

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman to Sign Historic Open Space Preservation Bill Making New Jersey a National Leader in Land Preservation

Gov. Christie Whitman tomorrow will sign into law the Garden State Preservation Trust Act, already a national model for preserving farmland and open space.

The Governor's open space preservation plan, approved overwhelmingly by voters last fall, will save 1 million acres from development. Combined with the roughly 1 million acres already spared from development through the state's existing Farmland Preservation and Green Acres programs, the initiative will result in the preservation of about 40 percent of the total land in the Garden State.

The bill establishes for the first time in the state's history a stable source of funding for preservation efforts. It dedicates an unprecedented \$98 million per year for ten years for the purchase of farmland development rights and open space.

The Governor will celebrate the passage of the historic legislation at events in both northern and southern New Jersey.

[Governor's Schedule](#)

