



New Jersey
NATURAL LANDS TRUST

AGENDA

NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING

June 14, 2013

Location: Delaware River Port Authority

One Port Center

Camden, New Jersey 08101-1949

12:00 PM

- I. Statement of Open Public Meetings Act**
- II. General Public Comment**
- III. Financial Report**
 - First Quarter 2013 Financial Reports, for decision
- IV. Minutes of February 22, 2013 meeting, for decision**
- V. Unfinished Business**
 - Petty's Island, Pennsauken Township, Camden County, status update (no enclosure)
 - Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Subcommittee Report (no enclosure)
- VI. New Business**
 - Hainesville Woods Project Area, Sandyston Township, Sussex County, for decision
 - Sterling Hill-Dicosmo/GA Land Management Assignment Offer, Ogdensburg Borough, Sussex County, for decision
 - Lincoln Grove Project Area, Franklin Township, Somerset County and South Brunswick Township, Middlesex County, for decision
 - Revision of Management Guidelines/Appendix 1 to authorize First Time Fen Preserve for hunting (bow only and optional disabled military veterans only), for decision (no enclosure)
 - Final 2012 Annual Report, for discussion (no enclosure)
- VII. Adjourn**

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2013

Statement 1

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	Fixed Asset Fund	General Fund	Hyonex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	Wetlands Acquisition	Wetlands Mitigation	TOTAL
ASSETS									
Current Assets									
Cash and Cash Equivalents		55,107	6,675	214,551	89,358	35,408	15,548	254,004	\$ 670,651
Tenants Escrow		3,032							3,032
Accrued Interest Receivable	-	13,869	476	1,767	1,163	-	-	59,322	76,597
Total Current Assets	-	72,008	7,151	216,318	90,521	35,408	15,548	313,326	750,280
Fixed Assets									
Land	38,079,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,079,629
Equipment	2,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,364
Vehicles	15,544	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,544
Accumulated Depreciation	(17,908)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(17,908)
Total Fixed Assets	38,079,629	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,079,629
Other Assets									
Investments-Long Term (FMV)	-	1,829,430	131,649	484,772	1,011,492	309,603	-	8,062,971	11,829,917
Total Other Assets	-	1,829,430	131,649	484,772	1,011,492	309,603	-	8,062,971	11,829,917
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,901,438	\$ 138,800	\$ 701,090	\$ 1,102,013	\$ 345,011	\$ 15,548	\$ 8,376,297	\$ 50,659,826
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS									
Liabilities									
Margin Loan									0
Security Deposits Payable	\$ -	\$ 2,792	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,792
Total Liabilities	-	2,792	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,792
Net Assets									
Unrestricted	-	1,910,567							1,910,567
Permanently Restricted	38,079,629	-							38,079,629
Temporarily Restricted	-		136,863	714,368	1,122,791	321,394	15,548	8,292,930	10,603,894
Unrealized Gain/Loss	-	(11,921)	1,937	(13,278)	(20,778)	23,617	-	83,367	62,944
Total Net Assets	38,079,629	1,898,646	138,800	701,090	1,102,013	345,011	15,548	8,376,297	50,657,034
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,901,438	\$ 138,800	\$ 701,090	\$ 1,102,013	\$ 345,011	\$ 15,548	\$ 8,376,297	\$ 50,659,826

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

THE NEW JERSEY NATURAL LANDS TRUST
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND NET ASSETS
FOR THE THREE MONTH PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

Statement 2

(See Accountant's Review Report)

	Trust Funds								TOTAL
	Fixed Asset Fund	General Fund	Hyponex	Petty's Island	Petty's Island Cultural	Shorebird	Wetlands Acquisition	Wetlands Mitigation	
Revenue (Restricted)									
Contribution Income	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 207,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 212,500
Expense									
Materials and Supplies	\$ -	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36
Services	-	3,567	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,567
Maintenance	-	3,554	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,554
Annual Report	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital	-	550	-	-	-	-	-	-	550
Subaccount Project Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Authorized Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 7,708	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,708
Other Income									
Rent Income	-	5,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 5,750
Interest/Dividend Income	-	7,323	473	3,628	8,072	2,019	1	31,981	\$ 53,497
Miscellaneous Income	-	936	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 936
Gain or Loss on Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -
Total Other Income	\$ -	\$ 14,009	\$ 473	\$ 3,628	\$ 8,072	\$ 2,019	\$ 1	\$ 31,981	\$ 60,183
Excess Revenues Over Expenses	\$ -	\$ 11,301	\$ 473	\$ 211,128	\$ 8,072	\$ 2,019	\$ 1	\$ 31,981	\$ 264,975
Net Asset Balance Dec 31 2012	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,884,492	\$ 136,390	\$ 491,071	\$ 1,086,044	\$ 345,556	\$ 15,547	\$ 8,335,480	\$ 50,374,209
Land Acquisition	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrealized Loss/Gain	-	2,853	1,937	(1,109)	7,897	(2,564)	-	8,836	17,850
Adjustment for Prior Period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Asset Balance Mar 31, 2013	\$ 38,079,629	\$ 1,898,646	\$ 138,800	\$ 701,090	\$ 1,102,013	\$ 345,011	\$ 15,548	\$ 8,376,297	\$ 50,657,034

