

# Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Pledge

## MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FOR NEW JERSEY'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

**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 sustainable natural community the Township of Ocean pledges its support for the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan outlined:

**UNDERSTANDING**, this Plan is in support of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, State-level Priority Conservation Goals and Strategies.

**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 New Jersey 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, 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 Committee of the Township of Ocean, in the County of Ocean, State of New Jersey resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making the Township of Ocean an ecologically sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in our public lands management, our natural resource inventory and to inform the next master plan revision and update our zoning accordingly.

**The Township of Ocean pledges to:**

Identify imperiled species, critical habitat and unique ecosystems in our Natural 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.

Protect wildlife habitats and maintain connectivity of the habitat when formulating an open space acquisition strategy, open space stewardship plans and through the municipal master plan.

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

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

When possible and appropriate, strive to monitor and implement appropriate management of municipal easements to ensure native vegetation and wildlife takes precedence over invasive and/or exotic species.

Presented this eleventh day of June 2015

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Diane Ambrosio, Clerk of the Township of Ocean, in the County of Ocean and the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at its Regular Business Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2015.

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Diane B. Ambrosio, RMC  
Municipal Clerk