

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP 2023 FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

**PUBLIC MEETINGS ON THE FARM PLAN UPDATE:
THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023 - 7:30 PM, LAND USE BOARD
AND
MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023 - 7:00 PM, TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

FAST FACTS

Over the next 10 years Franklin Township would like to preserve an additional 1,000 acres of farmland.

- 72% of the town is assessed as farmland (10,839 ac).
- 3,736 acres (49 farms) are permanently preserved through the farmland preservation program.
- 95% of the funding to preserve farms in Franklin Township have come from outside sources.
- 22 farms (1,571 acres) have been preserved in Franklin Township since completion of the 2008 Farm Plan.

BENEFITS OF PRESERVATION

- Stabilizes property taxes
- Limits urban development and traffic
- Supports agri-tourism, local markets, and fresh produce
- Protects water resources and aquifer recharge
- Maintains rural character



FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

2023 FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

FUNDING

Franklin Township Open Space Trust Fund

- 1998: established Trust Fund levy at two cents per \$100 property value
- 2023: currently collects 1/4 cent per \$100 property value

Cost Share - Farmland Preservation:

- Franklin Township: \$897,135 (5%)
- State: \$9,307,954 (49%)
- County: \$7,035,916 (37%)
- Other: \$1,631,052 (9%)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Based on the State's Minimum Eligibility Criteria for productive soils and tillable land:

4,668 acres (90 farms) are potentially eligible for farmland preservation. This includes 27 multiple-lot farms and 63 single-lot farms.



FARM PRESERVATION IN FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP BY PROGRAM

Abbreviation	Program Name	Number of Farms	Acres	Percent of Preserved Farm Acres in Franklin
County EP	County Easement Purchase	29	2,379	64%
County PIG	County Planning Incentive Grant	5	336	9%
MUNI PIG	Municipal Planning Incentive Grant	8	593	16%
NP EP	Non-Profit Easement Purchase	4	298	8%
NP PIG Fee	Non-Profit Planning Incentive Grant (Fee)	1	1	0%
SADC EP	State Easement Purchase	2	128	3%