Delaware and Raritan Canal represents a special environmental and historic area of regional significance along the southern and eastern boundaries of the community.

Lake Carnegie is one of Princeton's outstanding environmental, visual and recreational resources. This priceless asset serves as an important setting for recreational activities as well as a serene buffer for the many adjacent homes and buildings of Princeton University as well as the Riverside area of the Township.

Wildlife habitat of migratory birds as well as undisturbed areas of flora and fauna native to the Princeton area should be preserved. Examples of these areas include: the John Rodgers Wildlife preserve, portions of the land around the Institute for Advanced Study, and certain stream corridors.

Sustainable Buildings

It is the Princeton Community's goal that new and remodeled buildings and facilities be models of environmental, economic and social stewardship, contributing to our other goals of protecting, conserving and enhancing Princeton's environment. To that end a sustainable building policy should be implemented.

Sustainability describes the ability to meet the present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. It incorporates:

- *energy efficiency,*
- *alternative energy sources,*
- *water conservation,*
- *waste minimization,*
- *stormwater management,*
- *pollution prevention,*
- *using resource-efficient materials,*
- *improving indoor air quality, and*
- *woodland conservation/replanting with native species wherever possible*

in all phases of a building's life.

Sustainable building designs use our resources efficiently while creating healthier building habitats. Sustainable buildings are designed, constructed and operated in ways that reduce or eliminate any negative impact on the environment and occupants. These buildings integrate materials and methods that promote environmental quality, economic vitality, and social benefit through the design, construction and operation of the built environment.

There are many older, historically significant buildings in the Princeton community and retaining their character must be of primary concern. Any sustainable building policy must be sensitive to these historic structures by not requiring changes that negatively impact or degrade the historical significance of the building. For instance, the use of building materials that would alter the appearance of a building's exterior or fenestration or window shape should be avoided.

Some features of sustainable buildings include:

- *the integration of natural daylight for lighting,*
- *high indoor environmental air quality, and*
- *reduced utility bills.*
- *the use of finishes and materials low in volatile organic compounds which will improve indoor air quality;*
- *increased productivity of building occupants due to healthier work places;*
- *reduced impact from building construction on the environment through careful construction planning, including the protection of trees;*
- *use of locally produced materials which will support the local economy; and*
- *enhanced social interaction through community involvement in building planning and operation.*

The U.S. Green Building Council has developed the rating system LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). LEED is a voluntary, consensus-based, market driven green building rating system by which projects are registered, evaluated and certified. It is based on proven technology and evaluates environmental performance from a "whole building" perspective. LEED is a self-certifying system designed for rating new and existing public, commercial, institutional and multi-family residential buildings.

The Township and the Borough should make every effort to incorporate sustainable building principles and practices into the design, construction and operation of all public facilities and publicly funded projects. It is recommended that the LEED system should be used as a design and measurement tool to determine what constitutes sustainable building principles and practices. Applicants are urged to comply with these sustainable building principles.

1996 - 2001 GOALS

I. Identify, protect, and preserve environmentally sensitive areas and natural systems.

A. Strictly limit disturbance of environmentally sensitive lands such as steep slopes, floodplains and wetlands.

B. Protect the quality of groundwater and surface water to safeguard its use for drinking water supply, recreation and natural habitats;

II. Protect important wildlife habitat, streams, waterways, wetlands and other unique or irreplaceable land types.