

Highlands Council Meeting

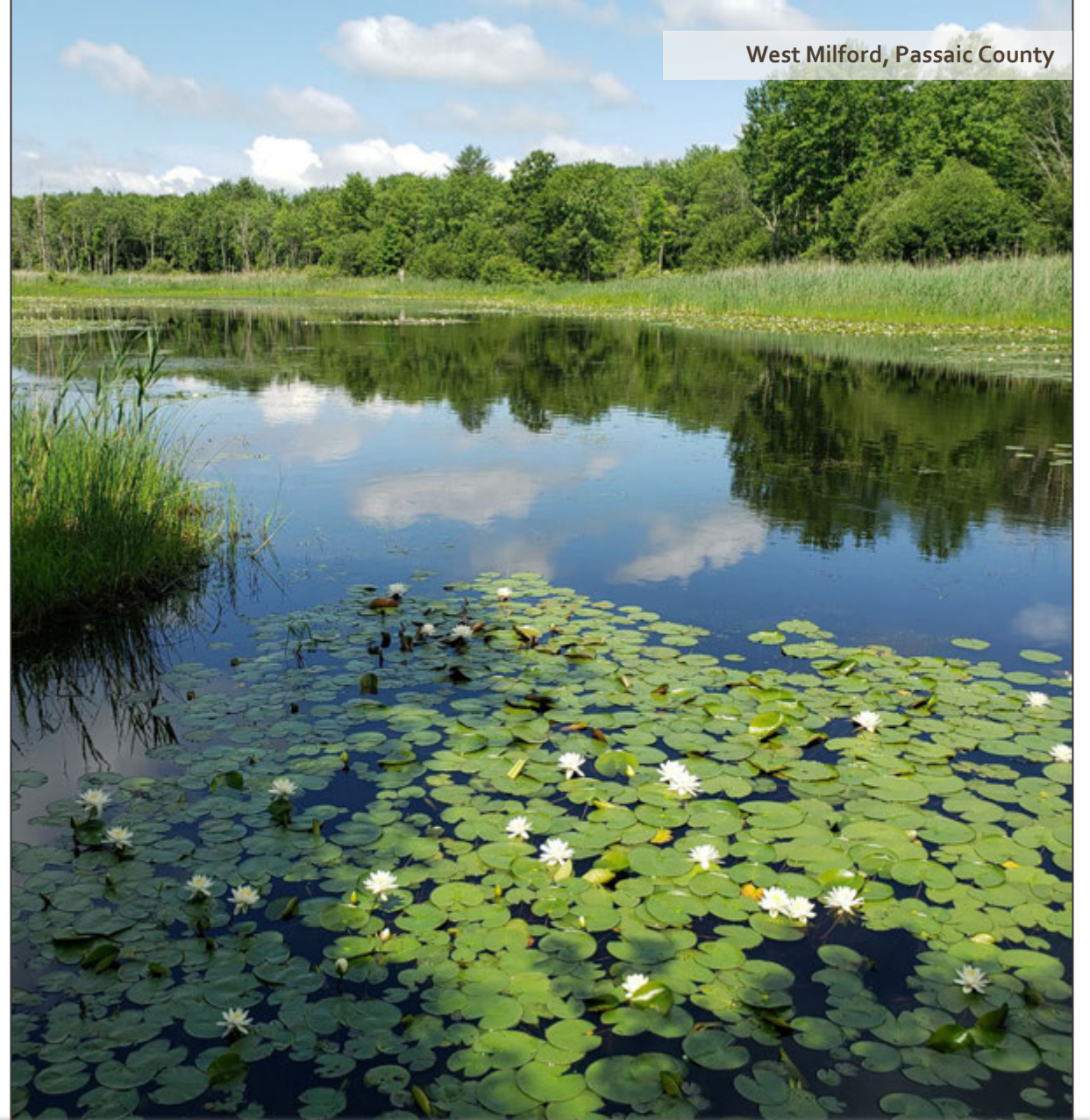
Thursday, February 15, 2024



Highlands Region Open Space & Recreation Plan

Need & Background

- Highlands Act and RMP direct Council to preserve land
 - Farmland, historic sites, outdoor recreation
- No comprehensive inventory of potential preservation projects
- No sense of community needs
- Capacity Grant with USFWS
- Request for Proposals Summer/Fall 2023
- 7 responses; 5 interviews





Rockaway Creek Preserve, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County

Project Details

Identify and prioritize projects

- 8 tasks, 18 months
- Analysis of existing assets, stakeholder needs, goals, ranking system, funding plan
- Critical factors: environmental resources, economic sustainability, climate change, overburdened communities.
- **Proactive approach to preservation in the Highlands.**

Award Recommendation for Council Consideration

Consulting Team

The Trust for Public Land and TwentyTwenty Public Affairs

- Familiarity with Highlands Region
- Developed Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Investment

\$298,500

- \$126,500 (42%) Highlands Council
- \$172,000 (58%) USFWS Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program

