

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

URBAN PARKS GRANTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

2021

**Grants to
Local Governments for
Land Acquisition, Park Development
and Historic Preservation Projects**

Recommendations for Funding

ADMINISTERED BY THE

GREEN ACRES PROGRAM



Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Shawn M. LaTourette
Commissioner

Urban Parks Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is approving \$6 million for land acquisition, park development, and historic preservation projects that will serve the residents of New Jersey's [Overburdened Community](#) (OBC). Grants were capped at \$500,000 per project and do not require a local match.

In the FY21 and FY22 budgets, Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Legislature dedicated a total of \$6 million to promote urban parks. The DEP, through the Green Acres Program, established the Urban Parks initiative and invited eligible local governments to apply for this funding. Eligible applicants were those municipalities that include an OBC which is defined as a census block group in which: (1) at least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households; (2) at least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or (3) at least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency. (Data is based on the most recent (2010) United States Census.) Counties proposing projects in eligible municipalities also were eligible.

While the project site itself does not have to be located in an OBC, its proximity to such neighborhoods would provide much-needed recreation and conservation opportunities.

Land Acquisition - Approved projects include the acquisition of land for active or passive recreation. Funding was awarded for five land acquisition projects.

Recreation Development - Park development projects may include games and sports, picnicking, fishing, biking, swimming, nature and historic interpretation, and similar activities. Funding is being awarded to seven park development projects.

Historic Preservation - Funding is being awarded to one historic preservation project, defined as the rehabilitation or restoration of a historic property that is listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places under N.J.S.A. 13:IB- 15.128 et seq., or serves as a contributing resource to a Historic District that is listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. Restoration projects must meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Applicants were encouraged to consider projects that would address these important issues:

Environmental Justice: Central to the Department of Environmental Protection's mission is making New Jersey stronger and fairer for all residents, regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, or income. With the passage of Executive Order 23 on April 20, 2018, Governor Murphy directed the DEP to integrate environmental justice considerations into our decision-making. The DEP prioritized Urban Parks projects that promote environmental equity, either directly or as a co-benefit, by reducing or eliminating disproportionate environmental and public health stressors or creating environmental and public health benefits in Overburdened Communities. For more information, please see www.nj.gov/dep/ej/docs/furthering-the-promise.pdf. For a list of Overburdened Communities, please visit

www.nj.gov/dep/ej/communities.html

Climate Resilience: On January 27, 2020, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 100, directing the DEP to make sweeping regulatory reforms, collectively known as Protecting Against Climate Threats (PACT), to adapt to climate change. This includes incorporating climate change considerations into our grant programs. The DEP prioritized Urban Parks projects that contribute to resilience or mitigate climate change impacts, such as by protecting forested and flood-prone areas, enhancing chronically inundated wetlands, revegetating riparian areas, connecting wildlife corridors, expanding upstream flood attenuation potential, promoting wildlife, and including green infrastructure into your project. We invite you to learn more about DEP's Climate Change Efforts by visiting <https://www.nj.gov/dep/nipact/>

This new grant funding will be administered by the Green Acres Program which, since 1961, has been committed to preserving New Jersey's natural, historic, and recreational resources statewide.

ACQUISITION, PARK DEVELOPMENT, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS

BERGEN COUNTY

East Rutherford Borough Richard Outwater House Acquisition

East Rutherford Borough is seeking to acquire the historic Richard Outwater House, located at 231 Hackensack Street. The main structure, a Dutch Colonial Farmhouse, was built in 1821 and listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 1983. The Borough intends to renovate the structure in accordance with historic preservation standards and create a passive park on the grounds. The renovated building, which will include ADA access improvements, will serve as office space for the Borough Historical Society and as meeting space for civic groups. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Minority).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

BURLINGTON COUNTY

Burlington County Willingboro Lakes Improvements Ph II

Following a successful 2020 Phase 1 park improvement project, Burlington County is proposing additional improvements to its Willingboro Lakes Park, located on Beverly-Rancocas Road in Willingboro Township. Proposed Phase II improvements include expanded parking, improved public access to the lakes and Rancocas Creek, a fishing pier, handicapped-accessible trails and walkway improvements, boardwalks, additional picnic pavilions, and site furnishings. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Minority).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

CAMDEN COUNTY

Pennsauken Township Tippin's Pond Renewal

Pennsauken Township is planning renovations to its Tippin's Pond Park, located along Cove Road. Proposed park improvements include an aerating pond fountain, scenic viewing platforms, fishing docks, trail improvements, new volleyball courts, parking lot rehabilitation, and stormwater improvements. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Low Income and Minority).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$493,025

