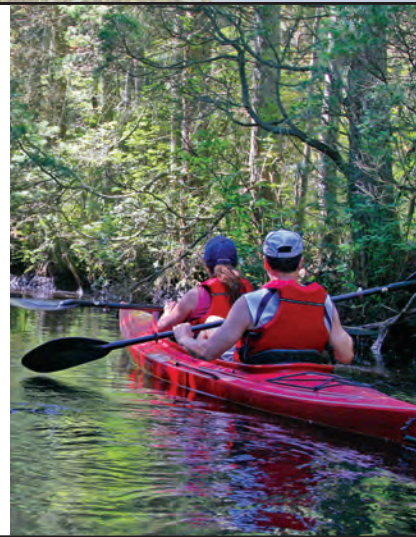


A LEGACY OF GREEN

Celebrating
50 YEARS
of the
Green Acres
Program



A Legacy of Green: Celebrating 50 Years of the Green Acres Program

In 1961, the Green Acres Program was established, a program that would not only leave a legacy for New Jersey but also become a national model for open space preservation. The program, which is now housed within New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, was created to meet the State's ever-increasing recreation and conservation needs in the midst of sprawling growth. Over the past fifty years, Green Acres has preserved more than 650,000 acres of open space and provided hundreds of parks and outdoor recreational facilities in every county, made possible in part through partnerships with other government and nonprofit entities. Consistent public support has kept Green Acres funded since its inception, even in times of economic uncertainty, providing strong testament to its tremendous success and the value New Jerseyans place in the protection of and access to their natural world.



Strong public support has been evident since the Green Acres Program was launched. After the initial \$60 million committed to the program were spent, funding was maintained through the passage of numerous bond acts. Between 1961 and 1995, voters approved nine Green Acres bond measures, totaling \$1.4 billion. Then, in 1998, over 66% of New Jersey voters approved a referendum that ensured ten years of stable funding for the program through the creation of the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT). The GSPT constitutionally dedicated \$98 million per year for 30 years from existing sales tax revenues for open space, farmland, and historic preservation and approximately \$1.24 billion were specifically authorized for Green Acres. The first ten years of the program (1999-2009) were dedicated to funding new projects while the next 20 years (2009-2029) were set aside for debt service

on bonds issued over the first decade. The first ten years of stable funding enabled by the GSPT resulted in an accelerated rate of preservation purchases. The rate of land preservation increased from approximately 25,065 acres per year to over 39,000 acres per year, or more than one and a half times.¹

As the first ten years of the GSPT came to an end, voters made clear their sentiment for continuing the preservation programs it supports by approving a one-year stop-gap bond measure of \$200 million in 2007, \$109 million of which went to Green Acres and \$12 million to the Blue Acres Program to purchase flood-prone properties. Then, in 2009, citizens again voted "Yes" to continued investment in the preservation of open space, farmland, and historic sites by approving a \$400 million bond measure, \$218 million of which went to Green Acres and \$24 million to Blue Acres. (For a more detailed overview of Green Acres' funding history, see Appendix B.) The first half of the 2009 bonds were allocated in August 2011 when Governor Christie signed into law seven bipartisan appropriations bills totaling over \$260 million for open space, farmland, and historic preservation projects (including \$155 million for Green Acres acquisition and park

development projects). A second round of appropriations bills is anticipated by the middle of 2012 to fulfill the second half of the 2009 approved bonds. Thus, as of July 2012, it is anticipated that all of the 2009 bond funds will be allocated.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

With over 650,000 acres preserved in just fifty years, Green Acres has much to tout. Green Acres purchases have provided land for state wildlife management areas, state parks, and numerous municipal, county, and nonprofit preserves and parks. As a result of Green Acres and other state, local, and nonprofit preservation programs, approximately 30% of New Jersey’s land area has been preserved.²

Combined with other public and nonprofit partners, Green Acres has helped to accomplish significant gains in open space protection. The following numbers provide a snapshot of New Jersey’s accomplishments in open space preservation:

- 324,366 acres of wildlife management areas preserved.
- 430,928 acres of state parks (42 sites), forests (11 sites), recreation areas (3 sites), natural areas (42 sites), marinas (6 sites) and more than 50 historic sites preserved.
- 288 miles of trails have been added to the New Jersey Trails System since 1974.
- From 2000-2008, Green Acres low interest loans and grants to municipal and county governments enabled the protection of over 80,000 acres and hundreds of recreation development projects throughout the State.
- In April 2011, New Jersey’s preserved land acreage totaled 1,433,242 acres including federal, state, county, local, nonprofit, and farmland acres preserved as well as Pinelands development credits.³

