

**Upper Delaware  
Watershed  
Management  
Project**



**A Collection of Conservation  
Funding Resources for the  
New Jersey's Upper  
Delaware Watershed**

**2002**

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## **Government**

### *NJDEP Green Acres Program*

501 East State Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

P.O. Box 412

Trenton, NJ 08625-0412

(609) 984-0500 Fax: (609) 984-0608

[www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/greenacres)

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Green Acres Program was created in 1961 to meet New Jersey's growing recreational and conservation needs. To date, Green Acres, working with its partners, has protected more than 497,000 acres of open space and developed hundreds of public parks, bringing the statewide system of preserved open space to more than 1.18 million acres.

Green Acres protects land that preserves the State's water supply quality and other natural and historic resources, expands existing state parks, forests, and natural areas, and provides urban and neighborhood parks.

As the land acquisition agent for NJDEP, Green Acres acquires land directly from private landowners. The land acquired by Green Acres becomes part of the system of state parks, forests, natural areas and wildlife management areas.

Green Acres also provides grants and low-interest loans to local governments and nonprofit land trusts to augment local open space tax funds and to encourage open space preservation and the development of community parks. Green Acres awards funding in several categories with the highest grant ratios going to urban aid communities and communities with progressive open space policies and practices.

The Green Acres Planning Incentive provides funds to local governments who have passed a local open space tax for the acquisition of land for conservation and recreation purposes and who have a Green Acres approved Open Space and Recreation

Plan (OSRP) to guide the expenditure of these funds. Participants in the program are eligible to receive a 50% grant rather than the standard 25% grant, and have the greatest flexibility in applying those funds for land acquisition projects in their communities. The Green Acres Planning Incentive provides a 50% matching grant, up to an established cap based on available funds.

Local governments who do not have an approved OSRP and have not yet passed an open space tax can be funded through Standard Acquisition funding. The award is a 25% matching grant with the balance made in a low-interest loan (payable over thirty years) up to the cap. Loan funds may be provided by Green Acres or the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust, depending on the nature of the project.

Green Acres Urban Aid acquisition funding provides grants and loans to urban municipalities for acquisition and park development. Funding takes the form of a 75% grant and 25% loan up to the funding cap. In some instances, this funding has been an important catalyst for ongoing partnerships that continue to revitalize the community and attract other facilities.

Green Acres also provides funding for park development. Funding availability for parks and recreation facilities varies with the qualifications of the local government. Urban Aid communities receive 50 percent of the project cost in grant funding with the balance in a loan up to the cap. Non-urban communities receive loan funding up to the cap. Loans for development are at 2% and are repayable over twenty years.

Green Acres awards 50% matching grants to nonprofit organizations for land acquisition and recreational development projects. To date, Green Acres has limited nonprofit recreational development funding to projects in urban aid communities.

For more information, call the Green Acres representative listed below.

#### WMA1 Representatives: Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex & Morris

Rich Osborn: Northwest Team Leader - (609) 984-0614

Lisa Stern: Northeast Team Leader - (609) 984-0597

Terry Caruso: Sussex County - (609) 984-0614

Steve Herb: Warren County - (609) 984-0576

Kimberly W. Testa: Warren County - (609) 984-0623

Margaret Waldock: Hunterdon County - (609) 292-7694

## *State Farmland Preservation Program*

Department of Agriculture  
Health and Agriculture Building  
PO Box 330  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
(609) 984-2504

[www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/sadc.htm](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/sadc/sadc.htm)

The State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) administers the Farmland Preservation Program. As the leader in the preservation of New Jersey's farmland, the SADC provides grants to counties, municipalities and nonprofit groups to help fund the purchase of development easements on farmland. It also directly purchases development easements on farmland and purchases farms outright from willing sellers for resale with permanent agricultural deed restrictions. To date, approximately 650 farms covering more than 88,000 acres have been permanently preserved statewide.

