



New Jersey Conservation
FOUNDATION

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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FROM NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

It would be an understatement to say that
2020 hasn't turned out the way anyone expected.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation started the year planning a gala – music, dancing, great food and drink – to celebrate 60 years of conservation. We looked forward to bringing people into nature: bird and butterfly walks, outdoor yoga, moth nights, children's programs, tours of preserved lands.

Then the novel coronavirus hit and upended the whole world's plans. The threat of COVID-19 put a stop to most in-person events.

But it didn't stop the celebration of our 60th anniversary and the 125,000-plus acres of open space and farmland permanently preserved since 1960! Instead, a virtual party and auction on the summer solstice, June 20, was a great success! Huge thanks to everyone who stopped by online to watch musical performances, bid on unique items and experiences, see messages from current and past governors, ask questions about nature and wildlife, and request favorite songs from a live DJ.

The coronavirus didn't stop people's enjoyment of nature. As most New Jersey schools and businesses locked down, parks, preserves and trails became more popular than ever. Across the state and beyond, people flocked to parks and open spaces for exercise, fresh air, a break from their couches and for the peace and quiet that only nature can bring. Some New Jersey Conservation Foundation preserves saw a record number of visitors.

Thank you to all our loyal members and friends for making the preservation of these special places possible! Without your donations and support over the past 60 years, New Jersey Conservation could not have preserved so many beautiful properties that provide recreation, protect wildlife habitat and safeguard clean water.

Enjoy this Annual Report and check out the decade-by-decade timeline of New Jersey Conservation Foundation's major milestones over the past 60 years. You should be proud, because YOU made these milestones happen!

With many thanks,



MICHELE S. BYERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ROSINA "NINA" DIXON
PRESIDENT

Michele S. Byers *Nina Dixon*

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US!

For membership information,
please visit our website at
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call us at 1-888-LANDSAVE.
Our mailing address is
170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931.

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OUR
MISSION

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve land and natural resources throughout New Jersey for the benefit of all. Through acquisition and stewardship, we protect strategic lands from the Highlands to the Pine Barrens to the Delaware Bayshore. We promote strong land conservation policies at the local, state and federal levels, forge partnerships to achieve conservation goals, and provide support and technical assistance to partner groups. Since 1960, we have helped protect more than 125,000 acres of natural areas, farms, parks and water resources.

From our origin in 1960 as a local citizen group fighting to protect the Great Swamp to our current-day land preservation and advocacy projects throughout the state, New Jersey Conservation Foundation has accomplished a lot in the past 60 years!

On the following pages, a timeline chronicles the highlights of six decades working in the Garden State to preserve land and natural resources for the benefit of all.



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

In 1960, a grassroots group formed to stop a large “jetport” from being built in the Great Swamp. This small but mighty group would go on to much bigger things!

1960s

1960



Grassroots opposition mobilizes against Port Authority plan for 10,000-acre international “jetport” in the Great Swamp of Morris and Somerset counties.

1961

The Great Swamp Committee of the North American Wildlife Foundation is officially established, led by housewife-turned-activist Helen Fenske.



1965

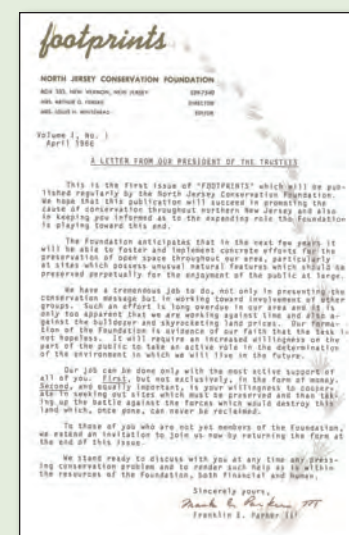


North Jersey Conservation Foundation makes its first purchase, the 77-acre Dismal Harmony Preserve in Mendham Township, which is later turned over to the town. It's the first time a nonprofit partners with the state Green Acres program.



1966

Our first newsletter, *Footprints*, debuts.



1961



Helen Fenske and other conservationists go to Washington to convince federal officials to support a national wildlife refuge in the Great Swamp.



1964

Preservation effort succeeds: the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is dedicated with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall in attendance.



1965



The Great Swamp Committee extends its vision to become the North Jersey Conservation Foundation.

1967

Helen Fenske, Russell Myers of Morris County Parks, Hugh Stearns of the Morristown Rotary Club, and the Junior League of Morristown develop idea for Patriots' Path, a greenbelt along the Whippany River in Morris County, an area rich in Revolutionary War history. Over more than four decades, it would grow to become one of the county's signature parks.



1968



We make first open space gift to newly-established New Jersey Natural Lands Trust, an agency created to accept donations of land from private property owners, donating 36 acres along the Rockaway Creek in Readington Township that were given to us by Mr. and Mrs. Gurdon Wattles.


1969

David Moore replaces Helen Fenske as Executive Director.





1970s



1970

1972

NJ Conservation begins weekly column, "The State We're In," commenting on environmental topics in New Jersey. The column is still published today, running without a gap for 50 years.

A collage titled "EDUCATION FOR SURVIVAL" with the subtitle "a social studies and science curriculum...". The collage includes several black and white photographs: a close-up of a person's face in the top left, a fish in the top center, a hand holding a plant in the top right, a hand holding a shell in the bottom left, and a hand holding a plant in the bottom right. The text is centered in the middle of the collage.

An 84-acre parcel in Chester Township, given to us by Corinne and Percy Chubb, was transferred to the township, forming Chubb Park. Later, 42 adjoining acres in Chester Borough were turned over to that municipality, enlarging the park. This creates our first conservation easement, and one of the first in Morris County.

1979

A black and white photograph of a public square in New York City. In the background, the grand, classical-style building of the New York Public Library is visible, featuring a large dome. To the left, a modern building with a grid-like facade stands. The foreground is dominated by several young, thin trees planted in a grassy area. People are seen walking and sitting on benches in the square. A bus is parked on the right side of the image. The overall scene depicts a vibrant urban public space.

A large, three-story blue wooden building with a stone foundation and a white house in the background. The blue building has many windows and a small arched entrance at the base. The white house is partially obscured by trees and has a red roof. The scene is set in a lush, green environment with a river or stream in the foreground.

After years of helping preserve land in Monmouth County, we help found the Monmouth Conservation Foundation. Edward and Joanne Mullen donate Walnford Mills, an 18th century house and gristmill on 41 acres in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, to us. We transfer the property to the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, which later ensures its preservation as a county historic park.

1974



NJ Conservation acquires the 165-acre Cross Estate in Bernardsville and transfer it to Morristown National Historical Park. Basketball star Bill Bradley, just beginning his run for U.S. Senate, speaks at the dedication.



1974



North Jersey Conservation Foundation becomes New Jersey Conservation Foundation to reflect growing statewide focus.

1974

The first one-mile section of Patriots' Path opens in Mendham Township; a master plan for the 27-mile greenbelt park is finished the following year.



1979

NJ Conservation preserves the 60-acre McBride celery farm in heavily developed Bergen County. It is later turned over to the town of Allendale as the Celery Farm Natural Area.



