



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION 22-137

AUTHORIZING PLEDGE OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FOR NEW JERSEY'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

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 Borough of Highlands, resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land—use decisions with the intent of making the Borough of Highlands 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

Motion to Approve R 22-137:

	INTRODUCED	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
CERVANTES						
CHELAK						
MELNYK						
OLSZEWSKI						
BROULLON						

This is a Certified True copy of the Original Resolution on file in the Municipal Clerk’s Office.

DATE OF VOTE: June 1, 2022

Nancy Tran, Acting Municipal Clerk
Borough of Highlands