



Board of County Commissioners

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Approve Open Space Acquisition Grant For Property In Raritan Township

At the June 6th meeting, the Board of County Commissioners voted to unanimously approve the funding of an Open Space Acquisition Grant in the amount of \$39,250.00 to Hunterdon Land Trust, for the acquisition of the Schwenderman property, 4.2 acres in Raritan Township.

In addition to the County grant funding provided to Hunterdon Land Trust, Raritan Township will use Green Acres funding to complete the acquisition. The Schwenderman property is located adjacent to several existing open space parcels and adds to the goal of preserving the Plum Brook area in Raritan Township. The existing parkland in the area is owned by the township and has several walking trails throughout the area. The property being purchased through the grant is entirely wooded and provides excellent habitat and watershed protection for Plum Brook.

Deputy Director, Jeff Kuhl, who serves as the liaison for the Planning and Land Use Department shared, "This parcel features open wooded space connecting a continuous piece of land that is proposed preservation for both Raritan Township's and Hunterdon County's Open Space Plans. The intended use of the property is for passive recreation, as Raritan Township plans to expand the existing trail network to the Plum Brook area property in the future.

This Board remains committed to the progress and advancement of the Open Space grant program in protecting natural habitats and preserving the rural beauty in Hunterdon County that currently exists."

Principal Planner for the County Department of Planning and Land Use, Bill Millette played a critical role in assisting Hunterdon Land Trust and Raritan Township in receiving this grant and said, "The purchase of the Schwenderman property is a priority land and community green space acquisition and is very conducive for conservation. The preservation of this land will protect water quality, limit residential growth, protect environmental resources including wildlife habitat, and provide the public with additional open space. I am grateful to the Board for their assistance in helping to secure this grant and their continued commitment to Open Space conservation."