



## State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

Green Acres Program

Mail Code 501-01

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Trenton, New Jersey 08625

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

CATHERINE R. McCABE  
*Commissioner*

Dear Clerk:

It is my pleasure to invite all interested municipalities and counties to apply for Green Acres funds to acquire land, develop parks or conduct stewardship activities for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. I would ask that you provide a copy of this letter to each member of your governing body.

Green Acres will accept applications until March 30, 2019. Funding is quite limited, and we anticipate that competition will be healthy. As a result, we will consider funding requests only from new applicants or from applicants who are making significant progress on their open acquisition and park development projects.

Eligible land-acquisition projects include the purchase of natural areas, historic sites, conservation areas, waterbodies and open space for active or passive recreation. Eligible park development projects include facilities that provide boating, fishing, swimming, outdoor games and sports, biking, picnicking, camping or nature interpretation. Green Acres now will also accept applications for stewardship activities on your recreation and conservation lands. More information is attached, and applications can be found in the *What's New* section at [NJGreenAcres.org](http://NJGreenAcres.org).

Since 1961, the Green Acres program has funded the acquisition of open space for recreation and conservation purposes as well as for the development of outdoor recreational facilities. Green Acres remains committed to preserving New Jersey's natural resources statewide. We are proud to be able to continue the tradition of partnering with municipal and county governments to serve the people of New Jersey.

On behalf of the Green Acres staff, I thank you for your continued support of our program.

Sincerely,

Catherine R. McCabe



## County and Municipal Green Acres Projects Funding Categories and Levels

### *Acquisition Funding*

Standard Acquisition category: Twenty-five percent matching grants are available to local governments that do not yet have an open space tax. Supplemental loans, payable over 30 years at 2 percent interest, may be available.

Planning Incentive category: Fifty percent matching grants are available to local governments that have an open space tax and a Green Acres-approved Open Space and Recreation Plan. New applicants must submit a Planning Incentive application; local governments with existing Planning Incentive projects should submit a letter detailing proposed acquisitions and funding needs **for the next two years**.

Site-Specific Incentive category: Fifty percent matching grants are available to local governments that have an open space tax but do not have a Green Acres-approved plan. Applicants under this category must submit a Green Acres application for each parcel they would like to purchase.

Urban Aid acquisition category: Seventy-five percent matching grants are available for acquisitions located in Urban Aid municipalities. Supplemental zero percent interest loan funding, payable over 30 years, may be available.

### *Outdoor Recreation Development Funding*

Standard Development category: Except as described below, funds for outdoor recreation development are available in the form of 2 percent interest loans, payable over 20 years.

Densely or Highly Populated Municipality/Highly Populated County category: Twenty-five percent matching grants are available for park development projects located in Densely Populated (population density of 5,000 per square mile) or Highly Populated (total population over 35,000) municipalities or sponsored by a Highly Populated County (population density of 1,000 per square mile). Supplemental loan funding may be available at 2 percent interest, payable over 20 years.

Urban Aid Municipality or Densely Populated County Development: Park development projects located in Urban Aid municipalities are now eligible for 75 percent matching grants (previously 50 percent) and supplemental zero percent interest loan funding, when available. Projects sponsored by a Densely Populated County (population density of 5,000 per square mile) are eligible for 50 percent matching grants and, if available, supplemental 2 percent interest loan funding.

### **Stewardship Funding**

Matching grants are now available for stewardship activities, which are defined in the application available on our website. Stewardship awards will be in the form of a 50 percent matching grant or a 75 percent matching grant for a project in an Urban Aid municipality. Minimum funding awards will be \$50,000 so we will only consider projects with more than \$100,000 in eligible costs. The specific stewardship application must be used.

**Further information about project eligibility, project ranking and selection, and proposal preparation are contained in both the acquisition/development application and the stewardship application. Applications are available at NJGreenAcres.org or by calling (609) 984-0570. We encourage you to contact our staff as soon as possible to begin discussing your proposed project(s).**