

# Green Acres Local & Nonprofit Assistance Program

Application Workshop

October 30, 2024

Land Acquisition Projects



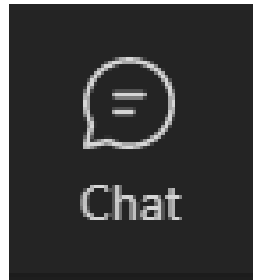
# Welcome & Housekeeping

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## *Before we start:*

- Today's presentation is being recorded
- Submit questions/comments through the chat feature
  - *Please give your name & affiliation*



# Workshops

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- October 30th
  - 10-11:30 – Acquisition (including Urban Parks)
  - 1-2:30 – Park Development (including Urban Parks), Stewardship, Jake's Law
- November 25th, 10-11 – Drop-in Q&A
- December 18th, 10-11 – Drop-in Q&A

# Today's Agenda

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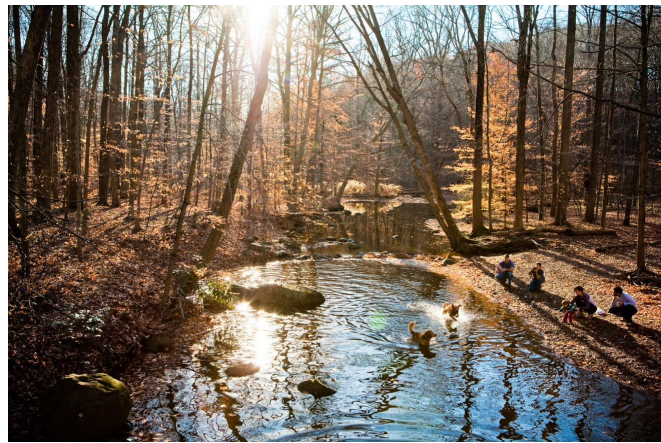
- Overview of Land Acquisition and Urban Parks Programs
- Highlight application requirements, tips, and updates
- Answer your questions!

Program	Description	Eligibility Notes
Traditional Green Acres	Land Acquisition (Planning Incentive, Site-Specific Incentive, Standard, Urban Aid, or Nonprofit) <i>OR</i>	All local governments and nonprofits
	Park Development	All local governments; Nonprofit projects located in an Urban Aid, Densely Populated, or Highly Populated Municipality or a Densely Populated County or that draw over 75% of their users from those areas
Stewardship	Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources and Historic Landscapes	All local governments and nonprofits
Jake’s Law Playground Funding	Completely Inclusive Playgrounds	County and municipal governments
Urban Parks	Land Acquisition, Park Development & Historic Preservation	Local government projects located within Overburdened Communities Subject to Adverse Cumulative Stressors within Urban Aid Municipalities



# "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 buy?"

Eligible Acquisition  
Projects (*continued*)



- Brownfields to Greenfields
- Structures
  - Support outdoor recreation *or*
  - Demolish (SHPO review)
- Site Suitability
- Ineligible
  - Site of future affordable housing
  - On ROSI or otherwise preserved
  - Road ROWs, Tidelands

"What will Green Acres pay for?"

## Eligible Costs



- Land Cost (CMV)
- Technical Report Costs
  - Appraisal, Site Investigation, Title, Survey
- Incidental Costs
  - Legal, Engineering, Financial
- Site-Specific Expenses
  - Demolition (after SHPO review), Tenant Relocation, Condemnation



# GA Acquisition Project Grant Percentages

Grant %	Planning Incentive	Site-Specific Incentive	Standard Acquisition	Urban Aid Acquisition	Acquisition Project Located in an ACS/OBC	Nonprofit Acquisitions
25%			Project not located in an Urban Aid Municipality			
50%	Local government with open space tax and plan	Local government with open space tax			Project not located in an Urban Aid Municipality	All Nonprofit Projects
75%	Urban Aid Municipality with open space tax and plan			Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality		
100%					Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality	

# Environmental Justice Acquisitions

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- Higher grant percentages for Green Acres projects located in or easily accessible from an Overburdened Community Subject to Adverse Cumulative Stressors (ACS/OBC)
  - Increase of 25%
  - Easily accessible = less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away with no barriers to pedestrian access

# GA Acquisition Project Grant Percentages

Grant %	Planning Incentive	Site-Specific Incentive	Standard Acquisition	Urban Aid Acquisition	Acquisition Project Located in an ACS/OBC	Nonprofit Acquisitions
25%			Project not located in an Urban Aid Municipality			
50%	Local government with open space tax and plan	Local government with open space tax			Project not located in an Urban Aid Municipality	All Nonprofit Projects
75%	Urban Aid Municipality with open space tax and plan			Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality		
100%					Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality	

# Matching Funds

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- Potential matching funds sources:
  - Local government open space, capital, or bond funds
  - County open space program funding
  - Other public funding sources
  - Private or corporate donations
  - Grants from private foundations
  - Green Acres loan funding for local governments - 30-year term, 0% interest rate.
- Ineligible match funding:
  - Other GA or GSPT funds
  - Contributions from entities that will receive a property interest



# Funding Round Caps

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- More expensive projects may receive less than they are eligible for
- Urban Parks cap – TBD
- GA cap – Based on applicant type

