

# Office of the Governor

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### GOVERNOR PRESENTS CHECK FOR PARK PROJECT IN GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP

Gov. Christie Whitman today presented a \$200,000 check for the Hickstown Road Park project. The Governor praised Gloucester Township's plan to turn the park into an even better resource for the community.

The project is turning a 65-acre parcel of land owned by Gloucester Township into a community park with athletic fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, an amphitheater, a picnic pavilion and a nature trail.

"I am happy to be here in Gloucester Township to present this check for \$200,000, which will help turn Hickstown Road Park into an even better resource for this community," said Gov. Whitman. "With its 65 acres of forests, this park has enormous potential. When the new picnic areas, nature trails, athletic fields, and playgrounds are completed, Hickstown Road Park will truly have something for everyone."

"Hickstown Park is a great example of the difference open space preservation can make to a community," the Governor continued.

Thirty-five acres of the land were originally purchased with green acres funds amounting to \$450,000. The \$200,000 grant presented by the Governor today is part of the FY 2000 state budget. The park received \$200,000 in the FY 1999 state budget as well. The project is expected to cost \$6 million.

In 1998, New Jersey voters approved a historic open space and farmland preservation program that will save 1 million acres over the next ten years. The program represents the first time that a stable source of funding has been dedicated to the preservation of open space.