



Campaign to preserve New Jersey's parks, natural areas, clean water, farmland, and historic treasures

204 W. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Website: www.NJKeepItGreen.org

Tel: (609) 392-1181

Get the Facts!

The Clean Water, Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Amendment

On November 4, 2014 New Jersey citizens will have an opportunity to vote to approve the dedication of much needed state funds for open space, farmland and historic preservation as well as other important environmental programs. Here's what you need to know about this historic ballot measure:

- **What does it do?**

The measure ensures stable funding for the preservation and care of open space, parks, farmland, historic sites and flood-prone areas. The funding will replenish the now-depleted Green Acres, Blue Acres, farmland and historic preservation programs, and continue funding for watershed protection, underground storage tank clean-up and removal, and clean-up of polluted sites.

- **Why do we need it?**

There is no new money left for preservation programs in New Jersey, but tremendous needs remain. According to a report by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, more than 650,000 acres still need to be preserved to protect natural and water resources and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to a growing population. At least 350,000 acres of additional farmland must be preserved to maintain a viable agriculture industry, according to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

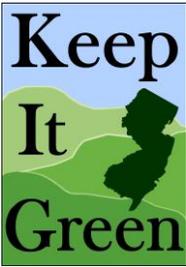
- **How will we pay for it?**

The state currently dedicates 4 percent of the money collected from the Corporate Business Tax to help pay for some environmental programs. The ballot measure changes the way some of the programs are funded and raises the amount from 4 percent to 6 percent beginning in July 2019. The measure only changes the dedication of existing tax dollars, and does not increase taxes.

The measure also dedicates money received from leases and other uses of state open space lands to pay for open space, farmland and historic preservation.

- **How much money will be dedicated?**

Under the measure, preservation programs will receive an estimated \$71 million annually the first five years and then an estimated \$117 million annually thereafter. Comparatively, open space, farmland and historic preservation programs have received an average of \$200 million annually since the establishment of the Garden State Preservation Trust in 1998. If the ballot measure passes in November, it will provide reduced but critical baseline funding.



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▪ **Exactly how will the funds be distributed?**

Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the funding will be allocated for open space, parks, farmland and historic preservation and stewardship while $\frac{1}{4}$ of the funding will be dedicated to other environmental programs including watershed management, underground storage tank removal and clean-up, brownfields remediation and clean-ups of polluted sites.

▪ **What about funding for state and urban parks?**

The measure will continue to fund park acquisition and development as well as the care and stewardship of parks through the Green Acres program. Green Acres has a proven track record of providing for the purchase and development of parks – state, county and local – across New Jersey. In fact, Liberty State Park, the most visited state park in New Jersey and the crown jewel of the state park system, has received over \$29 million under Green Acres to create and improve the park. Moreover, Green Acres provided more than \$336 million in grants to counties and municipalities for park development projects between 2000 and 2012.

▪ **Does the measure include funding to maintain the parks and open spaces that are already preserved or will be preserved?**

Yes. This measure will help us take better care of the parks and natural areas we already have. It will fund critical repairs, restoration and improvements to parks, natural areas and lakes, rivers and streams across New Jersey – making it easier for the public to visit and enjoy them.

▪ **Is there any money left from the 2009 bond issue?**

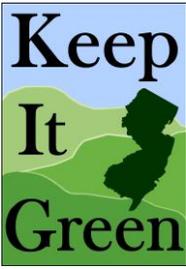
All of the funds from the 2009 bond issue are fully allocated. Green Acres has less than one full grant round remaining and there are zero funds left for farmland and historic preservation.

▪ **How does this measure support job creation?**

The measure will fund projects that will create jobs and also improve the environment – building and repairing parks, restoring damaged landscapes, keeping our family farms working, and restoring historic landmarks. In fact, according to a prior study, 2010 Green Acres park development funds of \$28.3 million were conservatively estimated to support 977 construction jobs as well as many technical professionals.

▪ **What are some of the other benefits of the measure?**

- Ensures that future generations continue to have access to open spaces, clean water and family farms.
- Protects drinking water and New Jersey's rivers, lakes and beaches.



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▪ **What are some of the other benefits of the measure? (continued)**

- Preserves the quality of life in New Jersey by preserving natural areas, farmland and water resources and providing outdoor recreational opportunities.
- Expands New Jersey's system of parks, trails and natural areas, giving more kids and adults access to outdoor activities that will improve their overall physical health and well-being.
- Proactively helps prevent future flooding and storm damage by protecting wetlands and other lands that act as a first line of natural defense against storms and help absorb their impact.
- Provides funding to help restore natural areas, parks and historic structures that were devastated by Hurricane Sandy and related flooding.
- Supports our local, regional and state economies. Every \$1 invested in state preservation programs returns \$10 in economic value to the state through nature's goods and services, such as water filtration and flood control and supports key industries including tourism and agriculture.