Since 1961, the Green Acres Program has achieved an impressive amount of land preservation and park development projects throughout the State:

Fund Category	Number of Acres Acquired	Number of Acquisition Projects	Number of Park Development Projects	Total Number of Projects*
Local	103,066.52	1,029	1,036	2,065
State	477,202.66	5,094	N/A	5,094
Nonprofit	39,119.18	154	78	232
Total	619,388.36	6,277	1,114	7,391

Note: The difference between total acres acquired (619,388.36) and acres preserved (650,000) is the acreage of properties enrolled in the Green Acres Tax Exemption Program, which provides additional open space protection by allowing enrollment of nonprofit land if it is made available for public recreation and conservation purposes. This land is preserved but is not technically “acquired”.

*Does not include State park development projects.

The Green Acres Program has made possible over 6,200 state, local, and nonprofit projects to acquire nearly 620,000 acres of land. Green Acres has not only preserved critical lands and waters for future generations but increased access to green spaces for urban and rural residents alike. Green Acres has funded over 1,100 park development projects in every county, achieved through coordination with local and nonprofit entities. In addition, the State has invested over \$230 million for improvements to State parks, wildlife management areas, and other State holdings. County-level information on Green Acres open space preservation and park development projects from 1961-2011 as well as county project highlights are available in Appendix A.

The success of Green Acres is also demonstrated by the partnerships that have formed as local, state, and nonprofit entities work together to achieve a shared mission of open space protection for recreation and conservation. The complexity and cost of acquiring land for preservation in New Jersey often require many partners to work in coordination. Green Acres effectively fosters such partnerships through local and nonprofit grant programs and requirements for matching funds. Nonprofits have played a particularly unique and evolving role throughout the history of Green Acres. When Green Acres first was established, there was no nonprofit grant program; only local entities and state projects could be funded. Even so, nonprofits played an essential role in open space preservation by fostering many state and local projects. The nonprofit grant program was eventually established in 1989 and nonprofits have since continued to work effectively with local and state partners as well as independently to increase open space preservation and recreational opportunities.

By partnering with local governments and nonprofit organizations, Green Acres has significantly leveraged state preservation funds. In fact, the majority of Green Acres funds are matched by other open space funding, including county and municipal open space trust funds (totaling over \$3 billion from 1999-2011), foundation funding, federal grants, and nonprofit funds.

Despite these accomplishments, demand for the State's open space, farmland, and historic preservation funds dramatically outstrips supply, year after year. In the last 10 years, for example, Green Acres' Local and Nonprofit Assistance Program has been able to fund only 22% of requested acquisition and park development matching funding, with an average annual gap of \$340 million.

GREEN ACRES IN ACTION

Nothing can better attest to the far-reaching benefits of the Green Acres Program than the diverse parks and natural areas it has created throughout the State. The following are just a few accomplishments made possible by Green Acres:

Liberty State Park was established in 1976 to transform an abandoned historic site into a modern urban state park. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, this area was a waterfront industry hot spot with a transportation network that included the Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal. The Terminal served as the gateway to America through which approximately



8 million immigrants passed after making their way through the Ellis Island Immigration Station. The later decline of the railroads and industry, however, resulted in the abandonment and deterioration of the site and it was not until the founding of Liberty State Park that a piece of history was preserved. The transformation was initiated when \$19 million in Green Acres funding enabled the State to acquire the land. Then, in 1995, \$10 million of the \$350 million voters approved for the Green Acres, Farmland, and Historic Preservation and Blue Acres Bond Act was used to enhance recreational opportunities at Liberty State Park, making approximately 300 acres of this 1,122-acre historic land available for public recreation.

350 acres in Stillwater Township, Sussex County were acquired with Green Acres State acquisition funds. This purchase linked the 2,472-acre Swartswood State Park with the 1,518-acre Trout Brook Wildlife Management Area. This protected open space now includes 4,340 contiguous acres that provide habitat and allow enhanced movement for wildlife such as the bobcat and black bear. This large tract of land also provides protective buffers for Swartswood and Little Swartswood Lakes and the limestone formations of the Kittatiny Valley.

