

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 169, *approved December 19, 2025*
Senate, No. 4569

- 1 AN ACT appropriating \$13,640,000 from constitutionally dedicated
2 corporation business tax revenues to provide grants to assist
3 qualifying tax-exempt nonprofit organizations to acquire,
4 develop, or conduct planning activities related to, lands for
5 recreation and conservation purposes, and for certain
6 administrative expenses.
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- 8 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
9 *of New Jersey:*
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- 11 1. a. For the purposes of this section:
12 “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the
13 fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152
14 (C.13:8C-19).
15 “Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119,
16 P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265,
17 and P.L.1983, c.354.
18 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund
19 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”
20 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).
21 “Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in
22 section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12
23 (C.13:8C-45).
24 b. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
25 Protection the sum of \$11,959,000 from the dedicated corporation
26 business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph
27 6 of the State Constitution in the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres
28 Fund,” established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New
29 Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), for the purpose of
30 providing grants to assist qualifying tax exempt nonprofit
31 organizations to acquire lands for recreation and conservation
32 purposes pursuant to subsection c. of this section, to develop lands
33 for recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to subsection d.
34 of this section, and to undertake stewardship activities pursuant to
35 subsection e. of this section.
36 c. The following projects for the acquisition of lands for
37 recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with
38 the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section:

Nonprofit Organization	Project	County	Municipality	Approved Amount
(1) D & R Greenway Land Trust	Greenway Acquisitions	Burlington	Beverly City	\$1,136,000
			Bordentown City	
			Bordentown Twp	
			Burlington City	
			Burlington Twp	
			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	
			Woodlynne 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) Hunterdon Land Trust	Hunterdon Open Space Plan Priority Areas	Hunterdon	All municipalities	\$286,000
(3) Lamington Conservancy	Central Lamington Project	Hunterdon	Readington Twp, Tewksbury Twp	\$450,000
		Morris	Chester Twp, Washington Twp	
		Somerset	Bedminster Twp, Peapack-Gladstone Boro	
(4) New Jersey Conservation Foundation	Priority Area Acquisitions	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	\$3,080,000
			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 Woodland 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 Princeton Boro Robbinsville Twp West Windsor Twp
Middlesex	Cranbury 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	Allamuchy Twp Blairstown Twp Franklin Twp Frelinghuysen Twp Greenwich Twp Hardwick Twp Harmony Twp Hope Twp Independence Twp Knowlton Twp Liberty Twp Lopatcong Twp Mansfield Twp Oxford Twp Pohatcong Twp Washington Twp White Twp	
(5) Raritan Headwaters Association	Raritan Headwaters Acquisitions	Hunterdon	Alexandria Twp, Bethlehem Twp Califon Boro Clinton Town Clinton Twp Delaware Twp East Amwell Twp Flemington Boro Franklin Twp Glen Gardener Boro Hampton Twp High Bridge Boro Lebanon Boro Lebanon Twp Raritan Twp Readington Twp Tewksbury Twp Union Twp West Amwell Twp	\$1,259,000
		Morris	Chester Boro Chester Twp Mine Hill Twp Mendham Boro Mendham Twp Mt. Arlington Twp Mt. Olive Twp Randolph Twp Roxbury Twp Washington Twp	
		Somerset	Bedminster Twp Bernards Twp Bernardsville Boro Branchburg Twp Bridgewater Twp Far Hills Boro Hillsborough Twp Peapack-Gladstone Boro Raritan Boro	

(6) Ridge and Valley Conservancy	Open Space Conservation Plan	Sussex	Andover Boro Andover Twp Frankford Twp Fredon Twp Green Twp Hampton Twp Hardyston Twp Lafayette Twp Sandyston Twp Sparta Twp Stillwater Twp Wantage Twp	\$69,000
		Warren	Allamuchy Twp Blairstown Twp Frelinghuysen Twp Hardwick Twp Hope Twp Knowlton Twp Mansfield Twp White Twp	
(7) Tewksbury Land Trust	Land Acquisition	Hunterdon	Tewksbury Twp	\$1,616,000
(8) Woodland Wildlife Refuge, Inc.	Preserving a Wildlife Heritage	Hunterdon	Alexandria Twp	\$450,000
TOTAL				\$8,346,000

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2 d. The following projects for the development of lands for
3 recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with
4 the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section:
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Nonprofit Organization	Project	County	Municipality	Approved Amount
Branch Brook Park Alliance	Branch Brook Park Improvements	Essex	Newark City	\$1,082,000
Essex County Parks Foundation	Mills Reservation Improvements	Essex	Cedar Grove Twp	\$1,051,000
TOTAL				\$2,133,000

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

Nonprofit Organization	Project	County	Municipality	Approved Amount
Friends of West Windsor Open Space	Moses Tunda Tatamy Trail	Mercer	West Windsor Twp	\$268,000
Friends of Passaic County Parks	Schuyler- Colfax Historic Landscape Restoration	Passaic	Wayne Twp	\$270,000
Duke Farms Foundation	Farm Barn Area Restoration Initiative	Somerset	Hillsborough Twp	\$543,000
PEACE NJ	Restoring Riparian Habitat and River Access	Warren	Hackettstown Town	\$399,000
TOTAL				\$1,480,000

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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.

2. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$681,000 from dedicated corporation business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,” established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), for paying administrative costs associated with administering the applicable provisions of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

3. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$1,000,000 from dedicated corporation business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,” established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), to establish a Planning Grant program, the purpose of which shall be to provide matching grants to nonprofit organizations to fund the preparation of plans and other activities necessary to identify needs and opportunities for additional recreation and conservation initiatives in the State. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection e. of section 6 of P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48) or any other law to the contrary, the distribution of grant funds pursuant to this section shall not require the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,” established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), the sum of \$13,640,000 to implement the provisions of this act.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

The bill appropriates \$13,640,000 to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), of which \$11,959,000 is to provide grants to various nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, \$1,000,000 is to establish a new planning grant program, and \$681,000 is to be used by the DEP for associated administrative costs.

Of the amount appropriated by the bill to provide grants to various nonprofit entities: \$8,346,000 is allocated for eight acquisition projects; \$2,133,000 is allocated for two park development projects; and \$1,480,000 is allocated for four stewardship activity projects. In addition, the bill would appropriate \$1,000,000 to the DEP in order to establish a new a Planning Grant program, the purpose of which would be to provide matching grants to nonprofit organizations to fund the preparation of plans and other activities necessary to identify needs and

1 opportunities for additional recreation and conservation initiatives
2 in the State.

3 The bill also would allow the DEP to re-distribute certain other
4 moneys, which have been returned to the department due to project
5 withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, for the purpose of
6 providing additional funding, for recreation and conservation
7 purposes, to previously approved and funded projects of nonprofit
8 entities, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight
9 Committee. This additional funding, if provided from a Green
10 Acres bond act, may include administrative costs. The projects
11 listed in the bill have been approved by the DEP and the Garden
12 State Preservation Trust.

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

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33 Appropriates \$13,640,000 to DEP from constitutionally
34 dedicated CBT revenues for grants to certain nonprofit entities for
35 open space acquisition, park development, and planning projects,
36 and for certain administrative expenses.