



Wattles Stewardship Center

1024 Anderson Road
Port Murray, NJ 07865

July 1, 2014

Letter of Support Submitted to:

Camden County Freeholders
Camden County Parks Division
Camden County Open Space Director Jack Sworaski
Walt Whitman Arts Center
Elizabeth Hanson Kuehner Trust

c/o Elizabeth Hanson Kuehner Trust
201 Cedar Avenue
Somerdale, New Jersey 08083

To Whom it May Concern:

New Jersey Audubon is submitting this letter in support of the Walt Whitman Arts Center's acquisition of Block 61 Lot 1 and Block 62 Lot 5, a small wooded tract in Laurel Springs, Camden County. The land is situated along Timber Creek and falls within the Camden County Open Space Greenways plan. Land such as this is an urban oasis of stop-over habitat for migrating birds. Additionally, neighbors to the property have documented Bald Eagles on the site, and the 2012 Landscape Map indicates the area suitable to the Red-shouldered Hawk, both suggesting the importance of the wooded habitat along the creek.

In a highly urbanized environment, tracts of land such as this are not only important from a wildlife perspective, but provide opportunities for the local community to experience nature right in their backyard. Accordingly, NJA is in support of the Open Space Committee providing the funding necessary for Walt Whitman Arts Center to acquire the property.

Sincerely,

John Cecil
Vice President - Stewardship