

The Express-Times: Story

Attn.: Dave Dech

[First match](#) | [New search](#) | [More Like This](#) | [Printer Friendly Version](#) | [Log Out](#)**The Express-Times Archive**  
COPYRIGHT © The Express-Times 2008Date: 2008/01/30 Wednesday Page: B1 Section: NEWS Edition: New Jersey  
Size: 426 words**Open space proposal recommends hiring  
coordinator POSITION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE  
for organizing efforts.**By SARA K. SATULLO The Express-Times

WHITE TWP. | A new draft of Warren County's open space plan calls for the creation of an open space coordinator job to streamline the fragmented system.

The recommendation echoes what open space advocates have been saying for more than a year; there's too much work for one man.

Until 2002, the county planning department worked with preservation advisory boards to manage open space. There was also a chief of land acquisition and a park ranger who helped to acquire and manage open space lands.

Today the ranger is gone and most of the duties fall to Department of Land Preservation Director Bob Resker and his two-person staff.

The new open space plan keeps in line with the 1999 plan's goals but seeks to streamline preservation and increase cooperation between the various advisory boards. It also calls for the development of a five-year acquisition program.

"We've lost opportunities through a lack of coordination," county planning board Vice Chairwoman Deborah Pasquarelli said. "These programs need to be coordinated, and we could achieve the objective of this plan much better."

Board member Desiree Dunn said there was no use in rehashing all the past problems.

"It can happen if we have someone who is dedicated and accountable and will report back and has the time," Dunn said. "It's too much on one person's plate."

By creating lists of targeted properties, the plan appears to address

<http://search.starledger.com/taxis/search/+IPe0GnzkmBmerx9bOwwwMGbtqtnB+XX8hF...> 6/2/2008

the county recreation board's concerns that its open space purchase recommendations were being ignored.

The new position could help all three of the county's open space trust fund programs by conducting the required annual farm inspection, inspecting and patrolling open space sites and issuing hunting permits.

The sheriff's office issues permits, but there's really no one available to patrol the lands, county planner David Dech said.

The planning department helps with some management and works with the Morris Canal Committee, while land preservation is supposed to work with the recreation board.

In addition, the plan backs the current effort to obtain a National Heritage Corridor Designation for the Morris Canal and Musconetcong River.

The plan also recommends cooperation among state, county, municipal and nonprofits to target land. It states an annual open space preservation forum should convene to discuss the past year and the future.

Reporter Sara K. Satullo can be reached at 908-475-2174 or by e-mail at [ssatullo@express-times.com](mailto:ssatullo@express-times.com).

URL: </taxis/search/story.html?table=et2008&id=47a0c3184c>>Ope  
POSITION WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE for organizing efforts.</a>