Green Acres Local & Nonprofit Assistance Program

Application Workshop

January 11, 2023

Land Acquisition Projects
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

- Eligible projects
- Recent changes to the Local & Nonprofit Program
- Application package submissions tips
- Answer your questions!
Workshops

- January 11th
  - 10-12 – Acquisition (including Urban Parks)
  - 1-3 – Park Development (including Urban Parks), Stewardship, Jake’s Law

- February 1st, 10-12 – Drop-in Q&A

- February 22nd, 10-12 – Drop-in Q&A
"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

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

- 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 ¼ mile away with no barriers to pedestrian access
Eligible Communities
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
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

- 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)
✓ 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
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

- 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
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
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

- 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

- 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*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Eligibility Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traditional Green Acres</strong></td>
<td>Land Acquisition (Planning Incentive, Site-Specific Incentive, Standard, Urban Aid, or Nonprofit) OR Park Development OR</td>
<td>All local governments and nonprofits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban Parks Rollover</td>
<td>Projects located within Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities within Urban Aid Municipalities that were unfunded or underfunded through the Urban Parks Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stewardship</strong></td>
<td>Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources and Historic Landscapes</td>
<td>All local governments and nonprofits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jake’s Law Playground Funding</strong></td>
<td>Completely Inclusive Playgrounds</td>
<td>County governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Urban Parks</strong></td>
<td>Land Acquisition, Park Development &amp; Historic Preservation</td>
<td>Local government projects located within Adversely Stressed Overburdened Communities within Urban Aid Municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of Applicant</td>
<td>Max. # of Requests</td>
<td>Eligible Funding Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Traditional Green Acres Stewardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality – Non-Urban Aid</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Traditional Green Acres Stewardship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality – Urban Aid</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Traditional Green Acres Stewardship Urban Parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Traditional Green Acres Stewardship Jake’s Law Urban Parks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supplemental Funding Requests

- 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

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

- 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)

- 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

- 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

Email

Name

First

Last

Submitted on behalf of:

File Upload

Drop files here or

Select files

Max. file size: 500 MB.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Contact for STATE ACQUISITION</th>
<th>Contact for LOCAL/NONPROFIT acquisition projects (entire county, unless noted)</th>
<th>Contact for LOCAL/NONPROFIT park development and stewardship projects (entire county, unless noted)</th>
<th>Contact for Post-Funding Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

For general questions, please email GreenAcres@dep.nj.gov
Closing Remarks

- Thank you for coming!
- Q&A

www.NJGreenAcres.org