The 140-acre Stafford Farm in Voorhees Township, Camden County is now both public parkland and a working farm thanks in part to funding from Green Acres. The \$20.6 million purchase was made possible through multi-party partnerships and public and private sources. Before the purchase, the land was owned by the Stafford family for more than 225 years and had received numerous bids from developers.

The Prudential Outdoor Learning Center in Newark, Essex County was developed by the Greater Newark Conservancy with the assistance of Green Acres funding. The Center features thematic gardens, landscapes, and a greenhouse, all of which not only serve as outdoor classrooms but provide an open space oasis for urban residents. This outdoor landscape complements the indoor portion of the Learning Center which is currently under construction and will soon provide a large community space, lecture hall, demonstration lab, and environmental exhibit galleries.

A WISE INVESTMENT THAT YIELDS MANY BENEFITS

Funding dedicated to Green Acres is a wise investment that more than pays for itself through the economic, environmental, and health benefits it returns. Parks, playgrounds, and open spaces made possible by Green Acres encourage healthy lifestyles, raise property values, and support significant tourism and recreation industries in the State. Preserved land also provides environmental benefits such as clean drinking water and flood and wildlife habitat protection. The following statistics reveal how investments in open space not only promote environmental and human health but also make economic sense.

Economic Benefits

- A 2009 study by The Trust for Public Land found that every \$1 invested in state land preservation programs returns \$10 in economic value through nature's services, such as flood control and filtering air and water of pollutants.⁴
- The average home value increases 16% when it is located within 1,500 feet of natural areas.⁵
- Parks contribute up to 20% of the value of homes in urban areas.⁶
- 7,000 jobs are supported by New Jersey's public recreation lands.⁷

- Wildlife-related tourism is estimated to generate about \$3 billion of gross economic activity annually, representing about \$1 billion of wage and salary income annually or about 37,000 jobs.⁸
- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that, each year, over 2.6 million people participate in hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching in New Jersey, contributing \$1.7 billion to the economy.⁹

Environmental and Health Benefits

- For every 10% increase in forest cover, water treatment and chemical costs decrease by 20%.¹⁰
- In one urban park (212 ha), tree cover was found to remove daily 48 lbs particulates, 9 lbs nitrogen dioxide, 6 lbs sulfur dioxide, and 0.5 lbs carbon monoxide. (\$136 per day value based on pollution control technology.)¹¹
- Open spaces in New Jersey support approximately 900 wildlife species.¹²
- Access to parks leads to a 25% increase in people exercising three or more times per week.¹³
- People living in a greener environment report fewer health complaints.¹⁴

PRESSING NEEDS, UNCERTAIN FUTURE

While short-term bond measures have sustained Green Acres in recent years, a long-term funding mechanism is imperative to meet significant preservation needs that remain. With over 8.7 million residents dispersed at approximately 1,195 people per square mile, New Jersey remains the most densely populated state in the country.¹⁵ Development pressures are undeniably significant.

The most recent study on land use trends by the Rutgers University Center for Remote Sensing highlighted numerous statistics about New Jersey's urbanization and growth patterns.¹⁶ The study found a 7% increase in the rate of urban development in 2007 at 16,061 acres of urbanization per year, up from 15,123 acres per year from 1995-2002. Over the past two decades, New Jersey's urban growth rate was almost twice as great as its population growth rate and, from 2002-2007, urbanization occurred at greater than four times the population growth rate. From 2002-2007, at 0.76 acres per person, "per capita consumption of land for each new person added to the population was 4.8 times the 1986 rate" of 0.16 acres per person. With these figures in mind and defining urban sprawl as development growth largely exceeding population growth, the report stated that New Jersey has "completed its two most sprawling decades in history." New Jersey's urban growth pressure and development rate have set the course for the State's future. The report noted that "near total build-out will likely be approached in New Jersey sometime within the middle of this century" as the remaining 1.9 million acres are either preserved or developed.¹⁶

Land preservation must remain a key component of New Jersey's smart growth strategy in order to support its growing population and provide amenities such as clean water, wildlife habitat, flood protection, and outdoor recreation. It is also vital to sustain the agriculture and tourism industries and to attract and retain businesses in the State whose employees place a high value on open space and recreation opportunities that contribute to quality of life.

Despite the accomplishments of the Green Acres Program and other state, local, and nonprofit preservation efforts, significant land and water preservation needs remain in the Highlands, Pinelands, Barnegat Bay, Delaware Bayshore and other important natural areas throughout



the State.¹⁷ New Jersey's citizens do not have adequate access to quality parks and recreation opportunities in every community, especially in urban areas. Finally, many of the lands and parks made possible by the Green Acres Program are in need of further investment to address ecological threats, such as invasive species, and to repair deteriorating facilities.

