

A close-up photograph of a plant, likely a species of wildflower, featuring yellow and purple blossoms. A small black ant is visible on a purple leaf in the foreground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Pinelands Conservation Fund Land Acquisition Program

Photo by Paul Leakan, NJPC



2024 PCF Available Funds



Initial funds available: **\$3,000,000**

Photo by Paul Leakan, NJPC



PCF 2024 Round of Applications

- **May 3, 2024:** Commission announced grant availability to eligible entities
- **September 16, 2024:** project proposal applications due
- Staff reviewed and evaluated applications
 - Using authorized evaluation criteria
 - Including site visits
- **October 25, 2024:** Staff presents projects recommended for PCF allocations to P&I Committee for approval



Photo by Paul Leakan, NJPC



Submitted Applications

2 applications submitted:



Rancocas Conservancy,
Burlington County



Unexpected Wildlife Refuge,
Gloucester County



Photo by Paul Leakan, NJPC



Evaluation Criteria

Factor	Low (1)	Medium (3)	High (5)
Location ¹ : Is the project in PCF focus areas for flood or wildfire	In RGA, Town, Village or Rural Development Area AND one of the designated focus areas	In designated focus areas and PAD, SAPA, APA or Forest Area	Within a five-mile radius of SJTA and inside the State Pinelands Area
T&E Habitats ² :	No state/federal T&E habitat per NJDEP Landscape Model AND no NJPC and ENSP sightings	T&E habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings	Grassland habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings
Size:	Less than 50 acres	Between 50 and 100 acres	100 acres or more; add 3 additional points if greater than 500 acres
Contiguity:	Less than one mile from preserved open space	Less than one mile from known grassland T&E habitats but not contiguous	Contiguous with preserved habitat or open space
Partner Contribution:	66.7% of acquisition costs	At least 75% of acquisition costs	Greater than 75% of acquisition costs
Maintenance & Stewardship:	Written maintenance /stewardship plan	Written maintenance/ stewardship plan and specific stewardship project proposal	Written maintenance/ stewardship plan and agreement to partner on future grant proposal for stewardship projects
Environmental Justice Communities Stressors ³ :	One stressor identified	Three or four stressors identified	More than five stressors identified



Today's Recommendations

Both projects would require grant approval by the full Pinelands Commission, due their location outside of acquisition target areas.

Staff is not recommending grant approval.

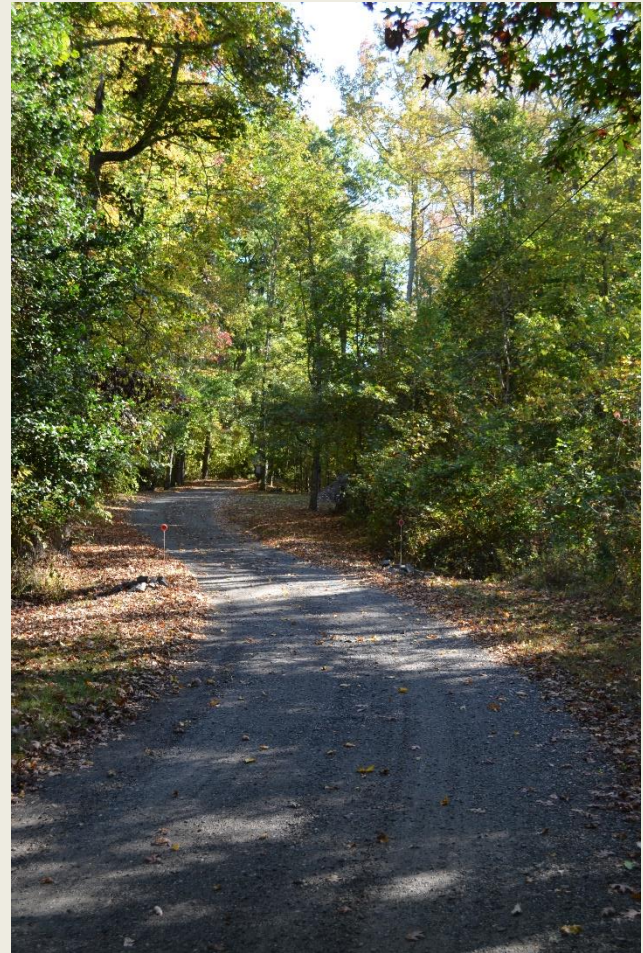


Photo by Paul Leakan, NJPC



PCF Closed Session



Pine barren gentian (*Gentiana autumnalis*) remains closed on a cloudy day.

Photo by Robyn A. Jeney, NJPC

Closed session is necessary to afford confidentiality to proposed projects while landowners and potential buyers negotiate a contract.



PCF Open Session



Pine barren gentian (*Gentiana autumnalis*) opens in the sunlight.

Photo by Robyn A. Jeney, NJPC

Closed session was necessary to afford confidentiality to proposed projects while landowners and potential buyers negotiate a contract.



Summary of Closed Session

- 2 projects were reviewed
- Projects are not recommended for grant allocation
- Project sponsors will be notified