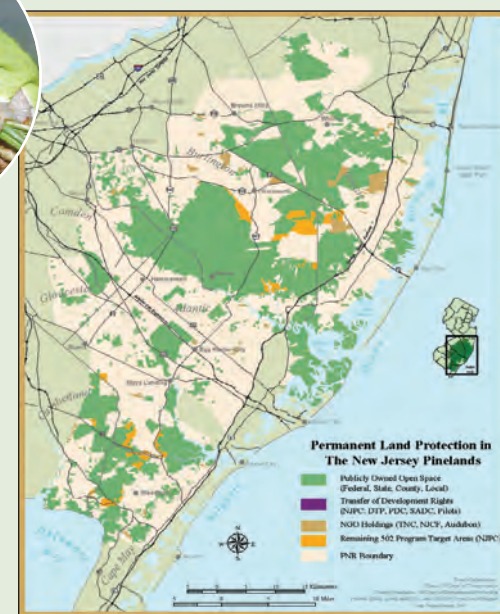
1979

Landmark property tax assessment decision won by us: State Division of Tax Appeals rules that assessments must be lowered to reflect reduction in market value of properties with conservation easements.

1979



The New Jersey Legislature approves the Pinelands Protection Act, one year after Jimmy Carter signs bill creating the million-acre Pinelands National Reserve. We were among the leading advocates for the Act, and had spent three years fundraising for Pinelands preservation. By year's end, we hold nearly 2,000 acres in Pine Barrens.



The 1980s brought further expansion of our work, with a focus on helping state and local governments preserve parks and open space.



1981



We launch project to restore the state-owned but neglected Pine Barrens community of Whitesbog, home to Elizabeth White, who began cultivating native wild blueberries there in 1912. We help establish Whitesbog Preservation Trust.

1981

NJ Conservation purchases 234 acres in Roxbury Township, Morris County, which eventually become Morris Canal Park. It contains sections of defunct canal bed and towpath.



1981



Gov. Brendan Byrne and State Senator Raymond Zane peruse our poster highlighting the persistent loss of farmland in New Jersey. The New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Act and a bond issue providing \$50 million for farmland preservation are subsequently passed by voters.

1985

Grover's Mill Pond in West Windsor Township, Mercer County, site of Orson Wells' fictional 1938 "War of the Worlds" Martian invasion, is acquired by us, and later passed to the township along with funds to maintain the dam.



1985



Campaign launched to protect habitat along the Delaware Bay where migratory shorebirds stop each spring to replenish their energy by feasting on horseshoe crab eggs. We accept donation of a stretch of Bayshore beach in Cape May County, later turned over to state Natural Lands Trust.

1986

Assisting the city of Camden with plans for a greenway along the Cooper River, we begin seeking land and easement donations from private, corporate and nonprofit landowners.

1987



1982



The 180-acre Van Doren farm in Tewksbury Township is sold to Hunterdon County as a park, along with easements forming a green belt surrounding historic Oldwick. We purchased the farm four years earlier to prevent a housing development from being built.

1983

We save land near the Forked River Mountains of Ocean County that later becomes Wells Mills County Park.



1984

NJ Conservation begins new project in cooperation with Delaware Twp, Hunterdon County, to protect an eight-mile stretch of the Wickecheoke Creek. We save an 89-acre farm, one of the first to be preserved through the State Farmland Preservation Program.



1985

The State Planning Act is passed, affirming that New Jersey needs sound and integrated statewide planning to conserve its natural resources, revitalize its urban centers and protect the quality of its environment.

1987

NJ Conservation acquires a Camden row house on the block where poet Walt Whitman once lived, and later transfer it to the state as part of Walt Whitman Historic Complex.



NJ Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act becomes law, three years after we and our partners launch campaign to protect the state's freshwater wetlands.

1987

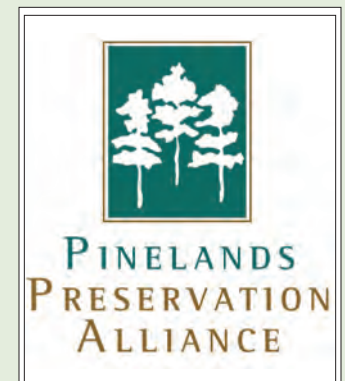
We agree to help residents of northeastern Morris County save a forested ridge known as Pyramid Mountain. The land, which contains evidence of occupation by prehistoric people, eventually becomes Pyramid Mountain Natural Historic Area.



1989

As a result of lobbying by us and our partners, a Green Acres bond referendum is amended to allow nonprofits to apply for funding directly for the first time.

1989



The Pinelands Preservation Alliance is founded by NJ Conservation to serve as watchdog in the Pine Barrens.

NJ Conservation continues to grow, with an increasing focus on acquiring land to add to a statewide system of preserves.



1990



Actor Christopher Reeve, Gov. Jim Florio and former Gov. Brendan Byrne are special guests at our 30th anniversary dinner at the AT&T headquarters in Basking Ridge.

1990

For Land's Sake, a history of our first 30 years, is published. At this point, we have helped save some 50,000 acres.



1991



We build a nature trail on one of our properties in Burlington County as a memorial to the late conservationists Brooks and Dorothy Evert. The property is now known as the Evert Preserve, one of the first of our properties to be actively managed.

1992

Walkill River National Wildlife Refuge in Sussex County is established: its nucleus is formed by the first property donated by us.

1994

NJ Conservation becomes the first nonprofit to make a grant to a county to preserve farmland. Salem County used the funding to buy an agricultural easement on the dairy farm owned by Vera and Elmer Pettit.

1995

First part of the 150-mile-long Highlands Trail opens, as a result of efforts by us, the NY-NJ Trail Conference and National Park Service.



1995



We save 3,000 acres in the Forked River Mountains of Ocean County, the largest acquisition by a nonprofit group in New Jersey to date.

1996

NJ Conservation offices move to the Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center in Chester Township, a property that was once home to Martha Brookes Hutcheson, one of America's first female landscape architects.



1992



Four influential NJ Conservation Foundation publications, starting with *The New Jersey Highlands: Treasures at Risk*, helped shape land use policy in key regions during the '90s and beyond. The special reports that follow are: *Greenways to the Arthur Kill*, *Charting a Course for the Delaware Bay Watershed*, and *Gaining Ground: Preserving New Jersey Farmland through Effective Tax Policy*.

1993

The Donald and Beverley Jones Footpath in the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve is named to honor dedicated preservationists from Hunterdon County. Donald Jones is a former president of our Board of Trustees.



1994



The "Songbird Connection" educational curriculum is published, teaching youngsters about the need to protect habitat along the migratory routes of songbirds, from their nesting areas in New Jersey to their wintering grounds in Central and South America.

1997

First annual New Jersey Land Trust Rally offers educational workshops for people involved in land conservation.



1997

We successfully rally with partners to save Riverbank Park in Newark, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, from being developed into a baseball stadium.

1998



Garden State Preservation Trust Act passes, launching New Jersey's ambitious initiative to preserve one million acres.

1999

David Moore retires after 30 years; Michele Byers becomes our third executive director.