Green Acres is up to the challenge. Not only is Green Acres a national model that has proven capable of preserving over 650,000 acres of high priority lands, it has received unfaltering support from New Jerseyans. A recent poll by Monmouth University found that the majority of residents continue to support open space preservation, with over 90 percent ranking continued open space and farmland preservation efforts as important.¹⁸

As we celebrate the tremendous legacy of the Green Acres Program over the past 50 years, now is the time to safeguard and build upon that legacy. We must ensure that funds do not run dry with so much important work remaining to protect our land, water, and communities. A sustainable funding source is essential to preserve priority lands, protect our drinking water sources, ensure that all New Jerseyans have access to quality parks and outdoor recreation, and to better steward and care for the lands and parks that have been preserved. Our children and grandchildren deserve no less.

OUR CHILDREN AND
GRANDCHILDREN
DESERVE NO LESS

APPENDIX A

Green Acres by County (1961-2011) Acquisitions, Project Counts, and Examples

The following figures demonstrate the tremendous legacy of acquisition and park development that the Green Acres Program has created in every county of the State. Generally, the State's more densely developed municipalities rely more on local park development grant and loan funds to meet their needs. These needs have typically been in developing and rehabilitating existing parks as opposed to acquiring additional lands to add to their inventory of sites. While the benefits to each county have varied, with a land preservation focus in more rural and less densely populated counties and a greater emphasis on developing and improving parks for public enjoyment and recreation in more urban and developed counties, the end result is the same: Green Acres has greatly improved the quality of life for every resident of the Garden State and for generations to come.

Green Acres Acquisition and Project Counts by County (1961-2011)

County	Population (2010 Census)	Land Area (Acres)	Population Density (Ppl/Acre)	% Land Area of State	Total Acres Acquired with GA Funds	% County Land Area Preserved with GA Funds	Total # of GA Acquisition Projects (Local, State, Nonprofit)	Total # Park Development Projects (Local and Nonprofit)***	Total # of Acquisition and Park Development Projects (Local, State, Nonprofit)****
Atlantic	274,549	355,648.00	0.77	7.56	50,201.26	14.12	668	54	722
Bergen	905,116	149,126.40	6.07	3.17	10,107.76	6.78	155	89	244
Burlington	448,734	511,091.20	0.88	10.86	64,358.48	12.59	407	57	464
Camden	513,657	141,606.40	3.63	3.01	5,410.59	3.82	81	88	169
Cape May	97,265	160,915.20	0.60	3.42	43,965.84	27.32	293	25	318
Cumberland	156,898	309,568.00	0.51	6.58	50,801.04	16.41	381	37	418
Essex	783,969	80,774.40	9.71	1.72	2,257.08	2.79	118	86	204
Gloucester	288,288	206,086.40	1.40	4.38	15,896.11	7.71	114	47	161
Hudson	634,266	29,561.60	21.46	0.63	1,221.19	4.13	49	128	177
Hunterdon	128,349	273,804.80	0.47	5.82	26,695.42	9.75	300	3	303
Mercer	366,513	143,718.40	2.55	3.05	16,150.65	11.24	185	14	199
Middlesex	809,858	197,702.40	4.10	4.20	10,443.85	5.28	176	86	262
Monmouth	630,380	300,025.60	2.10	6.37	26,049.18	8.68	411	107	518
Morris	492,276	294,515.20	1.67	6.26	48,605.41	16.50	503	44	547
Ocean	576,567	402,419.20	1.43	8.55	73,190.34	18.19	531	75	606
Passaic	501,226	118,137.60	4.24	2.51	35,914.18	30.40	236	55	291
Salem	66,083	212,416.00	0.31	4.51	20,413.98	9.61	148	10	158
Somerset	323,444	193,158.40	1.67	4.10	10,565.11	5.47	188	34	222
Sussex	149,265	332,166.40	0.45	7.06	55,516.35	16.71	574	23	597
Union	536,499	65,830.40	8.15	1.40	2,176.48	3.31	13	28	41
Warren	108,692	228,428.80	0.48	4.85	28,462.17	12.46	442	24	466
State*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20,985.89	N/A	286	N/A	286
Multicounty**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18	N/A	18
Total	8,791,894	4,706,700.80	N/A	100.00	619,388.36	N/A	6,277	1,114	7,391

* Portion of State acquired acres that are not broken down by county

** Multicounty projects not broken down by county

***State park development projects not included

Note: The difference between total acres acquired (619,338.36) and acres preserved (650,000) is the acreage of properties in the Green Acres Tax Exemption Program, which provides additional open space protection by allowing enrollment of nonprofit land if it is made available for public recreation and conservation purposes.

