

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 89, *approved June 30, 2023*  
Assembly, No. 5654

1 AN ACT appropriating \$9,184,427 from constitutionally dedicated  
2 corporation business tax revenues to provide grants to assist  
3 qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations to acquire or  
4 develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, and for  
5 certain administrative expenses.

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7 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
8 of New Jersey:

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10 1. a. For the purposes of this section:

11 “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the  
12 fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152  
13 (C.13:8C-19).

14 “Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119,  
15 P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265,  
16 and P.L.1983, c.354.

17 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund  
18 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”  
19 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).

20 “Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in  
21 section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12  
22 (C.13:8C-45).

23 b. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental  
24 Protection the sum of \$8,747,073 from the dedicated corporation  
25 business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph  
26 6 of the State Constitution in the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres  
27 Fund,” established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New  
28 Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), for the purpose of  
29 providing grants to assist qualifying tax exempt nonprofit  
30 organizations to acquire lands for recreation and conservation  
31 purposes pursuant to subsection c. of this section, to develop lands  
32 for recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to subsection d.  
33 of this section, and to undertake stewardship activities pursuant to  
34 subsection e. of this section.

35 c. The following projects for the acquisition of lands for  
36 recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with  
37 the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section:

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Nonprofit Organization	Project	County	Municipality	Approved Amount
(1) D & R Greenway Land Trust	Greenway Acq	Burlington	Beverly City Bordentown City Bordentown Twp Burlington City Burlington Twp	\$1,000,000

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			Chesterfield Twp	
			Cinnaminson Twp	
			Delanco Twp	
			Delran Twp	
			Edgewater Park Twp	
			Fieldsboro Boro	
			Florence Twp	
			Hainesport Twp	
			Mansfield Twp	
			Maple Shade Twp	
			Moorestown Twp	
			Mount Holly Twp	
			Mount Laurel Twp	
			Palmyra Boro	
			Riverside Twp	
			Riverton Boro	
			Springfield Twp	
			Westampton Twp	
			Willingboro Twp	
	Camden		Audubon Boro	
			Audubon Park Boro	
			Brooklawn Boro	
			Camden City	
			Cherry Hill Twp	
			Collingswood Boro	
			Gloucester City	
			Haddon Heights Boro	
			Haddon Twp	
			Haddonfield Boro	
			Merchantville Boro	
			Mount Ephraim Boro	
			Oaklyn Boro	
			Pennsauken Twp	
			Woodlyne Boro	
	Cumberland		Deerfield Twp	
			Fairfield Twp	
			Greenwich Twp	
			Hopewell Twp	
			Stow Creek Twp	
			Upper Deerfield Twp	
	Gloucester		National Park Boro	
			West Deptford Twp	
			Westville Boro	
	Hunterdon		All municipalities	
	Mercer		All municipalities	
	Middlesex		All municipalities	
	Monmouth		All municipalities	
	Morris		All municipalities	
	Salem		Elsinboro Twp	
			Lower Alloways Creek Twp	
			Mannington Twp	
			Pennsville Twp	
	Somerset		All municipalities	
(2) Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space	Hopewell Valley Park Acq	Mercer	Hopewell Boro Hopewell Twp Pennington Boro	174,915
(3) Friends of Princeton Open Space	Millstone River Watershed	Mercer	Princeton Boro	250,000

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(4) Hunterdon Land Trust	Hunterdon Open Space Plan Priority Areas	Hunterdon	All municipalities	500,000
(5) New Jersey Conservation Foundation	Priority Area Acq	Atlantic	Buena Vista Twp Egg Harbor City Egg Harbor Twp Estell Manor City Folsom Boro Galloway Twp Hamilton Twp Hammonton Town Mullica Twp Weymouth Twp	1,000,000
		Burlington	Bass River Twp Beverly City Bordentown City Bordentown Twp Burlington City Burlington Twp Chesterfield Twp Cinnaminson Twp Delanco Twp Delran Twp Evesham Twp Fieldsboro Boro Florence Twp Mansfield Twp Medford Twp New Hanover Twp North Hanover Twp Pemberton Twp Shamong Twp Southampton Twp Springfield Twp Tabernacle Twp Washington Twp	
		Camden	Camden City Merchantville Boro Pennsauken Twp	
		Cape May	Lower Twp Middle Twp	
		Cumberland	Fairfield Twp Greenwich Twp Hopewell Twp Maurice River Twp Millville City Stow Creek Twp Upper Deerfield Twp Vineland City	
		Gloucester	Franklin Twp Logan Twp South Harrison Twp Woolwich Twp	
		Hunterdon	All municipalities	
		Mercer	East Windsor Twp Ewing Twp Hamilton Twp Hightstown Boro Hopewell Twp Lawrence Twp Trenton City	