## *Wetlands Mitigation Council*

Land Use Regulation  
PO Box 439  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
(609) 633-6563

This federally directed council meets six times a year. At each meeting the Council evaluates wetland projects and their funding requests. In the past the Council has provided funds mainly for wetlands restoration projects. To date there are no formal funding criteria, but most funds have been allocated to city, county and non-profit organizations whose projects attempt to protect and restore wetlands within the public domain.

## *Forest Legacy Project*

501 East State Street 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
PO Box 412  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
Contact Margaret Waldock  
Green Acres Program (609) 984-0500

These are federal funds (an estimated \$60 million nationwide) that come from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). They are allocated to Green Acres for the preservation of specific large parcels of forestland. They are typically assigned to fund forest easements, but in NJ they are used for fee acquisition land purchases. The 2002 land requests were directed at 7 forest sites, two sites that fall within WMA1. Funding was being used for the acquisition of large acreages to add to previously preserved lands at Blue Heron Lake and parts of the Highlands Greenway. The federal, state, or local government can make these acquisitions. Forest legacy lands need to be in the Forest Legacy Area as identified in the State's Assessment of Need, approved by the Department of Agriculture.

## *New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program*

The Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program (EIFP) provides low cost loans to municipalities, sewerage and utility authorities and other local government units for the purpose of open space land acquisition and conservation. Each parcel or portion of a parcel to be funded through the EIFP can only allow passive recreation and must demonstrate a water quality benefit. This funding can be used to fully fund the purchase or as a supplemental funding source to the Green Acres Program. Financing can also cover administrative/legal expenses, appraisal work, and the preparation of planning documents, preliminary environmental assessment reports and surveys.

Financing is provided from two sources:

1. DEP-Municipal Finance & Construction Element  
Contact - Victoria Jenkins, Open Space Land  
Acquisition Coordinator – North  
401 East State Street, PO Box 425  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
(609) 292-8961
2. New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust  
Contact - Dirk Hofman, P.E., Executive Director  
PO Box 440  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
(609) 219-8600

## *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

### **In Sussex, Morris, and Warren Counties contact:**

NRCS Hackettstown Service Center  
(908) 852-2576 ext. 3

### **In Hunterdon County contact:**

NRCS Frenchtown Service Center  
(908) 782-4614 ext. 3

[www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov)

## **Farmland Protection Program**

The Farmland Protection Program (FPP) provides federal financial assistance to states with existing farmland protection programs. Since 1996 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has provided over \$3 million to assist New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program in the purchase of perpetual easements on New Jersey farms. This funding is paired with the NJ Farmland Preservation Program.

## **Wetlands Reserve Program**

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance through the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) to landowners to restore and protect wetlands that have degraded wetland hydrology and a history of agricultural use. WRP can include a permanent easement purchase by NRCS. Easement purchases center around degraded wetland areas to be restored. The easement area can include existing natural wetlands and upland buffers required to maximize wetland functions in the restored area. Applications are competitive and limited funds are available each federal fiscal year if appropriated by Congress. Since 1996 NRCS has enrolled about 500 acres into WRP throughout New Jersey.

## *New Jersey Department of Transportation*

1035 Parkway Avenue

Trenton, NJ 08625

Contact: Vincent Masciandaro (609) 530-3263

[www.state.nj.us/transportation/lgs](http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/lgs)

### Transportation Enhancement Grants (TEA-21 Grants)

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) provided for a state administered grant program via the Department of Transportation (NJDOT). NJDOT provides grants for local and county projects that improve the aesthetic and cultural qualities of transportation in New Jersey. It is directed at non-traditional transportation projects that include the creation of bicycling and pedestrian trails, restoration of historic canals, historic train station rehabilitation, protection of scenic corridors, and improvements or erections of downtown streetscapes.

## *Office of Natural Lands Management*

National Recreational Trails Program

PO Box 404

22 South Clinton Avenue

Trenton, NJ 08625

Contact: Celeste Tracy (609) 984-1339

About \$850,000 in federal funds has been provided by the Transportation Equity Act to assist state, county, municipal and non-profit organizations with the development of trails and trail facilities. The Office of Natural Lands Management within the Division of Parks and Forestry administers the funds.

