



Protecting Habitat Corridors



The CHANJ team has worked hard lately to promote *land protection within habitat corridors*. The need is glaring: Roughly 70 square kilometers (more than 17,000 acres) of CHANJ-mapped habitats became urbanized in the past decade, with habitat corridor lands being *developed at more than four times the rate* as habitat cores. At the same time, lands within corridors were *protected at less than half the rate* as lands within cores.

Preserving corridors through central NJ is especially urgent. Few corridors still remain there, and most are narrow and road-dense; challenging for wildlife trying to move through the landscape.

To help address this, NJDEP's [Green Acres Program](#) has now launched a *CHANJ acquisition initiative*, adding high-need areas for habitat

connectivity to their land protection efforts. Green Acres acquires the lands that make up NJ's incredible network of State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas and Preserves, and their funds contribute significantly to recreational and open space purchases by land trusts and local governments across the state. We're thrilled that they're *part of the CHANJ!*

On that note...we celebrate and congratulate Green Acres on two recent successes for habitat connectivity 🎉. One acquisition [conserved 265 acres](#) of CHANJ-mapped core habitat in the Pinelands of southern NJ, more than doubling the size of Pomona Woods Preserve (managed by NJ Natural Lands Trust). Another recent purchase added 473 acres of forest, wetlands and trails to Allamuchy Mountain State Park, in the middle of CHANJ core habitat in NJ's Highlands region.

Read NJDEP's [press release](#) about the new Allamuchy acquisition and Green Acres' CHANJ initiative.

Attention Local Officials!

Learn how your municipality can help preserve critical land for wildlife by collaborating with NJDEP Green Acres.

Join their webinar on June 12, 1:00-2:00 pm
at <https://dep.nj.gov/greenacres>

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