Green Acres Local & Nonprofit Assistance Program

Application Workshop
January 11, 2023

Park Development, Stewardship & Jake’s Law 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
  o 10-12 – Acquisition (including Urban Parks)
  o 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
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!
Jake's Law Playground Requirements

- Applications from county governments only
- Must be on county-owned parkland
- Must be constructed in accordance with DCA regulations for Completely Inclusive Playgrounds (link in application)
- Project scope limited to improvements that are part of or directly in support of the CIP
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
Engage ALL members of the public!
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
Must review Environmental Impact Analysis of Proposed Action section of EIA
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
➢ Competitive program (except Jake’s Law)

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

➢ Additional information in application

Ranking: What we look for
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: Park Development Projects

- Park development projects limited to one park location
- No major scope changes to a project after approval
Tree Removal Policy

➢ More detail in Environmental Impact Assessment
  o Information about trees >6” DBH to be removed
  o Alternatives discussion
  o Shade Tree Commission or Environmental Commission role

➢ Applicants should adhere to municipal tree ordinances

➢ Projects that propose significant tree removal will not be approved for funding
Synthetic Turf Fields Policy

- DEP Division of Science & Research reviews
- Due diligence in project planning
  - Drainage systems
  - Infill material
  - Heat impacts
  - Exposure risks
- Discussion of alternatives – synthetic vs. natural
- Discuss Environmental Impact Analysis at public hearing
Eligible Improvements
- Natural resource creation, restoration, or protection
- Historic landscape restoration

Conditionally Eligible Improvements
- Ancillary improvements for environmental education, nature observation, or public access
- Subject to a cap of 33% of the cost of constructing Eligible Improvements

Detailed list in application package
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
✓ 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>
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<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>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stewardship</strong></td>
<td>Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources and Historic Landscapes</td>
<td>All local governments and nonprofits</td>
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<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>
</tbody>
</table>

*Applicants may submit one request per funding program*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Applicant</th>
<th>Max. # of Requests</th>
<th>Eligible Funding Program</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonprofit</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Traditional Green Acres Stewardship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality – Non-Urban Aid</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Traditional Green Acres Stewardship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality – Urban Aid</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Traditional Green Acres Stewardship Urban Parks</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Traditional Green Acres Stewardship Jake’s Law Urban Parks</td>
<td>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.</td>
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Supplemental Funding Requests

➢ Additional funding for open project

➢ Must submit:
  o Supplemental Funding Request Form
  o Attachments
    • Supplemental Funding Enabling Resolution
    • Supplemental Funding Nonprofit Eligibility Certification
    • GA Park Development/Stewardship: Current units & quantities cost estimate
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant %</th>
<th>Standard Park Development</th>
<th>Urban Aid Park Development</th>
<th>Park Development Project Located in an Adversely Stressed Overburdened Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Project sponsored by a standard municipality or standard county eligible for low interest loan only, except if located in AS/OBC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project sponsored by a standard municipality or standard county</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Project located in a Highly or Densely Populated Municipality or sponsored by a Highly Populated County, except if located in AS/OBC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project located in a Highly or Densely Populated Municipality or sponsored by a Highly Populated County</td>
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<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Project sponsored by a Densely Populated County, except if located in AS/OBC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality, except if located in AS/OBC</td>
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<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality, except if located in AS/OBC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant %</td>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>Jake’s Law</td>
<td>Urban Parks</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Project not located in an Urban Aid Municipality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Project located in an Urban Aid Municipality</td>
<td>County-sponsored project located in a county-owned park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Project located in an Adversely Stressed OBC in an Urban Aid Municipality</td>
</tr>
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</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

Jake's Law cap – $750,000-$1,000,000

Urban Parks cap – $500,000

Design project that reflects likely award + available applicant funding
Disqualifying circumstances
(see application for full list)

- Signed by someone who is not authorized in resolution
- Not signed by Chief Financial Officer
- Public hearing/notice requirements not met
- Application is to re-fund a facility GA funded less than 20 years ago
- Proposed project does not result in a usable recreation facility
- Awarded construction contract without prior GA authorization
✓ Address each Project Description bullet point

✓ List tax lots separately & provide info for each; list matches tax maps, concept plan

✓ You must look up whether property is historic

✓ Public engagement documentation

✓ Contact us to review project cost and request figures

✓ Previously funded by GA?
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
✓ Subject property lots are listed
✓ Printout from the DEP OTPLA website is not an acceptable submission
✓ Cost Estimate
  o Tree removal costs and site grading costs broken out in separate lines

✓ Concept Plan
  o New checklist

✓ Phased Projects:
  o Project Description & Project Narrative – Only include information about proposed improvements included in the cost estimate for this phase
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

**Name**

First Last

**Email**


**Submitted on behalf of:**


**File Upload**

Drop files here or

[Select files]

Max. file size: 500 MB.
Contact Us!

www.NJGreenAcres.org

<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>
Closing Remarks

➢ Thank you for coming!

➢ Q&A

www.NJGreenAcres.org