

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Department of Environmental Protection

Green Acres Program

Notice of Public Hearings on Proposed Exchange of Property with Township of South Brunswick for Route 522 Extension Project (South Brunswick Township, Middlesex County)

Take Notice that in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 13:1D-51 through -58, the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”), Green Acres Program, will hold two **public hearings** to seek comments on a proposed exchange of property with the Township of South Brunswick, Middlesex County.

The NJDEP property proposed for exchange is an approximately 5-acre portion of a 30-acre property acquired by the Green Acres Program for the Division of Parks and Forestry in 1982 as an addition to Pigeon Swamp State Park. The property is designated for tax purposes as Block 18, Lot 20.01 in the Township of South Brunswick, Middlesex County. The street address for the property is Fresh Ponds Road (but the property does not have direct access to Fresh Ponds Road).

The Township has also requested that the NJDEP convey temporary and permanent easements in Block 18, Lot 10.01 and Block 18, Lot 20.01, as follows:

Block/Lot	Proposed Acreage	Conveyance Type
Block 18, Lot 10.01	4.2 acres	Temporary Easement
Block 18, Lot 10.01	0.25 acre	Permanent Easement
Block 18, Lot 20.01	4.6 acres	Fee
Block 18, Lot 20.01	0.54 acre	Temporary Easement
Block 18, Lot 20.01	0.10 acre	Permanent Easement

The proposed conveyances are needed by the Township in conjunction with the construction of a two (2) mile, two (2) lane segment of County Route 522 extending between US Route 130 and Cranbury – South River Road (County Route 535). Although the segment of Ridge Road that runs between US Route 130 and County Route 535 is currently designated as a part of County Route 522, the Township proposes to construct a new roadway north of (and parallel to) Ridge Road as the final segment of Route 522 in order to divert commercial truck traffic away from residential areas along Ridge Road. The proposed road project also involves the construction of a connector road from Route 522 to Fresh Ponds Road in order to limit access by trucks from Route 130 to Fresh Ponds Road. All properties proposed to be conveyed to the Township are

wooded undeveloped lands located at the southern edge of Pigeon Swamp State Park and are not currently in active recreational use.

In exchange for the proposed conveyances, the Township and the County will convey to the NJDEP, in fee, two properties totaling approximately 59 acres for addition to Pigeon Swamp State Park (a 5-acre portion of Block 18, Lot 19.01 and all of Block 18, Lot 23). Block 18, Lot 19.01 is primarily wooded uplands; Block 18, Lot 23 contains a large pond, extensive freshwater wetlands and wooded uplands. The acreage proposed for conveyance is approximate and is subject to adjustment of up to 10 percent on the basis of a survey to be reviewed and approved by the NJDEP's Green Acres Program as part of the execution of conveyance documents for this transaction.

A copy of a report analyzing the exchange, including maps and a more detailed description of the exchange, is available online at www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/notices.htm.

State House Commission approval is required for this proposal. If approved, the Department anticipates that the exchange will occur in late 2014.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 13:1D-52a(4), two public hearings have been scheduled on the proposed conveyance.

The first public hearing will be held on:

Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the
Township of South Brunswick
South Brunswick Utilities Building, Conference Rooms A & B
540 Ridge Road
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852
(732) 329-4000

The hearing record for the first public hearing will close on January 6, 2014. Interested persons may obtain information from David Smith in the Green Acres Program or Superintendent Mark Pitchell in the Division of Parks and Forestry at the addresses below and may submit written comments to Mr. Smith until the close of business on January 6, 2014.

The second public hearing will be held on:

Monday, January 6, 2014 at 4:30 PM at the
Department of Environmental Protection
4th Floor Large Conference Room
501 East State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625


The hearing record for the second public hearing will close on January 20, 2014. Interested persons may obtain information from David Smith in the Green Acres Program or Superintendent Mark Pitchell in the Division of Parks and Forestry at the address below and may submit written comments to Mr. Smith until the close of business on January 20, 2014.

Persons wishing to make oral presentations at either of the public hearings are asked to bring a written copy of their comments to the hearing for use by the NJDEP. For further information on the proposal, please contact:

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New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
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DATE: 10/22/2013



Bob Martin, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection