

NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS STRATEGY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS?

New Jersey's natural and working lands (NWLs), including wetlands, forests, and agricultural lands, can perform important services, such as providing habitat for wildlife, contributing to the health and resilience of communities, and strengthening our economy. NWLs can also play a major role in mitigating climate change by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere through long-term accumulation in vegetation and soils.

WHAT LAND TYPES IS NJ CONSIDERING?



Forests



Agriculture & Aquaculture



Grasslands



Wetlands



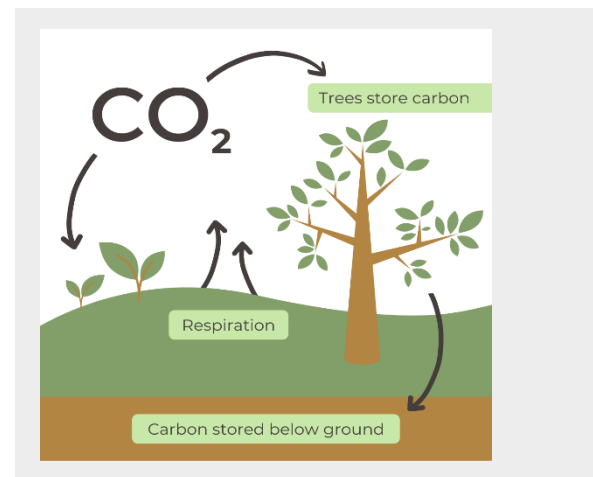
Developed Lands



Aquatic Resources & Habitats

WHAT IS A NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS STRATEGY?

A natural working lands strategy seeks to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in and on farms, forests, grasslands, wetlands, and urban lands. New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture are working in partnership to develop the state's Natural Working Land Strategy. The Strategy will identify and prioritize near-term, cost-effective, and pragmatic solutions, such as natural resource stewardship and management, as well as longer-term actions that require more effort and funding, including potential legislative or programmatic changes, through recommendations.



WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The purpose of this strategy is to develop a policy for the management of natural and working lands and the attendant actions to implement the policy. Each recommendation will be developed with consideration of many co-benefits, such as ecological resilience and community resilience, in addition to the carbon sequestration benefits. For each recommendation, we will also develop 1) near-term actions that explain in detail the next steps required to carry out the recommendation, and 2) specific targets that address how much progress should be made within a certain timeframe (e.g. protect X acres by X year). These will be derived based on current scientific data and input from experts.

WHO WILL USE THIS STRATEGY?

This Strategy can be used by:



HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

In December 2021, a Natural and Working Lands Scoping Document was released. The document is open to public comment for **60 days**. All comments on the Scoping Document should be submitted through the webform found on the Natural and Working Lands [webpage](#). The Department of Environmental Protection will be hosting a series of targeted stakeholder sessions that will be broken up per natural and working land type in the Spring/Summer of 2022. If you're interested in attending any, or all of the stakeholder sessions, please fill out the webform on the NWLs [webpage](#) with your name and email. The Department will contact you closer to the session with all the details needed to join.



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