

## Green Acres Local & Nonprofit Assistance Program

Application Workshop

October 30, 2024



Park Development, Stewardship & Jake's Law Projects

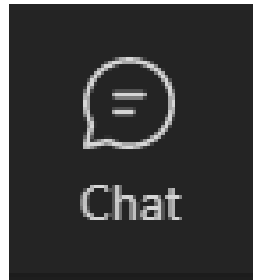
# Welcome & Housekeeping

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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 Park Development, Urban Parks, Stewardship, and Jake's Law 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



# Park Development

## Eligible 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.



# Eligible Park Development Projects



- Brownfields to Greenfields
- Structures
- ADA compliance
- Site Suitability
- Ineligible
  - Indoor recreation facilities
  - School sports facilities
  - Community centers



# Eligible Park Development Projects

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- Park development projects limited to one park location
- Phase larger projects
- No major scope changes to a project after approval



# Nonprofit Applications

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- Location Requirement
- Nonprofit Eligibility Certification
  - Required attachments
  - Must be signed by CEO & attorney
- Public Contracting Requirements
  - Local Public Contracts Law
  - Prevailing wage

# Synthetic Turf Fields Policy

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- ✓ Division of Science & Research reviews
- ✓ Due diligence in project planning
  - Drainage systems
  - Turf fibers and infill material
  - Heat impacts
  - Exposure risks
  - Anticipated life, replacement costs
- ✓ Discussion of alternatives – synthetic vs. natural
- ✓ Discuss due diligence and alternatives at public hearing

# Tree Removal Policy

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- More detail in Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Information about trees >6" DBH to be removed
  - Alternatives discussion
  - Shade Tree Commission or Environmental Commission role
- Applicants should adhere to municipal tree ordinances
- Projects that propose significant tree removal will not be approved for funding

# What will Green Acres pay for?

## Eligible Costs



- Construction
- Engineering & Supervision
  - Capped at 13% of submitted, eligible construction costs
- Environmental Assessment
- Permit Fees
- Demolition
- Incidental Costs



# GA Park Development Local Government Grant Percentages

Grant %	Standard Park Development	Urban Aid Park Development	Park Development Project Located in an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community
0%	Project sponsored by a standard municipality or standard county eligible for low interest loan only, except if located in ACS/OBC		
25%	Project located in a Highly or Densely Populated Municipality or sponsored by a Highly Populated County, except if located in ACS/OBC		Project sponsored by a standard municipality or standard county
50%	Project sponsored by a Densely Populated County, except if located in ACS/OBC		Project located in a Highly or Densely Populated Municipality or sponsored by a Highly Populated County
75%		Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality, except if located in ACS/OBC	Project sponsored by a Densely Populated County
100%			Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality

# Environmental Justice - Park Development

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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 Park Development Project Grant Percentages

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0%	Project sponsored by a standard municipality or standard county eligible for low interest loan only, except if located in ACS/OBC		
25%	Project located in a Highly or Densely Populated Municipality or sponsored by a Highly Populated County, except if located in ACS/OBC		Project sponsored by a standard municipality or standard county
50%	Project sponsored by a Densely Populated County, except if located in ACS/OBC		Project located in a Highly or Densely Populated Municipality or sponsored by a Highly Populated County
75%		Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality, except if located in ACS/OBC	Project sponsored by a Densely Populated County
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



# Funding Round Caps

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- More expensive projects may receive less than they are eligible for
- GA cap – Based on applicant type
- Design project that reflects likely award + available applicant funding

Park Development or Stewardship Project Sponsor	Range of Funding Round Caps 2021-2024
Standard Municipality	\$600,000 - \$700,000
Highly or Densely Populated Municipality	\$900,000 - \$1,050,000
Urban Aid Municipality	\$1,200,000 - \$1,400,000
Standard County	\$1,200,000 - \$1,400,000
Highly Populated County	\$1,500,000 - \$1,750,000
Densely Populated County	\$1,800,000 - \$2,100,000
Nonprofit	Awards based on demonstrated need, past performance, and overall demand

# Urban Parks Projects

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- Local governments eligible to apply
- Projects must be located:
  - ✓ in an Urban Aid municipality; and
  - ✓ within or easily accessible from an Overburdened Community Subject to Adverse Cumulative Stressors
- 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

# Stewardship

## Eligible Projects

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# Eligible Stewardship Projects

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## Categories of Eligible Projects

- Creation, restoration, or protection of natural resource areas
- Historic landscape restoration



## Environmental Education & Nature Observation also Eligible

- Outdoor classrooms, interpretive signage
- Trails, trail signage, trail benches



## Detailed list in application package

# Stewardship Funding

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- Eligible costs same as park development
- Grant percentages:
  - 75% for projects in UA municipalities
  - 50% for all other projects
- \$50,000 minimum request
- Funding round caps same as park development

# Jake's Law

## Eligible Projects

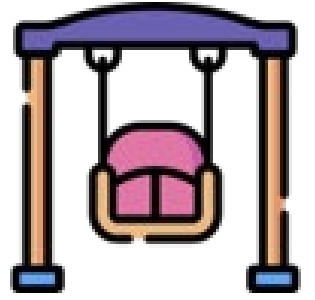


# Eligible Jake's Law Projects

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- Counties and municipalities eligible to apply
- Must be constructed in accordance with DCA regulations for Completely Inclusive Playgrounds (in application)
- Project scope limited to improvements that are part of or directly in support of the CIP





# Jake's Law Funding

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- Eligible costs same as park development
- Grant percentage: 75% for all projects
- Anticipated awards:
  - Counties - \$750,000 to \$1,000,000
  - Municipalities - \$500,000 to \$750,000
- Streamlined application
- Hope to approve all complete applications from eligible applicants
- Pilot program – APPLY!

