

**RESOLUTION TO PLEDGE MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FOR NEW JERSEY'S  
WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN**

This plan is in support of New Jersey Department Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, State-level Priority Conservation Goals and Strategies

Recognizing that animals are an integral and valuable part of all communities and believing concern for the wellbeing of wild animals and wild spaces is a hallmark of sustainable natural community the Township of Readington pledges its support for the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan as outlined:

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is home to a rich diversity of wildlife and ecologically significant natural communities,

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's wildlife and wild places are under threat from development, fragmentation, invasive species and the impacts of people,

**WHEREAS**, the populations of mammals, birds, invertebrates, fish, reptiles and amphibians that live in, and migrate through New Jersey find themselves clinging to smaller and smaller pieces of wild clean lands and aquatic habitats,

**WHEREAS**, it is more cost effective to prevent species from becoming imperiled than it is to recover them once their populations have declined.

**WHEREAS**, a naturally functioning and healthy ecosystem represents a healthy environment for NJ wildlife and our citizens,

**WHEREAS**, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, other state and federal agencies, and many partners in conservation have worked together to develop a state Wildlife Action Plan for the benefit of biologists, wildlife experts, municipal leaders, land stewards, non-profit organizations, educators, planners, researchers, outdoor recreation enthusiasts, landowners and all the people who know the wild places of New Jersey State,

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Wildlife Action plan is a comprehensive action agenda for the conservation of native wildlife, the restoration of important lands and water, and public education targeting the needs of rare wildlife in New Jersey,

**WHEREAS**, the residents of, and visitors to, New Jersey also enjoy and benefit from New Jersey's wildlife and wild spaces.

**NOW THEREFORE**, we the Township of Readington, resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making the Township of Readington an ecologically sustainable community. The Township of

Readington has included these principles in our public lands management (our requirements in the ERI for development applications), our NRI, our 2009 Master Plan and our 2009 zoning ordinance (mandatory cluster).

1. We will identify imperiled species, critical habitat and unique ecosystems in our Environmental Resource Inventory.
2. Acknowledging that it is more cost effective to protect species than recover species, we will protect populations of rare and imperiled species that live and breed in, and migrate through, the municipality and the habitats they depend upon.
3. Because habitat integrity is critical to healthy biodiversity we will manage publicly owned lands in accordance with wildlife management actions laid out in the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan and will promote the management of all protected lands to promote biodiversity.
4. We will protect wildlife habitats and maintain connectivity of habitat when formulating an open space acquisition strategy, open space stewardship plans and through the municipal master plan including planning and zoning ordinances.
5. We will seek to minimize disturbance of critical wildlife populations and their habitats from human activities, subsidized predators and invasive species.
6. When possible and appropriate, we will work with neighboring municipalities to implement the aforementioned principles across municipal boundaries
7. When possible and appropriate, we will strive to monitor and implement appropriate management of municipal easements to ensure native vegetation and wildlife takes precedence over invasive and/or exotic species.

### CERTIFICATION

I, **KARIN M PARKER**, Clerk of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of this body this day 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2022.



Karin M Parker, *RMC*  
Municipal Clerk