

**RESOLUTION-2008-0-0**

**RESOLUTION FOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO INSTITUTE THE MEADOWS INITIATIVE PROGRAM IN ORDER TO ENHANCE CHERRY HILL TOWNSHIP'S ENVIRONMENT AND CONNECT PEOPLE WITH NATURE**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council is aware of the environmental challenges that our country faces, and how people, especially our youth, are increasingly disconnected from nature, and wants to take a proactive role in improving our environment by implementing initiatives that will help Cherry Hill shrink its carbon footprint, improve its natural environment, and promote actions that bring people closer to nature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cherry Hill Meadows Program will do the following:

1. Inventory Cherry Hill Open Space parcels the township currently mows on a regular basis, or are in an early successional environmental stage;
2. Determine the parcels that are candidates for meadow habitat creation;
3. Design a mowing plan that reduces mowing requirements, associated costs, emissions, and municipal government manpower;
4. Develop meadow walks to increase Cherry Hill's inventory of trails;
5. Create expanded opportunities to connect residents with nature.

This program will set a new natural resource management direction for our community and increase the quality of natural resource management on Cherry Hill Open Space lands; and

**WHEREAS**, this program will be implemented using a partnership approach with organizations and agencies including the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Sustainable Cherry Hill. These organizations provide valuable guidance and assistance. Partnerships are critical for program implementation, and creating community awareness on related environmental issues and programs; and

**WHEREAS**, this program will increase biodiversity, keep a small portion of Cherry Hill Open Space lands in a disappearing habitat type: namely meadows, for the benefit of wildlife, and butterflies and other pollinators, while providing opportunities for residents to view, study, appreciate, and connect to nature; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township will implement the Cherry Hill Meadows Program using all needed departments and organizations with the primary leadership provided by Cherry Hill Environmental Advisory Committee, and primary implementation by the Department of Public Works.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Cherry Hill, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that the Township of Cherry Hill does hereby endorse the implementation of the Cherry Hill Meadows Program.