# 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

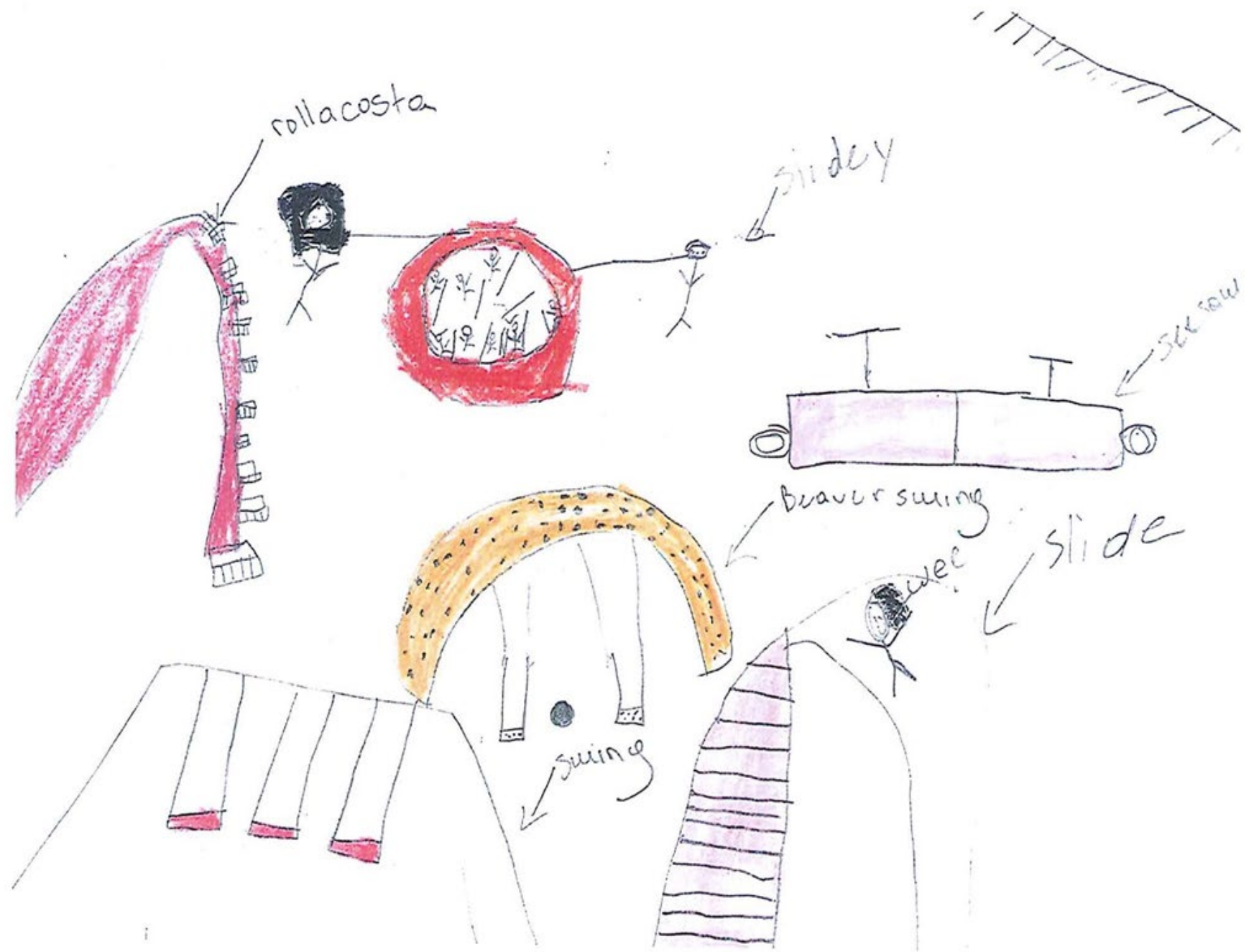
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*To clarify:*

Public Hearing ≠  
Public Engagement

Engage ALL  
members  
of the  
public!



# 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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- ✓ 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 – include optional paragraph

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

# Ranking: What we look for

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- Competitive program (except Jake's Law)
- 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)*

- Signed by someone who is not authorized in resolution
- Not signed by Chief Financial Officer
- Public hearing/notice requirements not met
- Public engagement requirements not met
- Application is to re-fund a facility GA funded less than 20 years ago
- Proposed project does not result in a usable recreation facility
- Awarded construction contract without prior GA authorization

# Supplemental Funding Requests

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- Additional funding for open project
- Must submit:
  - Supplemental Funding Request Form
  - Attachments
    - Supplemental Funding Enabling Resolution
    - Updated cost estimate
    - Updated concept plan
    - Supplemental Funding Nonprofit 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

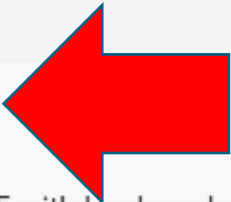
Green Acres provides forms, regulations, and guidance to help protect and preserve open space throughout New Jersey. The listed documents are available for download or online viewing. You can download a file by selecting the underlined file name and following the download instructions specific to your 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

Governor Phil Murphy • Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver

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Department of Environmental Protection

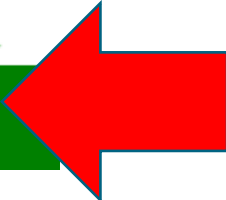


## Green Acres Program

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

## 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