Green Acres Program

Martha Sullivan Sapp
Director

October 13, 2023
Community Investment and Economic Revitalization

Office of Natural Resource Restoration

Green Acres Program

Historic Preservation Office

Community and Local Government Assistance
Green Acres
Program Areas

State Land Acquisition
  • Opportunities?

Local and Nonprofit Assistance Program
  • $$$$  

Planning and Technical Services
  • Technical Assistance

Reorganization:
  • Blue Acres
  • Legal Services and Stewardship is now Public Land Compliance in OTPLA
"What can we buy?"

Eligible Acquisition Projects

“Recreation and conservation purposes” means the use of lands for beaches, biological or ecological study, boating, camping, fishing, forests, greenways, hunting, natural areas, parks, playgrounds, protecting historic properties, water reserves, watershed protection, wildlife preserves, active sports, or a similar use for either public outdoor recreation or conservation of natural resources, or both.
"What can we build?"

Eligible Development Projects
What is stewardship?

Eligible Stewardship Projects
Be innovative!
Be Brave!
Who are we?

Where are we?

How are we doing?
Outside, Together! Principles

1. Expanding high-quality open space and recreational opportunities for all New Jersey residents and visitors

DEP seeks to increase and ensure high-quality, safe, and easily accessible recreation and open space within a short walk, public transit ride, or drive from every neighborhood. New Jersey is a densely populated state that boasts numerous parks, outdoor recreation areas, and open spaces that give residents and visitors opportunities to decompress, celebrate special occasions, experience nature, and exercise. All New Jersey residents have the right to enjoy these outdoor resources, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, ability, economic status, and other diverse backgrounds. With relatively limited undeveloped land, New Jersey must be innovative in our natural resource and recreational planning. DEP believes it is important to collaborate with local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private partners to expand the acreage, quality of, and access to open space and recreation land. Investing in stewardship of our parks and open spaces is critical to improving the local environment and economy while providing health and quality of life benefits to residents.

2. Enhancing climate resilience and sustainability through acquisition and development of open and green space;

Climate change is an existential threat to our state. Maintaining New Jersey’s existing natural lands and making targeted investments in open spaces are vital to the state’s climate resilience. Through analysis of our assets and investments in infrastructure that provide ecosystem services, DEP can better promote the state’s climate resilience. Proper stewardship of our parks, open spaces, forests, wetlands, and other natural lands increases the state’s ability to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts such as flooding, wildfires, heatwaves, and droughts. Additionally, land preservation adds to the resilience of our natural systems and habitats which support a vast array of species. DEP believes the state should serve as a model for sustainable solutions by implementing initiatives that build upon State and DEP efforts to inform residents about how to protect the natural environment.

3. Empowering communities through investments in ecotourism and outdoor recreation

A robust outdoor recreation economy contributes to the strength of local communities and attracts broader economic investments. Individuals and businesses throughout New Jersey can be enriched by promoting outdoor recreation and conservation areas as ecotourism sites, attracting visitors and stimulating local economic activity. Encouraging healthier communities and individuals through increased connection with nature can help attract high-quality employers and a sustainable workforce, and enhance the community identity. New Jersey seeks to identify and promote natural and recreational assets, support environmental restoration actions, encourage the next generation of environmental workforce stewards, and identify funding that enhances and connects outdoor activities to local, regional, and broader economic sectors.

Embracing the role of technology in conservation and outdoor recreation

Technology is ever-evolving, and the public’s reliance on technological tools is growing. Constant connectivity, social media, and high-tech equipment are changing how people engage in outdoor recreation and how they experience and understand nature. Technology can connect us through shared experiences in the outdoors or guide us to nature for much-needed solitude, but it can also isolate us, depending on how and when it is used. Exploring technology’s evolving uses will require constructive dialogue on how to achieve balance: how to respect the public’s outdoor experiences while enhancing them in culturally and educationally relevant ways. New Jersey strives to consider best practices for implementing and leveraging social networks, especially how technology can support broader engagement and deepen our collective appreciation for the natural environment while maintaining the privacy, safety, and cyber security of our residents.

Furthering equity and environmental justice through outdoor recreation

Everyone has the right to safe, close-to-home recreational opportunities regardless of race, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, ability, economic status, and other diverse backgrounds. As the most densely populated and fourth most diverse state in the nation, New Jersey must work harder to meet the needs of its myriad residents by providing sufficient, high-quality recreation and open space opportunities for all. This is especially important in lower-income communities and communities of color, where there is a disparity in the amount and quality of open space and recreational opportunities compared to affluent white communities. New Jersey has identified and taken action to overcome obstacles that limit public access to urban parkland and open space; this includes ensuring operation and maintenance of existing facilities, increasing Green Acres acquisition and park development grant funding to our cities, passing Environmental Justice legislation, and creating a special Urban Parks Grant program to benefit residents in Overburdened Communities. DEP acknowledges that more needs to be done, in partnership with stakeholders, to further inclusion and the public’s sense of connection to their parks and open spaces.

