

Freeholders Award Open Space Grants That Preserve 230 Acres In Municipalities

The Hunterdon County Freeholders have approved the preservation of 230 acres of open space in four communities, through municipal and cooperative open space grants, as recommended by the County's Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee.

Freeholder Director Matt Holt noted, "One of the purposes of the open space fund approved by the voters is to provide our municipalities and non-profit conservation groups with financial assistance in their efforts to preserve land, both farmland, open space and parkland. The mission is to work collectively to preserve the appropriate farmland acreage and to enhance our open space parklands."

The list of preserved properties includes 111 acres in East Amwell that is adjacent to the Higgins properties that, together with land that Hunterdon and Somerset Counties have previously preserved combines for a total of over 1100 acres of contiguous preserved land in the Sourland Mountains.

Freeholder John W. King, liaison to the Planning and Land Use Department, stated, "The coordination, cooperation and marshalling of funds between the County, our municipalities, the state's green acres program, and our preservation partners, like the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, is a sound preservation strategy that continues to produce dividends for the people of Hunterdon County.

Much of these preserved properties are for and/or adjacent to parkland in our County. The preservation of the natural beauty of Hunterdon County is vitally important in preserving our unique quality of life."

The following grants, in addition to the East Amwell property, were approved:

58 acres in Kingwood Township, a \$281,000 Cooperative open space Grant for 50% of the cost of the preservation of the Pine Brook Farm.

47 acres in Tewksbury, a \$233,120 municipal open space grant for the farmland easement on the Livingston/Berry Farm.

14 acres in Readington, a \$37,800 municipal open space grant and a \$25,200 Cooperative open space grant for preservation at the Loughlin property.