

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hunterdon Freeholders Approve Grants To Create 'Major Preservation Zone' In Raritan Township

The Hunterdon County Freeholders, on June 5th, approved open space grants to the Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Greenway and Raritan Township, to go along with state Green Acres funds, preserving 42 acres on Plum Brook Road that are directly adjacent to 75 acres already preserved in the Township.

Freeholder John King, the Board's liaison to the Planning and Land Use Department, stated, "Linking preserved open space parcels together to form a larger major preservation zone is the appropriate strategic use of open space funds.

Here, the 42 acre Francavilla property adjoins 75 acres of open space already preserved by Raritan Township, thereby forming a large forested area that will remain in its natural state."

The Freeholders authorized an \$85,690 non-profit grant to D&R Greenway and a \$128,535 Cooperative grant to Raritan Township, from the County's Open Space Fund, that will match the 50% funding of the total cost by the state's Green Acres program, to preserve the Francavilla property that surrounds the Pine Brook in Raritan.

King pointed out, "Open space tax dollars always go further when the County is able to work cooperatively with willing partners, in this case Raritan Township, the Delaware and Raritan Greenway, and the state's Green Acres program.

I again congratulate the Raritan Township Open Space Committee, the POSAC Committee and the Planning staff for their continued efforts in identifying appropriate properties for preservation and in performing the due diligence required to find cooperative preservation partners."

So far in 2018 the Freeholders have approved open space funding for the preservation of open space or farmlands in Kingwood, East Amwell, Raritan, Readington, Tewksbury, Frenchtown, High Bridge, and Franklin.