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL LANDS TRUST MEETING
February 22, 2013
12:00 PM**

Office of Natural Lands Management, Trenton, New Jersey

Chairman Catania called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM and roll was taken. A quorum of trustees was present. At least one of the trustees was a state governmental representative.

The Open Public Meetings Act notice was read as follows: Notice of the date, time, location and agenda, to the extent known, was forwarded to three newspapers of general circulation, and provided to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. It was also noted that such notice is now provided on the Trust's website in compliance with the Act requiring State, regional, and local authorities, boards, and commissions to establish a website providing specific information in order to facilitate transparency in government.

In attendance were:

Michael Catania, Chairperson
James Hall, Vice Chairperson
Theresa Lettman, Trustee/Secretary-
Treasurer
Emile DeVito, Trustee
Matthew Spayth, alternate for Adrienne
Kreipke, representative for the State
Treasurer

Ed Mulvan, alternate for Rich Boornazian,
representative for the DEP Commissioner
Larry Torok, DEP Trustee
Judeth Yeany, DEP Trustee
Caroline Keefe, DAG, Trust Counsel
Robert J. Cartica, Executive Director
Martin Rapp, Trust Staff
Cari Wild, Trust Staff

Absent were:

Steve Eisenhauer, Trustee
Thomas Gilmore, Trustee
State House Commission representative (not appointed)

Guests

Robert Darwin, de maximis inc., D'Imperio Property
Bruce Sattin, Esq., D'Imperio Property
Monica LaSelva, Brown and Caldwell, D'Imperio Property
Peter Randazzo, Brown and Caldwell, D'Imperio Property

General Public Comment: None

Financial Report: Mr. Cartica outlined the Financial Statements for the quarter ending September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Mr. Mulvan motioned to approve the Financial Statements. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and, by a vote of 8 to 0, the Financial Statements were approved.

The **September 29, 2012 minutes** were reviewed. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by a vote of 7 to 0 with Mr. Mulvan abstaining.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Wild provided the Board with a report on the status of activities at **Petty's Island Preserve in Pennsauken Township, Camden County**. In October 2012 the Trust received a grant in the amount of \$82,500 from the William Penn Foundation for funding toward community outreach, planning and implementation of projects to create an urban nature preserve at Petty's Island. Specifically the grant will fund activities such as a feasibility study of alternate locations for, and the design of, the cultural and education center, as well as wayside exhibits and other programming. In November 2012 the Trust hired Lammey and Giorgio, a consultant firm under term contract with the NJDEP, to conduct the feasibility study. The Trust expects a report from Lammey and Giorgio in the next couple of months after which the Trust will conduct another stakeholder meeting. In January 2013 the Trust received a Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant in amount of \$24,000 to be used for the design, fabricating and installation of 12 or more interpretive wayside exhibits and other trail construction/improvements at Petty's Island. On February 8, 2013, the New Jersey Audubon Society, on behalf of the Trust as its educational programming contractor, conducted an interactive and productive education advisory group meeting, with wide community representation, to solicit input related to education, programming and resource interpretation at the Petty's Island Preserve.

New Business:

Ms. Wild provided background regarding the **Hamilton Preserve, Hamilton Township, Atlantic County-D'Imperio Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** and introduced the D'Imperio representatives to present a request for access to the Hamilton Preserve through an MOU. The work requested to be authorized under the MOU is part of ongoing environmental remediation activities associated with the D'Imperio Property Superfund Site under an Administrative Order with the USEPA. The D'Imperio Property site is a 15-acre property of which 1.5 acres was used as an unauthorized dump in the mid-1970s. The dump consisted mainly of partially buried and ruptured metal drums. Many of the drums contained metals and various volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that contaminated the groundwater in two aquifers. Sampling from a monitoring well at the intersection of Route 40 and Babcock Road in February 2012 detected several VOCs above the groundwater performance criteria. As a result D'Imperio is required to expand its groundwater monitoring to fully delineate the plume. Groundwater flow and plume migration are moving in a southwest direction suggesting that the Hamilton Preserve is the southern edge of the detached plume. In order to confirm this, D'Imperio has proposed a Description of Activities that includes the installation of two or three monitoring wells on the Hamilton Preserve using a drilling rig. The access for this activity should be of very short duration. However, because D'Imperio is required to define the side gradient of the plume, it is still unsure how far they need to be off Babcock Road. They will create transect areas to determine side gradient well locations within an area at most 250 feet from the road but probably much less, perhaps 100 or 150 feet. These transect areas will be restored following the well installation. D'Imperio request long-term access only for sampling by people on foot with sample containers but such access may be as long as 10 years. To the extent that any contamination is found in groundwater below the Hamilton Preserve, necessitating additional monitoring, irrigation and/or extraction wells or other remediation, a separate approval by the

