



Hunterdon Land Trust

Protecting the places you love

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HUNTERDON LAND TRUST PRESERVES 30 ACRES IN KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP

Protects Water Quality in the Lockatong Creek Watershed

Flemington, NJ — On February 27th, the Hunterdon Land Trust and its partners preserved a 30-acre property in Kingwood Township. This accomplishment will protect water quality in the Lockatong Creek watershed, maintain scenic values of the area, and make recreational opportunities available to the public. The 30 acres will augment the existing Lockatong Creek Preserve which is one of several properties the Land Trust has protected to create a greenbelt of more than 1000 acres.

Meandering through this natural corridor, the Creek is designated by the state of New Jersey as a Category 1 waterway, which is the highest quality designation. A Category 1 stream is designated as such based on exceptional ecological significance, exceptional recreational significance, and exceptional water supply significance. By preserving the quality of water in the

Lockatong watershed, which flows into the D&R Canal and the Delaware River, the partnership led by the Land Trust is helping to protect a source of drinking water for central New Jersey.

“By increasing the acreage of the Lockatong Preserve, the Land Trust and its partners are enhancing wildlife habitat and improving the quality and quantity of water that recharges our aquifers. Preserving properties along the Creek ensures that future generations will enjoy clean water and a scenic rural landscape,” said Patricia Ruby, Executive Director of the Hunterdon Land Trust.

The preserved property had been in the Trstensky family for more than 30 years. While they could have developed four houses on the parcel, they chose to safeguard the farm fields and wooded windrows, a legacy that will now be maintained by the Land Trust to support passive recreation such as hiking, birding, and cross-country skiing. Adjacent to the Muddy Run Preserve protected by the Land Trust in 2010, the newly preserved acreage is located near the confluence of the Muddy Run and Lockatong Creek on Kingwood- Lockatong Road and will be marked with signage for easy access.

The Land Trust plans to improve existing farm trails and create new hiking trails on the property. No motorized vehicles will be permitted in order to prevent erosion of the stream bank and protect sensitive wetland areas.

These critical resources were protected with the help of many partners. The Hunterdon Land Trust secured funding from a variety of sources, including the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, New Jersey Green Acres program, Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund, Kingwood Township, and Conservation Resources, Inc. “The New Jersey Water Supply Authority is pleased to help preserve this parcel using funds provided by its water customers. Protection of this property will contribute to the health of the D&R Canal, a drinking water

source for more than 1.5 million central New Jersey residents”, said Henry Patterson, Executive Director of the Authority.

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Suggested photo caption: Partners celebrated the preservation victory with landowner, Heidi Trstensky. Pictured from left: Julie Hajdusek (NJWSA), Patricia Ruby (HLT), Heidi Trstensky (landowner), Kate Buttolph (HLT), George Dilts, Esq.