

INTRODUCTORY MEMO AND DISTRIBUTION LIST

1. Introductory Memo



TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM

Municipal Building
58 Meyersville Road
Chatham, New Jersey 07928
(973) 635-4600
FAX (973) 635-2644



9-17-12

To all Chatham Township staff, volunteers and others involved in programs with potential for affecting wildlife.

The Chatham Township Committee recently passed a resolution (attached) supporting New Jersey's Wildlife Action Plan. The Township has always been sensitive to conserving wildlife, in part because a third of the town lies within the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. All the goals and strategies of the Plan are commonsense items that can easily be incorporated into local work plans.

This memo is to remind you to support the Wildlife Action Plan by implementing as many of the Plan items as possible, making a note of Plan items when you adopt them in your activities and then informing the Township Committee and Environmental Commission about them. The Committee and Commission will use your information in educational material and in grant applications.

Below is a summary of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan.

Thanks for your help.

Chatham Township Environmental Commission

Lou Caprioglio, Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Shankar Krishnan, Matt Palmer, Subashree Rajagopal, Dot Stillinger

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/waphome.htm>

New Jersey is home to diverse and fascinating populations of wildlife. New Jersey's wildlife and the places that host them are under threat. As development increases fragmentation, invasive plants alter the landscape, and people continue to impact natural systems. As a result, the populations of birds, insects, fish, snakes, turtles, and bats and other mammals that live in our state find themselves clinging to smaller and smaller pieces of wild, clean lands. These lands are not used just by wildlife but by many of the state's residents for hiking, hunting, biking, and fishing.

To enumerate and address the pressures on our wildlife, New Jersey has, as part of an innovative national effort, developed a state Wildlife Action Plan. The Plan seeks to list the threats to wildlife and the actions we can all take to address them.

1. Goal and Strategies: Restore populations of rare species to levels that allow their delisting.

- Develop species recovery plans for species of greatest priority.
- Reevaluate the status of listed species every five years.

2. Goal and Strategies: Conserve key migratory corridors and stopover locations for migratory birds.

- Conduct surveys of migrating songbirds and raptors every five years.
- Prioritize private land incentives to conserve migratory stopover habitat.

3. Goal and Strategies: Encourage all land stewards to incorporate habitat management in their work plans and manage their lands to maintain or improve ecological integrity.

- Develop "Best Management Practices" to reduce the impacts of land practices that negatively affect species of conservation concern.

4. Goal and Strategies: Protect essential breeding, wintering, and migration habitat for wildlife of conservation concern.

- Encourage municipal and county planners and non-governmental agencies to include wildlife conservation into the planning process.
- Guide management of all lands purchased with Green Acres funds to align with NJ Wildlife Action Plan.

Reminder to implement NJ Wildlife Action Plan

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5. Goal and Strategies: Maintain connected habitats.

- Prioritize open space land acquisition with habitat connectivity as a primary focus.
- Promote Habitat Conservation Plans to inform local and regional government master plans and land use ordinances.

6. Goal and Strategies: Continue long-term monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of protection and restoration efforts on wildlife and their habitats.

- Develop Geographic Information System (GIS) measures to evaluate the effectiveness of habitat conservation programs.

7. Goal and Strategies: Minimize human disturbance at locations with sensitive wildlife species.

- Apply restrictions on acoustic disturbances and other activities that impair wildlife.
- Research the impacts of water releases on aquatic organisms using new and existing data.

8. Goal and Strategies: Develop sustainable deer density goals that are area-specific and support healthy, natural vegetative communities.

- Develop deer management plans, including harvest quotas, focused on meeting forest health goals by measuring the status of vegetation in important habitats across the state.

9. Goal and Strategies: Identify and protect unique ecosystem processes.

- Identify and prioritize the threats to ecosystem processes.
- Develop and use “Best Management Practices” for species, habitat, and ecosystem management.

10. Goal and Strategies: Reduce adverse impacts on critical wildlife and natural communities and habitat from subsidized predators and invasive species, both native and non-native.

- Create aggressive outreach programs that reduce or eliminate the introduction and spread of invasive plants and animals.
- Educate the public about the impacts of feral and free-roaming house cats on New Jersey's native wildlife and encourage responsible cat ownership.
- Establish guidelines so land managers can effectively deal with cat colonies and other subsidized predators.

11. Goal and Strategies: Eliminate or reduce exposure of wildlife to all sources of contamination.

- Reduce contaminants to levels that have no adverse effects on wildlife.

12. Goal and Strategies: Protect public natural lands and waterways from off-road vehicle and personal watercraft use where wildlife species of conservation concern are located.

- Enforce restrictions on off-road vehicles and personal watercraft use in areas where critical wildlife habitats occur.
- Research and disseminate information about the impacts of off-road vehicles and personal watercraft on those wildlife species.

13. Goal and Strategies: Ensure that conservation activities carried out are consistent with the Wildlife Action Plan.

- Review the Wildlife Action Plan every five years with a process that includes adaptive management techniques.

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2. List of those to whom the the Wildlife Action Plan Pledge Resolution and Guidance Memo was distributed

Terese Hough, Chair, Board of Adjustment and Board of Adjustment members
Francine Alcorn, Karl Schmidt, Glen Nelson, Kathryn Kenny, Philip Vivona, Jon Weston, Thomas Basta

Lydia Chambers, Chair, Planning Board and Planning Board members
Thomas Browne, Jon Cohn, Nicole Hagner, Lou Caprioglio, Jack Hurring, Kevin Sullivan, Tom Ciccarone, Bailey Brower, Jeff Furbish, Tom Franko

Joe Basralian, Chair, Open Space Committee and Open Space Committee members Susan Rigal, Dana McClintock, Sarah Fechtner, Susan Hoag, Curt Selman

Kali Tsimboukis, Animal Control Officer

John Nachtigal, President of the Board of Health and Board of Health members James Brown, Mr. Contorno, and also Mr. Samara, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Marisa Taormina, Attorney for the Board of Health

Jack Conway, Recreation Director

Kali Tsimboukis, Head, Land Development Office
John Paton, Police Chief
John Pacelli, Public Works Manager
Gregory Impink, Construction, Building & Code Enforcement Officer

Wastewater Treatment Plant supervisor Marc Christensen and staff
Terence Hopkins and Mike Hajjar

Eileen Hladky, Recycling Coordinator