Trust is required. Under the proposed MOU, D’Imperio will provide a monetary payment of \$10,000 as reimbursement for staff time and resources. Mr. DeVito motioned to approve the MOU with the inclusion of the \$10,000 payment, the installation of gates, invasive species monitoring and management, and a requirement that the use of any fill at the property be pre-approved by the Trust. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and, by a vote of 7 to 0, with Ms. Lettman abstaining, the MOU was approved and the chair authorized to execute it subject to its approval and revision by the AG’s Office.

Mr. Cartica informed the Board of the **Transfer of Trust fund accounts from Merrill Lynch to Vanguard** and presented the **Resolution of the Board of Trustees Designating “Authorized Representatives”** under the Trust financial accounts. Notwithstanding the Trust’s 30 plus-year relationship with Merrill Lynch, in October 2012 it sent the Trust written notification that it was no longer willing to manage the Trust accounts. Merrill Lynch established an end-of-year deadline for the Trust to transfer its assets in-kind to another financial institution or risk asset liquidation with attendant fees and penalties. After consulting with similarly situated non-government organizations, the Trust determined to move its assets in-kind from Merrill Lynch to Vanguard. The resolution authorizes Chairperson Michael Catania, Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Lettman, and Acting Executive Director Robert Cartica to execute the all necessary account authorization forms and any other forms necessary in order for them to be deemed “authorized representatives” under the Trust’s accounts individually, without countersignature or co-signature, and to give instructions on behalf of the Trust for transactions in the Trust’s accounts including, but not limited to, the transfer of funds by wire, check or otherwise, or the writing, drawing or requesting of checks on the Trust’s accounts. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the Banking Resolution. DeVito seconded the motion and, by a vote of 8 to 0, the resolution was approved.

Mr. Cartica presented the **Calendar Year 2013 Budget**. Mr. Hall motioned to approve the Calendar Year 2013 Budget. Mr. Mulvan seconded the motion and, by a vote of 8 to 0, the budget was approved.

The Board considered the **Retreat-Roy/GA Land Management Assignment Offer in Southampton Township, Burlington County**. Ms. Yeany recused herself from the matter. Mr. DeVito motioned to accept the Management Assignment Offer. Mr. Hall seconded the motion and, by a vote of 7 to 0, the offer was accepted with Ms. Yeany abstaining.

The Board considered the **Hirst Ponds-The Nature Conservancy Land Donation Offer in Galloway Township, Atlantic County**. The Nature Conservancy has offered a stewardship endowment along with this land management donation in the amount of \$25,000.00. Mr. DeVito motioned to accept the Management Assignment Offer provided that it includes the \$25,000.00 land management donation. Mr. Torok seconded the motion and, by a vote of 8 to 0, the offer was accepted with Ms. Yeany abstaining.

The Board was advised of the recently approved **Moorestown Acquisition Fund-Approval for Expenditures** as required by the Board’s March 6, 1992 resolution. This latest approval authorizes the reimbursement of Green Acres expenditures for acquisitions within the Moorestown Project Area.

The Board considered the **Draft 2012 Annual Report**. Ms. Wild requested that the Board provide any comments/changes on the draft report within the next thirty days. Ms. Lettman

motioned to approve the draft report subject to Board members and staff having flexibility to incorporate changes. Ms. Yeany seconded the motion and, by a vote of 8 to 0, the 2012 Annual Report was approved.

Mr. Catania provided the **Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird Subcommittee Report and request for additional funding**. At its September meeting, the Board approved the 2013 shorebird budget in the amount of \$98,800, of which \$81,100 was to the Conserve Wildlife Foundation (CWF). As a result of Hurricane Sandy, the Committee recommended that an additional \$25,000 be authorized for CWF in order for them to contract for rubble removal work along the shoreline from Reed's Beach to Pierces Point (an approximate 3.6 mile stretch). This stretch of Delaware Bay shoreline, used by approximately 70 percent of the shorebirds feeding and resting on the New Jersey side of the Bay, has been effectively reduced to rubble and mud. Sand that had covered the rubble and the marsh mat was lifted in the storm and deposited 20 to 50 yards inland. Without removal of the rubble, it will take years of beach erosion for the sand in the current location to be usable by shorebirds. Although Middle Township in Cape May County (where the critical shorebird habitat is located) has made FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers aware of the situation and has made the necessary initial submissions, it is absolutely critical that immediate action be taken to remove the rubble before the horseshoe crab spawning season begins in April 2013. CWF would be authorized to use the additional \$25,000 to directly fund contractors or as a match for grants from funds such as the National Fish and Wildlife Fund or the New Jersey Recovery Fund. Although the Board noted at its September 2012 meeting that the Delaware Bay Migratory Shorebird account is being quickly depleted, the Trust needs to take whatever immediate action it can to ensure the protection of globally imperiled species before there is nothing left to protect.

