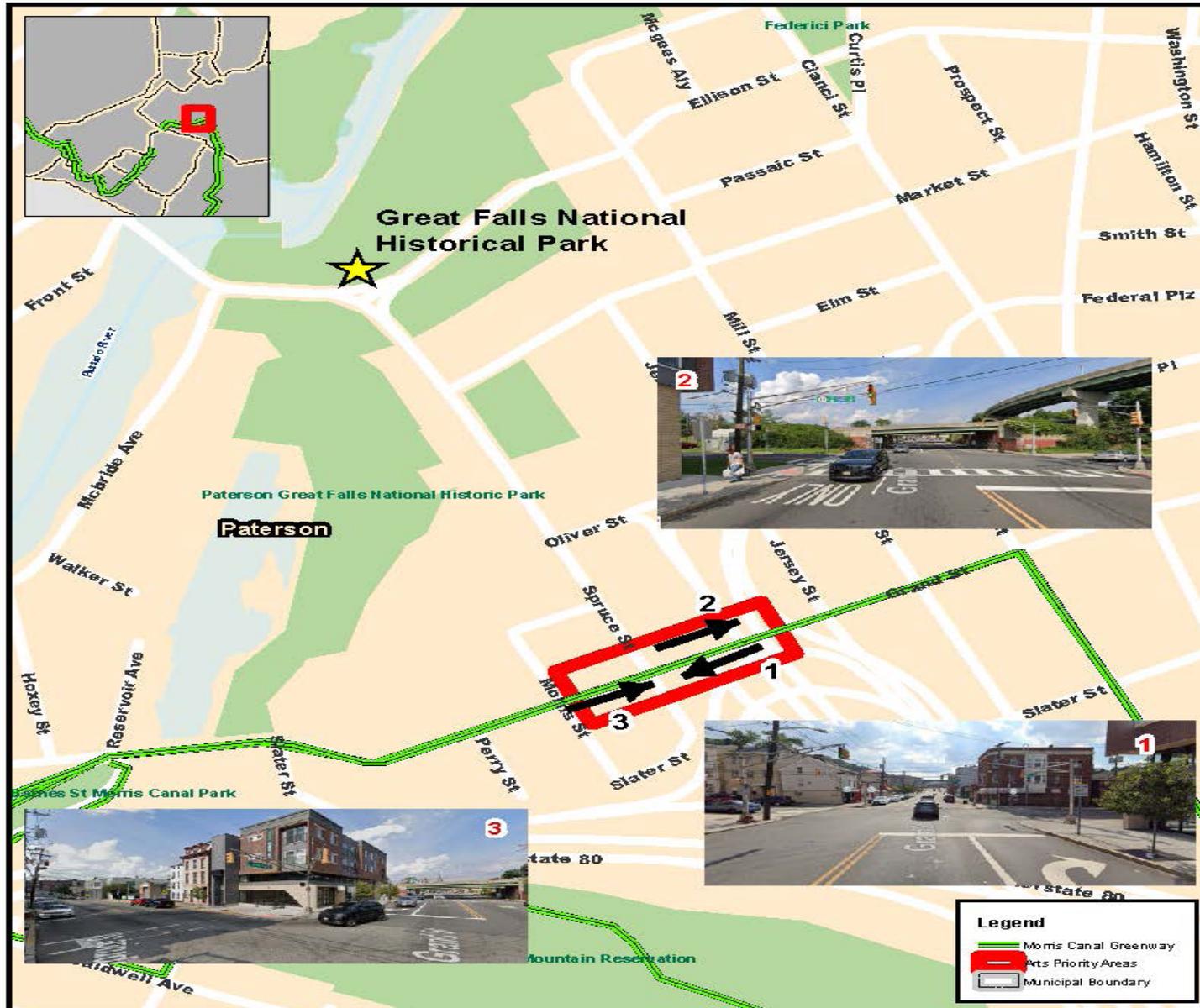
2/23/2021



Passaic County Peckman Preserve  
Little Falls, NJ

TNJ Technical Assistance Grant  
Morris Canal Greenway Linear  
Arts Plan - Passaic County

