



Township of Pennsauken

CAMDEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

NEWS RELEASE

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Pennsauken Officials Introduce an Ordinance to Guarantee Conservation of 72 Percent of Petty's Island

PENNSAUKEN — Pennsauken Township officials at its regular business meeting will introduce an ordinance ensuring that 72 percent of Petty's Island be set aside as a conservation area, guaranteeing that portion cannot be redeveloped.

The ordinance is an amendment to the Redevelopment Plan for the Waterfront Redevelopment Study Area Phase I.

It is being adopted as a direct result of an ecological study conducted by Applied Ecological Services and introduced to the public on March 21.

The ordinance proposes that 110 acres, or 28 percent of the Island, be used for redevelopment while 282 acres, or 72 percent, be maintained as undeveloped space, including parks, conservation areas and tidal shallows.

It also provides that the conservation area be continuously maintained in a way which is ecologically and environmentally friendly.

This legislation will ensure the Township's commitment to a plan for the Island providing for human use development, coupled with parks and conservation areas to benefit not only the Township of Pennsauken but also the South Jersey region and help ensure the stability of ecosystems along the entire East Coast.

Pennsauken officials' plan to transform its waterfront from a contaminated old industrial site to a beautiful park-like place where residents can live and spend leisure time enjoying the Delaware River was first introduced in spring 2004.

At that time, a plan was introduced that included building three neighborhoods — Fisherman's Point, Quaker Cove and Petty's Island — on the 700 acres of waterfront on River Road from 36th Street to Derosse Avenue.

Pennsauken Mayor Rick Taylor said over the years after that first announcement, that dream of transforming the waterfront has been dampened by a lot of issues — environmental and ecological issues and the age-old battle of conservation versus development.

“But Pennsauken Township officials listened to the plan’s critics and environmentalist,” said Mayor Taylor.

“We required AES to provide an ecological study based on hard evidence of the conditions on Petty’s Island,” said Mayor Taylor.

“The result is our Conservation Development Plan,” he said.

“We are incredibly excited by this concept because it strikes the right balance between maintained conservation areas and development,” he said.

“It will be the destination we always dreamed it could be, while serving to invigorate the existing ecosystems and wildlife.”