

**TOWNSHIP OF MOORESTOWN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 128-2014**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Township of Moorestown recognizes 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; and

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 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; and

WHEREAS, the Township has already identified imperiled species, critical habitat and unique ecosystems in the updated Environmental Resource Inventory adopted by the Township and incorporated in to the Township's Master Plan in 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township Council of the Township of Moorestown resolves to incorporate wildlife management and conservation principles

in our public lands management, to inform future master plan revisions and update our zoning, accordingly, by:

1. Looking for opportunities to protect populations of rare and imperiled species that live and breed in, and migrate through, the municipality and the habitats they depend upon.
2. Managing Township-owned lands consistent with the goals of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan, including the promotion of biodiversity.
3. Endeavoring to 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 and planning and zoning ordinances.
4. Seeking to minimize disturbance of critical wildlife populations and their habitats from human activities, subsidized predators and invasive species.
5. When possible and appropriate, working with neighboring municipalities to implement the aforementioned principles across municipal boundaries.
6. When possible and appropriate, striving to monitor and implement appropriate management of municipal easements to ensure native vegetation and wildlife takes precedence over invasive and/or exotic species.

VOTE:

CHIACCHIO  
JORDAN  
GARWOOD  
NEWCOMER  
NAPOLITANO

Certified to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Council at its meeting on June 9, 2014.

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Patricia L. Hunt, Township Clerk