

Chatham Borough provides an ideal business locale with a small-town atmosphere that supports an excellent quality of life. It prides itself on being a welcoming and increasingly diverse community with tree-lined streets, top-ranked schools, parks, a variety of dining and shopping opportunities and community events that bring residents and visitors together. Flourishing business districts offer a variety of unique business spaces.

*Visit Chatham Borough and discover all that it has to offer.*

[www.chathamborough.org](http://www.chathamborough.org)



CHATHAM BOROUGH

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Economic Development Advisory Committee



DESTINATION INNOVATION

Preserving Our Past,  
Planning Our Future.



## WHY CHATHAM?

The Borough of Chatham is a community that preserves its past and plans for its future. The borough is a lead community in the Start-up/Move-Up Morris program and is eager to attract entrepreneurs who seek to open a tech start-up outside of an expensive and congested urban environment.



At only 2.4 square miles and about 9,000 residents, with nearly 1/3 of its land area preserved as parks and conservation lands and located along the Passaic River, only a mile from the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, the borough is a walkable community with multiple opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and escape the congestion of urban and suburban living. The borough is attractive to those who work from home but need to go to their offices from time to time, as well as to daily commuters.

The central business district, centered around Main Street, contains a broad variety of restaurants, as well as banks, shops and personal services establishments. Two other commercial districts, one at the east end of Main Street and the other at the west end of Main Street, contain additional restaurants, retail stores and office buildings. The borough has designated the former industrial area in the southeast corner of town as an area for mixed use developments. Construction will begin soon on a 250-unit luxury apartment building and the borough has had positive discussions with NJ Transit about constructing an additional train station in this area.

In recent years, the borough's governing body and municipal administration have worked hard to make it easier to do business with the town. No approval by a land use board is required when a new business moves into a space that was previously occupied by a business that conducted the same use.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the borough saw 5 new eating establishments open for business, one of the few municipalities in New Jersey where that happened.

Borough officials welcome inquiries and are happy to assist businesses in seeking any approvals that may be required.



## PAST AND PRESENT

Chatham Borough is located on the Passaic River where the indigenous Lenni Lenape crossed on their way to the Shore in the summer and then back to the Highlands in the fall. The borough, settled by colonists early in the 18th century, was the perfect place to establish a variety of small industries.

Ideally situated on the Morris Turnpike, the borough became an important commercial center and its growth was further spurred by the arrival of the railroad in the 19th century, which provided convenient access to Newark and New York City.

During the first half of the 20th century, real estate developers built stately neighborhoods, which continued in the 1940s and 50s, giving the town the look and feel of a mid-20th century town.

Community celebrations include the Fourth of July Parade and the Fishawack Festival, both of which attracts thousands of spectators. The downtown is charming and has a welcoming vibe with outdoor dining, and, during the summer, a "Jersey Fresh" farmers' market on Saturdays and a serenades series at the Gazebo.