

# Green Acres Local & Nonprofit Assistance Program

Application Workshop  
January 11, 2023



Land Acquisition Projects



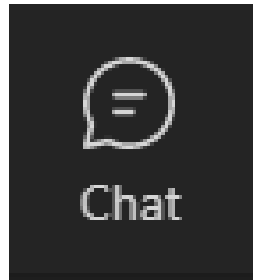
# Welcome & Housekeeping

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## *Before we start:*

- Today's presentation is being recorded
- Submit questions/comments through the chat feature
  - *Please give your name & affiliation*



# Our Team



Elizabeth Dragon  
Assistant Commissioner  
Community Investment &  
Economic Revitalization



Martha Sullivan Sapp  
Director  
Green Acres Program



Cecile Murphy, Chief  
Local & Nonprofit Assistance  
Green Acres Program



Amy Sumoski  
Project Manager  
Green Acres Program



# Today's Agenda

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Eligible projects



Recent changes to the  
Local & Nonprofit Program



Application package  
submissions tips



Answer your questions!

# Workshops

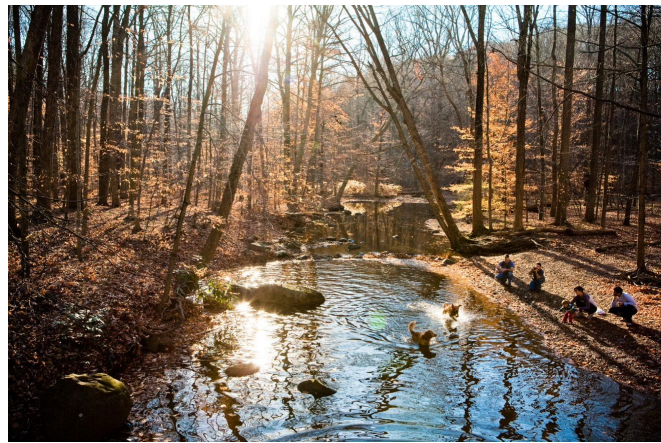
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- January 11th
  - 10-12 – Acquisition (including Urban Parks)
  - 1-3 – Park Development (including Urban Parks), Stewardship, Jake’s Law
  
- February 1<sup>st</sup>, 10-12 – Drop-in Q&A
  
- February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10-12 – Drop-in Q&A

"What can we buy?"

## Eligible Acquisition 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.



# Application Round Changes: Background

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- Program Reassessment
- Opportunities to Do Better
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Changes to Application Documents
- **Workshops / Q&A Sessions**

