

4/6/22

Councilmember BRAY offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

PLEDGE OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FOR NEW JERSEY'S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, this plan is in support of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, State-level Priority Conservation Goals and Strategies; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that animals are an integral and valuable part of all communities and believing that concern for the wellbeing of wild animals and wild species is a hallmark of a sustainable natural community, the Borough of West Long Branch pledges its support for the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan as outlined:

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 NJ wildlife and our citizens; and

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 Borough Council of the Borough of West Long Branch, resolves to take the following steps with regard to the Borough's municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making West Long Branch an ecologically sustainable community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the Borough's intent to include these principles in its public lands management, environmental resources inventory, and to inform the next master plan revision and update its zoning accordingly as follows:

- Identify imperiled species, critical habitat, and unique ecosystems in the Borough's Environmental Resource Inventory.
- Acknowledging that it is more cost-effective to protect species than recover species, the Borough 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, the Borough 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.
- The Borough will protect wildlife habitats and maintain connectivity of habitat when formulating an open space acquisition strategy, open space stewardship plans and through the municipal master plan including planning and zoning ordinances.
- The Borough will seek to minimize disturbance of critical wildlife populations and their habitats from human activities, subsidized predators, and invasive species.
- When possible and appropriate, the Borough will work with neighboring municipalities to implement the aforementioned principles across municipal boundaries.
- When possible and appropriate, the Borough will strive to monitor and implement appropriate management of municipal easements to ensure native vegetation and wildlife takes precedence over invasive and/or exotic species.

Seconded by Councilmember SNIFFEN and carried upon the following roll call vote:

AYES:	BRAY, CIOFFI, MANGO, NEYHART, PENTA, SNIFFEN
NAYS:	NONE
ABSENT:	NONE
ABSTAIN:	NONE

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of the original resolution as adopted by the West Long Branch Borough Council on April 6, 2022.


ACTING BOROUGH CLERK