The remaining **2013 meeting dates** are: June 14, 2013 (to be held in a Camden County location), September 20, 2013 and December 6, 2013.

Mr. Hall motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mr. DeVito seconded the motion and, by a vote of 8 to 0, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Lettman
Secretary/Treasurer



HAINESVILLE WOODS PROJECT AREA
Sandyston Township, Sussex County
June 14, 2013

Description of Project Area

The 364-acre Hainesville Woods Project Area in Sandyston Township, Sussex County would protect a large contiguous area of core forest ranked Landscape 4 as habitat for the state endangered bobcat and timber rattlesnake, the state threatened barred owl and a variety of hawks and forest interior birds. The Project Area includes a 176-acre Green Acres Land Management Assignment (donation) offer consisting of four separate tax parcels collectively known as The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Nocella Preserve. Three of the four parcels being donated by TNC are immediately adjacent to the Trust's existing five-acre Hainesville Woods Preserve. Two populations of the federally- and state-listed endangered small whorled pogonia as well as a population of spring avens (plant species of concern) occur within the Hainesville Woods Project Area. The Project Area has road frontage on Route 206 and Meyers Road. Three of the four TNC-offered parcels have frontage on Route 206. The Project Area would connect the Trust's Hainesville Woods Preserve and Stokes State Forest.

Ecological Description

This Project Area includes most of the Hainesville Woods Natural Heritage Priority Site. This Natural Heritage Priority Site includes the habitat for both the rare plants described above as well as the surrounding woodlands upslope of the plants. These woodlands include oaks, beech, hemlock, white pine and birch, with a fairly diverse understory. As evidenced by numerous stone walls found throughout the woodlands, historically the area was cleared and used as pasture or fields.

Management Issues and Concerns

Staff inspected these properties on May 22, 2013 and found no significant management issues or concerns. Staff has regularly visited the TNC-offered parcels since taking on management responsibility of the Hainesville Woods Preserve and no management problems were noted during these visits. There are ATV trails on some properties within the Project Area but the ATV use appears minimal with no evidence of ATV use on the TNC-owned properties. TNC has been monitoring the small whorled pogonia populations for a number of years and the Trust has requested copies of TNC's monitoring records.