ESSEX COUNTY

**Newark City
Broadway Park**

The City of Newark, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land, plans to develop Broadway Park for passive and active recreation. Broadway Park, which was acquired with Green Acres funds, consists of vacant lots located in the North Ward between Broadway and Oraton Street, adjacent to Luis Munoz Marin Elementary School. Proposed improvements include playgrounds, playing fields, additional lighting, art, rain gardens, a community garden. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Low Income and Minority).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

HUDSON COUNTY

**Guttenberg Town
Madison Street Acquisition**

Guttenberg Town is seeking to acquire a 0.06 acre property on Madison Street that previously served as a firehouse. Once the property is acquired, the Town will demolish the firehouse, and the lot will be converted to a firehouse-themed splash park. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Low Income, Minority, and Limited English).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$280,000

**Hoboken City
Southwest Park Development**

The City of Hoboken is seeking to expand and improve Southwest Park on Harrison Street. Proposed improvements at the expanded park include pickleball courts, basketball courts, play structures, a community garden, benches, landscaping, hopscotch, open programming space, and other features. Also proposed at the site is a subsurface detention tank with the capacity to capture 600,000 gallons of stormwater as part of the Hudson River-Rebuild By Design Project, which will help protect Hoboken from flooding and the effects of climate change.

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

**Union City
4100 Palisade Avenue Acquisition**

The City of Union City proposes to acquire 0.29 acres on Palisade Avenue. Once acquired, the City plans to demolish the existing building and develop a new recreational facility with a soccer

field for younger children. The facility will serve the northern section of the city, which is undergoing a boom in residential development and has a deficit of recreational field space. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Low Income and Minority).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

MERCER COUNTY

**Trenton City
Taylor Street Recreational Facility**

Trenton City is proposing to rehabilitate an existing building at the Taylor Street Soccer Complex, located on Taylor Street. When restored, the building, which dates back to the 1930's, will be used as community meeting space and it will house restrooms, provide storage, and serve as a support facility for the Complex's utilities. Invasive plant species along the adjacent creek will be removed and replaced with beneficial native species, and a link to the larger Assunpink Greenway trail system will be established. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Low Income and Minority).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$226,975

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

**Carteret Borough
Arthur Kill River Walk North**

Carteret Borough plans to expand its Waterfront Park, located off of Industrial Highway along the Arthur Kill. Proposed improvements will consist of the extension of an ADA-accessible waterfront walkway north from the Waterfront Park to Noes Creek, including boardwalk, railing, lighting, and site furnishings. A portion of the walkway will extend out over the water for a scenic overlook. The new walkway will increase the public's access to the Arthur Kill and offer a passive recreational resource for all ages.

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

**Edison Township
Glendale Park Acquisition Project**

Edison Township is seeking to acquire an 11.5 acre property on Glendale Avenue with approximately 400 feet of riverfront on the Raritan River to create a new waterfront park. The acquisition will serve as vital green space and protection of critical wildlife habitat. The Township plans future recreational amenities at the site, including playground areas and public access to Raritan River. The property is located within a densely populated community and is nearby to Overburdened Communities within Edison Township.

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

MONMOUTH COUNTY

**Neptune City Boro
Holmes A. Adams Recreation Complex Acquisition**

Neptune City Borough is looking to add onto its Holmes A. Adams Recreation Complex, a 6.63 acre park located at West Sylvania Avenue. The proposed 0.64 acre addition contains a building and parking lot, which will be demolished so the site can be converted into recreation/open space. By expanding the recreation complex, the Borough will be able to increase the variety of recreational offerings it can provide to the community. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Low Income and Minority).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

PASSAIC COUNTY

**Passaic County
Dundee Island Park Phase II**

Passaic County, Passaic City, and Trust for Public Land intend to continue their partnership to improve Dundee Island Park, located on Veterans Court in Passaic City. Proposed improvements for Phase II include improved parking facilities; refurbished soccer field; playground and spray park; fitness and exercise equipment area; community garden; boat launch; river walk and landscaping improvements to the riparian area, including native planting; ornamental security lighting throughout the entire park; art and place-making features, including sculpture designed by a local artist; and an amphitheater. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Minority and Low Income).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000

**Paterson City
Colt Gun Mill Stabilization**

The City of Paterson seeks to stabilize the historic Colt Gun Mill on the Allied Textile Printing (ATP) site, located at Mill Street and Van Houten Street. The proposed stabilization project will preserve the Mill and facilitate the environmental cleanup of the ATP site. Following remediation of the site, the Colt Gun Mill will be included in future plans to transform the site into passive pen space. This project is located within an Overburdened Community (Low Income and Minority).

Urban Parks Grant Award \$500,000