

GLOUCESTER CITY MASTER PLAN

CONSERVATION PLAN ELEMENT

**Peter P. Karabashian Associates, Professional Planners
December 1995**

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I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Conservation Plan Element, as stated in the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, is to provide for *"the preservation, conservation, and utilization of natural resources..."* Traditionally, one thinks of a Conservation Plan as an item that is applicable in a rural or growing municipality where efforts are made to maintain critical open space and preserve environmentally sensitive areas. Since Gloucester City is a highly developed,¹ older urban community, the Conservation Plan element must address the needs and conditions existing in the City. Accordingly, this plan (See Figure CP-1) will be oriented towards achieving the following:

- To promote access to the Delaware River for both passive and active recreational utilization;
- To promote the preservation and utilization of open space corridors on Newton Creek and Little Timber Creek;
- To promote the development of high-quality wetlands at appropriate locations in the City to mitigate the filling in and usage of low-value wetlands in the Gloucester Point Development area;
- To promote the preservation and enhancement of the natural urban environment of Gloucester City;
- To improve surface water quality through a reduction in non-point source pollution.

¹According to the May 1994 Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Data Bulletin #48 entitled, *"Delaware Valley Data 1990 Land Use Information,"* .0367 square miles of the 2.2645 square mile total land area of Gloucester City, or 13.5%, was reported as being wooded or vacant land.