



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection

Green Acres Program

Mail Code 501-01

P.O. Box 420

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

Dear Nonprofit Representative:

It is my pleasure to invite all qualifying nonprofit organizations 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 share this letter with each of your board members.

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. Priority will be given to applicants who can demonstrate that they have matching funds available and are able to expedite completion of the proposed project.

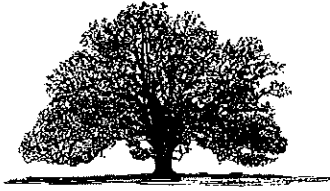
Eligible land-acquisition projects include the purchase of natural areas, historic sites, conservation areas, waterbodies and open space for active or passive recreation. Eligible park development projects include facilities that provide boating, fishing, swimming, outdoor games and sports, biking, picnicking, camping or nature interpretation. Green Acres now will also accept applications for stewardship activities on your recreation and conservation lands. Public access must be provided to all projects funded by Green Acres. More information is available in the attachment, and applications can be found in the *What's New* section at NJGreenAcres.org.

Since 1961, the Green Acres Program has funded the acquisition of open space for recreation and conservation purposes and 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 nonprofit organizations to protect our environment and 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



Green Acres Nonprofit Projects

The Green Acres Program provides grants on a 50 percent matching basis to qualifying tax-exempt nonprofit organizations for the acquisition, development or stewardship of land for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. As you consider applying for Green Acres funding, please be aware of the following:

- To qualify for grant consideration, the applicant must be a charitable conservancy for the purposes of P.L. 1979, c. 378 (C.13:8B-1 et seq.).
- Public access must be provided to every project funded under this program.
- The nonprofit may use as its matching share, its own funds or, for acquisition projects, a donation of all or a portion of the value of a project site.
- The nonprofit must agree not to sell, lease, exchange or donate the lands acquired or developed with Green Acres funding, except to the state, or local government unit, another qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization, or the federal government for recreation and conservation purposes (and then only with the prior approval of Green Acres);
- The nonprofit must agree to execute and donate to the state, at no charge, a conservation restriction or historic preservation restriction, as the case may be, pursuant to P.L. 1979, c. 378 (C.13:8B-1 et seq.) on the lands to be acquired or developed using the grant. Please be advised that the conservation restriction and historic preservation restriction referred to in the law will be written by Green Acres and the nonprofit to fit the needs of each project.
- The nonprofit may purchase land in fee simple or may acquire a perpetual conservation easement or historic preservation easement on the property as long as meaningful public access is provided.
- Matching grants are now available for stewardship activities, which are defined in the application available on our website. Please note that the specific stewardship application must be used. Minimum funding awards will be \$50,000 so we will only consider projects with more than \$100,000 in eligible costs.
- Park development funding is available for projects located in Urban Aid municipalities (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-178), Densely Populated municipalities (population density of 5,000 per square mile), Highly Populated municipalities (total population over 35,000), or Densely Populated Counties (population density of 5,000 per square mile). Please see the application for a list of Densely and Highly Populated municipalities and counties. Or, if you can demonstrate that the supermajority (at least two-thirds) of users of the proposed development project live in the above-mentioned municipalities or counties, the development project also will be considered eligible for funding.
- Development and stewardship projects must be located on land owned by the nonprofit or on which the nonprofit has an irrevocable lease or use agreement, approved by Green Acres, for a term of at least 25 years beginning at the time of project construction.

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).