

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Swears in Members of Garden State Preservation Trust; First Meeting of Group Charged With Overseeing Landmark Preservation Program**

Governor Christie Whitman today attended the first meeting of the Garden State Preservation Trust where she swore in the nine members who will be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the historic open space and farmland preservation program approved by voters last fall. The newly sworn in members appointed Judy Jengo of Hopewell as the Executive Director to the Trust at the meeting.

New Jersey's program, a national model for preservation efforts, dedicates a stable source of funding to save one million more acres of undeveloped land in the state by the year 2009. The Trust is responsible for approving projects submitted by Green Acres, the State Agricultural Development Committee and the New Jersey Historic Trust. It will also submit at least two appropriation bills to the Legislature each year.

"By taking the oath today, you have accepted your assignment: to honor the trust of the people of New Jersey, to fund land and historic preservation projects you deem appropriate, and to achieve our goal of 1 million acres of open space and farmland preserved for all time," the Governor said after swearing members in.

"New Jersey has drawn national attention throughout the process that has led up to this point," continued Gov. Whitman. "What you accomplish for New Jersey is critically important in its own right, but also for the example we can give other states around the country. Preservation is a timely issue as we cross into a new century and once again, New Jersey leads."

"The preservation of land and historic sites in urban, suburban and rural parts of New Jersey are also a critical part of my vision for revitalizing our cities and older suburbs and promoting smart growth throughout our state," said the Governor.

The Garden State Preservation Trust was created by the Garden State Preservation Trust Act, signed by Gov. Whitman in June. The nine members of the trust are comprised of four ex-officio members including Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Shinn, Agriculture Secretary Art Brown, Secretary of State DeForest B. Soaries, and Treasurer Roland Machold. Public members include chair Maureen Ogden, appointed by Gov. Whitman, and Therese Crowley and Christopher Daggett appointed by Senate President Donald

DiFrancesco. Assembly Speaker Jack Collins appointed the final two members, William Brooks and David Epstein.

During their first meeting the Trust appointed Judy Jengo as Executive Director to the Trust. Jengo most recently served as Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Deputy Commissioner since January of 1998, Jengo oversaw parks and forestry, green acres, fish and wildlife, watershed management, land use management and compliance, and environmental planning and science. Jengo's appointment will allow her to continue to advance the Governor's smart growth program.

"Judy's depth of experience in environmental and smart growth issues will serve the Trust well as it embarks on this historic journey to ensure that we protect our vital natural resources," said Gov. Whitman. "She is a strong advocate for this program and will lend a valuable perspective and voice to the process as it moves forward. I am pleased that Judy has been appointed and have every confidence that she will be an asset to the Trust."

Prior to joining the DEP, Jengo served as Senior Policy Advisor to Gov. Whitman on environmental, agricultural, planning and sustainability issues. She also previously served as Senior Environmental Policy Advisor to the New Jersey General Assembly for eight years.

