

RESOLUTION NO. R-22-266

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL IN SUPPORT OF WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, This Plan is in support of New Jersey Department of Environmental 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 species is a hallmark of a sustainable natural community the Township of Howell pledges its support for the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan as outlined and as may be amended from time to time:

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 New Jersey 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, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Howell as follows:

1. The Township will take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making Howell Township an ecologically sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in our public lands management, our environmental resources inventory and to inform the next master plan revision and update our zoning accordingly:

a. We will update and further identify imperiled species, critical habitat and unique ecosystems in our Environmental Resource Inventory.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. We will seek to minimize disturbance of critical wildlife populations and their habitats from human activities, subsidized predators and invasive species.

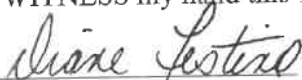
f. When possible and appropriate, we will work with neighboring municipalities to implement the aforementioned principles across municipal boundaries.

g. 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.

2. A certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Township Manager, the Howell Township Green Team and any other interested parties.

COUNCIL	MOTION	2ND	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
<i>Councilman Bonevich</i>	X		X			
<i>Councilwoman O'Donnell</i>			X			
<i>Councilwoman Brennan</i>		X	X			
<i>Deputy Mayor Richmond</i>			X			
<i>Mayor Berger</i>						X

I, Diane Festino, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Howell, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be a true copy of the action of the Mayor and Township Council, at its Meeting held September 13, 2022. WITNESS my hand this 14th day of September 2022.



Diane Festino, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Township of Howell