2/23/2021



**Spruce Street & Grand Street  
Paterson, NJ**

TNJ Technical Assistance Grant  
Morris Canal Greenway Linear  
Arts Plan - Passaic County

2/23/2021





# APPENDIX C

## PASSAIC COUNTY SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS



### Summary of Survey Responses Public Art at the Morris Canal Greenway in Passaic County

#### Background:

As part of the Together North Jersey Local Technical Assistance program, Together North Jersey (TNJ) is working with Passaic County to develop an engagement plan for integrating public art into sections of the Morris Canal Greenway. As part of this work, the TNJ team conducted an outreach survey to collect ideas from residents, visitors, and other stakeholders about ideas for arts activities, installations, events, and other options for connecting these sites with arts and culture.

With the coronavirus pandemic limiting the TNJ team’s ability to do in-person work, the survey was distributed online. It featured a mix of open-ended questions and site-specific questions. It also included some basic demographic questions. The survey was available in both English and Spanish.

The survey was advertised in the Passaic County Arts and Cultural Affairs’ newsletter, in partnership with local schools and libraries, and through various media news outlets such as TAPintoPaterson and the NJ State Magazine.

The project team collected 60 responses over a 2-month period. Of the survey respondents, 76% volunteered in the County. Respondents were mostly self-identified as non-Hispanic white females aged 30-49 years old. See figures below for full demographic breakdown.

Figure 1. Age cohorts

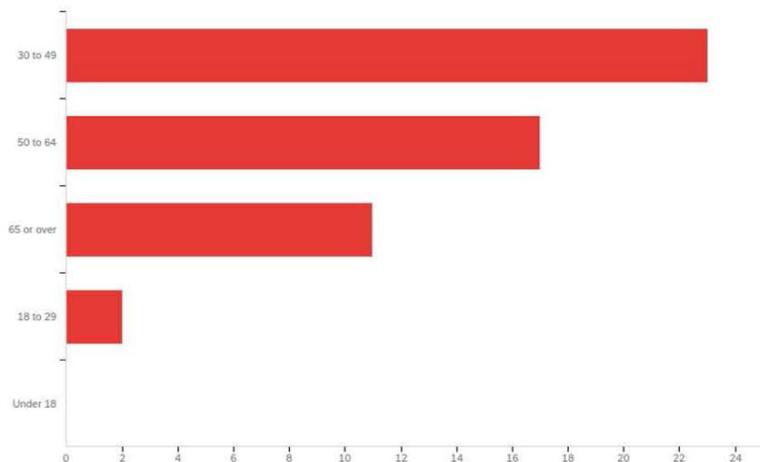
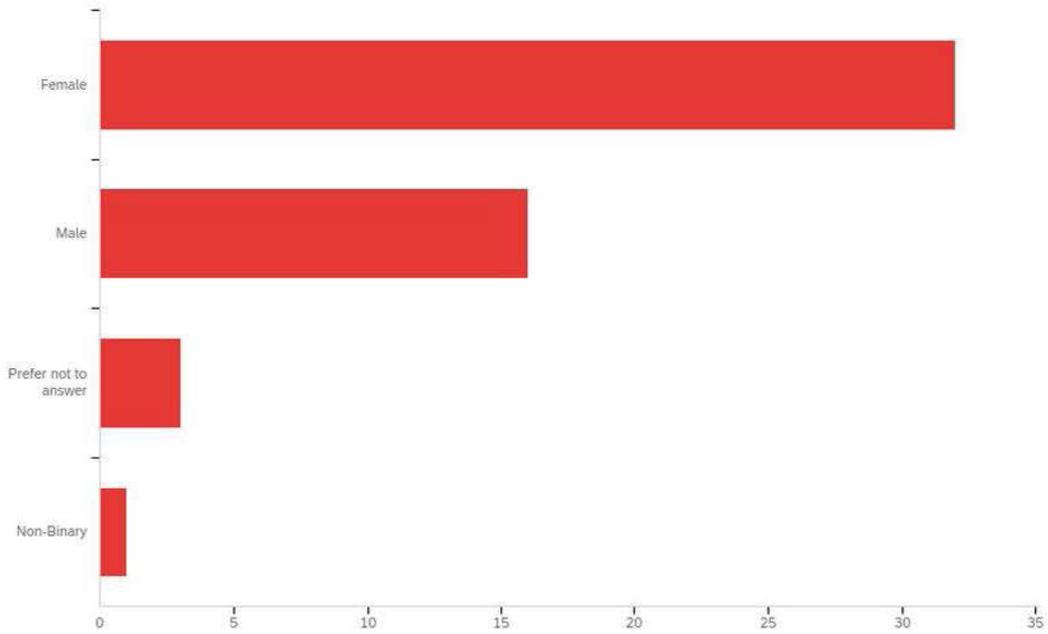
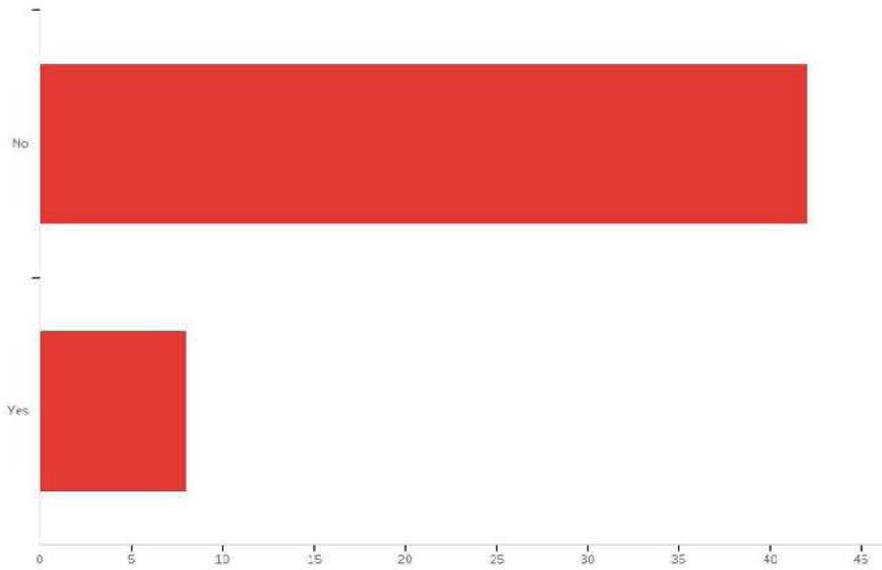


