

# HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **COUNTY RECEIVES MOUNTED AMERICAN BALD EAGLE FOR PARKS WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Hunterdon County's Parks and Recreation Division recently obtained an 80-year-old, mounted Bald Eagle for display. On loan from The United States Department of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service), National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository, the Eagle will be part of the Parks and Recreation's wildlife and bird recovery and repopulation educational collection.

Freeholder Deputy Director Suzanne Lagay said, "Congratulations to Dan Bush, and the entire Parks Division, on being awarded this loan of the mounted Bald Eagle for Hunterdon County. The Parks Division should be commended, not only for the diligent work required to obtain the loan of the Eagle, but for their dedication to preserving this symbol of our nation. Thank you also to Congressman Leonard Lance for joining us here today and for helping to procure the Bald Eagle for Hunterdon County."

Hunterdon County has been home to a nesting pair of Bald Eagles since 1994. Currently, there are eight confirmed active nesting sites. The species is still listed as an Endangered Species for Breeding in New Jersey, but the numbers of nesting sites continues to rise due to public interest and conservation efforts.

Parks Division Head Dan Bush said, "We had assistance from Congressman Leonard Lance and his staff, Assemblyman Erik Peterson, and staff from The Department of the Interior, in helping to meet the Department's strict requirements for the loan of the mounted avian."

The Bald Eagle will be a key part of our showcase to educate program. Our goal is to continue to support the Eagle as it struggles to repopulate, and inform the public about its history as a symbol of this country, as well as the rich meaning it has to the Native American people."

The Bald Eagle will be on display at the Arboretum, Monday through Friday, 8-4:30pm. A copy of the Parks and Recreation Division Press Release about the Bald Eagle can be found here:

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/pdf/parks/PRESS/2018/September05-EagleDisplay.pdf>.