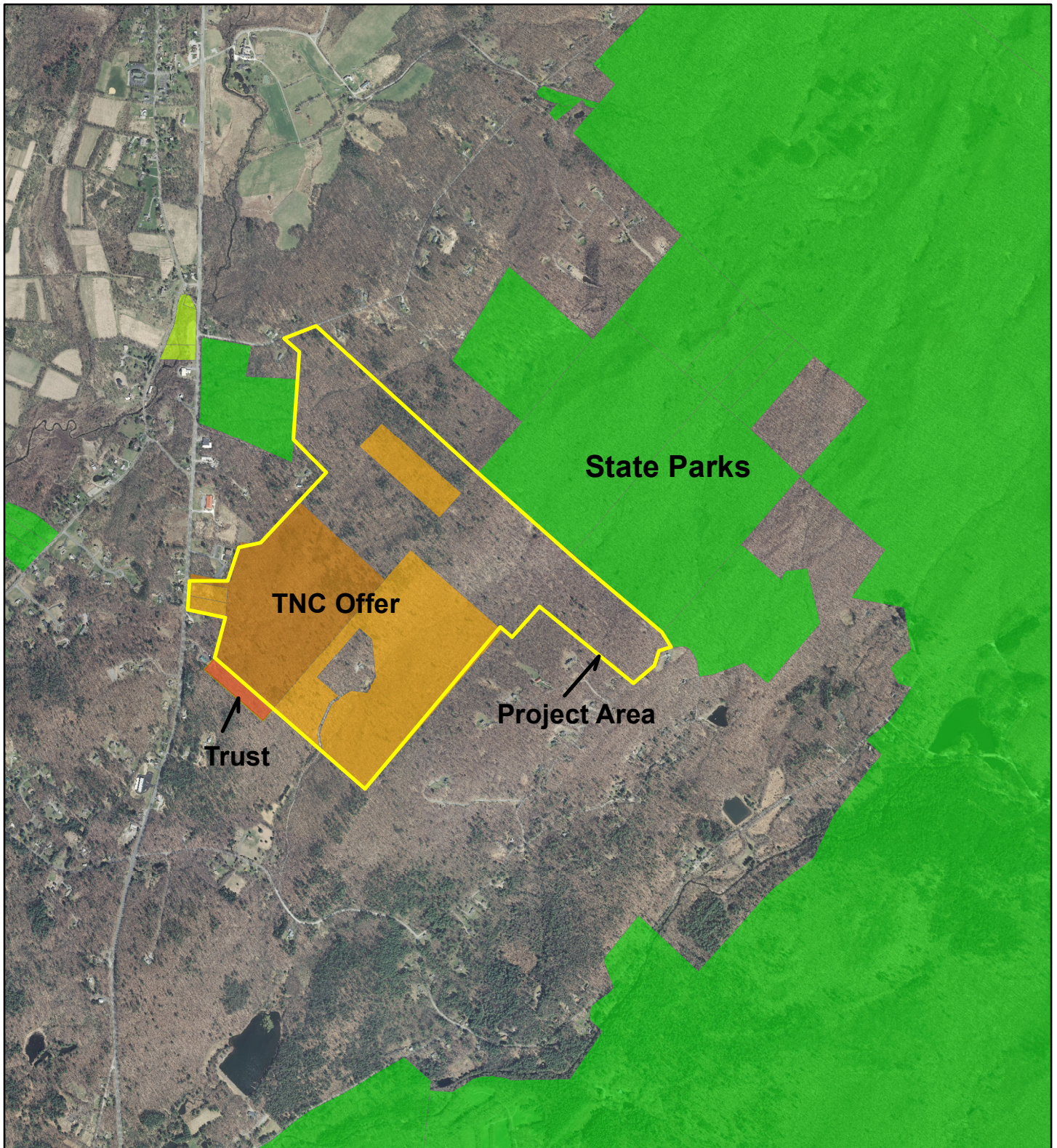
Acquisition Criteria

Properties within this Project Area meet the acquisition criteria for Endangered Species Habitat since they include habitat for a state or federally listed plant or animal species or suitable buffers

to protect such species. There is an offer of \$25,000 as a land management endowment for the TNC-offered properties.

Staff Recommendations

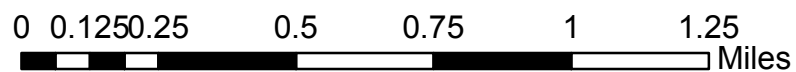
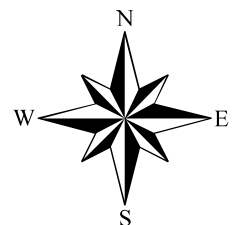
Staff recommends the approval of this Project Area to facilitate Green Acres' acquisition of the TNC-offered properties for donation as well as other potential acquisitions in the area. As required by the Trust's Guidelines for Land Acquisition, lands within the Project Area that would present management concerns, such as structures, improvements or contamination or that would require the expenditure of Trust funds, would be brought to the Board for specific approval before acquisition.



New Jersey Natural Lands Trust Hainsville Woods Project Area

Sandyston Township, Sussex County

364-Acres





**The New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
LAND OFFERING FORM**

Site Name: Sterling Hill-Dicosmo/GA
ID#: 296-01

Donor(s): Green Acres
Address: PO Box 412
City, State, Zip: Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone: 609-984-0500
Agent/Contact: Larry Fink

Municipality: Ogdensburg Borough
County: Sussex
Quad Name:
Frontage: Plant Street
Block: 30/32
Lot: 11.01/30 and 31
Acreage/dimensions: Approximately 31 acres
Zoning:
Assessed value: \$510,200
Annual taxes:

Improvements: Fencing
Offer restrictions: None
Offer contingencies: None
ROWs or easements: None
Type of Acquisition: Agreement

Property taxes paid through end of year transfer: Yes
Property taxes paid by:

Farmland assessed: No

Estimated annual management costs:
Land management fund donation: N/A

Owner will prepare deed: Green Acres will prepare deed
Intended date of closing:
Owner will provide property survey & monuments: Green Acres will provide survey

Description of Offering

This approximately 31-acre Land Management Assignment offer to Green Acres is located in Ogdensburg Borough, Sussex County. The tax parcel is oddly-configured and wraps around the Sterling Mine, which closed as a mine in 1986 but has operated as a museum since 1990. The Trust is interested in only acquiring the portion of the tax parcel south of the mine. A partial acquisition is acceptable to the property owner with a taking boundary as depicted on the attached map. There is road frontage for the property from Plant Avenue but without the ability to provide vehicular access due to limited parking and steep slopes. It is recommended that the Board also approve the acquisition of two parcels on the other side of Plant Avenue which provide additional parking. Although the Trust does not currently own any property in this area, the Board has approved the Sterling Hill and Sterling Mine Project Areas. This property falls between the approved project areas but the project areas were drawn to coincide with the boundaries of the Natural Heritage Priority Sites of the same names, which were redrawn in 2005 and now include the property.