This land is preserved but is not technically "acquired".

County Examples

The following examples include either acquisition or park development projects made possible by Green Acres.

Atlantic County – Green Acres provided a nonprofit acquisition grant for the preservation of over 224 acres on the border of Atlantic and Gloucester Counties which now comprise the Unexpected Wildlife Refuge. This unique preserve includes swamps, bogs forests, and lakes and provides habitat for species native to the Southern New Jersey Pinelands region. Guided tours are available to visitors as are 10 miles of trails that wind through the property.

Bergen County – As part of the development of a regional sports facility at the Palisades Park Area of Overpeck County Park, Bergen County utilized Green Acres local assistance funding to construct a new baseball field designed in accordance with the guidelines for the Little League Challenger Division, the largest league for the disabled. The field was constructed with artificial turf to make it easily navigable by people who use wheelchairs or crutches, and by people with other disabilities. Green Acres funding was also used to install an Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant playground that is wheelchair accessible and has clearance of up to 8 feet.

Burlington County – With Green Acres nonprofit grant funds, the Rancocas Conservancy's Wurst Preserve in Medford and Evesham Townships (just south of the Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge) was increased from 15 acres to 140 acres. Beautiful at any time of year, frogs are numerous in the spring and the fall colors are breathtaking. A loop trail takes visitors through Pine Barrens savannahs, hardwood swamps, and by a picturesque pond suitable for picnics.

Camden County – In 1981, the Green Acres Program catalyzed the redevelopment of the City of Camden's derelict waterfront along the Delaware River by providing financial assistance to the County to build Ulysses S. Wiggins Waterfront Park. Additional funding was provided by the federal Urban Parks Program, Delaware River Port Authority, and Camden County. The Park now includes 1.3 miles of waterfront promenade extending from the Ben Franklin Bridge to the Battleship New Jersey and has attracted significant economic development in the form of the State's Adventure Aquarium, the Camden Riversharks Baseball Stadium, the Susquehanna Bank Concert Center, and the Battleship NJ Museum.

Cape May County – In October, 2006, 164 acres known as the DeSoi-Stinger property in Lower Township, were purchased with Green Acres State acquisition funds. The property is located within the lower 10 kilometers of the Cape May Peninsula, is managed by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, and comprises a variety of land types including forested uplands, grassland/agricultural uplands, and freshwater and estuarine wetlands. The Cape May Peninsula is critical to migratory birds primarily because it terminates at one of the longest overwater crossings on the East Coast. On a global level, protecting this property adds significantly to the conservation of this important migratory stopover.

Cumberland County – In May, 2011, 660 acres known as the Durham Farm property in Fairfield Township, Cumberland County were purchased with Green Acres State acquisition funds. The property is located in close proximity to the Delaware Bay, is managed by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, and comprises a variety of land types including forested uplands and wetlands, grassland/agricultural uplands, and freshwater and estuarine wetlands. This acquisition provides permanent protection for high quality habitat for shorebirds, neotropical passerines, colonial waterbirds, waterfowl, raptors, and State endangered bald eagles.

Essex County – In partnership with the City of Newark, The Trust for Public Land completed the development of Nat Turner Park (previously known as Hayes Park West) in 2009. The site was purchased by the City in the early 1970s with the assistance of Green Acres local funding and additional Green Acres funds were provided in 2006 for park construction. The actively used park, adjacent to Central High School and two elementary schools, contains a football/soccer field, running track, playgrounds, and water play-spray area, along with passive recreation opportunities including picnic areas, game tables, an amphitheater, walkways, benches, open play areas, and community gathering areas.

Gloucester County – Green Acres partnered with Gloucester County and Woolwich Township to preserve over 345 acres along the Raccoon Creek. These lands have become a local park as well as part of the Raccoon Creek Wildlife Management Area. The properties are rich in wildlife and are a much used local sports center.

Hudson County – Green Acres local matching grant funds made possible the reconstruction of the Jersey City Owen Grundy Pier Park and the walkway to York Street Park at the foot of Montgomery and York Streets along the Hudson River. The project included the replacement of wooden planks, new fencing, and site amenities such as seating, tables, gazebo, and lighting.