Our fifth decade was marked by many milestones, including the acquisition of the magnificent Franklin Parker Preserve in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.



2000



A joint effort between us and the NJDEP's Green Acres program preserves over 450 acres in the Burden Hill Forest of Salem and Cumberland counties – the Delaware Bayshore region's only large, intact forest.

2001

Our 40th anniversary is celebrated at Drumthwacket, the governor's mansion in Princeton. By now, we have helped save more than 100,000 acres throughout New Jersey.



2003



The 9,400-acre DeMarco cranberry farm in the Pine Barrens of Burlington County is preserved and later named for our trustee and former president Franklin Parker, the first chairman of the state Pinelands Commission. It is the largest property ever acquired by a New Jersey nonprofit.

2006



The largest freshwater wetlands restoration project in the northeast begins at the Franklin Parker Preserve. A year earlier, we received more than \$5.4 million from the federal government to preserve and restore the wetlands.

2006

On the heels of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act of 2004, we help form and fund a new independent watchdog group, the New Jersey Highlands Coalition.



2006



We become the first nonprofit to bring federal farmland preservation funding to New Jersey when we preserve an 85-acre vegetable farm in Pilesgrove Township, Salem County. We also launch the Tri-County Agricultural Retention Partnership (TARP) to support farmers in Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland counties.

2004

In partnership with Green Acres and Rutgers University, we launch Garden State Greenways, an online planning tool dedicated to the idea that every New Jersey resident should have easy access to parks, trails and protected lands. It builds upon a greenways project begun 15 years earlier.

2004

We add 68 acres to Passaic County's Apshawa Preserve and become a partner in managing the rugged, mountainous 576-acre property surrounding Butler Reservoir.



2005



The circa 1795 Prall House in Stockton, Hunterdon County, is preserved, becoming a regional office for NJ Conservation and the Delaware River Mill Society.

2006

As part of our continuing effort to create a recreational link between the Delaware Riverfront and Cooper River Park, we open an office with full-time staff in the city of Camden.



2006

Research scientists discover 30 rare, endangered and threatened plants at the Franklin Parker Preserve. More discoveries follow in the coming years, including rare insects and frogs.



2007



NJ Conservation helps Ocean County preserve the historic Cedar Bridge Tavern in Barnegat Township, where the last battle of the Revolutionary War was fought.

2009



In a first-time partnership between a New Jersey nonprofit and the U.S. military, we preserve 107 acres next to the Air Force's Warren Grove Gunnery Range in Ocean County.



The 2010s was a decade of great accomplishment, with the establishment of many new preserves throughout the state and expansion of our advocacy work.

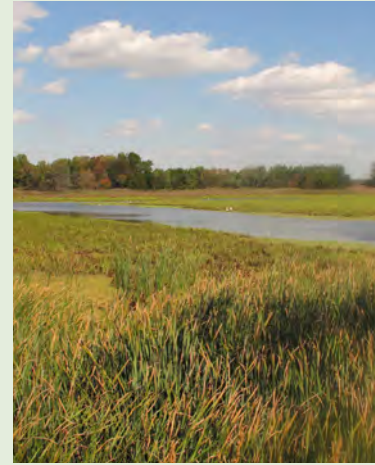
2010s

2010

We sell a preserved dairy farm in Washington Township, Warren County, to Brian and Courtney Foley, who are establishing New Jersey's first herd of water buffalo. The water buffaloes' rich milk is used to make gourmet mozzarella cheese, yogurt and other products.



2010



Preserved the 476-acre Fichera farm in the Mannington Meadows of Salem County

2010

The 4,000-acre Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve at Forked River Mountain is dedicated in honor of the remarkable conservationist who fought for New Jersey's environment for over six decades. The last original member of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, Candy Ashmun passed away in May 2020 at the age of 96.



2012

After more than a decade of planning and negotiations, NJ Conservation signs the first of several contracts toward the preservation of 1200 acres of land in the Sourland Mountains of Central Jersey. NJ Conservation is actively working to establish a preserve in the Sourlands, as well as assisting Somerset County in adding to its Sourland Mountain Preserve.



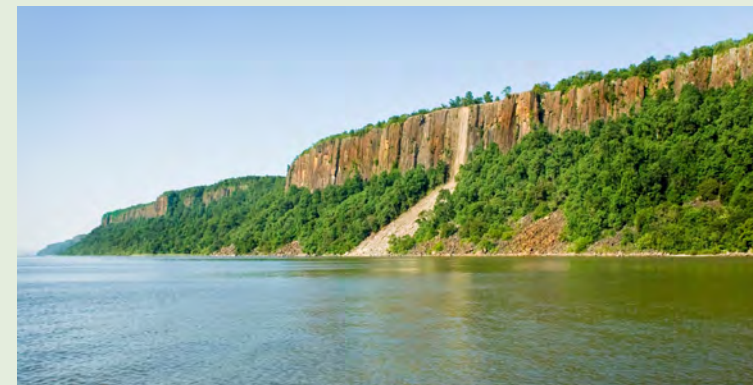
2013



NJ Conservation becomes an accredited land trust.

2014

At our urging, four former New Jersey governors – Byrne, Florio, Kean and Whitman – speak out to protect scenic views of the Palisades cliffs from intrusion by a proposed high-rise corporate headquarters. Their action eventually leads to a voluntary agreement to lower the building's profile.



2011



Preserved the first 115 acres of the Hill & Dale Preserve in Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, part of a historic farm with panoramic views from its highest fields.

2011

Received the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for restoring 1,100 acres of abandoned cranberry bogs to natural wetlands at the Franklin Parker Preserve in the Pine Barrens of Burlington County.



2012



A new section of the famous 50-mile Batona Trail across the Pine Barrens is rerouted through the Franklin Parker Preserve. The project moves the trail away from busy roadsides and increases its scenic appeal.

2014



The Maureen Ogden Preserve is dedicated in Washington Township, Morris County. It is named for former Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden, an environmental champion who formerly served on our Board of Trustees.

2014

New Jersey gains a permanent source of land preservation funding, as voters overwhelmingly approve a constitutional amendment dedicating a percentage of corporate business tax revenues for preserving open space, farmland, historic sites and flood-prone properties.



2014



NJ Conservation becomes administrator of the Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants, named for one of this organization's co-founders. The grants provide funding for non-profit conservation organizations working in New Jersey; to date, more than \$1.8 million has been awarded for over 484 projects.

2020 AND BEYOND

As we celebrate the first 60 years, we look ahead to the next 60, including more work to fight climate change and ensure access to parks and open space by communities of color.



2015



With a dozen partners, we purchase an abandoned corporate office campus in Hopewell Township, Mercer County, with plans to convert it into a nature preserve connecting with the Lawrence Hopewell Trail. It is named the Mount Rose Preserve, after the ridge where it is located.

2015

ReThink Energy NJ is established to fight an onslaught of pipeline proposals and advocate for clean energy. One of ReThink Energy's first projects is leading the opposition to the PennEast pipeline, which threatens thousands of acres of preserved open space and farmland in Hunterdon and Mercer counties.