GA Acquisition Project Sponsor	Range of Funding Round Caps 2021-2024
Standard Municipality	\$500,000 - \$700,000
Highly or Densely Populated Municipality	\$750,000 - \$1,050,000
Urban Aid Municipality	\$1,000,000 - \$1,400,000
Standard County	\$1,000,000 - \$1,400,000
Highly Populated County	\$1,250,000 - \$1,750,000
Densely Populated County	\$1,500,000 - \$2,100,000
Nonprofit	Awards based on demonstrated need, past performance, and overall demand

# Urban Parks Projects

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- Local government eligible to apply
- Projects must be located in or easily accessible from an Overburdened Community Subject to Adverse Cumulative Stressors within an Urban Aid municipality
- 100% grant funding
- Urban Parks applications rolled-over into the Green Acres round will count toward an applicant's request limit and be eligible for 100% grant funding

# Public Engagement Requirements

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- Must involve public in the project planning process
- Pick two out of three categories:
  - Community Survey
  - Community Meeting
  - Invitation for Community Input
- Choose methods that will most broadly and effectively engage your community



# Public Engagement Requirement

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*To clarify:*

Public Hearing ≠  
Public Engagement

# Public Hearing: Notice Requirements

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- ✓ Website 15 days ahead AND
- ✓ Newspaper(s) 48 hours ahead
  - Display ad or public notice
- ✓ Includes link to application information
- ✓ If remote meeting, access information included
- ✓ Template for notices is in the application
- ✓ County projects: Notice to municipality(ies)

# Public Hearing: Hearing & Minutes Requirements

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- ✓ Schedule early enough to reschedule if necessary
- ✓ Held in the evening, 6:00pm or later
- ✓ Attended by quorum of governing body
- ✓ Each public comment addressed
- ✓ Vote on resolution after hearing
- ✓ Complete copy of the minutes, submitted in writing – Draft is fine as a stop-gap

# Enabling Resolution

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- ✓ Use template *without changes*
- ✓ Amounts in resolution = request amounts
- ✓ If no loan request, list loan amount as \$0
- ✓ Match figure = Total project cost – Funding request
- ✓ Urban Parks rollover – additional paragraph

**We are happy to review draft resolutions!**



# Ranking: What we look for

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- Competitive program
- Higher ranking projects will incorporate State, Department, and Program Priorities, including:
  - Public Engagement and Outreach
  - Public Recreation Benefits
  - Environmental Justice
  - Community Revitalization
  - Protection of Natural and Historic Resources
  - Climate Mitigation and Resilience
  - Consistency with Open Space and Recreation Planning
  - Stewardship of Public Funds
- Additional information in application

# Application Disqualification

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- Disqualifying circumstances  
*(see application for full list)*
  - Not signed by person authorized in resolution and by Chief Financial Officer
  - Public hearing/notice requirements not met
  - Public engagement requirements not met

# Supplemental Funding Requests

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- Additional funding for open project
- Must submit:
  - Supplemental Funding Request Form
  - Attachments
    - Supplemental Funding Enabling Resolution
    - Supplemental Funding Nonprofit Eligibility Certification
    - Planning Incentive / Site Specific Incentive Eligibility Certification
- Submit through portal on website

# Application Submission

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- Applicants must submit complete applications or supplemental funding requests by the deadline:

**February 5, 2025 at midnight**

- ALL application materials must be submitted by this date
  - Including public hearing minutes
- Goal: Shorter application approval timeline





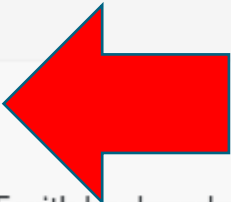
## Green Acres Program Forms and Regulations

Green Acres provides forms, regulations, and guidance to help protect and preserve open space throughout New Jersey. The listed documents are available for download or online viewing. You can download a file by selecting the underlined file name and following the download instructions specific to your browser. Some tips for downloading files are given in the [Site Remediation Program's Website Help page](#).

- Regulations
- Applications
- Local Government and Nonprofit Forms & Guides
- Tax Exemption Program

Application Submissions


Upload application forms [here](#)






If possible, please submit your application or supplemental funding request as one PDF with bookmarks for navigation to each required application item. Please contact us with any questions.

# Contact Us!

www.NJGreenAcres.org


 OFFICIAL SITE OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY






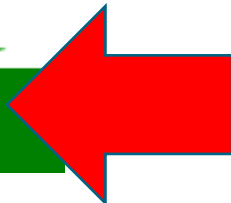
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 Department of Environmental Protection 

## Green Acres Program

Preserving & Enhancing New Jersey's Great Outdoors since 1961



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## Green Acres Contact List

For general questions, please email [GreenAcres@dep.nj.gov](mailto:GreenAcres@dep.nj.gov)

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
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## Email Updates

Join the Green Acres email list by providing your email address in the box below. You will receive periodic updates and alerts about Green Acres funding opportunities, land acquisition and park development success stories, workshops, and related events.

This is a free service; you can unsubscribe at any time.

**\*Email Address**

Submit

# Closing Remarks

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➤ Thank you for coming!

➤ Q&A