

**Board of Chosen Freeholders**

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****DATE: May 28, 2019****Contact: Suzanne Lagay, Freeholder Director**Suzanne.lagay@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Freeholders and Land Preservation Partners Add 206 More Open Space Acres

Recent approvals by the Hunterdon County Freeholder Board, acting in concert with the state's Green Acres program, the Highlands Council, the Delaware and Raritan (D&R) Greenway Land Trust, and East Amwell Township, have added over 200 additional acres of preserved open space and parkland in Lebanon Township, Delaware Township, and East Amwell.

The Freeholder Board, at the May 21st meeting, authorized a purchase contract for the 120-acre Denton Property in Lebanon, with the Highlands Council and Green Acres providing the full \$976,000 cost.

The property is directly adjacent to the County's Point Mountain Preserve, where there is an existing trail network.

Freeholder Board Director Suzanne Lagay pointed out, "The County and our partners not only protect from development these important acres that connect with existing preservation areas, but the action is also accomplished at no cost to the County open space trust fund for the purchase. That is a double win for Hunterdon County's residents."

The Freeholders, at the May 6th meeting, approved a \$313,000.00 Open Space Acquisition Grant to D&R Greenway for a preservation project in Delaware Township.

The County grant, along with a Green Acres grant in the same amount to Delaware Township, will allow D&R Greenway to add the 60-acre wooded Cisek property to the already preserved 120-acre Plum Brook Preserve, adding protection to the C-1 designated Plum Brook.

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Two unimproved woodlots in East Amwell, adjacent to the County's Sourland Mountain Nature Preserve, totaling 26 acres will be managed by the County's Division of Parks based on an agreement with East Amwell approved by the Freeholder Board on May 6th.

The Township had acquired the two unimproved woodlots as a result of a tax sale. The Division of Parks endorsed adding these parcels to the County park system because of their connection to the Sourland Preserve, to allow the Division to enforce all park rules and regulations on the properties.

The County's Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) recommended all three land preservation actions to the Freeholder Board.

"POSAC and our Planning staff continue to find significant open space opportunities in the County, as well as creative methods to stretch open space dollars. They, and our preservation partners, deserve our thanks for their efforts," Lagay said.