



FRIENDS OF COL. JOHN TAYLOR'S GRIST MILL, INC.

P.O. BOX 103

READINGTON, NJ 08870

TAYLORSGRISTMILL.ORG

A New Jersey Registered Charitable Organization

"The Mill That Fed Washington's Troops"

For Immediate Release

February 2, 2026

Contact:

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Mill location:

Corner of Rockaway & Taylor's Mill Roads near Tewksbury

(READINGTON TOWNSHIP, N.J.) – The Friends of Readington Township unveiled a proposal today to rehabilitate the Taylor's Mill Historic Site into a pedestrian-friendly recreational trail stop.

Images developed by Trenton-based cultural resources firms Clark Caton Hintz based on a report by Hunter Research, Inc. envision a two-story steel framework rising out of the stone structure that both stabilizes the historic building and demonstrates how the mill likely looked during the American Revolution. Picnic tables inside provide a respite for hikers using the nearby paths associated with the township's trails system and would host signage explaining the significance of the mill to local and national history.

"This concept leverages everything we have going for us in Readington," notes Patricia Fisher-Olsen, President of the Friends of Taylor's Mill and Chair of the Readington Township Historic Preservation Commission. "We have history, we have open space, we have recreation. This is all three in one and helps us tell the story Taylor's Mill played in founding of our country during America's 250th anniversary."

Other regional historic sites utilize a similar approach. The steel structure (referred to in historic preservation as a "ghost") has been utilized for both Rodgers House in Mercer County (NJ) Park and most famously to represent the site of Benjamin Franklin's House in Philadelphia. Both sites are connected to parks that allow visitors to utilize the sites in a passive (low maintenance, high accessibility) manner.

"The Friends want people to experience history, to imagine what it was like to be right here in Readington 250 years ago," says Fisher-Olsen. "By opening up this site and connecting it to the trails, we create another dynamic place that further improves the quality of life for residents."

Several parcels around the mill were acquired in 2025; as land within the Taylor's Mill National Historic District, they will be preserved under the requirements of state and federal historic preservation laws. The Taylor's Mill Historic Site encompasses 26 acres of land along the Rockaway Creek. It was initially nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 and then expanded in 1997. The District encompasses the mill site as well as the historic raceway which fed water from the Rockaway Creek to power the mill.



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The images derive from a proposal offered in a preservation plan, delivered in December 2025 by Hunter Research on behalf of the township and the Friends. A preservation plan is a technical report that reviews a resource's history and existing conditions and prioritizes actions for site maintenance and development. Completing a preservation plan is required for historic preservation grant applications involving historic infrastructure and is the first step in building a long-range plan for the sustainability of any historic site. The report includes immediate through long-term recommendations.

Taylor's Mill is "the mill that fed Washington's troops." Documentation provides a direct link between the requisitions of General Washington and the flour produced at the mill. John Taylor himself, a local carpenter and miller, served the Revolutionary Army in the 4th Hunterdon Militia and fought in the Battle of Trenton. This site bore witness to history: as the only remaining pre-Revolutionary grist mill in the state, it provides a tangible, local link to the Revolution, a story that defines us all. Taylor's Mill was featured as one Preservation New Jersey's Most Endangered historic places in 2023.

The Friends of Taylor's Mill is a 501(c)3 New Jersey Registered Charitable Organization that supports work to preserve and interpret this site in advance of America's Semiquincentennial in 2026. The group is accepting donations to support stabilization work. Please visit taylorsgristmill.org to donate.

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