



## Board of Chosen Freeholders

County of Hunterdon  
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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: May 23, 2018**

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# Major Land Preservation Approved

## Linking Hunterdon Parks And Open Space

The Hunterdon County Freeholders at the May 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, moved forward on the preservation of 245 acres in Lebanon Township and 26 acres in Readington that create greenway and open space linkages between parklands in both communities.

Hunterdon County will take ownership of the 245 acre Pelio property in Lebanon Township from the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, which spearheaded the preservation of the land.

Freeholder Board Director Matt Holt said, “Linkages and connections between already preserved parcels provides for more trail connections and viewscapes for residents and visitors and has tourism value. This new open space acreage will make huge strides in connecting the County’s Teetertown and Point Mountain parks, a long sought after linkage in the northern part of the County.”

The Hunterdon County Parks and Open Space Committee (POSAC) has endorsed the provision of two grants, totaling \$1 million, from the County Open Space Fund toward 50% of the cost of the Lebanon property preservation. The remaining funding is being provided by New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Lebanon Township, and the Hunterdon Land Trust, utilizing Green Acres allocated funding.

Hunterdon County has also agreed to an option agreement for the purchase of two parcels totaling 26 acres, located along the South Branch of the Raritan River in Readington that will connect municipal open space with the 732 acre South Branch Wildlife Management Area managed by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

“This connection continues the County’s effort, working with our municipal partners, to provide a greenway corridor from Clinton to Three Bridges that can be enjoyed by both casual and dedicated hikers.

Once again, POSAC and the Planning Department staff are to be congratulated for the excellent work in putting together these two strategic preservation packages,” Freeholder Holt stated.