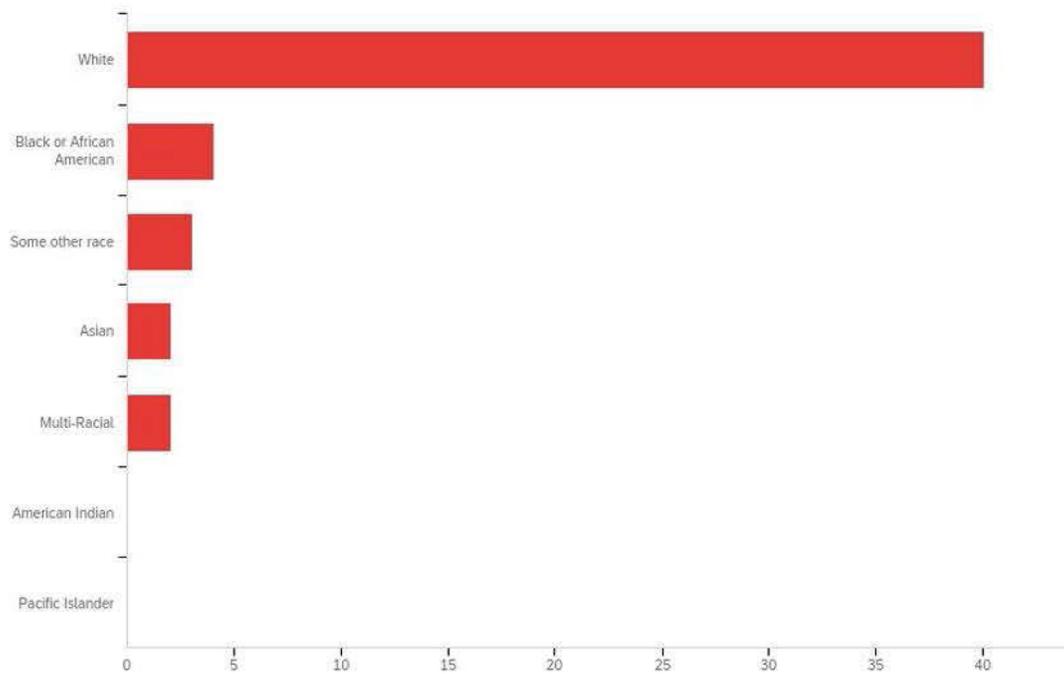
Figure 2. Self-identified Gender



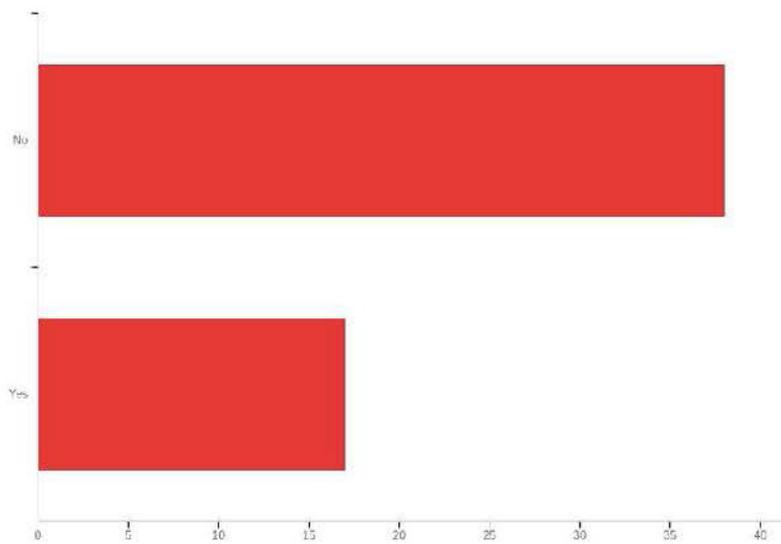
**Figure 3. Hispanic or Latino Origin**



**Figure 4. Race**

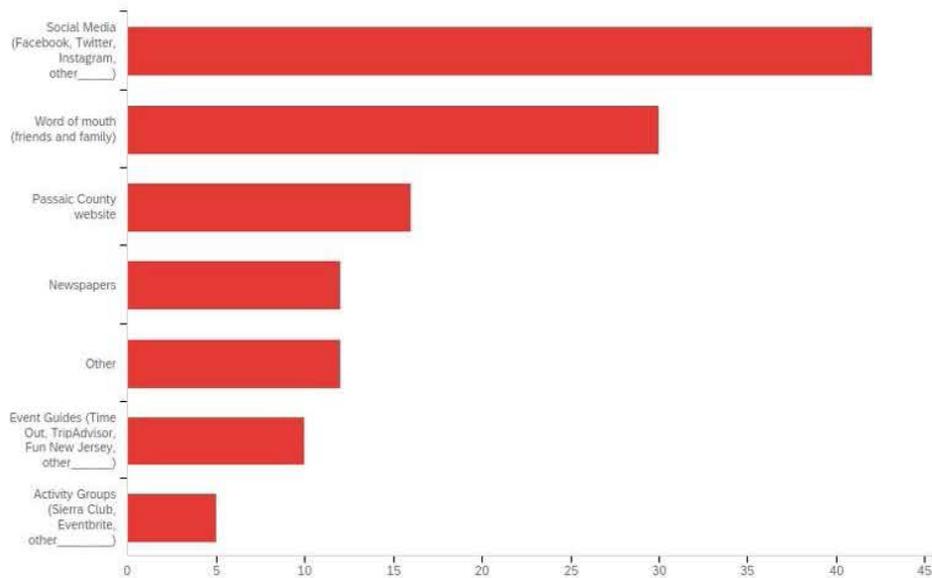


**Figure 5. Artist or affiliated with a cultural/artist group**



**Detailed Survey Findings:**

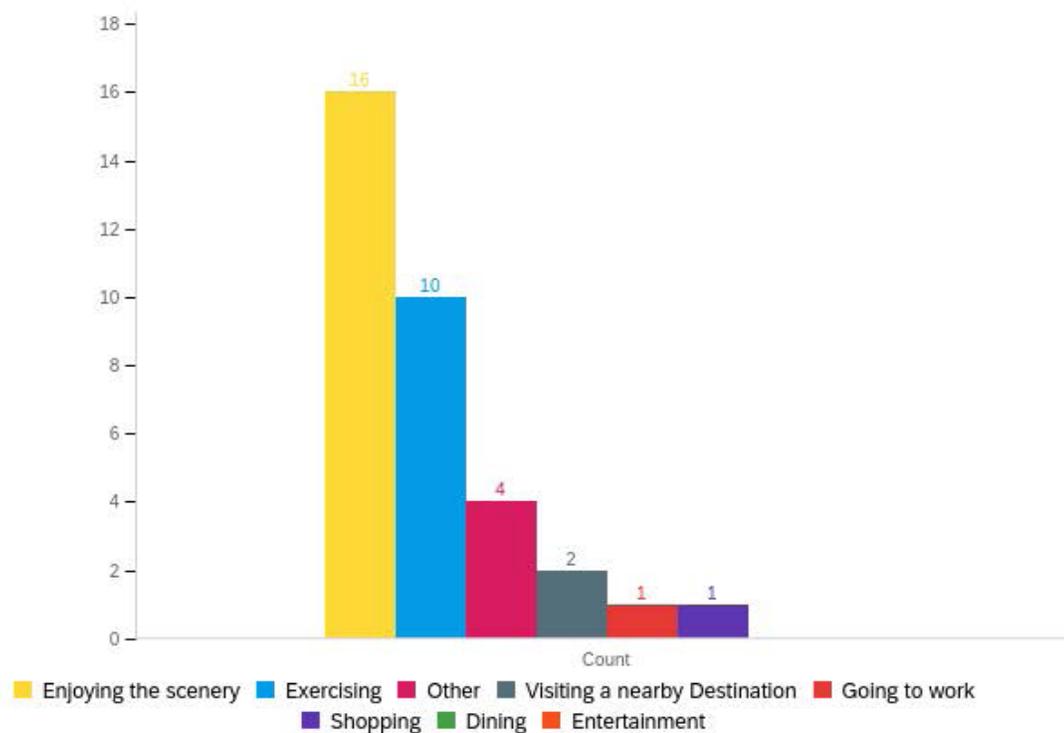
**Marketing and Promotion:** respondents were asked to share the top three ways they obtain information about attractions, tourism or Passaic County. **Social media, friends and family, and the Passaic County website were the most common ways residents and visitors were informed about local art and activities.** Other sources listed were **digital newsletters, NJCDC Staff, Woodland Park Public Library, and “The Gladify”,** an email news source for Little Falls residents.



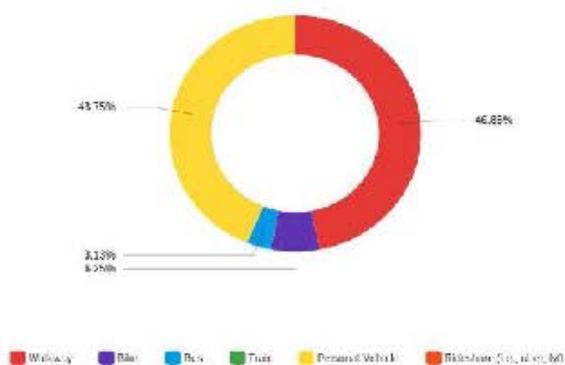
**Figure 2. Informational Sources for Passaic County attractions and tourism**

**Why and how they visit:** For more insight into the community’s familiarity with the Morris Canal Greenway, respondents were asked if they visit the Morris Canal Greenway and if they did, what were their reasons to visit. Roughly half of the respondents said they visit the Greenway and those who visit are mainly there to **enjoy the scenic views** of Passaic County’s beautiful natural landscape. **Exercise** is the second most common reason visitors are along the Greenway. **Walking** is the primary means of transportation to visit the Morris Canal Greenway, followed by **personal vehicle**.

