



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon  
71 Main Street, Building #1  
PO Box 2900  
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

[freeholder@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:freeholder@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Freeholder John E. Lanza

[jlanza@co.hunterdon.nj.us](mailto:jlanza@co.hunterdon.nj.us)

### **Freeholders Approve Funding for Farmland and Open Space Preservation**

The Hunterdon County Freeholder Board, following a public hearing Tuesday evening, approved a capital ordinance providing \$6.16 million for open space preservation projects, funded by the County open space tax.

The ordinance provides over \$2 million for the County's share of farmland preservation. Freeholder Board Director John E. Lanza stated, "The Freeholder Board continues our commitment to maximizing the use of the open space revenues toward preserving farmland from development in the county.

The funding allocated in the 2017 for farmland development easement purchases, packaged with State Agriculture Development Committee and local funds, is targeted for the preservation of as many as 17 farmland properties, totaling over 1200 acres around the county."

The full capital ordinance also provides several millions of dollars for potential open space acquisitions around the county and the extension of and improvements to the county park system.

"Building onto our park system, improving recreational activities, and ensuring the preservation of the county's natural resources and dynamic views capes are the priority actions needed for maintaining Hunterdon County's quality of life. Investment into our Park System, making it one of the Premier within the State of NJ, is an investment into the economy of our County. Open Space, and a strong park system, remain one of the reasons people want to move into Hunterdon County. "Freeholder Matt Holt said.