

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Jim Hadden
609-777-2600

RELEASE: October 29, 1999

Governor's Weekly Radio Address Discusses The Garden State Preservation Trust

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor talks about the Garden State Preservation Trust. The Garden State Preservation Trust will be responsible for helping achieve the Governor's vision of preserving one million acres of open space and farmland over the next ten years.

Attached is a text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

The address is also available on our website at <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/radio2.html>.

Radio Message for October 29 Garden State Preservation Trust

Hello, this is Governor Christie Whitman.

I'm glad to tell you that New Jersey's history-making quest for land preservation has officially begun. A few weeks ago, the Garden State Preservation Trust, approved by voters last year and established by statute this past summer, held its first meeting.

As I administered the oath to the Trust members, I also issued their assignment: to honor the trust of the people of New Jersey, to fund the land and historic preservation projects they deem appropriate, and to achieve our goal of 1 million acres of open space and farmland preserved for all time.

I'm confident that the Trust members will do an outstanding job. It's easy to feel that confidence when the chair is former Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden. Maureen has done so much already, especially as head of the Council on the Outdoors whose report got the ball rolling with its million-acre recommendation. She will lead a group that is loaded with talent and dedication to the cause of preservation.

Along with reviewing projects proposed for preservation, the Trust will be an advocate on this issue within New Jersey, on Capitol Hill, and across America.

Our state has drawn national attention throughout the process that has led up to this moment. What we accomplish for New Jersey is critically important in its own right, but also for the example we can give other states. Preservation is a timely issue across the country, and once again, New Jersey leads.

I view the preservation of land and historic sites in urban, suburban, and rural part of New Jersey as a critical part of my vision for revitalizing our cities and older suburbs and promoting smart growth everywhere. It's all part of a vision I hope you share - a vision of a clean and green and prosperous New Jersey that sustains both its economic strength and its environmental and aesthetic integrity.

Now that the members of the Garden State Preservation Trust have been sworn in, the real work begins. And not a moment too soon. I made a pledge in my second inaugural address last year to preserve 300,000 acres before I leave office. I intend to keep that pledge.

As we prepare to enter a new century, the families of New Jersey deserve to know that the Garden State promises a future of open fields and inviting landscapes, thriving farms and quiet woods, and ample opportunities for recreation and visits to historic sites.

That's why I will keep the Preservation Trust plenty busy as long as I am governor.

Thank you, and have a great week.