Ecological Description

The property is within the Highlands Planning Area. The property is entirely forested. It is ranked Landscape 4 as habitat for state endangered bobcat and state threatened barred owl and wood turtle. The property includes a portion of the Sterling Mine Natural Heritage Priority Site, which includes habitat and buffer for state endangered plants such as basil mountain-mint, long-head anemone, round-leaf service-berry, side-oats grama grass, false boneset, prairie goldenrod and grooved yellow flax, as well as a portion of the Sterling Hill Natural Heritage Priority Site, which includes habitat and buffer for state endangered plants such as Virginia bunchflower and hemlock-parsley. The unique geology surrounding Sterling Hill and surrounding areas is well known for rare minerals. Approximately 350 types of minerals are known to occur in this area and account for 10 percent of the minerals known to science. Approximately 35 of these minerals have not been found anywhere else in the world.

Management Issues and Concerns

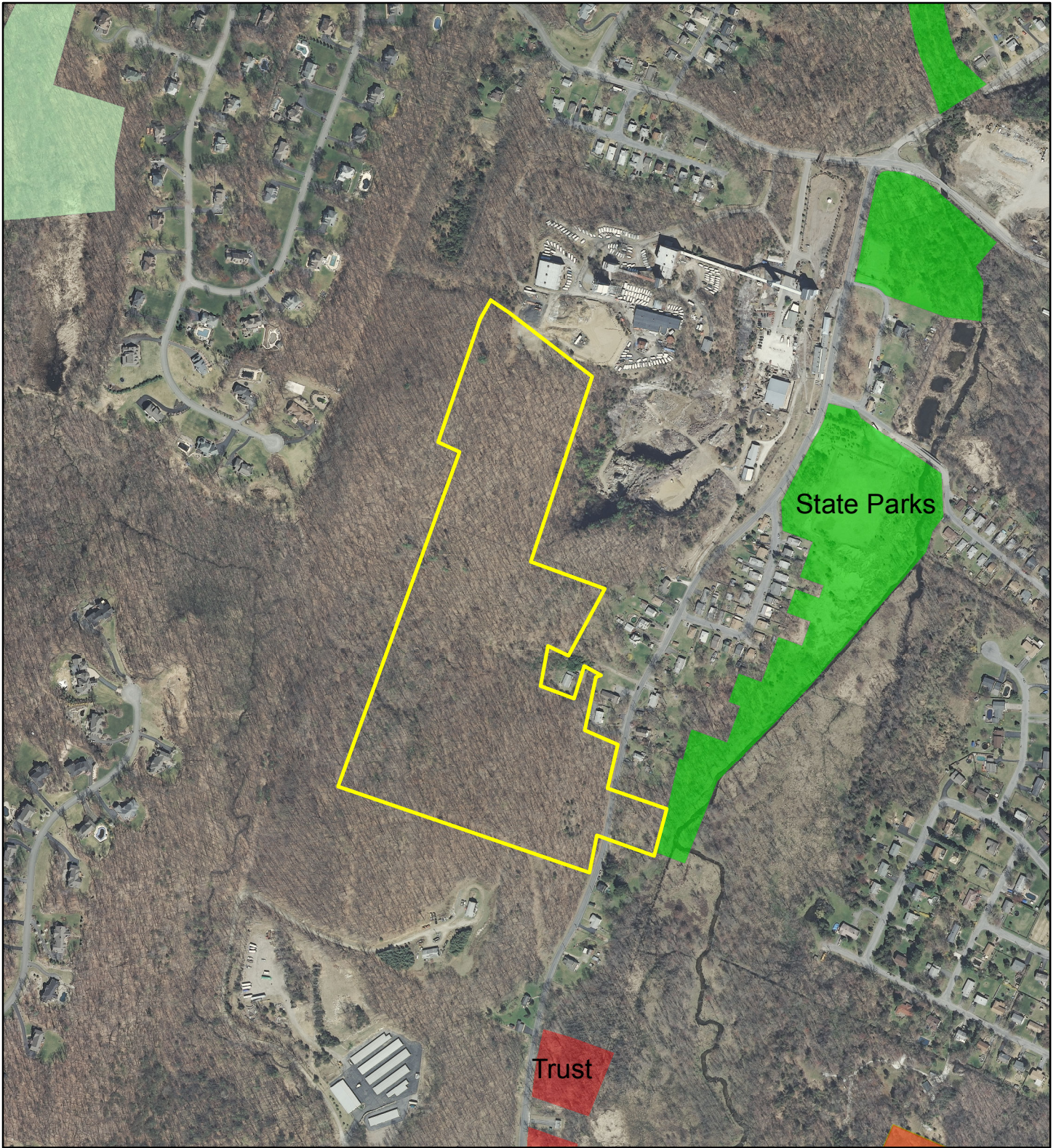
Staff inspected this property on February 15, 2013 and, other than the close proximity to the Sterling Mine, no management concerns were noted. There is a chain link fence in fair condition that runs across the property south of the taking line which should help preclude public access to the Sterling Mine. In addition, these properties will be evaluated and inspected by Green Acres for contamination and other potential hazards prior to acquisition. Staff does not expect management of this property to pose significant management concerns.

