

RESOLUTION NO. R 025 21

TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL'S (DNREC) OUTDOOR RECREATION, PARKS AND TRAILS (ORPT) PROGRAM FOR A MATCHING GRANT TO FINANCE AN OUTDOOR RECREATION FEASIBILITY & PLANNING STUDY FOR THE HERRING CREEK PRESERVE

WHEREAS, in 2019 Sussex County partnered with the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays to identify potential properties to acquire for the purpose of open space conservation and outdoor recreation; and,

WHEREAS, in 2020 Sussex County acquired the approximate 17-acre property having tax map & parcel ID 234-11.00-56.11, being located off John J. Williams Highway (Route 24) in Angola and on Herring Creek, a tributary of Rehoboth Bay; and,

WHEREAS, this property referred to as Herring Creek Preserve, was identified as having high recreational value and high ecological significance, being particularly located on Herring Creek, a part of the Inland Bays estuary and designated a State of Delaware waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance (ERES); and,

WHEREAS, Sussex County intends to preserve the land and provide recreational opportunity as feasible to the growing population in Sussex County, including nearby underserved communities in Millsboro and Georgetown, where currently few outdoor recreation and water access points are easily accessible; and,

WHEREAS, Sussex County agreed with the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays in the need for a Herring Creek Preserve feasibility and planning study, to better detail potential site improvements including access and parking, trails, picnic space, and water access associated with low impact recreation, along with ecological restoration opportunities such as native grass planting, forest management and reforestation, and wetland enhancement; and,

WHEREAS, Sussex County will allocate funds to support the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays application to DNREC for a matching ORPT Grant to complete the outdoor recreation feasibility and planning study for Herring Creek Preserve; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sussex County Council of Sussex County, Delaware hereby:

1. Acknowledges its support for preservation, outdoor recreational use, and ecological restoration of the Herring Creek Preserve.
2. Approves the Delaware Center for Inland Bays submission on behalf of Sussex County, the 2021 DNREC matching ORPT Grant application for outdoor recreation feasibility and planning study at Herring Creek Preserve, with \$37,944.00 in total project cost indicated.
3. Approves \$15,000.00 in local funding to support the ORPT application, to be allocated as FY22 funds.
4. And designates the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays' Watershed Coordinator, Michelle Schmidt, to serve as the ORPT Grant's Project Manager, in conjunction with the County Engineer, if an ORPT Grant is awarded.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF RESOLUTION NO. R 025 21 ADOPTED BY THE SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE 30TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021.

ROBIN A. GRIFFITH
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL