



October 27, 2006

Tewksbury land saved to safeguard water supply

Staff report

TEWKSBURY -- Three conservation agencies announced this week a partnership designed to preserve 37 acres of township land that organizers say is crucial to protect a source of drinking water for 1.5 million people.

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Tewksbury Land Trust and Upper Raritan Watershed Association partnered to protect the land at the intersection of Fox Hill and Palatine roads. The groups said the preservation advances conservation efforts to protect the Cold Brook Watershed, which feeds the Raritan River and helps provide drinking water to 1.5 million people in Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset counties.

The Land Trust bought the property for \$1.25 million, using a \$1 million loan from the Open Space Institute's New Jersey Conservation Loan Fund. The partnered groups are coordinating a \$180,000 fundraising initiative to satisfy their loan obligation and have so far received commitments from the state's Green Acres Program, the Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund, Tewksbury and the Lamington Conservancy, organizers said.

The groups bought the land from the Lance family, who elected to sell the property to satisfy estate tax obligations that required an ownership transfer by September.

The state's Water Supply Authority has identified the property -- which contains forests, agricultural land and a headwater stream of the Cold Brook Watershed -- as critical for water resource protection, according to Tewksbury Land Trust President Ken Klipstein.

Organizers said the property will be open to the public for hiking, biking and nature study. The land also will be managed to protect the habitats of threatened and endangered wildlife.

"We did not have much time to pull this preservation project together due to the time constraints we were working with, and if we did not act quickly the property probably would have gone to development," said Cindy Ehrenclou, executive director of the Upper Raritan Watershed Association. "By working together, our organizations were able to quickly pull together the needed resources. We all need to collaborate to save natural areas because the current rate of development in Hunterdon County is consuming our rural landscapes and natural resources at an alarming rate."

To learn more about the public fundraising initiative for the preservation project, call the Tewksbury Land Trust at (908) 439-2923 or e-mail kklip@aol.com.

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to the Tewksbury Land Trust, P.O. Box 490, Oldwick, NJ 08858. Organizers ask that donors reference the "Cold Brook Watershed Project" when making contributions.

The Star-Ledger

Conservationists to save 37 acres in Cold Brook

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

TEWKSBURY: Conservation groups have joined to buy a 37-acre property in the Cold Brook watershed from the Lance family for \$1.25 million.

The property around the intersection of Fox Hill and Palatine Roads includes woods, farmlands and the headwaters of the stream, according to Ken Klipstein, president of the Tewksbury Land Trust.

The trust obtained a \$1 million loan for the purchase from the Open Space Institute, which was guaranteed in part by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. The foundation and the Open Raritan Watershed Association are coordinating fundraising.

So far, the state Green Acres program, Hunterdon County's open space trust fund, Tewksbury Township and the Laming ton Conservancy have contributed toward the purchase.

The buyers still must raise nearly \$180,000 to pay off the loan, and contributions can be made to the land trust in Oldwick. The Lance family decided to sell because of estate tax obligations, and the property faced possible development, requiring the groups to act quickly, according to Cindy Ehrenclou, association executive director.

"This property will be open for passive recreation such as hiking, biking and nature study," and provides habitat for numerous threatened and endangered wildlife species, said Michele Byers, the foundation's executive director.

THE EXPRESS-TIMES

Groups working to protect 37 acres

Partnership hoping to raise nearly \$180,000 to save trout and stream.

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

By FROM STAFF REPORTS

TEWKSBURY TWP. | Three groups are partnering to protect a 37-acre tract of land with forests and a trout production stream that feeds into the Raritan River.

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Tewksbury Land Trust and Upper Raritan Watershed Association are coordinating fundraising efforts for the \$1.25 million purchase, according to a news release from the foundation.

The Tewksbury Land Trust bought the property from the Lance family with a \$1 million loan from the Open Space Institute's New Jersey Conservation Loan Fund. The foundation guaranteed part of the loan, managed the purchase and holds a minority ownership in the land.

The Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund, the state Green Acres program, Tewksbury Township and the Lamington Conservancy have committed funds toward the project. The foundation, the Tewksbury Land Trust and Upper Raritan Watershed Association are working to raise nearly \$180,000 to satisfy the loan obligation, according to the release.

The property is at Fox Hill and Palatine roads.

It has been identified as critical for water resource protection. The effort will ultimately help the Raritan River, which helps provide drinking water to 1.5 million people in Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset Counties.

"The property will be open for passive recreation such as hiking, biking and nature study," Michele S. Byers, NJCF executive director said. "The land will also be managed to protect its vital habitat for specific threatened and endangered wildlife including Red Shouldered Hawk and Barred Owl."

Anyone wishing to support the fundraising initiative can contact the Tewksbury Land Trust at 908-439-2923 or kclip@aol.com.