

RESOLUTION

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

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

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, and

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

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

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; and

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; and

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 WEST ORANGE that the Township of West Orange shall take the

following steps with regard to the Township's municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making the Township an ecologically sustainable community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township shall include these principles in the Township's public lands management, environmental resources inventory and next master plan revision of the Township's zoning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township will identify imperiled species, critical habitat and unique ecosystems in the Township's Environmental Resource Inventory shall include these principles in the Township's public lands management, environmental resources inventory and next master plan revision of the Township's zoning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township acknowledges that it is more cost-effective to protect species than recover species and that the Township will protect populations of rare and imperiled species that live and breed in, and migrate through, the municipality and the habitats they depend upon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because habitat integrity is critical to healthy biodiversity, the Township 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township will seek to minimize disturbance of critical wildlife populations and their habitats from human activities, subsidized predators and invasive species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when possible and appropriate, the Township will work with neighboring municipalities to implement the aforementioned principles across municipal boundaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when possible and appropriate, the Township 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.

Karen J. Carnevale, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk

Jerry Guarino
Council President

Adopted: May 29, 2019