Continuing commitments to stewardship and the conservation and restoration of biodiversity

Open space conservation offers numerous opportunities to strengthen outdoor recreation as well as fish, wildlife, and plant communities. DEP is committed to properly maintaining, monitoring, and managing public open spaces and recognizes that outdoor recreation can be enhanced when natural habitats and native species are part of the experience. This is especially true in open spaces near urban centers where the public’s interactions with nature might be otherwise limited. DEP also recognizes the need to manage areas where public access and land conservation may conflict due to excessive or inappropriate use. Therefore, DEP commits to the conservation and restoration of lands, a nature-based solution that can increase biodiversity through preserving habitat connectivity. When properly coupled, natural resource preservation and outdoor recreation can improve the health and well-being of people while providing fish, wildlife, and plant communities with a multitude of health-sustaining and environmental benefits.
Green Acres Acquisition Projects and State Population since the Creation of the Green Acres Program

Keeping Up With The Population

Source: Green Acres Database as of 06-30-2023 and US Census Bureau
## Table 5: Population 2018, 2022, 2034

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>PERCENT CHANGE</th>
<th>2034 PROJECTION*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>275,753</td>
<td>273,176</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
<td>282,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>951,353</td>
<td>962,086</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1,065,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>459,512</td>
<td>463,067</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>472,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>522,513</td>
<td>522,982</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>525,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May</td>
<td>93,384</td>
<td>94,621</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>93,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>155,971</td>
<td>153,196</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>164,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>809,316</td>
<td>874,475</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>840,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>299,200</td>
<td>303,198</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>312,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>693,538</td>
<td>744,105</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>766,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon</td>
<td>128,365</td>
<td>128,728</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>119,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>375,350</td>
<td>390,124</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>406,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>853,646</td>
<td>870,727</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>965,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>638,701</td>
<td>643,265</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>665,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>506,503</td>
<td>510,489</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>548,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>606,422</td>
<td>646,483</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>665,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passaic</td>
<td>516,266</td>
<td>526,290</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>542,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>64,864</td>
<td>64,254</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
<td>59,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>341,107</td>
<td>348,645</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>378,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>146,888</td>
<td>142,549</td>
<td>-3.0%</td>
<td>136,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>565,061</td>
<td>581,509</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>620,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>109,165</td>
<td>109,402</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>102,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,112,878</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,348,327</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,733,400</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


* The 2034 projection was completed in 2014 and does not take into account population loss from COVID-19.
### Table 4: Green Acres Program Land Preservation 2018 - 2022 Acres Preserved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STATE LAND</th>
<th>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</th>
<th>NONPROFIT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6,582</td>
<td>1,406</td>
<td>887</td>
<td>8,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3,896</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>5,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>3,296</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>4,515</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>1,930</td>
<td>560</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>3,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1,456</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>2,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>17,159</td>
<td>3,834</td>
<td>3,403</td>
<td>24,396</td>
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</table>

Source: DEP Green Acres Database June 6, 2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>LAND (SQUARE MILES)</th>
<th>DENSITY (PERSONS/SQUARE MILE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>273,176</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>962,086</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>4,012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>463,067</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>565</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>522,982</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>2,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May</td>
<td>94,621</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>153,196</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>874,475</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>6,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>303,198</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>744,105</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>14,439</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunterdon</td>
<td>128,728</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>294</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>390,124</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>1,705</td>
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<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>870,727</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>2,747</td>
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<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>643,265</td>
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<td>1,324</td>
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<td>Morris</td>
<td>510,489</td>
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<td>1,060</td>
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<td>Ocean</td>
<td>646,483</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>853</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passaic</td>
<td>526,290</td>
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<td>2,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>64,254</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>348,645</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>1,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>142,549</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>581,509</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>5,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>109,402</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>302</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,348,327</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,765</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,204</strong></td>
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</table>