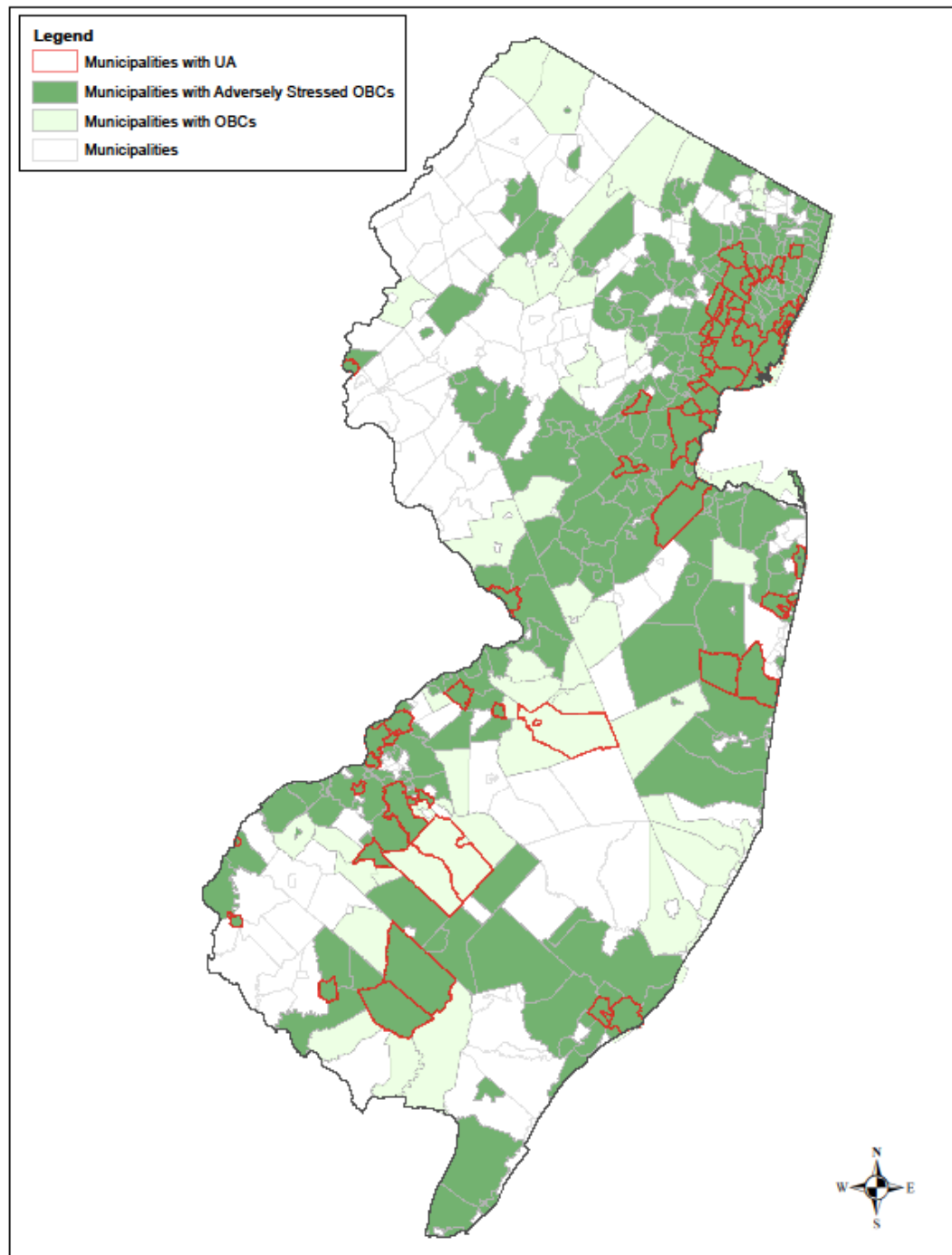
# New Funding Opportunities

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- Higher grant percentages for Green Acres projects located in/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community
  - Increase of 25%
  - GA Acquisition & Park Development projects
  - Easily accessible = less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away with no barriers to pedestrian access

# Eligible Communities



# New Funding Opportunities

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- Jake's Law Playground Funding
  - 75% grants to counties for Completely Inclusive Playgrounds
  - Anticipated awards: \$750,000 to \$1,000,000
  - Not competitive – All complete applications from eligible applicants will be approved
  - Streamlined application
  - Applications do not count toward limit on # of requests
  - Pilot program – APPLY!

# Application Changes: All Projects



## Expanded requirements for public engagement



- Must involve public in the project planning process
- Applicants free to use methods that will most effectively engage their community

# Public Engagement Ideas

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## Ideas of how to solicit public input:

- ✓ On-line surveys, advertised on websites, in local news sources, flyers
- ✓ Paper surveys available at public buildings and events
- ✓ Open house meetings
- ✓ Design charrettes
- ✓ Pop-up feedback sessions at community events, outside grocery stores, at the park
- ✓ Focus groups
- ✓ Mailers to households inviting input
- ✓ Social media posts inviting input
- ✓ Idea boards at park and/or at public buildings and events

# Public Hearing: Notice Requirements

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- ✓ Website 15 days ahead AND
- ✓ Newspaper(s) 48 hours ahead
  - Display ad or public notice
- ✓ Includes link to application information
- ✓ If remote meeting, access information included
- ✓ Template for notices is in the application
- ✓ County projects: Notice to municipality(ies)