## **County and Municipal Government**

The following county agencies provide funding for farmland and/or open space acquisition:

Warren County Agricultural Development Board

*Duane Copley (908) 852-2579*

Warren County Planning and Development

*David Dech (908) 475-6532*

[www.co.warren.nj.us](http://www.co.warren.nj.us)

Sussex County Agricultural Development Board

*Donna Traylor (973) 579-0500*

Sussex County Planning and Development

*Fred Suljic (973) 579-0500*

Morris County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

*Tom Kenny (973) 829-8120*

Morris County Agriculture Development Board

*Frank Pinto (973) 829-8120*

[www.co.morris.nj.us](http://www.co.morris.nj.us)

Hunterdon County Agricultural Development Board

*Gary Pohorely (908) 788-1490*

Hunterdon County Open Space Trust Fund

*Kevin Richardson (908) 788-1490*

[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us)

Contact local municipalities to obtain information on potential dedicated taxes or funds available for preservation projects.

## **Non Profit Organizations**

The following non-profit organizations have raised or can raise funding for land acquisition.

### *American Farmland Trust*

1200 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW, suite 800  
Washington DC, 20036  
(202) 331-7300

[www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)

The American Farmland Trust is a private organization founded in 1980. The Trust has forty-five thousand members and ninety paid staff. The mission of the American Farmland Trust is to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment. The American Farmland Trust is a national organization that owns farmland and holds easements that are monitored annually.

### *Morris Land Conservancy*

19 Boonton Avenue  
Boonton, NJ 07005  
(973) 541-1010  
Fax (973) 541-1131

[www.morrislandconservancy.org](http://www.morrislandconservancy.org)

Morris Land Conservancy is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to permanently preserving open space lands throughout northern New Jersey. During the past 20 years, the Conservancy has helped to preserve farmlands, recreation resources, wildlife habitat, watersheds, and community landmarks. Presently the Conservancy is working to add valuable land to existing parklands -- filling in the missing pieces and expanding their borders. These lands ensure that clean drinking water, diverse plant and wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation opportunities remain part of the landscape of northern New Jersey.

The Conservancy works with municipalities through its *Partners for Greener Communities* program to develop and implement open space plans, preserving special community resources. Through the *Partners for Parks* program, the Conservancy enlists volunteers from the corporate community to enhance and improve public parklands. The Conservancy also provides public awareness and educational opportunities concerning the importance of preserving open space and responsible land use planning.

## *New Jersey Conservation Foundation*

Bamboo Brook  
170 Longview Rd.  
Far Hills, NJ 07931  
(908) 234-1225

[www.njconservation.org](http://www.njconservation.org)

New Jersey Conservation Foundation's (NJCF) mission is to preserve New Jersey's land and natural resources for the benefit of all. Since 1960, NJCF has protected tens of thousands of acres of New Jersey forest, farmland and open space, and has been in the forefront of land preservation policy. As a leading innovator and catalyst for saving land, NJCF protects strategic lands through acquisition, stewardship and cooperative efforts, creates and promotes strong land use policies, and develops leaders, educates the public and forges creative partnerships.

## *The Nature Conservancy*

93 Main Street, Ground Floor  
Newton, NJ 07860  
(973) 300-0311

[www.tnc.org](http://www.tnc.org)

The New Jersey chapter of the The Nature Conservancy has recently been broken into three regional programs. One of these, the Skylands, is a Northern New Jersey program that has been very active in land preservation. They have helped to preserve numerous properties in Warren and Sussex Counties. Some of these properties include Hardwick Meadows, Johnsonburg Swamp Preserve, Artic Meadows Preserve, Montague Woods Preserve, Wawayanda State Park and Glovers Pond Preserve. This national conservation organization has a statewide membership of about 33,000 people and receives funding from donations and charitable trusts. The Nature Conservancy uses these funds to acquire private land, as well as to manage and maintain previously preserved acres.

