



RESOLUTION 2026-018
of the PLANNING BOARD
of the TOWNSHIP OF VERONA

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN ELEMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the Municipal Land Use Law ("MLUL"), N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq., authorizes the Planning Board of the Township of Verona ("Planning Board") to prepare and adopt the municipal Master Plan and its constituent elements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28(b), the Master Plan may include Conservation and Recreation Plan Elements, as well as any other elements related to open space preservation, resource protection, and recreation planning; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Verona has prepared an Open Space & Recreation Plan ("OSRP") to:

inventory existing open-space and recreation resources;

identify priority parcels and preservation targets;

outline stewardship, management, and acquisition strategies; and

establish long-term goals for securing, expanding, and improving open space and public recreation within the Township; and

WHEREAS, preparation of the OSRP was undertaken with the participation of the Township's Environmental Commission, Open Space Advisory Committee, municipal staff, and retained professional planners; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-13, notice of the public hearing on adoption of the OSRP as a Master Plan element was provided at least ten (10) days prior thereto to:

The Essex County Planning Board;

The clerks of the adjoining municipalities of Cedar Grove, Montclair, West Orange, and Essex Fells;

All other public agencies as required by statute or local ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board conducted a duly noticed public hearing on April 23, 2026, at which time the OSRP was presented, the public was heard, and the Board fully considered all testimony, comments, and the recommendations of its professionals; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds the OSRP to be consistent with the purposes of the MLUL and with sound planning practices, and determines that it will promote the conservation of open space,

enhance recreational opportunities, guide future municipal planning initiatives, and improve quality of life within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that adoption of the OSRP as a Master Plan element is necessary for the Township to maintain eligibility for funding through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program, including but not limited to acquisition grants, matching funds, stewardship funding, and planning assistance; and

WHEREAS, the OSRP satisfies the Green Acres Planning Incentive (PI) requirements, including:

- identification of open-space needs and priorities;
- mapping of preserved and targeted parcels;
- establishment of a strategic acquisition plan;
- demonstration of public support and community involvement; and
- commitment to long-term preservation and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board finds that adoption of this OSRP will support the Township's continued participation in Green Acres programs, enhance the Township's competitiveness for state funding, and ensure consistent long-term preservation policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Board of the Township of Verona that:

The Open Space & Recreation Plan Element, dated March 2026, is hereby adopted as an Element of the Township of Verona Master Plan pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-13 and N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28.

The Board Secretary is directed to:

- a. File the adopted OSRP and this resolution in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-10(g);
- b. Transmit certified copies to the Essex County Planning Board, adjoining municipalities, and all other statutory recipients;
- c. Provide the adopted OSRP to the New Jersey Green Acres Program as part of the Township's ongoing participation and compliance;
- d. Make the OSRP available for public inspection and post it on the Township website, where feasible.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Meyer Jumburo SECOND: Vice Chan Lyndman

ROLL CALL VOTE:

	Y	N	Abstain	Absent		Y	N	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Magarrell (Alt. 2)	NE				Deputy Mayor McEvoy	X			
Mr. Day (Alt. 1)	NE				Mayor Tamburro	X			
Mrs. Parker	X				Township Manager O'Sullivan	X			
Mr. Lilley	X				Vice Chair Hyndman	X			
Mr. Camuti	X				Chair Pearson	X			
Mr. Freschi	X								

*NE- Not Eligible

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION
ADOPTED BY THE PLANNING BOARD OF REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 23, 2026.**

Dolores Carpinelli

Dolores Carpinelli

Secretary, Planning Board

Jessica Pearson

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Chairperson, Planning Board