Hunterdon County – In West Amwell Township, Green Acres State acquisition funds were used to preserve Goat Hill Overlook. The 219-acre property is managed by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry. It is situated approximately 7/10ths of a mile along Route 29 with elevations reaching 400 feet above the Delaware River, offering spectacular views of the River just south of Lambertville. Primarily forested, this property, a former Boy Scout camp, includes “Washington Rock”, the lookout from which George Washington scouted during the Revolutionary War.

Mercer County – With Green Acres State acquisition funds, a former gas station site along the D&R Canal State Park in the City of Trenton was purchased as an addition to D&R Canal State Park. This property is key to expanding and restoring the historic Battle Monument Park down to the D&R Canal State Park and marks the site where General George Washington’s troops set up their artillery for the Battle of Trenton, a turning point in the American Revolution.

Middlesex County – The 800-acre historically significant Middlesex Encampment Site in Monroe Township was purchased jointly by Middlesex County, with assistance from the Green Acres Local Funding Program and the Green Acres State Acquisition Program. The property was the encampment site of Washington’s army the night before they marched into the Battle of Monmouth. Approximately 336 acres of this property will be managed by Monmouth Battlefield State Park for its significance in the American Revolution with the remaining acres managed by Middlesex County Parks as an addition to Middlesex County’s Thompson Park.

Monmouth County – In a cooperative Green Acres acquisition project, the Monmouth County Park System, along with many partners, including Federal NOAA Coastal Estuarine funding; Green Acres State Acquisition, Local Government and Nonprofit funds; Middletown Township; and Monmouth Conservation Foundation, acquired a 44-acre historically significant property known as the Fisher-Stern Estate, along Claypit Creek, a Category 1 tributary of the Navesink River. The property is an addition to the 787-acre Hartshorne Woods Park, which is managed by the Monmouth County Park System, overlooks the Navesink River, and contains one of the highest elevations along the Atlantic Coast.

Morris County – With Green Acres nonprofit assistance funding the Trustees of the Morristown Green enhanced the beauty of the Green (listed on the National Register of Historic Sites) as a public park and memorial garden to provide meaningful historic interpretation and valuable open space for passive enjoyment. The project included the addition of statues of historic figures, walkways, drainage, electrical and irrigation infrastructure improvements, seating for outdoor performances, signs, benches, and landscaping.

Ocean County – Green Acres provided nonprofit grant funding to the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Forked River Mountain Coalition to acquire approximately 975 acres of land in Lacey and Ocean Townships. This acquisition is part of a greater initiative to preserve, as open space, approximately 20,000 acres of pristine Pine Barrens known as the Forked River Mountains. The goal is create a massive greenway and area of open space by connecting Greenwood Forest Wildlife Management Area with Double Trouble State Park, Wells Mills County Park, and proposed additions to the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge along Barnegat Bay. The area provides opportunities for passive, low-intensity recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, birding, and wildlife photography.

Passaic County – Passaic County restored Lambert Castle Observatory Tower, located in the Passaic County Garret Mountain Reservation, making it once again available for public use. With Green Acres local assistance funding, the County repaired stonework on the tower, installed a new dome top, replaced the covered arbor, repaired stone walls and walkways, landscaping, and rehabilitated the refreshment stand and comfort station.

Salem County – With Green Acres State acquisition funds, the State acquired almost 675 acres of land in Alloway and Clinton Townships. This acquisition created the new Thundergut Wildlife Management Area located within the Burden Hill Forest area, which is now a focal point of State and nonprofit acquisition efforts.

Somerset County – The purchase of the Franklin Township’s Negri-Nepote Grassland Preserve was made possible by Green Acres local assistance funding. This 164-acre property was purchased by the Township in 2003. It is located in a region that is historically important for grassland birds, and is being managed in partnership with New Jersey Audubon Society to improve the habitat while providing passive recreational opportunities.

Sussex County – Paulinskill Valley Trail was made possible with Green Acres State acquisition funds. The trail includes 27 miles of a former railroad right-of-way running through Warren and Sussex Counties. It provides trail access for bikers, hikers, birders, and horseback riders, increasing recreational opportunities in both counties.