2016



2017



A bipartisan group of former elected officials widely known for their environmental advocacy and achievements called on New Jersey's Congressional Delegation to fight for a set of "Principles to Protect our Public Lands, Water, Air and Wildlife" from environmental rollbacks in Washington. Former Governors Jim Florio, Christie Whitman and Tom Kean (pictured here), joined together with former Governor Brendan Byrne, former Congressman Rush Holt and former New Jersey Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden.

2018



Nearly 375 acres of grasslands surrounding the renowned Cowtown Rodeo in Pilesgrove Township, Salem County were permanently preserved, allowing the land to stay in the family. Cowtown is New Jersey's only rodeo and the longest running weekly rodeo in the nation.

2016

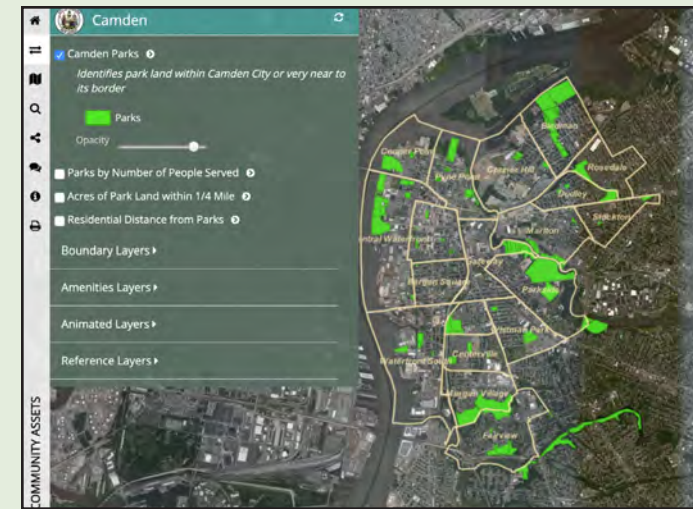
Lana Lobell Farm in Bedminster Township, Somerset County, once the home of a renowned Standardbred racehorse breeding operation, is preserved as farmland.

The former Zemel property in Pemberton, Burlington County, is purchased with a generous donation from Monmouth County philanthropists Joan and Robert Rechnitz. The 811-acre preserve is later named in their honor.



2016

New Jersey Conservation Blueprint, a powerful mapping tool to identify top priority lands for preservation, is launched in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Rowan University, William Penn Foundation and other members of the state's conservation community.



2018

The Clean Energy Act, for which NJ Conservation advocated, is signed into law by Governor Phil Murphy. The law takes critical steps toward improving and expanding New Jersey's renewable energy programs.

2018

Six hundred acres in Vineland, Cumberland County, including 2.2 miles of the scenic Menantico Creek, were purchased to become the Menantico Preserve.



2019



Decades of work in Camden City culminates with the grand opening of Gateway Park, 25 acres along the Cooper River that are providing local residents with access to nature and outdoor recreation.

2019

Invasive Chinese pond mussels were eradicated from ponds at a preserve in Hunterdon County, thanks to a grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Had these mussels not been eradicated from the former fish farm, they could have spread widely, as has been the case in Eastern Europe.





2019 DONORS

WHILE MUCH HAS CHANGED IN 60 YEARS,
ONE THING IS CONSTANT:

IT IS BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT
SO MUCH OF NEW JERSEY'S LAND, WATER

AND SCENIC BEAUTY ARE STILL HERE.

WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

\$100,000 AND ABOVE

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BERGEN COUNTY

BOLGER FOUNDATION

3 acres, Midland Park

The family of the late philanthropist David Bolger donated this wooded property behind his former home, creating a pocket-sized nature preserve in a heavily suburbanized area. “Those woods were one of his joys,” recalled David’s son, J.T. Bolger. “It was like our oasis.” The land is home to over 70 bird species, including Great Horned Owls, hawks and migratory songbirds.

BURLINGTON COUNTY

KATZ FAMILY TRUST

202 acres, Pemberton Township

NJ Conservation Foundation contributed a grant from the Open Space Institute’s Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund – which is made possible through the William Penn Foundation – to assist the Rancocas Conservancy in preserving this land, now known as the Bucks Cove Run Preserve. The Bucks Cove Run, which flows through the property, is a tributary of the Rancocas Creek; preserving this property’s significant wetlands and pine/oak forest helps protect water quality in the Delaware River Basin. Located in the Pine Barrens, the property borders Brendan Byrne State Forest and the Village of Whitesbog.

MOSIER

2 acres, Woodland Township

The ancestors of the late Frances Seska donated land next to the Franklin Parker Preserve to New Jersey Conservation Foundation. Mrs. Seska, a Jersey City resident who immigrated from Germany, bought the land in 1923, but never built her intended Pine Barrens vacation home there. The family held it for many years for sentimental reasons before deciding to donate it.

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HOLLENBACK

18 acres, Raritan Township

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners, NJDEP Green Acres Program, Hunterdon County, Raritan Township and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority preserved 18 acres of woodlands and farm fields at the headwaters of the Wickecheoke Creek, an important water supply source. The Hollenback property links other preserved open space along the Wickecheoke Creek and provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including bobcats, foxes, coyotes, mink, fishers and opossums. NJ Conservation’s Wickecheoke Creek Preserve is nearly 3,800 acres of preserved open space and farmland along this pristine Delaware River tributary.

NEWMAN

52 acres, Lebanon Township

This forested scenic property in the Highlands provides a connection between Voorhees State Park and the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust’s Hagedorn Preserve. The land is entirely covered by deciduous upland forest, and the highest point has a scenic view of the nearby Spruce Run Reservoir. Offered for sale as a home site, New Jersey Conservation worked with the landowner to sell the land for preservation to the State of New Jersey. The property is now managed by the NJ Natural Lands Trust and contains a proposed route for a cross township trail network.

TACK

72 acres, Lebanon Township

This land is a critical property in the Point Mountain conservation area of northwest Hunterdon County. The forests contain headwater streams that flow to Beatty’s Brook and eventually the Musconetcong River. The property was lined up for preservation through the Highlands Development Credit Transfer of Development Right’s program which is managed by the NJ Highlands Council.



More than 1,300 acres preserved throughout New Jersey in 2019

MERCER COUNTY

BLALOCK

22 acres, Hamilton Township

NJ Conservation Foundation assisted Hamilton Township in permanently preserving the Blalock farm, continuing to expand a significant, contiguous block of preserved farmland and open space in the municipality's Rural Resource Conservation zone. The land is immediately adjacent to two farms NJ Conservation Foundation helped preserve as open space, the Linda Black and Vaishnav properties, as well as the Barry Black farm, permanently preserved by the State Agriculture Development Committee. The property includes a small stream along its southern border, providing a strip of herbaceous wetland vegetation

including some deciduous trees and offering important habitat for a variety of birds and wildlife as a part of the 146 square mile Crosswicks Creek watershed.

MORRIS COUNTY

BARTENSTEIN

18 acres, Mendham Township

The land was purchased by Morris County from the estate of the late Frederick Bartenstein, who passed away in 2018 at the age of 100. Mr. Bartenstein and his wife, Isabel, were avid conservationists and historians. "My parents would be delighted," said Frederick Bartenstein III of the land's preservation. "They were both interested in history

and conservation. It became an important passion to them." The Bartenstein property protects water resources in the Great Swamp Watershed. It is nearly surrounded by preserved lands, including the southern end of Lewis Morris County Park, the Morristown National Historic Park at Jockey Hollow and the Morris Area Girl Scout camp.