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	Princeton Boro Robbinsville Twp West Windsor Twp
Middlesex	Cranberry Twp Edison Twp
Monmouth	Allentown Boro Millstone Twp Upper Freehold Twp
Morris	All municipalities
Ocean	Lacey Twp Ocean Twp Plumsted Twp
Passaic	West Milford Twp
Salem	Alloway Twp Carneys Point Twp Elmer Boro Elsinboro Twp Lower Alloways Creek Twp Mannington Twp Oldmans Twp Pennsville Twp Pilesgrove Twp Pittsgrove Twp Quinton Twp Upper Pittsgrove Twp Woodstown Boro
Somerset	Bedminster Twp Bernards Twp Bernardsville Boro Branchburg Twp Bridgewater Twp Far Hills Boro Hillsborough Twp Montgomery Twp Peapack-Gladstone Boro Raritan Boro
Sussex	Andover Twp Byram Twp Frankford Twp Green Twp Hampton Twp Hopatcong Boro Sparta Twp Vernon Twp Wantage Twp
Union	Elizabeth City Linden City Springfield Twp Union Twp
Warren	Blairstown Twp Franklin Twp Frelinghuysen Twp Greenwich Twp Hardwick Twp Harmony Twp Lopatcong Twp Mansfield Twp Pohatcong Twp Washington Twp White Twp

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(6) Ridgeview Conservancy	Ridgeview Conservancy Acq	Mercer	Hopewell Boro Hopewell Twp Princeton Boro	250,000
		Somerset	Montgomery Twp	
(7) Sourland Conservancy	True Farmstead Acq	Somerset	Montgomery Twp	285,000
(8) Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum	True Farmstead Acq	Somerset	Montgomery Twp	285,000
(9) The Nature Conservancy	Priority Area Acq	Atlantic	Estell Manor City Galloway Twp Hamilton Twp Mullica Twp	500,000
		Burlington	Bass River Twp Pemberton Boro Pemberton Twp Washington Twp Woodland Twp	
		Cape May	Cape May City Cape May Point Boro Dennis Twp Lower Twp Middle Twp West Cape May Boro	
		Cumberland	Commercial Twp Downe Twp Fairfield Twp Lawrence Twp Maurice River Twp Millville City Vineland City	
		Gloucester	Franklin Twp	
		Ocean	Barnegat Twp Eagleswood Twp Lacey Twp Little Egg Harbor Twp Ocean Twp Stafford Twp	
		Passaic	North Haledon Boro Wayne Twp	
		Salem	Pittsgrove Twp	
		Sussex	Andover Boro Andover Twp Frankford Twp Fredon Twp Green Twp Hampton Twp Hardyston Twp Lafayette Twp Montague Twp Newton Town Sandyston Twp Stillwater Twp Walpack Twp Wantage Twp	

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		Warren	Allamuchy Twp Blairstown Twp Frelinghuysen Twp Hardwick Twp Hope Twp Knowlton Twp	
(10) The Watershed Institute	Watershed Connectors	Mercer	Hopewell Boro Hopewell Twp Pennington Boro Princeton Boro	140,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$4,384,915</b>

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d. The following projects for the development of lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section:

<b>Nonprofit Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>
Branch Brook Park Alliance	Branch Brook Park Improvements	Essex	Newark City	\$500,000
Camp Dill Foundation	Camp Dill Improvements	Hunterdon	Clinton Twp	100,000
Deal Lake Watershed Alliance	Deal Lake Wickapecko Park Phase II	Monmouth	Ocean Twp	41,658
Essex County Parks Foundation	Turtle Back Zoo Australian Exhibit & Playground	Essex	West Orange Twp	500,000
Flat Rock Brook Nature Association	Jones Road Streamside Restoration Project Phase 2 & 3	Bergen	Englewood City	500,000
NJ Community Development Corp	Westside Park Improvements	Passaic	Paterson City	500,000
Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc.	Westside Park Improvements	Passaic	Paterson City	500,000
Trust for Public Land	Multi Park Improvements	Essex	Newark City	500,000
Zoological Society of NJ	Turtle Back Zoo Australian Exhibit & Playground	Essex	West Orange Twp	500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$3,641,658</b>

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e. The following stewardship activity projects are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section:

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<b>Nonprofit Organization</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>
Friends of Princeton Open Space	Mountain Lakes Preserve Riparian Restoration	Mercer	Princeton Boro	\$124,500
Tenaflly Nature Center Association	Pfister's Pond Restoration Project	Bergen	Tenaflly Boro	121,000
The Watershed Institute	Wargo Pond Restoration	Mercer	Hopewell Twp	475,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$720,500</b>

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2 f. Any transfer of any funds, or change in project sponsor, site,  
3 or type, listed in subsection c., d., or e. of this section shall require  
4 the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its  
5 successor.

