



Synthetic Turf Funding

November 20, 2025



Green Acres Local & Nonprofit Assistance Program

Green Acres 2026 Funding Round Programs

Program	Description	Eligibility Notes
Land Acquisition	Includes Planning Incentive, Site-Specific Incentive, Standard, Urban Aid, and Nonprofit	All local governments and eligible nonprofits
Park Development	Park Improvement Projects for Passive or Active Recreation	All local governments and eligible nonprofits
Stewardship	Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources and Historic Landscapes, Natural Trail and Environmental Education Projects	All local governments and eligible nonprofits

Park Development

Eligible Projects



“**Recreation and conservation purposes**” means the use of lands for beaches, biological or ecological study, boating, camping, fishing, forests, greenways, hunting, natural areas, parks, playgrounds, protecting historic properties, water reserves, watershed protection, wildlife preserves, active sports, or a similar use for either public outdoor recreation or conservation of natural resources, or both.



Background



- GA has funded synthetic turf fields for ~20 years
- Primary benefit: additional playing time
 - Don't need to rest field
 - Minimal impact from rain events
 - Public health benefits from increased recreation opportunities
- Recent applications for playgrounds using ST surfacing, particularly CIPs

DSR Reviews



- Concerns raised over the years on a variety of topics
- Previous reviews of individual concerns re: ST in 2007, 2001, 2020, 2022, 2023
- Comprehensive DSR review of 7 concerns
 - 4 updates
 - 3 new reviews

Additional Concerns



- Higher construction and disposal costs
- Common compliance issues re: public access
- Relatively short useful life
- Environmental Justice

Synthetic Turf Policy



- GA strongly prefers natural turf
- Applicant must conduct due diligence
- Transparency and public engagement
- Applicants weigh the potential benefits and risks and make an informed decision with and for their communities
- Implement mitigation strategies

Synthetic Turf Application Requirements



- ✓ Applies to all proposed use of ST
- ✓ Must review new DSR report
- ✓ Due diligence during planning stage
- ✓ Must identify mitigation methods
- ✓ Cost analysis and alternatives analysis
- ✓ Transparency – public engagement and public notice and hearing requirements

Q&A



GREEN ACRES

LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



THIS SITE DEDICATED TO
PERMANENT RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PO BOX 420 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0420