Source: DEP 2015 Land Use/Land Cover Updated (Urban Land Use Classification)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>TOTAL ACREAGE</th>
<th>PRESERVED ACRES*</th>
<th>DEVELOPED ACRES*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic</td>
<td>390,815</td>
<td>119,262</td>
<td>67,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen</td>
<td>153,477</td>
<td>20,758</td>
<td>111,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>525,003</td>
<td>224,090</td>
<td>110,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>145,651</td>
<td>31,149</td>
<td>76,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape May</td>
<td>183,127</td>
<td>78,451</td>
<td>34,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland</td>
<td>321,150</td>
<td>106,133</td>
<td>45,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>83,035</td>
<td>12,045</td>
<td>64,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>215,167</td>
<td>19,720</td>
<td>76,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson</td>
<td>32,982</td>
<td>3,836</td>
<td>23,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunterdon</td>
<td>279,885</td>
<td>44,148</td>
<td>70,627</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>146,432</td>
<td>27,217</td>
<td>72,216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>202,860</td>
<td>24,625</td>
<td>117,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>310,834</td>
<td>50,231</td>
<td>146,301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>308,084</td>
<td>84,731</td>
<td>121,381</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>485,078</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passaic</td>
<td>126,921</td>
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<td>47,411</td>
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<td>Salem</td>
<td>222,159</td>
<td>33,186</td>
<td>28,148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>195,127</td>
<td>31,896</td>
<td>90,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>342,589</td>
<td>130,433</td>
<td>54,839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union</td>
<td>67,439</td>
<td>7,341</td>
<td>55,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren</td>
<td>232,061</td>
<td>51,377</td>
<td>41,001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** | **4,969,875** | **1,326,826**   | **1,568,929**   

* Preserved Acres includes State-owned open space/parkland and Green Acres funded and/or encumbered county, municipal, and nonprofit lands (fee and easement). It also includes federal open space and land preserved through the Highlands Development Credit and Pinelands Development Credit programs. It does not include preserved farmland. 
Sources for Preserved Acres: DEP Green Acres Program GIS Open Space Data December 31, 2022. Federal open space acres reported by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service. HDC credit information provided by the Highlands Council. PDC credit information provided by the Pinelands Commission.

* Source for Developed Acres: DEP 2015 Land Use/Land Cover Updated (Urban Land Use Classification).
What Takes Away from Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation?

In general, are there any things that take away from your satisfaction with outdoor recreation, or cause you not to participate in outdoor recreation as much as you would like, in New Jersey? (Residents)

- No, nothing takes away / I participate as much as I'd like: 19%
- Mosquitos, ticks, or other pests: 36%
- Lack of amenities when I get there (e.g., no restrooms, water fountains): 20%
- Not enough time: 20%
- Places to recreate are too crowded: 19%
- Safety concerns: 17%
- Entrance, parking, or other user fees too high: 17%
- Health / age: 15%
- Places to recreate are too far away: 14%
- Do not know where to go: 13%
- Lack of transportation: 12%
- Do not have anyone to participate with: 12%
- Lack of facilities: 12%
- Lack of cell phone / wi-fi coverage: 9%
- Equipment / gear too expensive: 8%
- Limited shops or service providers when I get there (food shops, bike repair, etc.): 8%
- Do not have the skills or abilities for activities I am interested in: 6%
- Not interested: 4%
- Other: 2%
- Don't know: 2%

(Number of respondents = 1,005)

Stakeholders

- No, nothing takes away / I participate as much as I'd like: 18%
- Mosquitos, ticks, or other pests: 30%
- Places to recreate are too pests: 30%
- Lack of amenities when I get there (e.g., no restrooms, water fountains): 29%
- Entrance, parking, or other user fees too high: 19%
- Lack of facilities: 17%
- Not enough time: 16%
- Safety concerns: 15%
- Places to recreate are too far away: 15%
- Do not know where to go: 12%
- Health / age: 12%
- Do not have anyone to participate with: 8%
- Limited shops or service providers when I get there (food shops, bike repair, etc.): 8%
- Lack of cell phone / wi-fi coverage: 5%
- Equipment / gear too expensive: 4%
- Lack of transportation: 4%
- Do not have the skills or abilities for activities I am interested in: 3%
- Other: 17%

(Percents n=14858)
Accessing the Outdoors

When you go to outdoor spaces, how do you typically get there? (Stakeholders)

- Drive myself: 83%, 86%, 88%
- Walk: 7%, 3%, 2%
- Get a ride: 3%, 2%, 2%
- Bike: 2%, 3%, 3%
- Public transit (bus, train, etc.): 1%, 0%, 0%
- Other: 1%, 1%, 1%

Thinking about how long it takes you in minutes, about how long do you typically travel to participate in outdoor recreation in New Jersey? (Stakeholders)

- More than 1 hour: Northern 5, Central 4, Southern 5
- 46 minutes to 1 hour: Northern 9, Central 12, Southern 9
- 31 to 45 minutes: Northern 12, Central 12, Southern 13
- 16 to 30 minutes: Northern 39, Central 36, Southern 39
- 11 to 15 minutes: Northern 14, Central 15, Southern 14
- 6 to 10 minutes: Northern 11, Central 11, Southern 11
- 5 minutes or less: Northern 10, Central 7, Southern 7
- Don't know: Northern 4, Central 3, Southern 4
This map shows the percent of New Jersey residents who live within a quarter mile of parks, by municipality.

