

Needs



Future Needs for Continued Investment in State Preservation Programs

There are significant unmet needs to fulfill state preservation goals and legislative mandates, to protect priority lands throughout the state, and to provide safe, accessible urban parks.

81% of requests for Green Acres Programs grants remain unfunded

67% of historic preservation grant requests are unfunded

70% of applications for grants for trails development are unfunded

The state still has two million acres which are “up for grabs”—lands that can either be preserved as a farm, forest or park or developed with structures. Garden State Greenways identified one million acres of unfragmented, undeveloped lands still in need of protection.

Over \$410 million in capital improvement projects have been identified as needed for state parks, forests, historic sites and wildlife management areas.

HIGHLANDS

\$1.3 billion is needed to acquire priority lands in the Highlands region and ensure the protection of the water supply for over half the state’s population

10 years of consistent funding will allow the Highlands Council to meet its preservation mandate

PINELANDS

30,000 acres have yet to be preserved

BARNEGAT BAY WATERSHED

76,000 acres must be preserved to protect this important watershed area

DELAWARE RIVER

Funding is needed for the purchase of “blue acres” or floodprone areas along the Delaware River to mitigate flooding and safeguard health and public welfare

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Of 1600 registered historic sites in New Jersey, only 273 have received funding for rehabilitation

AGRICULTURE

An additional 450,000 acres of farms should be preserved to ensure a stable base of farmlands that will sustain a viable agricultural industry in New Jersey

Agricultural land has decreased by 72,000 acres, a 9% loss from 2002-2007. Since 1978, a total of 254,000 acres of agricultural land has been converted to other uses, primarily residential, in New Jersey

URBAN PARKS

More than half of all New Jersey adults are obese or overweight

Less than 40 percent of New Jersey adults participate in frequent physical activity

It is critical that funding is available to provide a well maintained inviting park, trail or natural areas within a 10 minute walk of people's homes

Jersey City and Newark have the fewest playgrounds per resident according to a survey of 75 U.S. cities

The information contained in this publication has been taken from one of three White Papers describing the Benefits, Accomplishments and Future Needs of State Preservation Programs produced by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation in cooperation with the Keep it Green Coalition. The complete White Papers are available at www.njconservation.org.

This summary publication is a project of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, in cooperation with the New Jersey Keep it Green Coalition and with the support of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, The Trust for Public Land – New Jersey and The Nature Conservancy – New Jersey. This work was funded by the William Penn Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

