

**RESOLUTION 2014-R  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION TO REQUEST NEW JERSEY'S RECREATION TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM  
BE RESTORED FOR 2014**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey's Recreational Trails Grant Program is an important source of funding for municipalities as they seek to establish and maintain trails that give residents access to open space resources. Towns, nonprofits and even State programs depend on their ability to apply for these federal funds each year to help cover the cost of trails projects in local and regional open space facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1993, this popular grant program has funded hundreds of trails and public access projects in all regions of New Jersey, leveraging over \$3 million in local matching funds in addition to vast contributions of local in-kind labor by volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, the municipality of Princeton is disappointed to learn that NJDEP did not distribute New Jersey's allocation of federal Recreational Trails Grant Program funds in 2013, and has shifted grant administration staff to other tasks and suspended the program for 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Highway Administration has allocated approximately \$1million annually to New Jersey for this program, and has allowed the State to use 10% of that amount for staff to administer the program; and

**WHEREAS**, with the federal grant funds covering administration costs, it is difficult to understand why NJDEP has suspended the program and while the 2013 money is sitting idle, local trails initiatives and critical seasonal projects such as summer youth employment, conservation leadership program and needed repairs from storm damage are in limbo or cancelled; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is entitled to this federal allocation of funds and local municipalities and nonprofit organizations need to have access to this funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the municipality of Princeton is requesting that New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection take action to restore New Jersey's Recreational Trails Grants immediately; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that it is requesting that the New Jersey's Recreational Trails Grant Program for 2014 be restored; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to Congressional Representatives Cory A. Booker and Rush Holt, State Representatives Christopher Bateman, Jack M. Cittarelli, Donna M. Simon, and NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin, the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the Friends of Princeton Open Space.

A notice of this action shall be published in the Princeton Packet as required by law within ten (10) days of its passage.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Ms. Butler								
Mrs. Crumiller								
Ms. Howard								
Mr. Liverman								
Mr. Miller								
Mr. Simon								
Mayor Lempert								

I, Linda S. McDermott, Clerk of the Municipality of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of said Municipality at a meeting held March 10, 2014.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the corporate seal of said Municipality, this 10<sup>th</sup> of March of 2014.

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Linda S. McDermott  
Municipal Clerk