Park access: quarter-mile walk
WHAT DO NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS WANT?
Residents and stakeholders said they’d participate more in New Jersey outdoor recreation if they had:

- Cultural events/festivals/celebrations
- Programming geared towards populations of color
- Centralized location for detailed information on parks
- More communication between the State and community groups and Tribes
- More reliable and affordable transportation options
- Reduced park entry fees

OBSTACLES TO VISITING THE OUTDOORS

- Lack of information
- No reliable transportation
- Expense
- Changing needs
What is the best way to get you information on outdoor recreation in New Jersey? (Part 1)

(Residents)

- Internet (through general search)
- Friends / relatives / word of mouth
- Facebook
- Television / radio
- Mobile / smart phone applications (e.g., Google Maps, Strava, MapMyRun)
- Instagram
- Direct mail
- Visitor or welcome centers
- Tourism advertising
- Travel guide / tour book
- Maps / brochures

Percent

Multiple Responses Allowed

Northern Region (n=385)
Central Region (n=327)
Southern Region (n=245)

What is the best way to get you information on outdoor recreation in New Jersey? (Part 1)

(Stakeholders)

- Internet (through general search)
- Friends / relatives / word of mouth
- Mobile / smart phone applications (e.g., Google Maps, Strava, MapMyRun)
- Facebook
- Visitor or welcome centers
- Maps / brochures
- Conservation or environmental organization
- Television / radio
- Direct mail
- Schools
- Newspaper / magazine articles
- Instagram
- Hunting, fishing, or other outdoor sporting club

Percent

Multiple Responses Allowed

Northern (n=4604)
Central (n=6301)
Southern (n=3583)
People care about Nature!
# Public Investment in Open Space and Parks in 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local governments</td>
<td>$27.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofits</td>
<td>$8.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Parks</td>
<td>$7.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Acquisition</td>
<td>$35.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$78.8 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 7: State Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Services</td>
<td>BECOMING HEALTHY, COMMUNITY GRANT</td>
<td>A funding opportunity provided to New Jersey communities and nonprofit organizations seeking to promote and implement community initiatives that support individuals with disabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJ DCA)</td>
<td>LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT</td>
<td>A competitive grant that supports improvement and repurpse of public recreation facilities including local parks, municipal recreation centers, and local stadiums. The grant exists to provide quality outdoor recreational space to underserved communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ DCA, New Jersey Historic Trust</td>
<td>PRESERVE NEW JERSEY, HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT</td>
<td>Fund was established by legislation in 2016 to provide an annual source of matching grants from the state’s Corporate Business Tax for historic preservation projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Department of Travel &amp; Tourism</td>
<td>COOPERATIVE MARKETING GRANT</td>
<td>A collaboration between the New Jersey travel industry and the Division of Travel &amp; Tourism, whose goal is to promote New Jersey as a premier travel destination. Funding will be provided to promote and market specialty tourism opportunities in New Jersey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel &amp; Tourism</td>
<td>MUNICIPAL AID (NJ DOT)</td>
<td>A competitive program intended to provide municipalities with transportation-based grants to supplement their transportation programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8: Federal Funding Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>GRANT / PROGRAM</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Park Service (NPS)</td>
<td>OUTDOOR RECREATION, LEGACY PARTNERSHIP (ORLP)</td>
<td>A competitive program funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) that targets funding to economically disadvantaged urban communities to ensure access to outdoor recreation. Funds available for New Jersey projects are administered by DEP’s Green Acres Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)</td>
<td>RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM</td>
<td>Program funds states to develop and maintain recreational trails and related facilities. Funds available for New Jersey projects are administered by DEP’s Green Acres Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)</td>
<td>CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANT</td>
<td>A competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, processes, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. Through creative problem-solving and innovation, CSIs partner works with owners to address water quality, air quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat challenges, while improving agricultural operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION STewardship Program</td>
<td>Program builds on existing conservation efforts while strengthening opportunities by connecting project levels with USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as well as other USDA agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>URBAN &amp; COMMUNITY FOREST PROGRAM (UCFP)</td>
<td>A technical, financial, and educational assistance program dedicated to urban forestry. Funded as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act, UCFP is now funded at $25 million annually and will provide project implementation grants. The program takes aim at delivering solutions-based solutions for climate change, environmental justice, and green jobs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding Opportunities

In 2023, the IRS announced a $2 million award to New Jersey to plan innovative strategies to cut climate pollution and build clean energy economies across the state. Additionally, EPA launched a competition for $4.6 billion in funding to implement projects and initiatives included in the plan. New Jersey is eligible to receive that implementation funding because it has opted in to receive the planning grant.