### *Phillipsburg Riverview Organization*

68 S. Main Street  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865  
Contact: Mike King  
(908) 454-4141

Phillipsburg Riverview Organization (PRO) is a non-profit organization based in Phillipsburg, NJ, that began with the intent to preserve the cultural and historical character of downtown Phillipsburg. Recently it has expanded its focus to include the creation and preservation of greenways along the Delaware River. With their expanded greenway vision, a concern for endangered species and habitat preservation has also become part of the organization's mission. The organization also has the ability to raise matching funds and act as a partner in the land acquisition process in and around southern Warren County.

### *Ridge and Valley Conservancy*

16 Main Street  
PO Box 146  
Blairstown, NJ 07825  
(908) 362-7989

[www.rvclandtrust.org](http://www.rvclandtrust.org)

The Ridge and Valley Conservancy (RVC) is a private, non-profit land trust that works to preserve natural and cultural areas within the Appalachian Ridge and Valley region of Warren and Sussex Counties. They can assist and partner in land preservation efforts. The Conservancy works in an educational capacity, outlining the preservation process and promoting the importance of preserving land and historic sites. RVC preservation initiatives involve protecting sensitive species, and important watershed lands, promoting passive recreation, protecting and restoring historic sites, and preserving farmland.

### *The Trust for Public Land*

1095 Mt. Kemble Ave  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
(973) 425-0360

[www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

Trust for Public Land (TPL) was founded in 1972. It is the only national nonprofit organization working exclusively to protect land for human enjoyment and well-being. TPL's legal and real estate specialists work with landowners, government agencies, and community groups to conserve land for watershed protection, preserve open space in developing communities, and create parks, gardens, greenways and river ways. TPL also finds new ways to finance parks and open space and helps generate federal, state, and local conservation funding.

### *Washington Township Land Trust*

P.O. Box 4  
Long Valley, NJ 07853  
(908) 876-4478

The Washington Township Land Trust protects and preserves the ecological, cultural, and historical integrity of the areas that contribute to and enhance the rural character of Washington Township (Morris County) and its environs. The Trust acquires interests in land by purchase or donation and manages land and property easements for the benefit of the public. The Trust also seeks to educate people on management issues and the responsibilities of land stewardship.



## Private Foundations

### *The Foundation Center*

79 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10003  
(212) 620-4230  
www.foundationcenter.org

Additional information regarding other private foundations and grant opportunities can be obtained by consulting the Foundation Center. The Foundation Center is a national clearinghouse for philanthropic and charitable foundations that provides links to funding source searches and grant writing assistance opportunities.

Other Libraries in New Jersey that provide a core collection of Foundation Center publications of supplementary materials and services to grant seekers are:

Cumberland County Library (609) 453-2210

Free Public Library of Elizabeth (908) 354-6060

Newark Enterprise Community Resource Development  
Center (973) 624-8300

County College of Morris Learning Resource Center  
(973) 328-5296

New Jersey State Library, Trenton (609) 292-6220

## ***Acknowledgments***

This information was compiled by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation on behalf of the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Committee of the Upper Delaware Watershed Management Project. ([www.upperdelaware.org](http://www.upperdelaware.org))

The Upper Delaware Watershed Management Project is a joint effort of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council together with concerned citizens, organizations, and agencies to restore, maintain, and enhance the health and vitality of the region's natural resources. This diverse group of stakeholders is working together with common vision to have clean and abundant water and healthy ecological systems.

In December of 2000, the Upper Delaware Management Project established the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Committee. The Committee's purpose was to improve water resource protection in this region through programs that focused on farmland and open space preservation. One goal of the Committee was to build the capacity of those groups working to preserve land in this region. To that end, this document, *A Collection of Funding Resources for New Jersey's Upper Delaware Watershed Region*, was developed to help stakeholders preserve important lands.

Thank you to all the organizations that reviewed this document and offered suggestions and additions. Special thanks to Dawn Areia for her assistance in formatting the booklet.

**Information compiled by the Open Space &  
Farmland Preservation Committee of the Upper  
Delaware Watershed Management Project**

[www.upperdelaware.org](http://www.upperdelaware.org)