OCEAN COUNTY

LEMANOWICZ AND MILLER

0.26 acres, Lacey Township

The donation of these small undeveloped parcels expands the nearly 4,000-acre Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve at Forked River

Mountain and are part of an unbuilt subdivision dating back to the early 20th century. The area is a mix of pine/oak uplands, pitch pine lowlands, and cedar swamps. Ownership enables New Jersey Conservation Foundation to better manage and protect natural resources.

SALEM COUNTY

GENTILE

44 acres, Alloway Township

This farmland preservation project advances NJ Conservation's partnership with Alloway Township and Salem County to preserve working family farms with outstanding agricultural attributes in an important farming region. Preservation of the farm will maintain the rural and scenic character of the area and preserve Prime and Statewide-Important soils. The land was preserved with a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service grant to NJ Conservation and a State Agriculture Development Committee grant to Alloway Township.

HARRIS 2

79 acres, Pilesgrove Township

The Harris family, owners of the landmark Cowtown Rodeo, added 79 acres of prime farmland to lands they had already preserved. The family sold the development rights on corn and hay fields, bringing the total preserved land at Cowtown to over 1,000 acres. In 2018, NJ Conservation Foundation helped the family preserve 374 acres of grasslands surrounding the Cowtown Rodeo, America's oldest weekly professional rodeo.

KELLY

84 acres, Pilesgrove Township

New Jersey Conservation Foundation assisted Salem County in preserving this prime 84-acre vegetable and grain farm, bolstering land preservation in the Sharptown-Featherbed Lane grassland complex. The Kelly farm is contiguous to other preserved farmland, most notably, two other NJ Conservation Foundation projects, the Stoms farm and the Harris (Cowtown Rodeo) properties.

SCHAEFFER

81 acres, Pilesgrove Township

The Schaeffer farm grows soybeans, field corn, sweet corn, sweet peas, wheat and rye and is part of the "Sharptown grasslands" complex, an area of Pilesgrove Township, Salem County with outstanding soil quality. Among the nearby preserved lands are the Cowtown Rodeo's grazing lands, the state's Featherbed Lane Wildlife Management Area and the Kelly, Stoms and Atanasio farms, all preserved by NJ Conservation and its partners, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the State Agriculture Development Committee.

SICKLER

31 acres, Alloway Township

Under a previous owner, this 31-acre farm was approved for a 27 home subdivision. The Sicklers bought and preserved the land in partnership with NJ Conservation Foundation, Alloway Township and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, to protect the neighborhood's rural and agricultural character. The land includes critical habitat for several endangered and threatened grassland bird species, and is valuable for its ability to recharge underground water supplies.

WESTWOOD KNOLLS

44 acres, Pilesgrove Township

Preserving this farm with outstanding agricultural attributes protects the area's agricultural character and water quality from intense development pressure. Westwood Knolls sits directly across from the colonial Seven Stars Tavern, a site closely affiliated with New Jersey's Revolutionary War period and listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The preservation of Westwood Knolls will forever protect the scenic values of Seven Stars and help keep the historic building in its original rural setting. Westwood Knolls was preserved with NJ Conservation farmland preservation grants from both the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the State Agriculture Development Committee.

SORBELLO

94 acres, Pilesgrove Township

With the assistance of NJ Conservation, Salem County preserved this vegetable farm near the Oldmans Creek. The Sorbello farm is comprised of excellent soils and is contiguous to other preserved

farmland. Preservation of the Sorbello farm helps protect a large block of productive farmland and wildlife habitat where the Salem River and Oldmans Creek watersheds meet.

SOMERSET COUNTY

RATTLESNAKE BRIDGE ROAD FARM

44 acres, Bedminster Township

Once eyed for commercial office development, the property has Lamington River frontage on one side and Interstate 78 on the other. The 44 acres are approximately 80 percent farmed, and more than half of its soils are two of the highest classifications of soil quality. The southwest portion of the property abutting the river is wooded and it is surrounded by other preserved land. The property was sold at a significant bargain sale by a corporate seller to New Jersey Conservation Foundation, and was preserved in partnership with the Lamington Conservancy, which secured grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee, Somerset County and the New Jersey Highlands Council.

SCULLY

75 acres, Bedminster Township

The owners donated a conservation easement to Bedminster Township to ensure this farm's agricultural heritage and rich and productive soils were permanently protected. The farm is located just south of Pottersville, and includes historic red barns. The scenic Axle Brook runs along the southern property edge, just before merging with the Black River, also known as the Lamington River.

