



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 24, 2017

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### Hunterdon Gains \$700,000 Green Acres Grant

Hunterdon County has been approved for a Green Acres matching grant of \$700,000 which can be used to fund up to 50% of the cost of County open space preservation projects, Freeholder Director John E. Lanza announced at a recent Board meeting.

Lanza stated, "These monies will be very important in gaining additions to the County Park system and preserving and protecting open space and greenways for the benefit of county residents. The 50% match also helps to make the County's own open space tax funds go that much further for preservation."

The NJDEP Green Acres Program's Local Government Assistance Program makes the matching grant funds available to counties and municipalities. These matching grant funds may be used to fund up to 50% of the purchase price for individual County open space acquisition projects.

Hunterdon County submitted its grant application in February 2017. Freeholder Director Lanza congratulated the entire County Planning team for navigating the grant process successfully for the County's residents. This funding is contingent upon passage of a legislative appropriation.

The mission of the Green Acres Program states, "To achieve, in partnership with others, a system of interconnected open spaces, the protection of which will preserve and enhance New Jersey's natural environment and its historic, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment." Through this program, local governments and other non-profit agencies have been able to preserve land around the garden state for recreation and conservation since 1961.

"The County looks forward to advancing on additions to the County Park System to achieve our goal of preserving and protecting open space and greenways for the enjoyment of future generations," Lanza said.

Questions or comments can be directed to the Department of Planning, Economic Development & Land Use via phone (908) 788-1490 or email at [planning@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:planning@co.hunterdon.nj.us).