



Citizens for Informed Land Use, Inc.
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Monmouth County Open Space Grant Committee:

Citizens for Informed Land Use (CILU) is an incorporated private organization in Holmdel whose mission is to promote informed land use decisions, preserve our quality of life, and protect our natural resources. We fully support the preservation and acquisition of the Bachstadt Property by Holmdel Township as open space. We request your assistance with grants and other forms of support to help Holmdel purchase and preserve this important tract of land.

We feel preservation of the Bachstadt tract is important because acquisition will benefit Holmdel in the following ways:

- This tract is important for flood control in a flood-prone area.
- It is a perfect example of current open forested space that should be preserved. The sandy soil permits the growth of trees and plants typical of the Jersey Shore. There are numerous endangered plants on the site that need protection.
- This tract provides opportunity for much needed expansion of Allocco Park to accommodate recreational needs for the most densely populated area of Holmdel as well as for adjacent communities.
- Preservation and recreational use of this tract can reduce vehicular traffic because it is within walking distance for many residents in this area.
- Preservation of this tract as open space is important because it is one of the few remaining unprotected areas of open space in northern Holmdel.
- The tract is part of the Mahoras-Waackaack stream system and provides the possibility for expansion of a greenway system which could encompass three neighboring towns of Middletown, Hazlet and Keansburg with connectivity to Tatum Park, the Henry Hudson trail and the Raritan Bay. The 2004 Holmdel Master Plan calls for the preservation of lands along the Mahoras-Waackaack Greenway.
- The Mahoras-Waackaack stream system along with the Bachstadt tract helps preserve the water quality of Raritan Bay, an important fishing and recreational area.

For all these reasons we urge Monmouth County to support this grant application to preserve the Bachstadt Tract as open space for the benefit of all citizens, rather than letting the land be consumed by further development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim McCorkel

Anne Shramko

Co-Presidents, CILU