

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: *STATE LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGIES*

New Jersey is dedicated to preserving land to protect natural resources and provide recreational spaces. Since its inception in 1961, the Green Acres Program has preserved over 525,000 acres for State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, and Nature Preserves. Facing challenges like rapid land development and climate change, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will acquire land that meets the public's needs identified through the DEP's recent "Outside, Together!" outreach initiative. The Green Acres State Land Acquisition Program has refined its focus through these targeted strategies:



The **Expansion and Creation of Urban Parks** initiative focuses on increasing close-to-home open space and neighborhood parks. The DEP collaborates with local governments to meet community needs that align with local planning.

The **Connecting Habitat Across New Jersey (CHANJ)** initiative enhances wildlife habitat connectivity by acquiring key properties and collaborating with landowners, nonprofits, and local officials to support biodiversity.

The **Natural Carbon Sequestration** initiative focuses on acquiring land with high carbon storage potential to boost climate resilience and ecological benefits provided by forests.

