

# Lebanon Township Municipal Forest Stewardship Master Plan

## Stakeholder Process

### Background

Lebanon Township received a Highlands Council Plan Conformance Grant in the amount of \$36,250 to create two plans:

- 1) A municipal forest stewardship master plan (Plan) for all municipal-owned forest lands
- 2) A forest stewardship plan for Anthony Preserve, which is the Township’s largest contiguous forested land.

With Township Committee approval, New Jersey Audubon was hired as the forester to create these plans, which also includes conducting forest inventories, compilation of natural resource information, and soliciting input from stakeholders. Creating the goals of the Plan, however, is the responsibility of the landowner.

### Stakeholders and Solicitation Process:

On October 2, 2023, Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission (EOSC) approved the following stakeholder list and process for providing information to the different stakeholders and receiving feedback from them.

<b>Stakeholder Name</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>List of Stakeholders</b>	<b>Provision of Information</b>	<b>Receipt of Feedback</b>
Decision-makers	Entities with decision-making authority on open space owned by Lebanon Township	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Lebanon Township Committee</li> <li>2) Lebanon Township Planning Board</li> <li>3) Lebanon Township Environmental and Open Space Commission</li> <li>4) New Jersey Water Supply Authority (co-owner)</li> </ol>	Email	Email  Official action at a public meeting
Residents	Residents of Lebanon Township	All Lebanon Township residents. They are the main constituents of this Plan.	Mail (newsletter or mailer)  Lebanon Township website  Facebook	Online survey  Email EOSC  EOSC meetings
Partners	Local organizations that work closely with Lebanon Township and/or the EOSC through liaisons.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Hunterdon County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee</li> <li>2) Musconetcong Watershed Association</li> <li>3) Raritan Headwaters Association</li> </ol>	Email	Online survey  Email EOSC  EOSC meetings

Technical Stakeholder	Organizations with specific expertise	To be determined as needed, should the EOSC require assistance related to the Plan, with approval from the EOSC or other decision-maker	Email	Email EOSC EOSC Meetings
Grantor	Entity that awarded a grant to create the plan	Highlands Council	Email	As needed

There will be two separate solicitations for input – one for the draft goals of the Plan and one for the draft Plan. The methods for disseminating and receiving information on the draft goals and Plan may differ from each other, especially with the anticipated large size of the Plan, but both will use the guidance provided above.

Solicitation 1 - Draft goals: The Plan will contain both short- and long-term goals for Lebanon Township public forests which will determine action-oriented objectives and stewardship recommendations. A set of goals will be determined based on forest inventory data, municipal plans and reports, peer-reviewed scientific literature, and recommendations from NJ Audubon as the forester (see Draft Forest Goal Selection Process for more information). Once decision-makers review and endorse the draft goals, they will then be sent to residents and partner groups to provide feedback.

Solicitation 2 – Draft Plan: NJ Audubon will work with the EOSC to create a draft Plan based on the final goals. Decision-makers will be able to review sections of the Plan as they are drafted (if requested) or review the completed draft prior to being sent to other stakeholders. The draft Plan will then be provided to residents and partner groups to provide feedback.