# Public Hearing: Hearing & Minutes Requirements

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- ✓ Held in the evening, 6:00pm or later
- ✓ Attended by quorum of governing body
- ✓ Each public comment addressed
- ✓ Vote on resolution after hearing
- ✓ Complete copy of the minutes, submitted in writing – Draft is fine as a stop-gap

# Application Changes: All Projects

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- Applicants must submit complete applications or supplemental funding requests by the deadline:

**March 1, 2023 at 5:00pm**

- ALL application materials must be submitted by this date
  - Including public hearing minutes
- Goal: Shorter application approval timeline

# Ranking: What we look for

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- Competitive program
- Higher ranking projects will incorporate State, Department, and Program Priorities, including:
  - Public Engagement and Outreach
  - Public Recreation Benefits
  - Environmental Justice
  - Community Revitalization
  - Protection of Natural and Historic Resources
  - Climate Mitigation and Resilience
  - Consistency with Open Space and Recreation Planning
  - Stewardship of Public Funds
- Additional information in application

# Application Changes: All Projects

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- Additional ranking points for:
  - Projects that promote climate resilience and that meet the goals of an applicant's Climate Resilience Plan
  - Projects within Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities
  - Municipalities that have a DEP-approved Public Access Plan

# Application Changes: All Projects

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- **Nonprofit Submission Changes**
  - **New Nonprofit Eligibility Certification**
    - Replaces some previously required items
  - **Must be signed by CEO & attorney**
  - **New submission requirements:**
    - IRS website printout
    - CRIA website printout
    - List of current board members
    - Minutes from most recent meeting

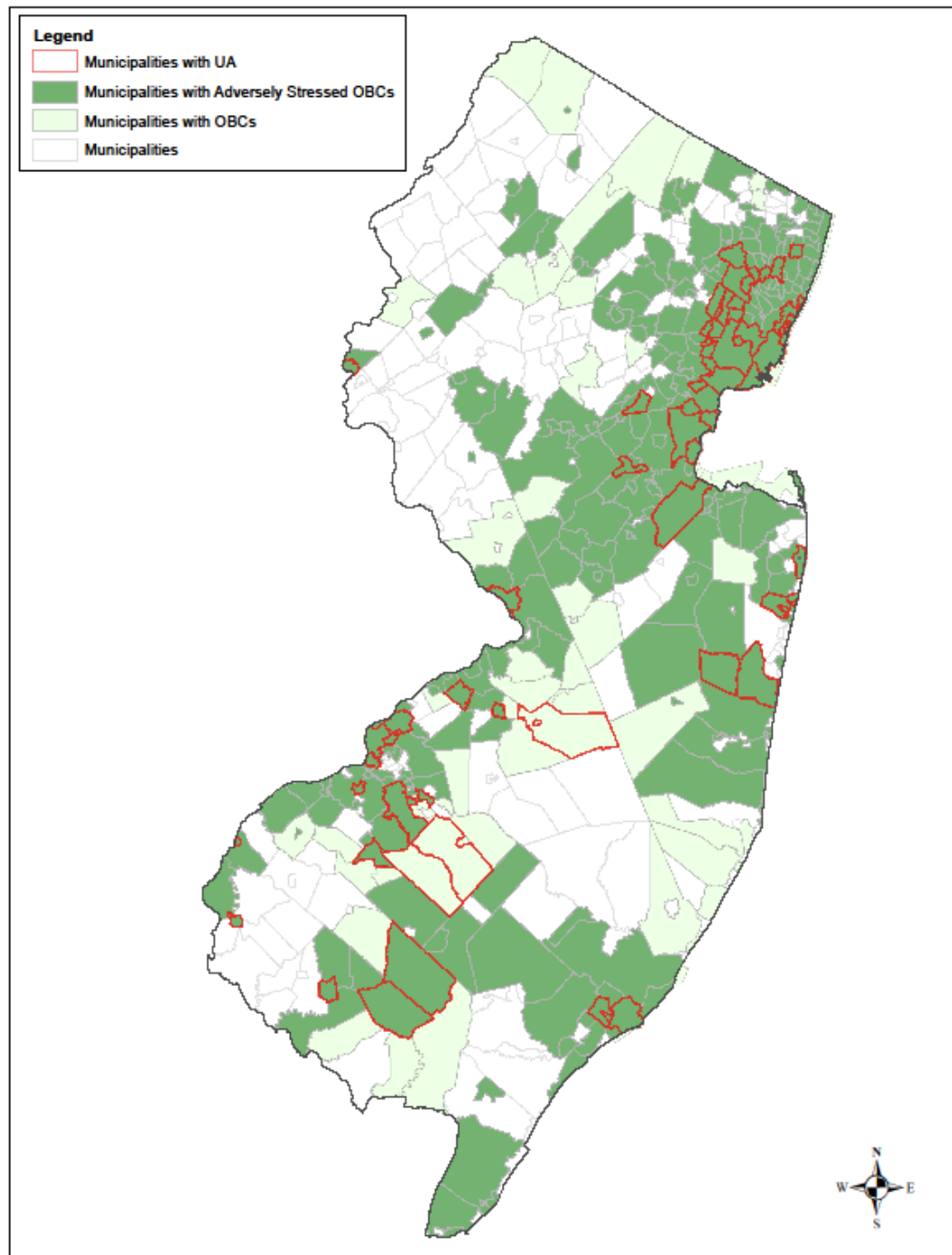
# Application Changes: Urban Parks Projects

