

**RESOLUTION OF THE FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP  
(SOMERSET COUNTY)  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT** sustainable state funding for preservation and stewardship of open space, parks, farmland and historic sites in New Jersey

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a long and successful history of preserving open space, parks, farmland, and historic sites; and

**WHEREAS**, the Green Acres Program has helped to preserve over 650,000 acres of land and supported more than 1,100 park development projects over the past 50 years; the State Agricultural Development Committee has preserved 200,000 acres of farmland over the past 30 years; and the Historic Trust has preserved 477 historic sites over the past 45 years; and

**WHEREAS**, all remaining funds for these programs under the Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009 were fully allocated by the end of 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, Franklin Township has been a direct beneficiary of, and partner to, these critical state preservation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, substantial unmet needs remain for additional land and water protection, park development, and farmland and historic preservation, for the health and welfare of our communities and residents; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that a long-term, dedicated source of funding be established in order to:

- sustain open space, farmland, and historic preservation programs beyond the 2009 Bond Act
- improve and ensure proper stewardship of parks, preserved lands, and historic sites
- provide equitable access to quality parks and recreation in urban, suburban, and rural areas
- match and leverage local, county, and private funds for these purposes
- protect drinking water supplies, water quality, and alleviate costly flood damages
- preserve fish and wildlife habitat and provide public access for hunting and fishing
- revitalize cities and towns
- protect our quality of life and economic prosperity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Environmental Commission of the Township of Franklin, Somerset County, State of New Jersey supports establishment of a long-term, dedicated source of state funding for these purposes. The Environmental Commission joins the Mayor and Township Council with this Resolution, and recommends that it be forwarded to the Governor and appropriate members of the State Senate and Assembly.

**Adopted February 4, 2013 by unanimous vote of the Environmental Commission.**