Union County – The County of Union, under a Planning Incentive Grant from the Green Acres Program, acquired a 12.84-acre tract of land located in Clark Township known as “Peter J. Esposito Park.” The County later used Green Acres local funds to transform the park into an active recreational facility. The park contains tennis courts, a soccer/softball field, playground, picnic area, and skateboard park and, at its center, lies a freshwater wetland surrounded by a half-mile walking path.

Warren County – In 2007, Green Acres State acquisition funds were used to purchase two adjacent lakefront parcels in the Highlands Preservation Area to expand Jenny Jump State Forest in Liberty Township. This 4-acre acquisition greatly enhanced public access to and enjoyment of Mountain Lake as the parcels are conveniently situated near a Jenny Jump parking area and trailhead for Mountain Lake Trail. The lakefront lawn area can be used for picnicking, fishing, launching a canoe or kayak, and other passive recreation. A small beach area also offers potential for wading and swimming.



APPENDIX B

Green Acres Funding Summary 1961-2009

Bond Acts and Other Sources

Total: \$3.32 Billion

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres/bondact.html>

- **1961 \$60 Million (Land acquisition only)**
 - \$40 million for State acquisition and development
 - \$20 million for Local acquisition (50/50 matching grants to municipalities and counties)
- **1971 \$80 Million (Land acquisition only)**
 - \$40 million for State acquisition
 - \$40 million for Local acquisition grants
- **1974 \$200 Million (Funding for outdoor recreational development added)**
 - \$100 million for State acquisition and development
 - \$100 million for Local acquisition and development grants
- **1978 \$200 Million**
 - \$100 million for State acquisition and development
 - \$100 million for Local acquisition and development (grants and loans) (Half of which was to be spent in urban areas)
- **1983 \$135 Million**
 - \$52 million for State acquisition and development
 - \$83 million for Local acquisition and development (grants and loans) (Beginning of the “Green Trust” revolving loan program. Loans made at 2% interest, repayable over 20 years. Partial grants also available.)
- **1987 \$35 Million* – for Green Trust loans only**
 [*Part of the \$100 M “New Jersey Green Acres, Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1987”]
- **1989 \$230 Million***
 - \$80 million for State acquisition and development
 - \$120 million for Green Trust acquisition and development (loans and grants)
 - \$20 million for grants of up to 50% for eligible urban area acquisition and development projects
 - \$10 million for matching grants to qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations for acquisition only (Beginning of Nonprofit Program)
 [*Part of the \$300 M “Open Space Preservation Bond Act of 1989”]
- **1992 \$200 Million**
 - \$80 million for State acquisition and development
 - \$100 million for Green Trust acquisition and development (loans and grants)
 - (A minimum of \$25 million set aside for grants of up to 50% for eligible urban area acquisition and development projects)

[*Part of the \$345 M “Green Acres, Clean Water, Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1992”]

• **1995 \$250 Million (plus \$30 Million for Blue Acres)***

- \$105 million for State acquisition and development
 - \$65 million for State acquisition
 - \$40 million general acquisition
 - \$20 million for counties with population density of 1,000/sq. mile
 - \$5 million for Limited Practical Use/Pinelands acquisition
 - \$40 million for State development
- \$10 million for recreational development at Liberty State Park
- \$120 million for Green Trust acquisition and development (loans and grants) (A minimum of \$18 million was set aside for grants up to 50% for eligible urban area acquisition and development projects.)
- \$15 million in Nonprofit matching grants (acquisition only)
- \$30 million for Blue Acres (administered by the Green Acres Program)
 - \$15 million for Coastal acquisition (\$6 M “pre-storm”; \$9 M “post storm”)
 - \$15 million for Inland acquisition (Passaic River)

* Part of the \$350 M “Green Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation and Blue Acres Bond Act of 1995”]

• **1999 Garden State Preservation Trust**

- Voters authorized \$98 million per year for 30 years (10 years for new projects, 20 years for bond debt service), plus bonding authority up to \$1.15 billion for Green Acres, Farmland Preservation, and Historic Preservation. Green Acres’ share of the above is approximately:
 - \$621 million for State Acquisition and development
 - \$496 million for Local acquisition and development (grants and loans)
 - \$124 million for Nonprofit matching grants (acquisition and now development)
 - \$1.24 billion*

* This total is approximate, taking into account fluctuations due to interest earnings (added) and bond debt service (deducted).

