

Subject: Authorization of the adoption of the summary of public participation and adoption of the Mercer County 2021 Open Space and Recreation Plan Element of the County's Master Plan

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Open Space Preservation Board was established to create an Open Space Preservation Plan to implement strategies and priorities for the use of the Open Space Preservation Trust fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Planning Board and the Open Space Preservation Board adopted said Plan which guides the County in its use of the Open Space Preservation Trust Fund Tax, and other resources, with the task of providing the County with the preservation of its natural resource, open space dated February 2010 and Amended April 2016; and,

WHEREAS, the updated 2021 Open Space Preservation Plan has been prepared by the Open Space Board and the Mercer County Planning Department staff in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program Standards which contains goals with criteria and strategies to achieve these goals; and;

WHEREAS, the Board conducted a public hearing on the adoption of the Amended Open Space and Recreation Plan on August 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program requires a summary of public participation from two noticed public meetings provided during the preparation and adoption of the County Open Space and Recreation Plan to remain eligible for the Green Acres Planning Incentive Program; and,

WHEREAS, a Summary of the Public Participation Process has been prepared and presented in support of the County's ongoing participation in the Green Acres Planning Incentive Program; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Board now wishes to memorialize the Summary of Participation dated June 2023; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Planning Board of the County of Mercer, that, based on the testimony and documents referenced in this Resolution and presented at the applicable public hearings, it does hereby approve the Summary of Participation, which is attached hereto.

July 12th, 2023

Date Adopted

Matt Zwickowski

Secretary