



New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE

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Pinelands Commission opens new round of land conservation funding *New effort targets properties damaged by off-road vehicle use*

NEW LISBON, N.J. – The New Jersey Pinelands Commission is pleased to announce a new round of funding that includes a new criterion to permanently preserve properties damaged by off-road vehicle use.

The Commission has designated a total of \$500,000 from the Pinelands Conservation Fund (PCF) toward the acquisition of lands in the Pinelands Area that feature significant ecological, cultural, historical and/or agricultural values. In conjunction with the Commission's interest to protect the Pinelands environment from the impacts of off-road vehicle abuse, this round places a new emphasis on preserving lands that contain evidence of off-road vehicle damage.

“The Commission is proud of its efforts to permanently protect thousands of acres through the Pinelands Conservation Fund,” said Nancy Wittenberg, Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission. “This latest round will provide us with another tool to help curb the damages wrought by off-road vehicles in the Pinelands.”

Counties, municipalities and non-profit organizations working in the Pinelands Area are invited to submit applications for grant funds to support land acquisition projects for conservation purposes. Applications for funding will be evaluated based on several ranking criteria such as resource values, project feasibility, future plans for stewardship and now off-road vehicle impacts. For those properties impacted by off-road vehicle use, applicants must submit proposed stewardship plans to prevent such damage and conduct site restoration.

Applications for projects located within one of several pre-designated priority allocation areas will be given precedence. Those applications ultimately approved for funding will receive grants of up to 33.3% of the total project cost.

The application submission deadline is May 31, 2017. The application form and supporting documentation are available on the Commission's website under the Pinelands Conservation Fund page (<http://www.nj.gov/pinelands/landuse/perm/pcf/>).

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To date, the PCF Land Acquisition Program has contributed \$8.95 million toward 36 land preservation projects in the Pinelands Area, resulting in the permanent protection of approximately 8,190 acres. Projects have been completed in all seven Pinelands counties and in 22 different Pinelands Area municipalities.

To request additional information regarding the PCF Land Acquisition Program's project criteria, scope and eligibility, please contact Robyn A. Jeney of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission at robyn.jeney@njpines.state.nj.us or (609) 894-7300, extension 194.

ATTENTION REPORTERS/EDITORS: High-resolution .jpeg images of the photos below can be obtained from the Pinelands Commission by contacting Paul Leakan at info@njpines.state.nj.us.



Above: The Pinelands Commission has provided funding toward the permanent preservation of approximately 8,190 acres through the Pinelands Conservation Fund, including the preservation of the 414- acre Bear Swamp Headwaters property in Southampton and Tabernacle townships in Burlington County.

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Above: The Pinelands Commission has provided funding toward the permanent preservation of approximately 8,190 acres through the Pinelands Conservation Fund, including the preservation of the 11.3-acre Toms River-Ridgeway Fagan property in Jackson Township, Ocean County.

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