



# TRENTON MERCER AIRPORT UPDATES

NEWS ABOUT THE RPZ AND OBSTRUCTION MITIGATION  
PROJECT AT TRENTON MERCER AIRPORT



MARCH 2023

## CONSTRUCTION

Construction activities are about to begin for the obstruction mitigation project at the Airport. The general construction program has been broken into three phases that consist of the following:

- ◆ Phase 1: Obstruction removal on airport in non-environmentally sensitive areas
- ◆ Phase 2: Obstruction removal on airport in environmentally sensitive areas
- ◆ Phase 3: Off airport obstruction removal

The project includes the removal of 16 acres of trees located on airport property, and 8 acres of trees and ten individual trees located off airport property. Tree removal methods include clearing and grubbing, tree cutting, tree cutting by hand, and leaving stumps in place in areas, tree cutting and leaving stumps in place in environmentally sensitive areas (wetlands, wetland transition areas, riparian zones, flood hazard areas), individual tree removal/replanting, and individual tree removal and grading. In addition, to address community concerns, a tree replanting program has been incorporated into the project.

## CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAMES

- ◆ Phase 1: 2023
- ◆ Phase 2: 2024
- ◆ Phase 3: 2025







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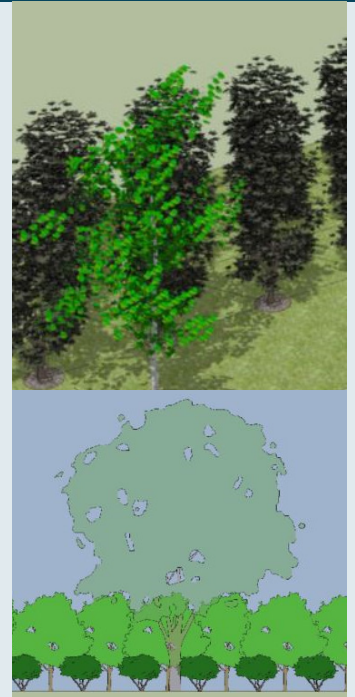
## PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION & TREE REPLANTING PROGRAM

Phase 1 construction activities include removing obstructions located on airport in non-environmentally sensitive areas and a tree replanting program to comply with mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact/ Record of Decision and address community concerns. This phase includes:

- ◆ Removal of 4.7 acres of trees
- ◆ Replanting 497 trees on airport property

Replanting by runway end includes:

- ◆ Runway 6 end planting 201 trees along Sunset Avenue to provide a tree screen between residential properties and the Airport
- ◆ Runway 24 end planting 72 trees to provide a tree screen between commercial properties and the Airport
- ◆ Runway 16 end planting 72 trees to provide a tree screen between Interstate 295 and the Airport
- ◆ Runway 34 end planting 152 trees to maintain tree screens between the cemetery property and soccer fields



Runway 6 End



Runway 24 End



Runway 16 End



Runway 34 End

## CONSTRUCTION TIMEFRAMES

- ◆ Tree removal will take place in March 2023
- ◆ Grading and reseeding will take place in May 2023
- ◆ Tree replanting will take place in May 2023



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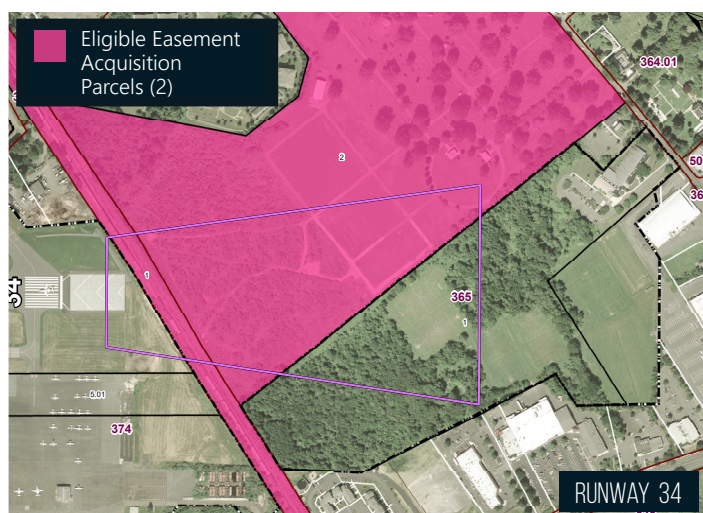
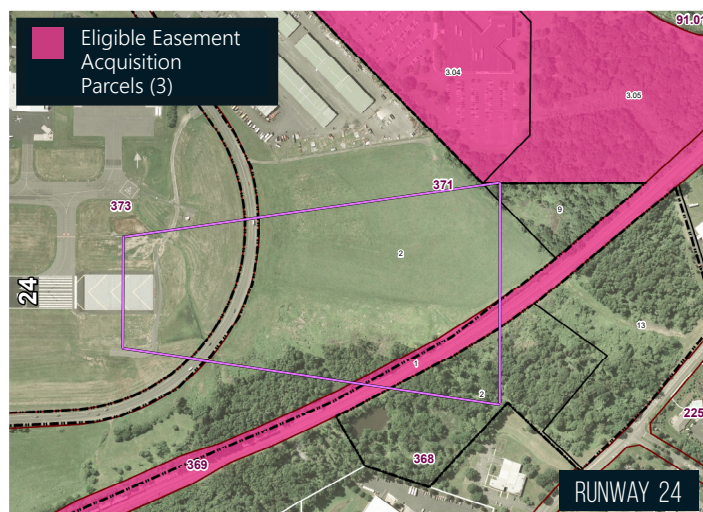
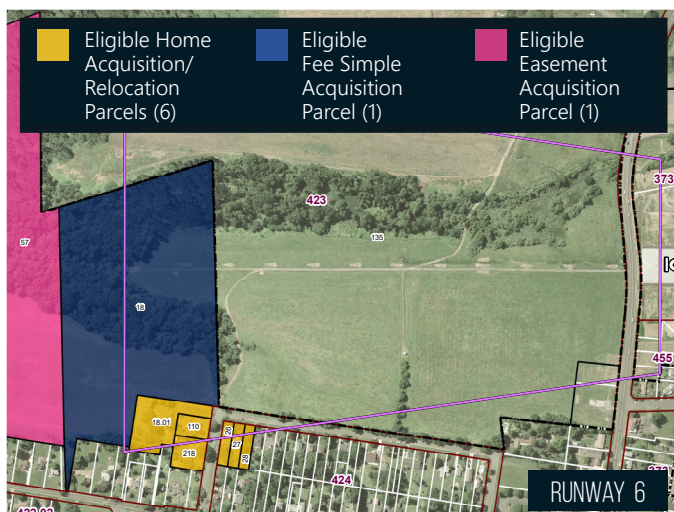


