



We wish you joy and peace during the holidays and new year.

Dear Supporters;

As this year comes to a close, we wish to gratefully thank you for your continued support for our various projects to preserve and protect the northern Paulins Kill watershed area. Greater Culver Lake Watershed Conservation Foundation rejoices and appreciates that so many support our environmental community through donations and volunteerism.

The Foundation continues its pursuit of what is being called the Ridge Road property, 158 acres of forest, forested wetlands and stream corridor. The property lies immediately south of the golf course, across Ridge Road. The Foundation was recently awarded a Green Acres grant of \$230,000 to assist in the acquisition.

The protection of the Ridge Road property is an important part of the strategy to protect water quality in the northern Paulins Kill watershed. By protecting the forest buffer to the branch of Culver Brook that runs through the property, runoff to the stream and stream temperatures will be maintained at high quality.

The Foundation is pursuing additional funding to purchase the property, which is under contract. We need your contributions to help us with transaction costs that may not be covered by the grants we hope to obtain.

Regarding the Culver Lake Golf Course property, there has been a discovery which we wish to share with you. The acquisition of the Culver Lake Golf Course and creation of a nature preserve at the site continues to move forward, but preliminary test results of soil conditions at the site have revealed the need to address environmental issues before the project can close. The New Jersey Green Acres Program requires testing of soil for pesticides, herbicides and other potential contaminants, typically applied to golf courses, to ensure that, once the property is open to the public, the public is not exposed to chemicals previously used to manage the course. Preliminary test results obtained by ADR Environmental of Branchville have revealed the presence of some contaminants of concern at levels that will require attention. The current property owner bears the responsibility to address these findings and conduct any follow up testing and remediation needed to ensure the property is clean and safe for use as a nature preserve. Steps are being taken to confirm the preliminary findings and the extent of potential issues within the entire tract.

Once the additional studies are completed, the present landowner will need to develop a plan to address areas of concern. In the meantime, the Foundation is committed to monitoring progress and verifying that the problems are addressed and that the golf course land becomes a nature preserve open to the public, as originally envisioned. The property has been a golf course for nearly 90 years. Addressing accumulated soil impacts will take some time. We will keep you informed of significant developments, but it is clear that patience will be needed to ultimately fulfill the mission of GCLWCF to conscientiously protect our watershed area.

GCLWCF Board Members



Protecting the Lakes and Tributaries of the Upper Northern Paulins Kill Watershed

GCLWCF is a 501(c)(3) environmental charity. **All donations are tax deductible.**
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Greater Culver Lake
Watershed Conservation