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- Projects must be located in or easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community within an Urban Aid municipality
  - 59 eligible municipalities, plus county projects in eligible locations
- Urban Parks applications rolled-over into the Green Acres round will count toward an applicant's request limit and be eligible for 100% grant funding

# Eligible Communities



# Funding Request Options

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- ✓ **Traditional Green Acres**
  - Acquisition (Standard, UA, SSI, or PI) OR
  - Park Development OR
  - Urban Parks Rollover
  
- ✓ **Stewardship**
  
- ✓ **Jake's Law (Counties)**
  
- ✓ **Urban Parks (UA Adv. Stressed OBC)**

*\* One request for each option –  
New application OR supplemental funding\**

# 2023 Funding Round Programs

*Applicants may submit one request per funding program*

Program	Description	Eligibility Notes
<b>Traditional Green Acres</b>	Land Acquisition (Planning Incentive, Site-Specific Incentive, Standard, Urban Aid, or Nonprofit) OR	All local governments and nonprofits
	Park Development OR	All local governments; Nonprofit projects located in an Urban Aid, Densely Populated, or Highly Populated Municipality or a Densely Populated County or that draw over 75% of their users from those areas
	Urban Parks Rollover	Projects located within Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities within Urban Aid Municipalities that were unfunded or underfunded through the Urban Parks Program
<b>Stewardship</b>	Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources and Historic Landscapes	All local governments and nonprofits
<b>Jake’s Law Playground Funding</b>	Completely Inclusive Playgrounds	County governments
<b>Urban Parks</b>	Land Acquisition, Park Development & Historic Preservation	Local government projects located within Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities within Urban Aid Municipalities

# Funding Request Limits by Applicant Type

Type of Applicant	Max. # of Requests	Eligible Funding Program	Notes
Nonprofit	2	Traditional Green Acres Stewardship	
Municipality – Non-Urban Aid	2	Traditional Green Acres Stewardship	
Municipality – Urban Aid	3	Traditional Green Acres Stewardship Urban Parks	Urban Parks application project must be located within/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community. Municipality may ask to have the Urban Parks application rolled over into the Green Acres round if it is unsuccessful or underfunded, but must indicate which request is the priority (Urban Parks rollover or Green Acres request), since both cannot be funded.
County	4	Traditional Green Acres Stewardship Jake’s Law Urban Parks	Urban Parks application project must be located within/easily accessible from an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community in an Urban Aid Municipality. County may ask to have the Urban Parks application rolled over into the Green Acres round if it is unsuccessful or underfunded, but must indicate which request is the priority (Urban Parks rollover or Green Acres request), since both cannot be funded.