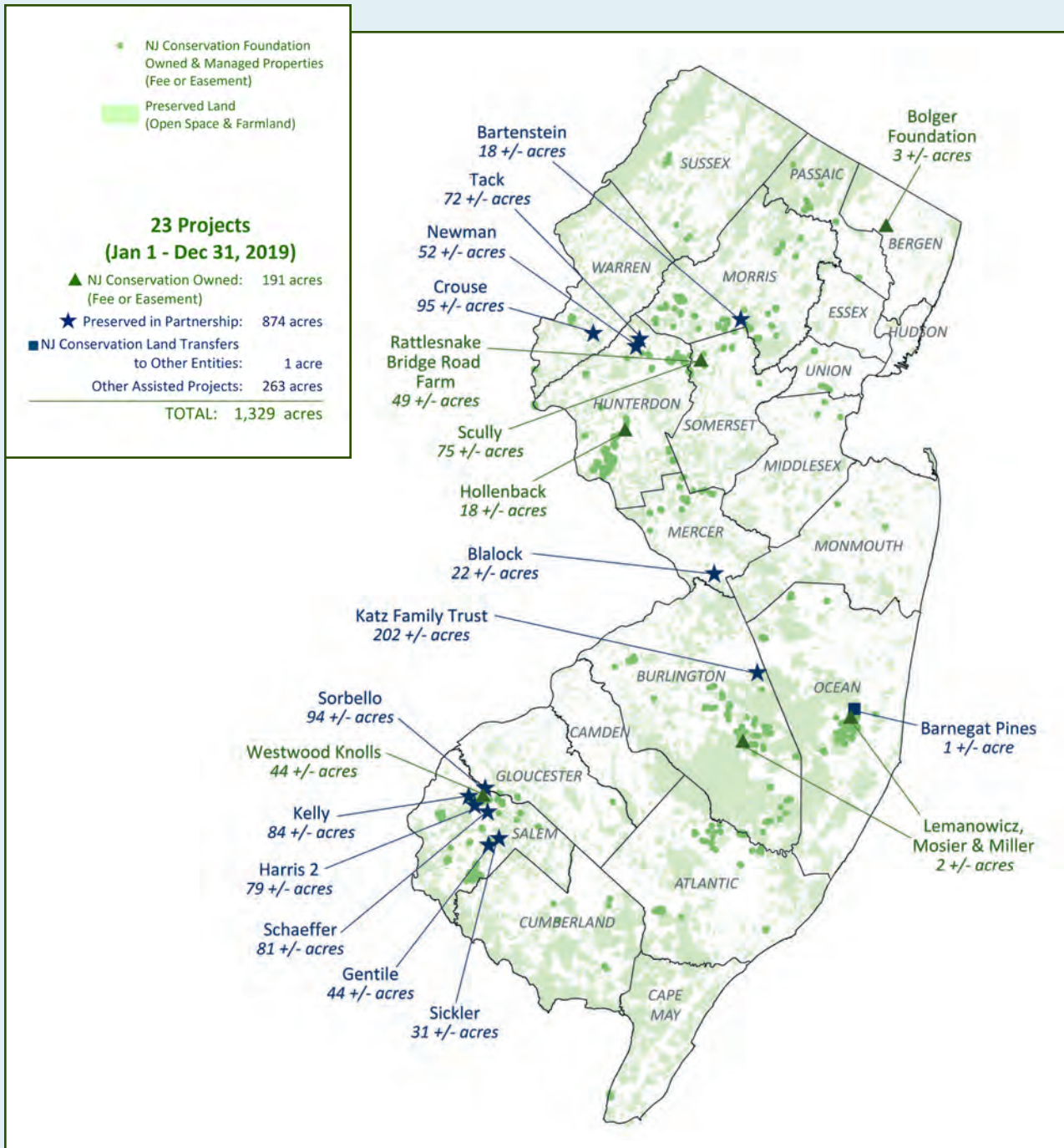
WARREN COUNTY

CROUSE

95 acres, Washington Township

The Crouse farm is a scenic and productive farm with excellent soils which also contains a linear stretch of the Morris Canal, a key historic feature that has been a preservation priority in Warren County. New Jersey Conservation provided assistance to Warren County to advance the farm for preservation.

2019 PUBLIC FUNDING PARTNERS



Alloway Township
 Bedminster Township
 Hamilton Township
 Hunterdon County
 NJ Water Supply Authority
 NJDEP Green Acres Program
 NJ Highlands Council
 NJ Pinelands Commission – Pinelands Conservation Fund
 Mercer County
 Morris County Open Space Trust Fund
 Morris County Park Commission
 Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority
 Pilesgrove Township
 Raritan Township
 Salem County
 Somerset County
 State Agriculture Development Committee
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

2019 POLICY UPDATE

WINS

HOLLY FARM

In November 2019, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection announced an agreement to purchase and permanently preserve the 1,380 acre “Holly Farm” in Millville, owned by Atlantic City Electric in Millville and Maurice River Township, Cumberland County. This momentous land preservation achievement was completed in January 2020. The property comprises two square miles of forest that are home to at least 17 rare animal species and unique flora and pristine wetlands, and are embedded within the most important and extensive preserved forest landscape in the Delaware Bay region. New Jersey Conservation advocated for over three decades with our partners – Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River, Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, New Jersey Audubon and The Nature Conservancy, and other local environmental advocates and citizen groups – to secure the protection of this unique ecological treasure.

LAND PRESERVATION FUNDING

We worked with the Keep it Green Coalition to secure legislation dedicating permanent funding for the open space, farmland and historic preservation programs, consistent with the 2014 constitutional dedication supported by 65% of voters. The NJ State legislature passed the bill in a unanimous and bipartisan vote and was signed into law by Governor Murphy.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

The LWCF was permanently reauthorized! We worked throughout the year to secure permanent funding, an effort that continued into 2020. LWCF has provided critical funding for acquisition of conservation and recreation land at the federal, state and local levels for over 50 years, including urban parkland in New Jersey and all of our state’s National Wildlife Refuges. Spruce Run Recreation Area (pictured here), benefitted greatly from LWCF funding.

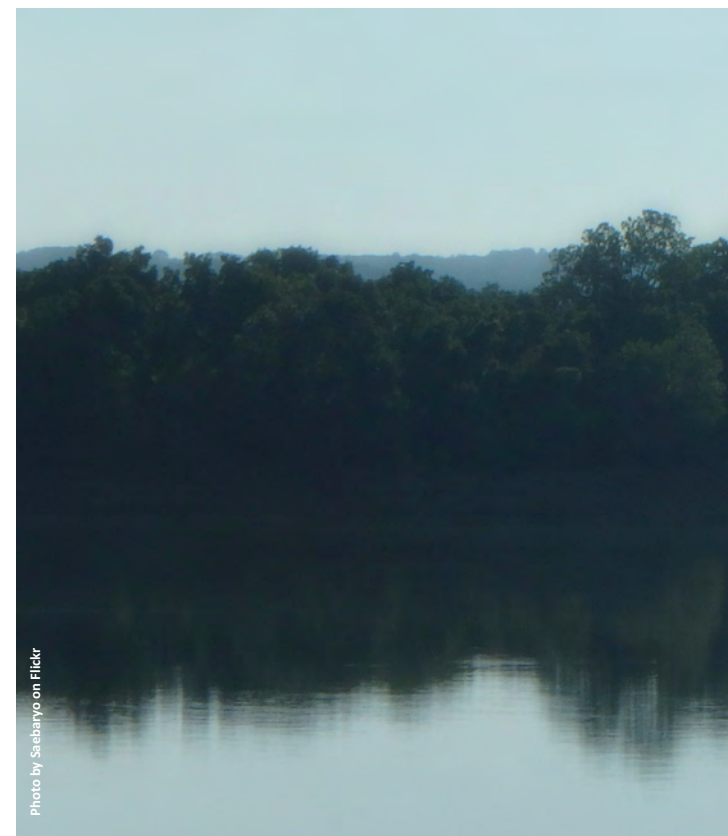


Photo by Saebaryo on Flickr

GLOBAL WARMING RESPONSE ACT

We spearheaded an effort to strengthen New Jersey’s Global Warming Response Act, which now requires the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to adopt interim benchmarks and regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% economy-wide by 2050

PIPELINE DECISION OVERTURNED

The Third Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals overturned a lower court decision that had granted PennEast pipeline the right to seize 42 state owned or preserved properties, including two preserved in partnership with NJ Conservation Foundation. PennEast is petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case.

Protecting our public lands, water, air and wildlife

PENNEAST PERMITS DENIED

NJ DEP denied environmental permits for PennEast for the second time following the Third Circuit decision as PennEast lost legal authority to apply for permits on the 42 properties owned or preserved by the state.

SOUTH JERSEY PIPELINE DEFEATED

After years of legal challenges, South Jersey Gas's proposed pipeline through the Pinelands was defeated after the owner of the B.L. England power plant decided to shut the plant instead of converting it from coal to gas. The pipeline was slated to bring gas to B.L. England.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

An initiative to advance the "Environmental Principles to Protect our Public Lands, Water, Air and Wildlife" with New Jersey's congressional delegation, we held a Congressional Briefing attended by staff from the incoming freshmen members as well as continuing members and our partners. We discussed climate and energy policy, national conservation funding and our opposition to proposed rollbacks by the Administration to federal water and land protections in what have been very challenging times for environmental protection at the national level. The briefing helped to build solid relationships with the newer members, and we continued to work with the delegation on various issues throughout the year.