US. EPA | Climate Pollution Reduction Grants | Provides funding at the state, local, tribal, and level to support government activities that lead to measurable environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms. |

US. EPA | Environmental Justice | Provides funding for community-based organizations to help low-income communities and communities of color improve air quality, reduce pollution, and address environmental hazards. |

US. Forest Service | Forest Legacy Program | Administered in partnership with state agencies to encourage the protection of private-owned forests through conservation easements or fee simple purchases. |

USDA | Cooperative State Research | Provides funding to conduct research, surveys, and experiential and essential management in support of wildlife species with the greatest conservation needs as identified in applicable State Wildlife Action Plans.
Funding Opportunities
See DEP administered active funding opportunities as well as all available DEP grants, loans, and financial programs.

Deadline Approaching | Rolling Deadline | Full List of Grants and Loans | Keyword Search

- **Green Acres Local Assistance Grants & Loans** – Closes March 1, 2023
- **Green Acres Nonprofit Acquisition Grants** – Closes March 1, 2023
- **Green Acres Urban Parks Grant** – Closes March 1, 2023
- **Solid Waste Recycling Enhancement Act (REA) Higher Education Research Grant Program** – Closes March 31, 2023 (extended)

**Wetland Restoration Opportunity**

The Freshwater Wetlands Mitigation Council is sending out Request for Proposals (RFP) for wetland restoration with a tidal component in the Atlantic Water Region. The RFP is linked to the Councils website with instructions and time frames. The final deadline to submit a proposal will be May 17th, 2023 at 5 p.m. Proposals should be emailed to Staff to the Council, Faelyn Meyers, at faelyn.meyers@dep.nj.gov along with mailed to the address provided in the instructions. If you should have any questions, I can be reached via email or by phone at (609) 940 – 4317, Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

[View the Request for Proposal (RFP)]

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Highlighted Resources

The DEP has launched an informational video series from the public-private partnership “Drive Change, Drive Electric.” Learn more about EVs.

NJDECA is collecting information from affected parties regarding the upcoming Community Development Block Grants (CBDG) for disaster relief and resilience. If you were affected by Hurricane Ida, please take the Hurricane Ida Recovery Registration Survey.

Blue Acres has a new application! View the new and easier-to-use application.

DEP Standard Terms and Conditions

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Grants and Loans Page

- **Improve accessibility to funding opportunities**
- **Information for deadlines and potential opportunities**
- **Keyword Search**
Open Space
Taxes in 2022

233 Local Governments: $116 million

21 Counties: $241 million

Total: $357 million
Application Ranking: What we look for

- Public Engagement and Outreach
  - Synthetic turf fields, pickleball
- Environmental Justice
  - Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities
  - Urban Aid AS/OBCs = 100% grants!
- Community Revitalization
  - Conservation Tourism
- Protection of Natural and Historic Resources
  - Stewardship
- Climate Mitigation and Resilience
  - Tree policy, renewable energy
- Consistency with Open Space and Recreation Planning
  - Planning Incentives, SCORP
Engage ALL members of the public!
Areas of Greatest Need
GREEN ACRES PROGRAM
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN GUIDELINES
for Participation in the Green Acres Planning Incentive Program

Green Acres Mission Statement
To achieve, in partnership with others, a system of interconnected open spaces whose protection will preserve and enhance New Jersey’s natural environment and its historic, scenic, and recreational resources for public use and enjoyment.

GREEN ACRES PROGRAM
MAIL CODE 501-01
501 EAST STATE STREET, 1ST FLOOR
P.O. BOX 420
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0420
TEL: (609) 984-0500; FAX: (609) 984-0608
www.NJGreenAcres.org
2019
“Strings”

- Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI)
- Diversions / Disposals (State House Commission)
- Routine Inspections

Be our eyes and ears!
The Future

Funding round: February 2024
Applications released this month

Workshops – How To’s

Local rules (stakeholder meetings – How are we doing?)

Outside, Together! – public comments by October 18th
| County | Contact for STATE ACQUISITION | Contact for LOCAL/NONPROFIT acquisition projects (entire county, unless noted) | Contact for LOCAL/NONPROFIT park development and stewardship projects (entire county, unless noted) | Contact for Post-Funding Compliance |

Thank you!!