# Supplemental Funding Requests

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- Additional funding for open project
- Must submit:
  - Supplemental Funding Request Form
  - Attachments
    - Supplemental Funding Enabling Resolution
    - Supplemental Funding Nonprofit Eligibility Certification
    - Acquisition: Planning Incentive / Site Specific Incentive Eligibility Certification

# GA Acquisition Project Grant Percentages

Grant %	Planning Incentive	Site-Specific Incentive	Standard Acquisition	Urban Aid Acquisition	Acquisition Project Located in an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community	Nonprofit Acquisitions
25%			Project not located in an Urban Aid Municipality		Projects not located in municipalities mentioned below	
50%	Local government with open space tax and plan	Local government with open space tax			Project located in a Highly or Densely Populated Municipality	All Nonprofit Projects
75%	Urban Aid Municipality with open space tax and plan			Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality		
100%					Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality	

# Funding Round Caps

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- More expensive projects may receive less than they are eligible for
- GA cap – Based on applicant type
  - See application Funding Round Caps section for recent cap amounts
- Urban Parks cap – \$500,000

# Application Disqualification

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- **Disqualifying circumstances**  
*(see application for full list)*
  - Not signed by person authorized in resolution and by Chief Financial Officer
  - Public hearing/notice requirements not met
  - Signed contract with landowner without prior GA authorization

## Tips: Application Form

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- ✓ Address each Project Description bullet point
- ✓ List tax lots separately & provide info for each; list matches tax maps, Project Reference Map
- ✓ You must look up whether property is historic
- ✓ Public engagement documentation
- ✓ Contact us to review project cost and request figures

## Tips: Enabling Resolution

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- ✓ Use template *without changes*
- ✓ Amounts in resolution = request amounts
- ✓ If no loan request, list loan amount as \$0
- ✓ Match figure = Total project cost – Funding request
- ✓ Urban Parks rollover – two resolutions

**We are happy to review draft resolutions!**

## Tips: Recreation & Open Space Inventory (ROSI)

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- ✓ Use Excel spreadsheet form
- ✓ Each tax lot on separate line
- ✓ Both the Total Lot Acres and the GA Encumbered Acres columns filled in
- ✓ Dated within the last 12 months
- ✓ Printout from the DEP OTPLA website is not an acceptable submission

# Guides

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- ✓ Environmental Justice Mapping, Assessment and Protection Tool (EJMAP)
- ✓ Historic Preservation Office
- ✓ IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search
- ✓ NJ DCA Charities Search



## Application Form Submissions

### Submit your application documents

Please submit only one application at a time

#### Application

2023 ACQUISITION APPLICATION – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONPROFITS

Select the name of the application and supporting documentation you are submitting

Name

First

Email

Last

Submitted on behalf of:

#### File Upload

Drop files here or

Max. file size: 500 MB.

# Contact Us!

www.NJGreenAcres.org

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Department of Environmental Protection

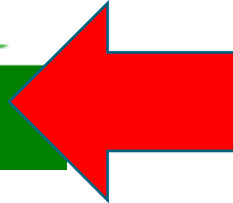


## Green Acres Program

Preserving & Enhancing New Jersey's Great Outdoors since 1961



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### Green Acres Contact List

For general questions, please email [GreenAcres@dep.nj.gov](mailto:GreenAcres@dep.nj.gov)

County	Contact for STATE ACQUISITION	Contact for LOCAL/NONPROFIT acquisition projects (entire county, unless noted)	Contact for LOCAL/NONPROFIT park development and stewardship projects (entire county, unless noted)	Contact for Post-Funding Compliance
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# Closing Remarks

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➤ Thank you for coming!

➤ Q&A