2019 STAFF

Michele S. Byers, Executive Director

Adriana Amador-Chacon, Camden Fellow

Erica Arlès, Administrative Assistant,
Land Acquisition & Stewardship

Alix Bacon, Regional Manager,
Western Piedmont

Mark Barrick, Information Technology/
Office Manager

Tim Brill, Central Jersey Project Manager

Erica Colace, Development Manager

Beth Davison, Project Manager,
Black River Greenway

Justin Dennis, Camden Land Steward

Emile DeVito, Ph.D., Manager of Science
& Stewardship

Wilma Frey, Senior Policy Manager

Jane Gardner, Campaign Project Assistant

Tom Gilbert, Campaign Director –
Energy, Climate & Natural Resources

Jane Halsted, CPA, Accounting Manager

Maria Hauser, Personnel Manager/
Executive Assistant

Steven Jack, Associate Land Steward

Russell Juelg, Senior Land Steward

Seth Kantor, Development Assistant

William Lynch, M.S., Assistant Director,
Education Programs & Communications

Lisa MacCollum, Assistant Director of
Land Acquisition

Kelly Martin, Development Associate

Melanie Mason, Land Steward

Alison Mitchell, Assistant Director &
Acting Director of Development

Stephanie Monahan, Assistant Director
for South Jersey

Timothy Morris, Director of Stewardship

Marie Newell, Project Coordinator,
Acquisition

Tanya Nolte, GIS Manager

Sandy Stuart Perry, Staff Writer

Francis Rapa, Regional Manager,
Delaware Bay Watershed

Esmeralda Peña Piña, Gateway Park Fellow

Julia Raskin, Program Manager for
Camden Parks and Greenways

Karen Richards, CPA, Director of Finance
& Administration

Heidi Marie Roldan, Corporate &
Foundation Relations Manager

Greg Romano, Assistant Director &
Director of Statewide Land Acquisition

Susan Schmidt, Administrative Assistant/
Receptionist

Bill Scullion, Land Steward, South Jersey

Connor Stone, Development &
Communications Coordinator

Laura Szwak, Director of Outreach &
Education

Ingrid Vandegaer, Manager,
Highlands Region

Kathleen Ward, Director of Development

John S. Watson, Jr., Senior Director of
Statewide Land Protection & Community
Relations

Allison Williams, Conservation Coordinator

2019 INTERNS

Michael Stellitano Jan. – May 2019

Env. Science and Public Policy major at
Ramapo College and now studying at
Columbia University

Prepared powerpoint on preserved lands,
organized social media for the Rally and
researched the benefits of trails and greenways.
Funded through the NJ Land Trust Rally revenues

Miranda Jakubek Fall 2019

Env. Policy at Harvard

Prepared Camden Module on conservation
priorities for the NJ Conservation Blueprint
Funded by the Morris County Park Alliance
through the Donald Palmer Internship Grant

Caroline Burns Fall 2019

Montclair University

Developed a workshop for the NJ Land Trust
Rally and helped administer the event by
making it an online program
Funded by the Land Trust Rally revenues

Pasqualina Rivetti Summer of 2019

Forest Ecology Research with Raritan Valley
Community College's study on the effects of
prescribed burning on invasive species in
forested understories.

Funded by Morristown Garden Club



2019 GRANT AWARDS

The Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants provide funding for nonprofit conservation organizations working in New Jersey. The grants are designed to enhance proficiency in land conservation, develop long-term viable programs, and support creative, innovative projects that can serve as models for other communities and projects. Since its inception in 1989, the Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants Program, most recently administered by Conservation Resources Inc., has awarded more than \$1,800,141 for 484 nonprofit conservation projects throughout the Garden State. Funding for the 2019 grants came from Victoria Foundation and an anonymous donor.

2019 FRANKLIN PARKER CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE GRANTS

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY **\$1,900** Beach Classes in Grasses

The program educates students in coastal towns about the importance of coastal barriers such as dunes, American beach grass, and other beach vegetation followed by a planting day at their local beaches as part of an annual dune stewardship project.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK **\$1,000** Rain Garden Rescue

The Riverkeeper Network will coordinate up to five education and action days in Camden's Cramer Hill neighborhood to raise awareness about rain garden benefits, functions, and operation.

FOODSHED ALLIANCE **\$2,000** Sustainable Agriculture Enterprise (SAGe)

The funds will help the Alliance construct a farmstand on their cooperative farm in Sussex County. The farm is part of a project to make preserved farmland accessible and sustainable for farmers.

FRIENDS OF HOPEWELL VALLEY OPEN SPACE **\$2,000** Building Diversity to Strengthen the Future of Conservation

The funding will support ten internships for Hopewell Valley and Trenton-area high school students to learn conservation and leadership skills by stewarding Baldpate Mountain.

FRIENDS OF PRINCETON OPEN SPACE **\$2,500** Habitat Regeneration in Billy Johnson Mountain Lakes Nature Preserve

The funds will help the Friends accelerate the regeneration of native understory habitat following the intensive removal of invasive species from an 18-acre forest restoration site in the Preserve.

FYKE NATURE CENTER **\$2,500** Celery Farm Deer Enclosure

The grant will go toward construction of a fence to keep foraging deer from entering a forested area in the Celery Farm preserve and to help regenerate undergrowth.

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION **\$2,500** Construction of a Boardwalk

The Association will construct approximately 500 linear feet of raised boardwalk on sections of the wetlands trails within their Conservation Management Area.

HARDING LAND TRUST **\$500** Bat Houses

The grant will fund 10 bat houses to be mounted throughout publicly accessible Harding Land Trust property, offering shelter to this important species while reducing mosquitoes on the trail system and promoting nighttime pollination of wildflower gardens.

HUNTERDON LAND TRUST **\$2,500** Dvoor Farm Stewardship

As part of a larger project to improve accessibility to the Dvoor Farm, the funds will purchase native trees for historic landscape restoration and lighting to improve the public's experience.

PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE **\$1,900** Pinelands Land Protectors Volunteer Network

The Protectors work directly on habitat protection of lands and waters in the Pinelands. Activities include protection of threatened and endangered species from off-road vehicles through the installation of signage and physical barriers and planting of native species on grounds damaged from off-road vehicle activity.

RARITAN HEADWATERS ASSOCIATION **\$2,500****Permanent Preservation of Fairview Farm**

The funds will be used for a survey of the 170-acre wildlife preserve, and to place a conservation easement on 140 acres of the property, ensuring its long-term protection and leveraging the value of the easement to protect neighboring open space.

SADDLER'S WOODS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION **\$2,000****Habitat Restoration in Camden County**

This project will improve 15 acres of riparian forest habitat within Saddle's Woods to reduce invasive vegetation, plant native species, and improve restoration of wetlands by partnering with scout troops, schools, watershed associations, county parks and the county municipal utilities authority.

SOURLAND CONSERVANCY **\$1,650****Education of the Public about Restoration Activity at Baldpate Mountain**

The Sourland Stewards, volunteers who have engaged in stewardship work within their Baldpate Mountain restoration site, will educate the general public about the results of their monitoring and restoration work.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY **\$1,300****South Mountain Reservation Forest Regeneration**

The grant will go towards repair of the fencing in ten compromised deer enclosures to improve the growth of native plants and use of a drone to obtain more accurate deer population data.

