

Benefits



The Benefits of State Preservation Programs

Statewide funding for farmland, open space and historic preservation is an investment in the economic, physical and environmental health of New Jersey residents.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

Land, Property and Value

The average home price increases 16% when it is located near permanently preserved open space

The value of a vacant lot increases 35% when it is located next to permanently preserved open space

Parks contribute up to 20% of the value of homes in urban areas

1,931 farms generated \$30 million in income from sales of edible farm products in 2007

Properties listed on a historic register benefit from at least a 5% increase in market value

A study of five NJ towns found that:

For every \$1 collected in residential property taxes, over \$1.00 is spent in municipal services, in a range from \$1.10 to \$1.51

For every tax dollar collected from privately owned natural lands, less than a dollar is spent on municipal services, in a range from 33 to 66 cents

Jobs

29 jobs are created for every \$1,000,000 spent rehabbing historic residential buildings

38 jobs are created for every \$1,000,000 spent rehabbing historic nonresidential buildings

Each \$1 million spent on non-residential historic rehabilitation creates 2 jobs more than the same money spent on new construction

7,000 jobs are supported by our public recreation lands

The development of two small parks in Brick Township for \$1.5 million employed 38 people

Recreation and Tourism

Tourists spent \$38 billion in New Jersey in 2007, generating \$7.3 billion in total tax revenues

\$1.7 billion is spent on wildlife recreation, 23% of the total spent by tourists in New Jersey

For every dollar tourists spend in New Jersey, \$0.71 stays in the state

2.1 million people recreated in nature-based activities in New Jersey in 2006

\$2.8 million was generated in economic activity from visitors to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey in 2006

92 different agritourism activities are offered by New Jersey farmers, producing \$30 million in reported income in 2007

Heritage tourists stayed nearly 5 days longer and spent 78% more in restaurants than other travelers

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

For every 10% increase in forest cover, water treatment and chemical costs decrease by 20%

One tree provides \$62,000 in air pollution control

New Jersey's estuaries and bays provide \$5.3 billion in ecosystem services

Open spaces in New Jersey support 2,134 known native plant species

Open spaces in New Jersey support close to 900 wildlife species

HEALTH BENEFITS

Access to parks leads to a 25% increase in people exercising three or more times per week

People living in a greener environment report fewer health complaints

Recovery rates of surgical patients accelerate when patients are provided access to natural scenes and vistas

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.

This summary publication is a project of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, in cooperation with the New Jersey Keep it Green Coalition and with the support of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, The Trust for Public Land – New Jersey and The Nature Conservancy – New Jersey. This work was funded by the William Penn Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.



Needs



Photos courtesy of NJCF

Future Needs for Continued Investment in State Preservation Programs

There are significant unmet needs to fulfill state preservation goals and legislative mandates, to protect priority lands throughout the state, and to provide safe, accessible urban parks.

81% of requests for Green Acres Programs grants remain unfunded

67% of historic preservation grant requests are unfunded

70% of applications for grants for trails development are unfunded

The state still has two million acres which are “up for grabs”—lands that can either be preserved as a farm, forest or park or developed with structures. Garden State Greenways identified one million acres of unfragmented, undeveloped lands still in need of protection.

Over \$410 million in capital improvement projects have been identified as needed for state parks, forests, historic sites and wildlife management areas.

HIGHLANDS

\$1.3 billion is needed to acquire priority lands in the Highlands region and ensure the protection of the water supply for over half the state’s population

10 years of consistent funding will allow the Highlands Council to meet its preservation mandate

PINELANDS

30,000 acres have yet to be preserved

BARNEGAT BAY WATERSHED

76,000 acres must be preserved to protect this important watershed area

DELAWARE RIVER

Funding is needed for the purchase of “blue acres” or floodprone areas along the Delaware River to mitigate flooding and safeguard health and public welfare

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Of 1600 registered historic sites in New Jersey, only 273 have received funding for rehabilitation

AGRICULTURE

An additional 450,000 acres of farms should be preserved to ensure a stable base of farmlands that will sustain a viable agricultural industry in New Jersey

Agricultural land has decreased by 72,000 acres, a 9% loss from 2002-2007. Since 1978, a total of 254,000 acres of agricultural land has been converted to other uses, primarily residential, in New Jersey

URBAN PARKS

More than half of all New Jersey adults are obese or overweight

Less than 40 percent of New Jersey adults participate in frequent physical activity

It is critical that funding is available to provide a well maintained inviting park, trail or natural areas within a 10 minute walk of people's homes

Jersey City and Newark have the fewest playgrounds per resident according to a survey of 75 U.S. cities

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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)

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