

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How much money will the "Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" raise?**

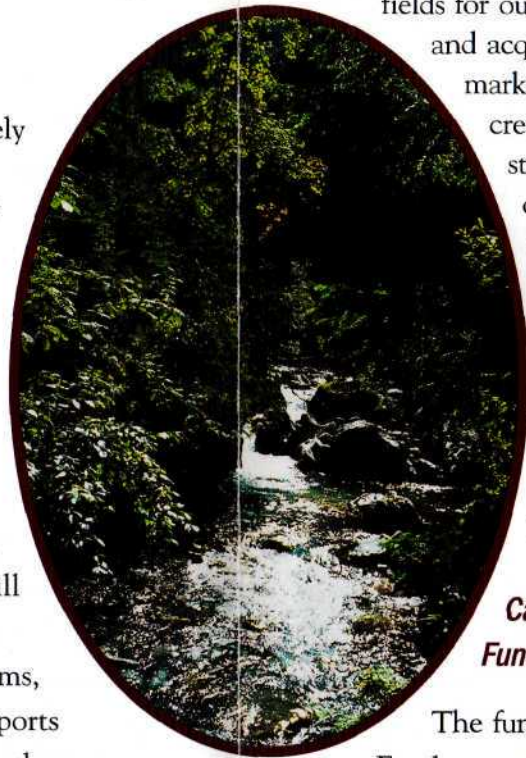
By creating a dedicated revenue stream of 1.5 cents per \$100 assessed property value, the Trust Fund will generate \$4.89 million annually.

## **What will the dedicated fund cost the average homeowner?**

The average home in Union County assesses at approximately \$160,000. That homeowner would contribute \$24 annually to the Trust Fund.

## **How will the Trust Fund benefit you?**

As a taxpayer and resident, not only will a successful county parks program increase your property value, but you and your children will also benefit by having more access to parks, pools, museums, historic sites, golf facilities, sports fields and nature centers. Furthermore, as parts of Union County continue to grow as an economic power, we can ensure that the beauty of Union County is not compromised.



## **What will the funds raised through the "Open Space Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund" be used for?**

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has adopted a 10-year Master Plan. This action plan encompasses open space acquisition and maintenance, the creation and maintenance of recreational fields for our children and preservation and acquisition of historic landmarks in Union County. By creating a dedicated revenue stream, not only will the county be eligible for state funds, but municipalities and non-profit organizations will be able to apply for funding through the county to satisfy their own open space, recreational and historic preservation needs.

## **Can funds raised for the Trust Fund be used for anything else?**

The funds raised for the Trust Fund cannot be used for any other purposes than what is originally stated in the ballot question. Money cannot be transferred or spent on any project that is not a component of the Trust Fund.

## **COUNTY QUESTION # 1 as it appears on the ballot**

Shall the County of Union create the "Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" to be funded by establishing a levy of 1.5 cents per \$100 of total County equalized real property valuation for twenty years, to provide monies for (a) acquisition of lands in Union County for recreation and conservation purposes, (b) development of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes, (c) maintenance of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes, (d) historic preservation of historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas or objects in Union County for historic preservation purposes, and (e) payment of debt services on indebtedness issued or incurred pro purposes (a), (b) and (c) above?

### **Interpretive Statement on County Question # 1**

Approval of this referendum will authorize the establishment of a "Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" to be used exclusively for the acquisition, development of lands within the County for recreation and conservation purposes, the maintenance of such lands, and the preservation and acquisition of historic properties in the County for historic preservation purposes. The funding will come from an annual levy of 1<sup>1/2</sup> cents per \$100 of total County equalized real property valuation. For example, the owner of a property assessed at \$100,000 would contribute \$15 annually to the Fund. This measure also would provide for the County to use Trust monies to pay off indebtedness issued to fund Trust Fund projects, other than maintenance. Utilization of the Trust Fund's resources shall be in accordance with the open space, recreation and historic preservation plans prepared and adopted by the County. The operation of the Trust Fund will automatically expire after a period of twenty years, subject to a subsequent referendum by the voters of Union County authorizing the imposition of a new tax.



Dear Union County Resident:

This November, you will be asked to make a very important decision regarding the future of the Union County Parks system, which is currently among the best in the state.

On the ballot, there will be a referendum asking you whether or not you are in favor of establishing the "Union County Open Space, Recreational and Historic Preservation Trust Fund." The referendum, if passed, will create a dedicated revenue stream to acquire and maintain open space, recreational sites and historic lands and structures in Union County. Furthermore, by creating the Trust Fund, Union County will be eligible for additional State funds for these purposes.

The Trust Fund will dedicate 1.5 cents per every \$100 of assessed property value to acquiring open space, improving parks and recreational facilities for our children, and acquiring and preserving historical landmarks in Union County. For example, if an average home in Union County is assessed at \$160,000, that homeowner will contribute \$24 annually to the trust fund.

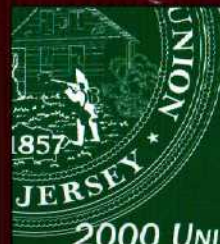
Municipalities and non-profit organizations will be encouraged to apply to the County for funding to help finance projects specific to their needs and desires.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Board for additional information as you prepare to make an educated decision.

Very sincerely yours,

*Daniel P. Sullivan*  
Daniel P. Sullivan

Chairman, Union County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders



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County of Union, Administration Building  
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207



**The Union County  
Open Space,  
Recreation, & Historic  
Preservation  
Trust Fund**



**Union County**  
*We're Connected to You*

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