



Garden State Preservation Trust

The Mission

The voters of New Jersey from 1998 to 2009 committed an unprecedented \$2.7 billion to permanent land preservation, development of recreational resources and the preservation of crucial historic sites in every community. In 2014 the voters approved additional funding for these efforts with a constitutional dedication of Corporation Business Taxes that eventually will range up to \$120 million a year.

The Garden State Preservation Trust has been repeatedly tasked by the Legislature to function as the independent gatekeeper of those funds, including for the new CBT dedication. The GSPT board has the specific task of

- **setting financial strategies**
- **measuring balances**
- **monitoring expenditures**
- **reviewing project recommendations**
- **approving appropriations**
- **advocating policies for the efficient use of funds**
- **training preservation agencies on cost reductions**

The Garden State Preservation Trust is formed as an independent authority managed by a 9-member board. The five public members are citizen volunteers who are appointed on a bipartisan basis by the Governor, the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker. The four other members are State officials representing major officers of the Governor's cabinet.

New Jersey voters have approved referenda in 1998, 2003, 2007, 2009 and 2014 to maintain and expand the funds they want invested in land conservation and historic preservation. The Garden State Preservation Trust mission is premised on maintaining the taxpayers' confidence that the funds they have approved are used in a manner that is

- **responsible**
- **objective**
- **balanced**
- **efficient**

The GSPT pursues this mission in close alliance with the Department of Treasury, with State conservation and preservation agencies, and with New Jersey's diverse universe of nonprofit land trusts, conservation organizations, county and local land preservation agencies.

New Jersey has been a leader in land preservation for a half-century. This effort reached unprecedented levels under the Garden State Preservation Trust. Today, one third of New Jersey's dry land mass is permanently preserved as open space – a total acreage that exceeds the size of Grand Canyon National Park.