**Figure 2. Reasons to visit the Morris Canal Greenway**



**Figure 3. Travel modes to the Greenway**



**Suggestions for Open Spaces:** For outdoor spaces, respondents are largely interested in Arts Festivals, fairs, parades, music and theater performances as well as outdoor art installations and historic preservation lectures and art walks. Other suggestions include toddler-friendly events and a contemporary technologically sound amphitheater. Specific recommendations include:

- Historical Re-enactments
- Music Performances
- Art classes

- Sensory touch gardens
- Other learning gardens (like native plants, herbs)
- Bird watching
- Picnics that showcase foods from the era when the canal was in use
- Sculpture gardens
- Eagle Scout Projects
- Poetry Reading
- Garden cooperatives
- Outdoor pianos
- Painted sculptures of horses
- Cultural festivals to experience food and art
- Interactive water features
- Arboretum

**Suggestions for Urban Spaces:** For arts engagement or installations at a city intersection or on a city block, respondents are largely interested in beautification improvements, school related art projects such as murals and historical tours. Specific recommendations include:

- Trees and other green landscaping
- Temporary installations/ seasonal displays
- Sidewalk/ Street paintings
- Painted utility boxes, fire hydrants and garbage cans
- Wayfinding and welcome signs
- Art fairs with local vendors
- Community gardens
- Rooftop gardens
- Interactive exhibits

**Site Specific Ideas:** The survey included descriptions, maps, and images for the five pilot sites that will be used for the engagement plan templates. Respondents were offered an opportunity to provide specific recommendations by site. Those ideas are summarized and categorized in the tables below.

**Peckman Preserve:** Recommendations for this site were largely centered around the **natural elements and environmental features** of the Peckman Preserve. Whether through installations, activities, or educational opportunities, the respondents felt strongly that the environment was considered, preserved, and highlighted as a key feature of this area.

Type	Description
2-D and 3-D Artwork	Outdoor participative sculpture such as Grounds for Sculpture in NJ <sup>1</sup>
	History panels with historic photographs of the canal
	Install a large piece of art on the grass maybe a large historical object of some sort. It all needs to blend with the nature of the Peckman Preserve leading up to the entrance of the proposed bridge.

<sup>1</sup> [www.groundsfor Sculpture.org](http://www.groundsfor Sculpture.org)

	Have artistic statues throughout the park with easy access to Little Falls downtown eateries
<i>Environmental Art</i>	Tulip and rose garden with native flora
	Natural play area
	Sculptures that can coexist with nature
	Art reflecting conservation of wildlife
	Incorporate a lawn, like in Central Park, to sit and enjoy the weather with pets
	Keep it natural with a small trail
	Wooden paths with lookout points
	Scarecrow building
<i>Functional art</i>	Bench
	Walkway
	Signage
	Contemplative Space
<i>Educational Art</i>	Interpretive art on Little Falls history and what life was like at this portion of the canal
	Pictures and education about native wildlife and conservation
<i>Memorial</i>	Statues of troops and plaque sign of true history of Morris canal
<i>Group activities</i>	Yoga
	TaiChi
	Fishing Contest
	Snow sculpture contests
	Nighttime guided walks to learn about nocturnal creatures
	Local art sculpture contest for students to create sculptures from clay of ideas of wildlife. Then have these come to life by hiring a sculptor who is an expert in creating these 3-D sculptures by creating molds/3D scans

**Constructed portion in Little Falls:** Many responses for this site featured ideas and engagement that worked with the **flow and movement** of the linear trail along this portion of the Greenway. Many ideas included concepts that participants would move through or experience along the path, such as hanging sculptures, visual boards/displays, and integrated art into the walkways.

Type	Description
<i>2-D and 3-D Artwork</i>	something to engage your senses as you walk - maybe hanging sculptures from the trees that create sound when the wind blows, etc.
	put lights on the other side of the Rescue building just like the ones on the left side of it (from 3rd ave to Prospect)
	Have sculptural pieces along the trail
	A walking path called "Piano alley" Partner with PPS. Old pianos that no longer work and are too costly to repair. Place along the trail Have local artist paint them. And keep their art surrealistic Nature. Visuals. Historical visuals.
	Occasional murals containing representations from photos of historical Little Falls.
	Trellises with local flora along portions of the walkway.