## VOLUNTARY LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

The Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) and Obstruction Mitigation Environmental Assessment project was completed in September 2019 with the Federal Aviation Administration issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)/Record of Decision (ROD). The next step is to begin the voluntary land acquisition program. Thirteen property owners are eligible to participate in the voluntary program that includes:

- ◆ Fee simple acquisition/relocation of six residential properties
- ◆ Fee simple acquisition of one state-owned parcel
- ◆ Avigation easements on six parcels

The voluntary land acquisition program will comply with Uniform Relocation Assistance and the Real Property Acquisition Policy Act of 1970.





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## ACQUISITION AND RELOCATION OF TWO RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS COMPLETE

Mercer County has successfully completed the acquisition/relocation process for two residential property owners that volunteered to participate in the Acquisition/Relocation Assistance Program. The County assisted both property owners in relocating out of state.

The utilities have been disconnected and windows have been boarded up on the two properties. Going forward, County staff will be responsible for maintaining the properties, and the sheriff's department will monitor the properties on a weekly basis.

The County has acquired a third property and will be assisting the property owners on relocation. A fourth property owner has expressed potential interest in the program.

## NEXT STEPS

Continue coordination/meetings with property owners interested in the program

Meet with property owners interested in the program

Conduct appraisals, ESA, and boundary surveys on properties proceeding further

Provide purchase/easement offer to property owner

Property owner & Board of Commissioner approval of purchase/County acquires property/easement

County owned residential properties – prepare demolition contract bid/award

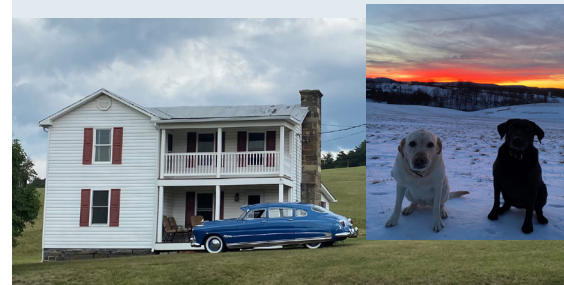
County owned residential properties – demolish residential structures, backfill site, and return to mowed lawn

## PROJECT UPDATE

- ◆ Board of Commissioners approved acquisition of third residential parcel
- ◆ Ongoing coordination with one additional property owner on Voluntary Acquisition/Relocation Assistance Program
- ◆ Ongoing coordination with one property owner on Voluntary Easement Acquisition Program
- ◆ State-owned parcel acquisition complete



"We have to say that the move from NJ to NC went very smoothly. We are very happy. To all who were involved in our move, we want to take this time to thank you :)" — Gary and Nancy Buck



"Country roads, take me home....you know the rest. The pandemic made the move difficult, but it's done now. I'm settling into my forever home. June and Patsy are very happy!" — Wayne Orndorff



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## DESIGN AND PERMITTING

Project design activities have been broken into three phases to match construction activities. Each phase includes the following:

- ◆ Phase 1: Design for on-airport tree removal in non-environmentally sensitive areas, land acquisition, and permitting
- ◆ Phase 2: Design for on-airport tree removal in environmentally sensitive areas
- ◆ Phase 3: Design for off-airport tree removal

Coordination with environmental agencies for permitting include the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for a Fresh Water Wetland and Flood Hazard Area permit, the Mercer County Soil Conservation District, and the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission.

## DESIGN AND PERMITTING TIMEFRAMES

- ◆ Phase 1 design complete
- ◆ Phase 2 design 2024–2025
- ◆ Phase 3 design 2025–2026
- ◆ Initial permits submitted April–May 2023

## QUESTIONS?

### Land Acquisition & Permitting

Gayle McKee  
Principal Consultant, Aviation  
C&S Companies  
(716) 955-3017  
gmckee@cscos.com

### Design, Permitting & Construction

Nick McLaughlin  
Department Manager  
C&S Companies  
(215) 399-4691  
nmclaughlin@cscos.com

### Mercer County

Keith Herzstein  
Noise, Safety and Environmental Compliance Specialist  
Trenton-Mercer Airport  
(609) 882-1601 Ext. 106  
kherzstein@mercercounty.org

