The 1752 Dirck Gulick House is home to the Van Hartings Historical Society. Cat Tail Road was built in 1825. Mt. Zion Methodist Church was constructed in 1843 and rebuilt in 1880. The African Methodist Episcopal Church was moved here in 1930.

Hunt House was built by the Stout family, original settlers of the mountain. Built in 1843, Old Rocks Church remains open today. All periods of American architecture are represented in historic Lambertville.

Historical Landmarks

Natural Features

The Sourland Mountain Preserve is home to the Sourland Mountain Wildlife and Migratory Bird Monitoring Station, 60 acres.

Parks and Preserves

Sourland Mountains

Central New Jersey’s Last Great Wilderness

Parks and Preserves

Sourland Mountain Preserve (Somerset County), 2,870 acres

Sourland Mountain Nature Preserve (Hunterdon County), 773 acres

McBurney Woods Preserve, 1,200 acres

Somers Park Preserve and Migratory Bird Monitoring Station, 60 acres

Laporte Reserve, 49 acres

Arnell Lake Fish and Wildlife Management Area, 85 acres

Wanaque Creek Wildlife Management Area, 688 acres

Cedar Ridge Preserve, 120 acres

Stony Brook - Millstone Watershed Association Reserve, 860 acres

Find more information and links at www.Sourland.org
The Sourland region is home to a notoriously unreliable aquifer that trickles and pools amidst a maze of springs and shallow soils. The Sourlands' forest, grassland, hedgerows and shrublands provide critical nesting grounds for songbirds, as well as an essential stopover for birds migrating from Central and South America to their breeding grounds far to the north.

Visitors to the Sourland region can glimpse some of the rare native flora that once covered central New Jersey. Amid lush-covered rocks scattered beneath majestic trees, one may see the most tender wildflowers reach for dappled sunlight.

The mountain lies the source of drinking water for all who live in the Sourland region, a notoriously unreliable aquifer that trickles and pools in the bedrock. On the surface, gurgling springs and wetlands perched upon the impermeable rock feed clear, free-running streams. In the spring, numerous temporary pools provide seasonal homes and breeding grounds for a dazzling assortment of frogs, toads and salamanders.

The Sourlands are wonderfully rich in history and folklore. Lenape Indians seeking furs, Dutch settlers staking out claims and outlaws alike found refuge in centuries past, and tales of homesteads, patriots pursuing freedom, runaway slaves and Lenape Indians seeking furs were drawn to the secluded mountain.

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The mountain is a favorite spot for bicyclists, hikers and others seeking a peaceful getaway.

For many years, technical challenges posed by the mountain environment held development in check; developers simply found it easier to build elsewhere. However, recent advances in technology and infrastructure, coupled with unprecedented growth throughout central New Jersey, have greatly increased pressure for development in the Sourland region.

The mountain is at unparalleled risk. Its unbroken forest, critical wildlife habitat and crucial groundwater supply are suddenly and severely endangered.

Further development – permitted under current regulations – could lead to a situation in which water is drawn from the Sourlands' fickle, shallow aquifer faster than it is replenished. Although rainfall averages 45 inches annually, the rocky soil allows only a meager three to four inches to enter the groundwater supply. Development not only increases demand for water, it also decreases rainwater recharge to the aquifer and increases the frequency and severity of flooding. It adds to pollution of both streams and groundwater; as chemical runoff from lawns and automobiles finds its way into waterways. The hard rock and shallow soils of the Sourlands limit the effectiveness of septic systems, allowing contaminants to seep into the endangered groundwater supply.

What happens in the next few years will determine the fate of this wilderness forever. Will the forest, the vistas, the varied habitats and the historic ambiance be lost to the sprawl that threatens to fill in the remaining green areas on the map between Philadelphia and New York? Or will they remain for future generations to enjoy as an essential ecological bridge between New Jersey's Highland and Pinelands?

Deep in the heart of our nation's most densely populated state lies an extraordinary place called Sourland Mountain. This unsloped landscape of forested ridges and idyllic farms is central New Jersey's last great wilderness.

The 90-square-mile Sourland region includes parts of three counties and seven municipalities, encompassing a complex ecosystem of forest, wetlands and grasslands. Its mosaic of habitats is home to an incredibly rich diversity of animal and plant species, many rare or endangered.

As the surrounding area grows and changes rapidly, the Sourlands are increasingly in jeopardy. But if we take necessary and responsible steps now...