6 g. To the extent that moneys remain available after the projects  
7 listed in subsection c., d., or e. of this section are offered funding  
8 pursuant thereto, any project of a qualifying tax exempt nonprofit  
9 organization that previously received funding appropriated or  
10 reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual  
11 appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation  
12 Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes shall be  
13 eligible to receive additional funding, as determined by the  
14 Department of Environmental Protection, subject to the approval of  
15 the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

16 h. There is reappropriated to the Department of Environmental  
17 Protection the unexpended balances, due to project withdrawals,  
18 cancellations, or cost savings, of the amounts appropriated or  
19 reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual  
20 appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation  
21 Trust Fund to assist qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations  
22 to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation  
23 purposes, for the purposes of: (1) this section; and (2) providing  
24 additional funding, as determined by the Department of  
25 Environmental Protection, to any project of a qualifying tax exempt  
26 nonprofit organization that previously received funding  
27 appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any  
28 annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres  
29 Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes,  
30 subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or  
31 its successor. Any such additional funding provided from a Green  
32 Acres bond act may include administrative costs.

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34 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental  
35 Protection the sum of \$437,354 from dedicated corporation business  
36 tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the

1 State Constitution in the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,”  
2 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”  
3 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), for paying administrative costs  
4 associated with administering the applicable provisions of  
5 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).  
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7 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
8 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,” established pursuant to  
9 section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12  
10 (C.13:8C-48), the sum of \$9,184,427 to implement the provisions of  
11 this act.  
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13 4. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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#### 16 STATEMENT 17

18 The bill appropriates \$9,184,427 to the Department of  
19 Environmental Protection (DEP), of which \$8,747,073 is to provide  
20 grants to various nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for  
21 recreation and conservation purposes, and \$437,354 is to be used by  
22 the DEP for associated administrative costs.

23 The funding in this bill is provided from constitutionally  
24 dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues pursuant to  
25 Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution. The  
26 “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.),  
27 implements the constitutional dedication of CBT revenues for open  
28 space, farmland, and historic preservation. The “Preserve New  
29 Jersey Green Acres Fund” was established by section 6 of the  
30 “Preserve New Jersey Act.” The act provides that a certain amount  
31 of the portion of dedicated CBT revenues allocated each year for  
32 the Green Acres program is to be used for: the acquisition of lands  
33 for open space, including Blue Acres projects, and development  
34 projects on State lands administered by the DEP’s Division of Fish  
35 and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry; grants and loans to  
36 fund local government open space acquisition and development  
37 projects; and grants to nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands  
38 for recreation and conservation purposes.

39 This bill appropriates funds to be used to provide grants to  
40 nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and  
41 conservation purposes. Further, of the funding allocated for  
42 acquisition and development projects by nonprofit entities, a certain  
43 percentage is to be used to fund stewardship activities undertaken  
44 by nonprofit entities. A “stewardship activity” is defined in the  
45 “Preserve New Jersey Act” as an activity, which is beyond routine  
46 operations and maintenance, undertaken to repair or restore lands  
47 acquired or developed for recreation and conservation purposes for



1 the purpose of enhancing or protecting those lands for recreation  
2 and conservation purposes.

3 Of the amount appropriated by the bill to provide grants to  
4 various nonprofit entities: \$4,384,915 is allocated for 10  
5 acquisition projects; \$3,641,658 is allocated for nine park  
6 development projects; and \$720,500 is allocated for three  
7 stewardship activity projects. In addition, the bill appropriates  
8 \$437,354 to the DEP for the purposes of paying administrative costs  
9 associated with administering the applicable provisions of the  
10 "Preserve New Jersey Act."

11 The projects listed in the bill have been approved by the DEP  
12 and the Garden State Preservation Trust.

13 The bill also would allow the DEP to re-distribute certain other  
14 moneys, which have been returned to the department due to project  
15 withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, for the purpose of  
16 providing additional funding, for recreation and conservation  
17 purposes, to previously approved and funded projects of nonprofit  
18 entities, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight  
19 Committee. This additional funding, if provided from a Green  
20 Acres bond act, may include administrative costs.

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25 Appropriates \$9,184,427 to DEP from constitutionally dedicated  
26 CBT revenues for grants to certain nonprofit entities to acquire or  
27 develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, and for  
28 certain administrative expenses.