• **2003 \$120 million***

- \$60 million for State acquisition and development
- \$48 million for Local acquisition and development (grants and loans)
- \$12 million for Nonprofit matching grants (acquisition and development)

[*Part (80%) of \$150 million in additional GSPT bond capacity approved by voters]

• **2007 \$109 million (plus \$12 million for Blue Acres)**

- \$45 million for State acquisition and development
- \$55 million for Local grants and loans (acquisition and development)
- \$9 million for Nonprofit matching grants (acquisition and development)
- \$12 million for Blue Acres (administered by the Green Acres Program) State acquisition of properties in certain floodways that are prone to flood or storm damage

[* Part of the \$ 200 M “Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres, and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007”]

• **2009 \$218 million (plus \$24 million for Blue Acres)***

- \$90 million for State acquisition and development
- \$110 million for Local grants and loans (acquisition and development)
- \$18 million for Nonprofit matching grants (acquisition and development)
- \$24 million for Blue Acres (administered by the Green Acres Program) State acquisition of properties in certain floodways that are prone to flood or storm damage

[* Part of the \$ 400 M “Green Acres, Water Supply and Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009”] Supplemental Funding (not ballot questions)

• **1998 \$25 million (FY 1999 budget)**

- 50% matching grants for local acquisition

• **2007 \$25 million (FY 2008 budget)**

- \$20 million for local grants and loans (acquisition and development)
- \$ 5 million for nonprofit matching grants (acquisition and development)

¹ The Accomplishments of State Preservation Programs - A Compilation of Reports, Plans and other Studies Detailing Land Preservation, Farmland Preservation and Historic Preservation Accomplishments with State Funding in New Jersey. April 2009. A Project of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation in cooperation with New Jersey Keep It Green Coalition. Paper written by Elliott Ruga.

² <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/34000.html>; New Jersey land area is 7,354.22 square miles or 4,706,700.80 acres. Total area preserved is 1,433,242.

³ Figure provided by Green Acres/State Agriculture Development Committee

⁴ TPL, 2009 Analysis of Return of Investment in State Preservation Bond Measure

⁵ Lutzenhiser, Margot, and N.R. Netusil. 2001. The Effect of Open Spaces on a Home’s Sale Price. *Contemporary Economic Policy* 19(3): 291–98.

⁶ National Association of Home Builders

⁷ Mates, W.J. and J.L. Reyes. June 2004. The Economic Value of New Jersey’s Parks and Forests. Revised November 2006. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection: Division of Science, Research and Technology.

⁸ Valuing New Jersey’s Natural Capital: An Assessment of the Economic Value of the State’s Natural Resources. April 2007. State of New Jersey. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

⁹ U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. 2006. National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

¹⁰ De Brun, C. and T.F., Ed, The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation, The Trust For Public Land, 2007

¹¹ Coder, K.D. 1996. Identified Benefits of Community Trees and Forests. University of Georgia. <http://www.coloradotrees.org/benefits/Identified%20Benefits%20of%20Community%20Trees.pdf>

¹² The Benefits of State Preservation Programs. 2009. A Project of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation in cooperation with New Jersey- Keep It Green Coalition.

¹³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Increasing physical activity: a report on recommendations of the Task Force on Community Preventive Services. *MMWR* 2001;50 (No. RR-18):[pg 11].

¹⁴ Sjerp de Vries, Robert A. Verheij, and Peter P. Groenewegen. 2006. “Nature and Health: The Relation between Health and Green Space in People’s Living Environment” (paper presented at the conference “Cultural Events and Leisure Systems,” Amsterdam, the Netherlands, April 2001). *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*.

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. 2011. Data derived from Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report.

¹⁶ Hasse, J.E. and R.G. Lathrop. July 2010. Changing Landscapes in the Garden State: Urban Growth and Open Space Loss in NJ 1986 thru 2007.

¹⁷ 2008-2012 New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Green Acres Program.

¹⁸ New Jersey Opinions on Growth and Development. August 2011. Monmouth University Polling Institute.

*Campaign to preserve New Jersey's parks, natural areas,
clean water, farmland, and historic treasures*



The NJ Keep It Green Campaign is a coalition of over 140 statewide, local and regional organizations working to secure a long-term stable source of funding for the acquisition of open space, farmland, and historic sites as well as the capital improvement, operation, maintenance, and stewardship of state and local natural areas, parks, and historic sites in New Jersey. This work is guided by the belief that every New Jersey resident deserves well-maintained, accessible neighborhood parks, wildlife areas and historic sites. Our communities rely on these areas for a high quality of life, livable neighborhoods, and sustainable economies.

For more information and to contact us, visit www.njkeepitgreen.org.