<i>Environmental Art</i>	Seating areas, historical facts of Little Falls
	Plant native flora
	Get rid of the asphalt allow the natural shrubbery to breath and grow make a walking trail surrounding by. Perennial flowers and evergreen ground coverings. Not tall but beautifying a walking scenery
	Nature based installation art
	Participative sculpture like Grounds for Sculpture would be great along here.
<i>Functional art</i>	Beautify the trail with plantings such as on the Highline. Make it naturalistically artistic.
	Perhaps add some low maintenance fitness equipment like pull up bars.
	Signage. And benches along the way. Trash bins.
	Exercise stations
<i>Recreational</i>	Historical facts on signs
	Bike, roller blading and walking paths. Kid and dog friendly areas.
<i>Group activities</i>	Art from local artists or NJ artists. Rotating installations on a historical level possibly - involving the Art Dept. at Passaic Valley HS and/or Montclair State.

**Triangle Park in Woodland Park:** Several respondents for this site indicated a preference for a **single, large installation or sculpture**. Others also identified this site for environmental features, such as a butterfly garden or a water feature.

Type	Description
<i>2-D and 3-D Artwork</i>	Interactive art
	Large sculpture reflecting the area and its people
<i>Environmental Art</i>	Outdoor sculpture mixed with butterfly/pollinator garden
	Nature based installation art
	Similar to installations at Storm King - big piece. Make the art part permanent installation and part variable
<i>Functional art</i>	Include plantings such as designed on the Highline to create various gradients of color to beautify the statues and aesthetic pleasure.
	Seating and water feature
	Welcome sign & history on sign of city

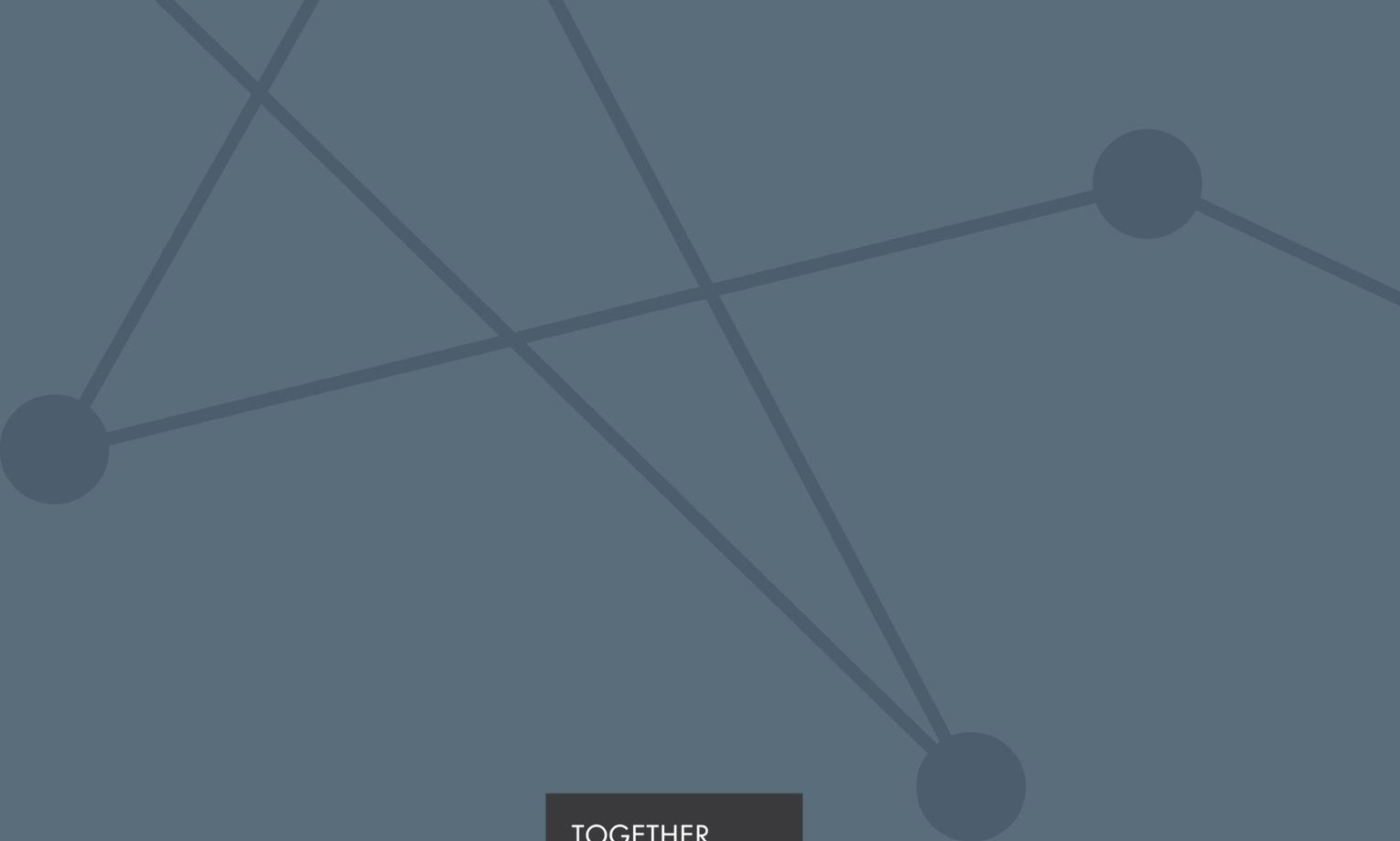
**Auto Overlook in Paterson Garrett Mountain:** Many ideas for this location featured **performance arts, events, and family-friendly activities**. Performances, music, playgrounds, and outdoor activities all featured prominently in survey responses for this site.

