

## **Readington Township Open Space Advisory Board Preservation update    January 2025**

Readington Township has preserved a 4.6-acre parcel on Mountain Road adjacent the Cushetunk Nature Preserve along Route 22. The current Cushetunk Nature Preserve encompasses approximately 102 acres of land along the South Branch of the Rockaway River, a C1 (trout quality) stream and watershed.

The Open Space Advisory Board will assess this parcel, i.e. with plans for a small parking area and trailhead to access the Cushetunk Nature Preserve by creating a new trail planned for 2025.



View of parcel from Mountain Road toward Cushetunk Nature Preserve

### **Readington secures funds to protect a key land addition for Cushetunk Nature Preserve.**

This parcel will provide safer access by trail to the Cushetunk Nature Preserve and has a view of Cushetunk Mountain to the south and west. Support and funding for this project was obtained from a competitive grant from Hunterdon County, funding from the NJ State Green Acres program through Raritan Headwaters Assoc and Readington Twp Open Space trust fund.

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NJ Map view of new open space addition in blue and existing Cushetunk Nature Preserve

This new parcel provides access to the Cushetunk Nature preserve from the west of the existing open space. This acquisition is the second in the past year to extend and improve access to existing greenways. The first in 2024 was a key land acquisition to the Date Haver Greenway in Whitehouse. Both acquisitions were over five years in the planning / discussion stages.

Juergen Huelsebusch, Chair Open Space Advisory Board