

LAND CONVERSATIONS:
Underrepresented Voices,
Indigenous Perspectives



Subject

- Indigenous perspectives on the value and importance of connections with land for cultural heritage and fostering a deeper understanding of injustices Indigenous communities face in cooperation with our non-profit, Native American Advancement Corp , NJ Green Acres, NJ Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Open Space Institute
- The experience working to secure 63 acres of land preserved this year to meet the needs of the NAAC



Statement

- It's a fight that has persisted for centuries, marked by unlawful land transactions, forced assimilation, and the suppression of cultural and religious practices
- The Native American Advancement Corp is a beacon of this unyielding spirit
- We stand as a testament to the resilience of indigenous communities, and we hold in our hearts the legacy of those who came before us and fought for our rights in the face of adversity
- The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, a federal law, has granted us the right to practice our traditions and faith without prejudice
- It is a cornerstone of our identity and an affirmation that our cultural practices are just as valid and deserving of protection as any other





Justice

THEY MUST UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES
OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM FOR ALL

TO DENY US OUR RIGHTS, TO ERASE
OUR EXISTENCE, IS AN AFFRONT TO
THE VERY IDEALS UPON WHICH THIS
NATION WAS BUILT

History

- To explain this plan, we must introduce our people, the Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Nation of New Jersey
- This history will form the basis of the reasoning behind the project
- We will start with the fundamentals of the seven generations
- We honor the ways of our ancestors by instilling in each generation the way to form a firm foundation: to live in balance and harmony
- The eldest maintains the stories from grand and great-grandparents to pass those stories to grandchildren and great-grandchildren
- As Native Americans, we understand the dangers of the term "survival."
- Native people are taught to live in harmony with Nature
- We must tear down the original and create a new one by teaching, nurturing, and guiding our children



The Need

Our elders teach that it takes a whole community to raise a child

We are responsible for helping children understand that our new foundation is built on harmony, acceptance, and tolerance

Harmony, in general, is about teaching our children and passing on our people's ways, knowing how to identify the seed, when to plant the seed, and when to harvest the fruit

Our harmony is about learning how to prepare the meal that comes from the fruit

Our Plan

- Facilities and Amenities
 - Description of the nature center's location and layout
 - Facilities are available for visitors and participants
 - Visitor center with exhibits and artifacts display
 - Outdoor spaces for programs and events
 - Camping area for campouts and overnight stays
 - Permaculture gardens and native species reintroduction areas



Our Plan

- Annual Schedule of Activities
 - Spring Season
 - Nature-based programs and workshops
 - Permaculture and gardening workshops
 - Birdwatching and wildlife observation outings
 - Identifying and documenting endangered species in the area
 - Summer Season
 - Summer campouts and outdoor adventures
 - Tracking workshops and guided hikes
 - Indigenous nature crafts workshops



Our Plan


- Annual Schedule of Activities
 - Recreational programs for AmeriCorps/Climate Corps members
- Fall Season
 - Harvest festivals and traditional food gatherings
 - Environmental education programs for schools and community groups
 - Guided tours focusing on native plants and their uses
 - Energy and environment grant-related initiatives
- Winter Season
 - Indoor programs on Native American history and culture
 - Storytelling and traditional arts demonstrations





Our Plan

- Annual Schedule of Activities
 - Winter tracking and wildlife observation outings
 - Environmental exhibits and guest speaker series
- Funding and Sustainability
 - Rental income from other programs supporting NAAC
 - Secondary funding through energy and environment grants
 - Collaboration with local organizations and conservation groups for joint initiatives



Our Plan

- Community Engagement and Education
 - Local Schools Program
 - Develop partnerships with local schools to offer field trips and educational programs at the Cohanzick Nature Center
 - Design curriculum-aligned nature and cultural education programs for different grade levels, incorporating hands-on activities and interactive experiences
 - Provide professional development opportunities for teachers, equipping them with knowledge and resources to integrate Native American culture and environmental education into their classrooms
 - Offer outreach programs where NAAC educators visit schools to deliver presentations and workshops on topics such as traditional crafts, native plant identification, and the importance of ecological conservation

Our Plan

- Community Engagement and Education
 - Virtual Education Program
 - Create virtual educational resources, including videos, webinars, and interactive modules, that provide a rich cultural experience and can be accessed by schools in inter-city locations
 - Collaborate with local community centers, libraries, and youth organizations in inter-city areas to facilitate virtual nature and cultural education sessions
 - Conduct virtual field trips, allowing students from diverse backgrounds to explore the Cohanzyck Preserve, learn about the Nanticoke Lenape People, and engage in interactive activities remotely



Our Plan



- Community Engagement and Education
 - Develop online workshops and classes on topics such as traditional storytelling, native plant uses, and sustainable practices, providing an immersive cultural experience to participants regardless of their location
- Teacher Training and Resources
 - Offer professional development workshops and training sessions for teachers in local schools and inter-city areas to enhance their knowledge and understanding of Native American culture and environmental conservation
 - Develop educational materials and resources, such as lesson plans, activity guides, and digital libraries, that teachers can access to supplement their curriculum and engage students in hands-on learning

Our Plan

- Community Engagement and Education
 - Organize educator forums and networking events to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices in integrating Native American culture and environmental education into the classroom
 - Establish a mentorship program where NAAC educators can provide ongoing support and guidance to teachers seeking to incorporate Native American culture and environmental education in their schools



Join Us!



NativeAdvancement.org

