

*Township of Readington
Sustainable Land Use Pledge*

WHEREAS, land-use is an essential component of overall sustainability for a municipality;

WHEREAS, poor land-use decisions can lead to and increase societal ills such as decreased mobility, high housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space and the degradation of natural resources.

WHEREAS, well planned land-use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space and allow for continued use of vital natural resources;

WHEREAS, Given New Jersey's strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, achieving a statewide sustainable land-use pattern will require municipalities to take the lead;

NOW THEREFORE, we the Township of Readington, resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making Readington Township a truly sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in the next master plan revision and to update our zoning accordingly.

- I. **Facilities Siting-** *We pledge*, to the extent feasible, to take into consideration factors such as walkability, bikeability, access to transit and proximity to other uses when siting new or relocated municipal facilities. The actions of a municipality when locating their own facilities can set a positive precedent and encourage other public and private sector entities to consider sustainable land-use considerations into account when locating their own facilities.
- II. **Housing Variety-** *We pledge*, through the use of our zoning and revenue generation powers, to foster a diverse mix of housing types to meet the needs of people from all ages and walks of life. A variety of housing options, from single family homes to one-bedroom apartments, including housing affordable to people with low, moderate and middle incomes, is vital to allow residents to live and work in a municipality through various stages of their lives.
- III. **Natural Resource Preservation-** *We pledge* to preserve open space and create recreational opportunities within our municipality. As the most densely populated state in the nation, open space in New Jersey is at a premium. Preserving what is left of our open space, for its ecological and recreational value, is critical for a sustainable future. Further, we have adopted an Environmental Resources Inventory to identify and assess the extent of our natural resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis and land use planning and zoning.

- IV. **Transportation Choices-** *We pledge* to create transportation choices within our municipality by considering all modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit and automobiles, when planning transportation projects. Given that emissions from transportation, mainly passenger cars, make up the largest share of the state's carbon footprint, creating transportation alternatives at the local level is critical to reducing the state's overall carbon footprint.
- V. **Mix of Uses-** *We pledge* to use our zoning power to allow for a mix of uses in areas that make the most sense for our municipality and the region. Development is not needed in every municipality. But where development makes sense, land-use patterns that segregate uses such as commercial and residential create an environment where the only feasible mode of transportation is the automobile. Allowing for a mix of compatible land uses, residential units above retail stores for example, can help reduce the necessity of driving by allowing people to walk to various destinations.
- VI. **Green Design-** *We pledge* to incorporate the principles of green design and renewable energy generation when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements. Green design strategies not only improve the environmental performance of buildings but lessen the impact of those buildings on the surrounding environment. Such strategies include energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor environmental quality, use of recycled renewable materials, construction waste reduction, reduced auto use, tree preservation, native planting, and avoidance of environmentally sensitive features.
- VII. **Regional Cooperation-** *We pledge* to reach out to administrations of our neighboring municipalities concerning land-use decisions, and to take into consideration their concerns when making regional level land-use decisions. Local land-use decisions can often have regional impacts, even though they are decided exclusively by one municipality. For example, a large mall built in one municipality can affect traffic and retail opportunities in neighboring towns.
- VIII. **Parking Regulations-** *We pledge* to reevaluate our parking requirements with the goal of limiting the amount of required parking spaces and promoting shared parking. In areas where walking, biking, and transit are possible, stringent parking requirements can hinder the goal of creating vibrant centers that have a critical mass or people to support local arts, shopping, and other services. Flexible parking requirements decrease the amount of land dedicated to parking lots, storm water runoff, land clearing, and heat island effects, while promoting transportation alternatives to individual automobile use. Evaluate areas to install safe and secure bicycle parking. Evaluate parking revenues, where fee for parking may be implemented or needs to be implemented.

CERTIFICATION

I, **KARIN M PARKER**, Clerk of the Township of Readington, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee on the 7th day of March, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of this body this day 8th of March, 2022.


Karin M Parker, *RMC*
Municipal Clerk