

Accomplishments



Photos courtesy of NJCF

The Accomplishments of State Preservation Programs

New Jersey has been a national leader on open space, farmland and historic preservation. Through the Green Acres Program, the Farmland Preservation Program and the NJ Historic Trust, the State of New Jersey has preserved thousands of acres of land, protected historic treasures and provided quality parks in every corner of the state.

Since 1985, the state has partnered with municipalities, counties and non-profit conservation groups through the Green Acres Program, Farmland Preservation Program and NJ Historic Trust to achieve the following:

1,207,190 acres of open space have been preserved including:

324,366 acres of Wildlife Management Areas in 120 sites

430,928 acres of:

- parks – 42 sites
- forests – 11 sites
- recreation areas – 3 sites
- natural areas – 42 sites
- marinas – 6 sites
- historic sites – >50

176,435 acres of farmland and 1,810 farms have been preserved

532 historic sites have received preservation funding since 1981

288 miles of trails have been added to the New Jersey Trails System since 1974

29% of New Jersey's land area has been preserved

The Garden State Preservation Trust dramatically increased the **RATE of land preservation**. Since the Trust was authorized in 1998 there has been:

- 178% increase in the rate of Open Space preservation
 - From 13,341 acres per year to 37,123 acres per year
- 201% increase in the rate of Farmland preservation
 - From 4,015 acres per year to 12,086 acres per year
- 105% increase in the rate of Historic preservation
 - From 19 projects per year to 39 projects per year

Garden State Preservation Trust Funds have been used to:

- Preserve 144,917 acres through state acquisition at a cost of \$545,379,192
- Preserve 37,126 acres through local acquisition at a cost of \$430,928,991
- Preserve 22,119 acres through non-profit acquisition at a cost of \$81,996,105
- Preserve 1,304 farms totaling 108,773 acres at a cost of \$581,665,762
- Provide 596 grants to protect 436 historic sites at a cost of \$122,521,422

At least **107 non profits** in New Jersey have received Green Acres funding during the past 48 years!

Non profits in New Jersey have preserved at least **274,107 acres of land**

New Jersey ranks **2nd in the nation** for funding open space preservation and has invested far more than comparable states in the region

New Jersey voters **approved 12 of 12 statewide ballot** measures to fund preservation efforts since 1961

State investments have **leveraged significant local funding**, with all 21 counties and 234 municipalities establishing voter-approved open space trust funds

State Parks and Forests **welcomed almost 18 million** visitors in a single year (July 2005-June 2006)

The information contained in this publication has been taken from one of three White Papers describing the Benefits, Accomplishments and Future Needs of State Preservation Programs produced by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation in cooperation with the Keep it Green Coalition. The complete White Papers are available at www.njconservation.org.

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