



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Gene Herman
(609) 777-2600

TRENTON, NJ 08625
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Gov. Christie Whitman Signs Legislation Allocating \$78 Million in Green Acres Funds for Acquiring Land for Recreation and Conservation

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed four bills which will allocate \$78 million in Green Acres funds to local governments and the state to acquire and develop land for recreation and conservation programs throughout New Jersey.

"These bills will go a long way in helping to protect our environment by enabling local governments and the state to acquire land for the sole purposes of conserving our open space and providing recreation for New Jersey's citizens," Whitman said.

The bills allocate \$57,088,000 in Green Acres funds for local government projects in southern, northern and central New Jersey and provide for an appropriation of \$21,610,000 for the development of state park and wildlife areas.

The funds will enable 54 municipal and county governments to preserve more than 1,735 acres of open space in 16 counties.

The bills signed by the Governor were:

S-2138, sponsored by Senators John J. Matheussen (R- Camden/Gloucester) and Leonard T. Connors, Jr. (R-Atlantic). The legislation appropriates \$57,088,000 from Green Acres bond acts for local government projects. The bill specifically provides funding of \$7,648,000 for Green Acres projects in southern New Jersey.

S-2139, sponsored by Senators Peter A. Inverso (R- Mercer/Middlesex) and Jack Sinagra (R-Middlesex), This legislation provides funding for Green Acres projects of local government units in Central New Jersey. The total sum approved from various Green Acres bond acts for central New Jersey projects is \$17,910,000.

S-2140, sponsored by Senators Henry P. McNamara (R- Bergen/Passaic and William E. Schluter (R-Warren/Hudson/Mercer). The bill funds projects of certain local government units in Northern New Jersey. The bill affects certain local government projects in Bergen, Essex, Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex and Morris counties. The total sum of the approved amounts for northern New Jersey projects is \$31,350,000.

S-2022, sponsored by Senators John P. Scott (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland). The bill appropriates \$21,610,000 from the 1995 New Jersey Green Acres Fund for the development of state park and wildlife areas. Some of the projects to be funded are located in Liberty State Park, Palisades Interstate Park and the Hackensack Meadowlands.

Since 1994, Whitman has preserved nearly 80,000 acres of open space through Green Acres and over 26,000 acres of farmland through the Farmland Preservation program. More land was preserved in 1996 under the Green Acres program than in any previous year.

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