Acquisition Criteria

The property meets the Board's acquisition criteria for Endangered Species Habitat since it includes suitable habitat for state or federally listed plant or animal species. As a Green Acres Land Management Assignment, there is no offer of a land management donation.

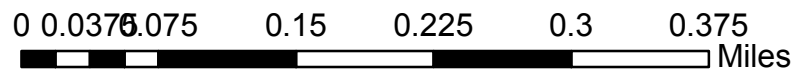
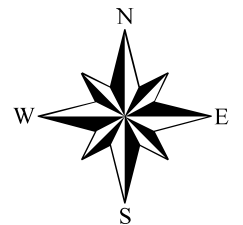
Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the approval of this Green Acres Land Management Assignment as well as two parcels across the street as additions to the Trust's Sterling Hill Preserve.



New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
Sterling Hill Preserve

Ogdensburg Brough, Sussex County
31-Acres





LINCOLN GROVE PROJECT AREA
Franklin Township, Somerset County and
South Brunswick Township, Middlesex County
June 14, 2013

Description of Project Area

This approximately 250-acre Lincoln Grove Project Area proposes to expand upon the Trust's existing 10-acre Lincoln Grove Preserve. Recently an adjacent property owner (Trap Rock) submitted an application for the sale of two parcels in the vicinity of the Lincoln Grove Preserve, and adjacent to the DOT parcels in the process of being transferred to the Trust under the terms of a Land Use Regulation Permit related to the NJ Turnpike widening. The Board approved the acceptance of the 110-acre DOT parcels in November 2002. The creation of this Project Area would facilitate Green Acres' acquisition of the offered parcels as well as other vacant parcels in the area. The Trust is especially interested in a Trap Rock-owned parcel for which an application has not been submitted but is expected to be. This Trap Rock property would be the final piece in the Kingston Greenway, connecting the Trust's Lincoln Grove Preserve with D&R Canal State Park (which includes the Trust's Flemer Preserve), Rockingham Historic Site, the Cook Natural Area, and county-preserved land (known as the Holsten Farm). Such a greenway would be especially noteworthy considering the Kingston area relationship to the Crossroads of the American Revolution and its listing on both the National and State historic registers. Based on its proximity to D&R Canal State Park, it may be appropriate for any of these parcels to be managed by the Division of Parks and Forestry in lieu of the Trust.

The Project Area would build upon the existing Lincoln Grove Preserve and the approved DOT parcels by expanding the boundaries east and west to include five additional parcels. These five parcels have frontage on Route 27, Laurel Avenue and some interior quarry roads.

Ecological Description

These properties directly join the Trust's Lincoln Grove Preserve and their long-term protection would help to ensure the Preserve's viability as an important habitat for songbirds and other wildlife. The project area is approximately 25 percent agriculture fields consisting of old fallow crop fields in various stages of succession. Some of these fields consist of abandoned nursery tree stock of pines and other species. These areas provide cover for a wide variety of edge habitat songbirds including eastern yellow throat, catbird, and brown thrasher. Indeed, on December 16, 2012, 43 different bird species (and 2,624 birds) were counted at the Trap Rock property during the Kingston Greenway's Christmas Bird Count. Open fields are large enough to possibly support grassland birds. The project area is approximately 75 percent mixed hardwood forest. The Carters Brook Tributary and another unnamed tributary run through the project area.