Type	Description
<i>2-D and 3-D Artwork</i>	A playground that is designed to fit the aesthetic would be great
	Art that connects to the art that is in the castle. It can serve as a way of encouraging people to visit the castle.
	Performance art

<i>Environmental Art</i>	Art that is inspired by and makes a connection to the textile/silk industry history in the area
	Music Installation
	Outdoor pianos
	large outdoor art. simple - not realistic.
	Natural and well-kept as possible.
<i>Functional art</i>	Exercise equipment, skate park
	Have the playground include a child-size stage so kids can put on little shows there
<i>Educational Art</i>	I like the playground idea, should fit with the surroundings. Maybe some materials or structures reminiscent of the castle.
	Charts with in-depth historical information that engages young minds, perhaps young artist in creating before and after pics or murals. Exhibiting the diverse cultures within the Great Falls and the beauty of art based on cultural background
<i>Group activities</i>	Bring back swimming. Put a dock out there for people to swim to. Include times for horseback riding. Another basketball court; Tennis court and baseball. Increase. Family reserve stations for picnics. Make the area user friendly near the water
	Trails for horseback riding?
	Kite flying festivals

**Intersection of Grand St. and Spruce in Paterson:** Ideas for this site included many suggestions for ways to use art for **beautification** while featuring **local culture, talent and celebrating the history** of the city.

Type	Description
<i>2-D and 3-D Artwork</i>	Interactive Art
	A walking path called "Piano alley" Partner with PPS. Old pianos that no longer work and are too costly to repair. Place along the trail Have local artist paint them. And keep their art surrealistic Nature. Visuals. Historical visuals. Piano way along Grand.
	Murals that state positive lifestyles and history of the falls should be installed by STUDENTS. This will protect the walls from being tagged. I began a mural project while teaching at PASCC.
<i>Functional art</i>	Use of the built environment, buildings, sidewalks, etc. for interpretation
	Beautify the street and make it safer to visit.
<i>Educational Art</i>	There is so much history there. Feature new local artists to tie in the past to the future.
	Relate the art to the history of the falls
	Also, a great opportunity for demonstrating the cultural differences among people with awesome artistic abilities and an opportunity to expose youth to their history. Charts with in-depth historical information that engages young minds, perhaps young artist in creating before and after pics or murals.
	Put back up historic sculptors that were torn down from rioters honoring historic figures. maybe confederate flag too
<i>Group activities</i>	Feature local artists in this area



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