TEWKSBURY LAND TRUST **\$2,500****Filling a Gap in Tewksbury Greenway**

The grant will help pay the soft costs for the 63+-acre Treanor property in the Mountainville section of Tewksbury.

TRAILSIDE MUSEUM ASSOCIATION **\$1,000****Stewardship Assessment of the Seeley's Pond Overlook Trap Rock Glades**

Grant funding will pay for a botanical survey and ecological assessment of the globally significant trap rock glades at the Watchung Reservation, a Union County Park in New Jersey. The work will inform future stewardship and controlled burns at the site.



Grants are designed to support
creative, innovative projects

Heidi Jacobs, 10, helps to gather samples and identify species in Saddle's Woods.

2019

FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

DECEMBER 31
2019*

DECEMBER 31
2018*

Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,185,501	8,593,807
Investments	14,209,019	6,045,952
Unconditional Promises to Give, net	268,598	156,025
Beneficial Interest in Split Interest Agreements	729,660	194,003
Land, Buildings and Easements	38,083,296	37,450,385
Other Assets	182,826	478,907
Total Assets	\$55,658,900	\$52,919,079

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

DECEMBER 31
2019*

DECEMBER 31
2018*

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	291,307	238,211
Total Liabilities	\$291,307	\$238,211

Net Assets

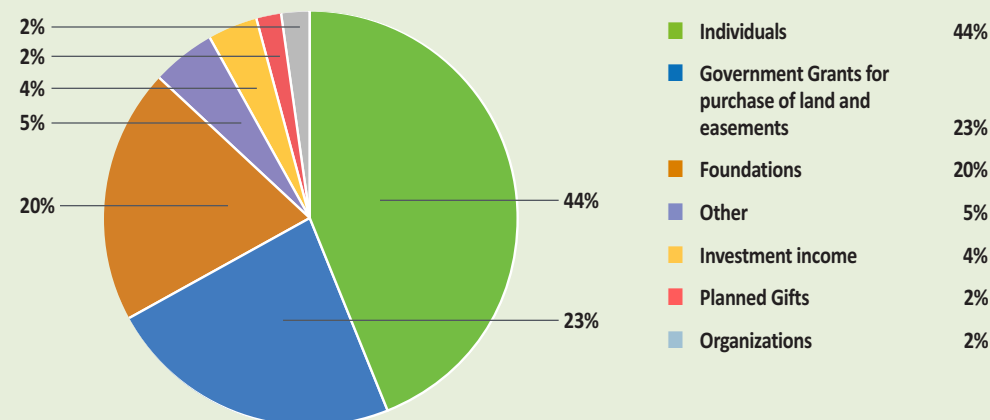
Without Donor Restrictions	48,398,058	46,856,609
With Donor Restrictions	6,969,535	5,824,259
Total Net Assets	\$55,367,593	\$52,680,868

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$55,658,900	\$52,919,079
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*Unaudited financial information (audited financial information is not yet available)
To receive a copy of the complete audited financial statements,
please send a request to info@njconservation.org

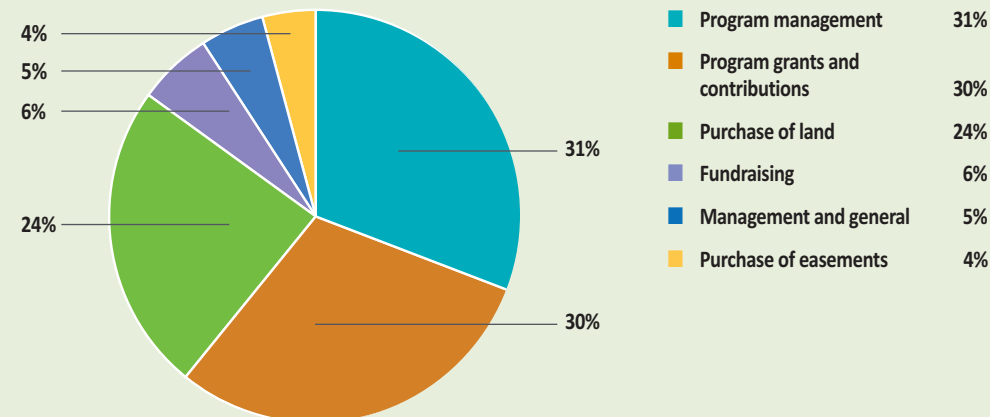
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

\$7,728,995*



EXPENSES AND LAND PURCHASES

\$9,924,139*



LEAVING A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



Become a member of the Red Oak Society, and demonstrate a commitment to preserving and protecting New Jersey Land.

An anonymous couple has generously created a Bequest Challenge to support land preservation. With their challenge, this couple will jointly donate \$500 for each bequest, new or re-affirmed, up to \$25,000 – that's 60 commitments! All estate plan gifts qualify for this match.

Planned gifts provide the financial resources needed to acquire threatened land and maintain long-term stewardship responsibility. The bequest challenge ensures that your legacy gift goes even further, with a gift of support today!

To be a part of this generous challenge and become a member of the Red Oak Society, please call 908-997-0727 or email info@njconservation.org.

HOW IT WORKS

- Include or confirm NJ Conservation Foundation in your estate plans.
- Let us know your intent by calling 908-997-0727 or emailing info@njconservation.org
- The anonymous couple will donate \$500 today in recognition of your intent!

MEMBERS OF THE RED OAK SOCIETY

Anonymous Donors	Sarah P. Fiske*	Harry F. Peters, Jr.*
Fredrick A. Allis*	Elizabeth Ernst Fosbinder*	Virginia Pierson
Evelyn Arcuni*	Barbara Galli*	Robert Pierson*
Carl Austin*	Elizabeth K. Gardner*	Elizabeth Potter*
Edward F. Babbott*	Margaret Gardner*	Joann S. Ramos
Ira H. Beckman*	Joan C. Gilson	Barbara Ray*
Chris Besanceney	Ruth Gleason*	L. Keith and Lisa Reed
Louis C. Bodenheimer*	Alfred R. Gnam*	Elizabeth B. Reed
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Nicholas and Eleanor English*	Caryl Leong and Donna Paino	
Walter Brooks and Dorothy Stewart Evert*	Franklin E. Parker*	

*Denotes deceased members



NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Bamboo Brook | 170 Longview Road | Far Hills, NJ 07931

www.njconservation.org



JOIN

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION
AND HELP KEEP NATURE
IN NEW JERSEY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO: **PRESERVE** fertile and vital farms that grow fresh, local, and healthy foods? ■ **PROTECT** the sources of your drinking water supply? ■ **CREATE** and protect parks, preserves, and green urban spaces? ■ **CONSERVE** forests and natural habitats for thriving native plants and diverse wildlife? ■ **YOU CAN!** Make a member gift online at njconservation.org/donate or return the giving envelope included in this report.



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY TO PRESERVE LAND, WATER, AND WILDLIFE FOR GENERATIONS