Management Issues and Concerns

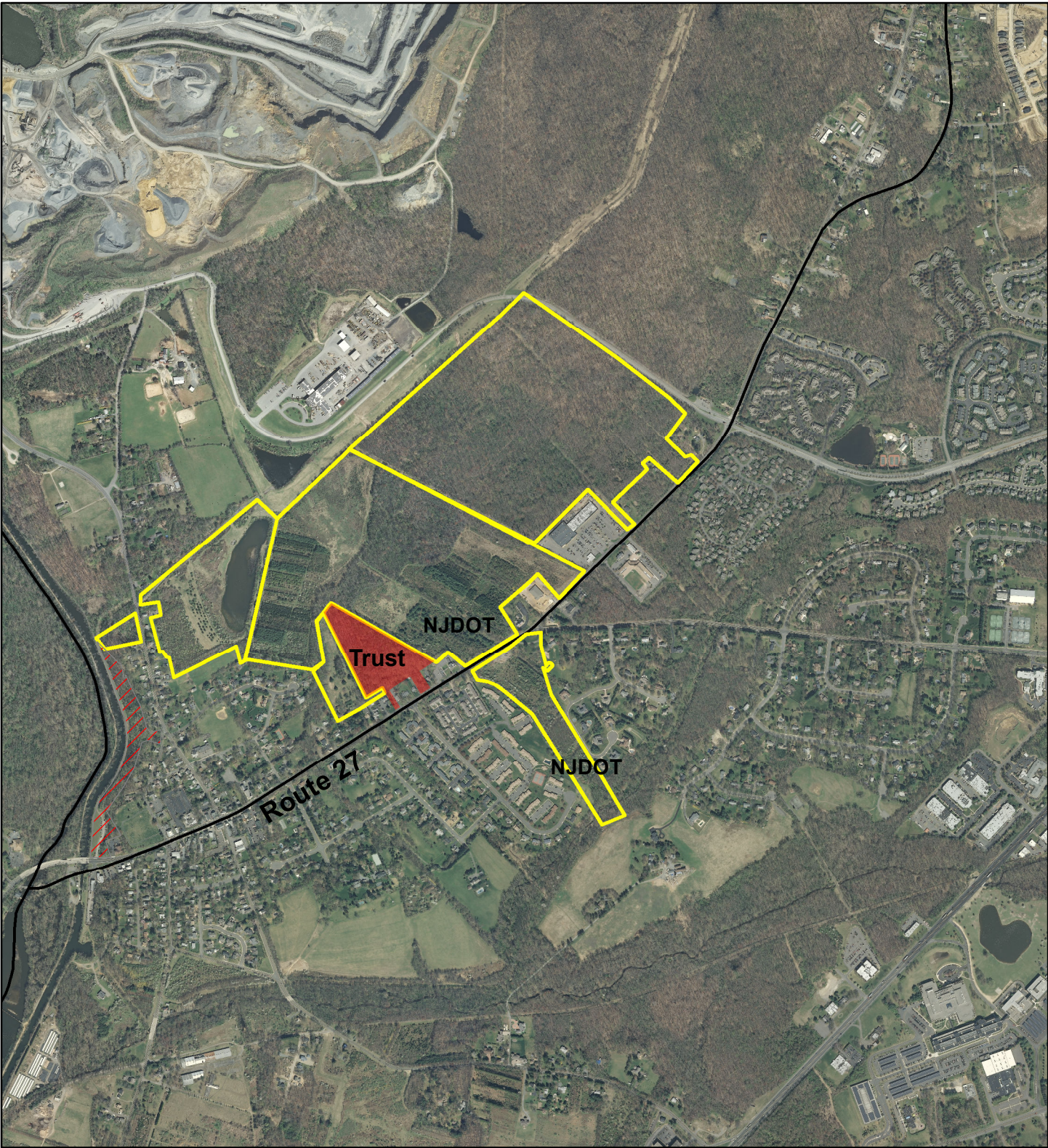
The addition of lands beyond the existing preserve and the already-approved DOT parcels is not expected to increase the Trust's land management responsibilities. On one of the Trap Rock-owned properties is a large impoundment which would need to be further investigated and evaluated by Green Acres during the acquisition process. Improved properties are not targeted for acquisition although partial acquisition of vacant land within a developed lot is a possibility. Areas within the project area are both forested wetlands and active farmland. Existing dirt roads throughout the properties should be maintained for hiking trails and management access. The quarry intends to maintain fencing around the areas that it keeps.

Acquisition Criteria

Properties within this Project Area meet the acquisition criteria as an example of a significant ecosystem based on the presence of wetlands in an area that supports a high natural diversity.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the approval of this Project Area to facilitate Green Acres' acquisition of properties that would greatly enhance the Kingston Greenway. As required by the Trust's Guidelines for Land Acquisition, lands within the Project Area that would present management concerns, such as structures, improvements or contamination or that would require the expenditure of Trust funds, would be brought to the Board for specific approval before acquisition. Staff also recommends that the Board approve bow-hunting only within this Project Area.



New Jersey Natural Lands Trust
Lincoln Grove Project Area
Franklin Township, Kingston Boro, Somerset, County
248-Acres

