The “project reference map” is the basis for Green Acres ranking and evaluation and is used by the appraiser(s) in the determination of the parcel’s market value. The minimum size of this map should be 11” x 17" and include the information listed below. Clarity of presentation of data will dictate the actual paper size. One copy of a project reference map is required for all acquisition proposals, but additional copies of this map will be required if the project is approved for funding.

The project reference map can be generated mechanically using cartographic methods, or digitally using autocad or Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. Local units using GIS technology may acquire the georeference required by the Green Acres Program from the NJDEP’s GIS. It is recommended that you provide the map preparer with all available data and documents pertinent to the site (i.e., existing surveys, local unit master plan, etc.) in order to facilitate this mapping process.

This checklist should be returned with your completed application. If any items are not applicable, please indicate with “N/A” next to that item. The following are required elements of the project reference map:

___ (a) Project name and location
___ (b) Block and lot numbers and municipality (ies) in which the acquisition is located
___ (c) Current owner(s) of record (also indicate adjacent lots under the same ownership)
___ (d) Area given in acreage or square feet
___ (e) Dimensions of each lot marked on each perimeter boundary
___ (f) Improvements shown in approximate location on parcel
___ (g) Acquisition area - if only a portion of the parcel is proposed for acquisition, both the proposed portion and the remaining areas and sizes should be noted.
___ (h) North arrow and scale of map. The map scale should be proportional to the size of the site to allow an appraiser to prepare an accurate appraisal
___ (i) If located in the Highlands, indicate whether site is in the Planning Area or Preservation Area
___ (j) Indicate if purchase will be fee or easement. If easement, and less than full public access is proposed, show public access area. (Extent of public access will affect value and eligibility for Green Acres funding. Please discuss with Green Acres.)
___ (k) Location and area of all known existing easements, road rights-of-way, encroachments, dune and beach areas, and similar features, with the source of such information shown;
___ (l) Location and area of all streams, rivers, waterbodies, and associated buffers. Any waterbody classified as Category One pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:9B, and the associated special water resource protection area established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:8, must be shown and labeled.
___ (m) Location and area of tidelands, available from the Department at www.nj.gov/dep/gis, as determined from New Jersey Tidelands claims maps, conveyance overlays, and atlas sheets;
___ (n) Location and area of floodplain, as shown on the New Jersey State Flood Hazard Area maps prepared under the Flood Hazard Area Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:16A-50 et seq. and available from the Department at www.nj.gov/dep/gis, or as determined from other State or Federal mapping or from a site delineation;
___ (o) Location and area of coastal wetlands, as shown on maps prepared by the Department under the Wetlands Act of 1970, N.J.S.A. 13:9A-1 et seq. and available from the Department at www.nj.gov/dep/gis;
___ (p) Location and area of freshwater wetlands, available from the Department at www.nj.gov/dep/gis or as determined from:
   - A wetlands delineation, if one exists, verified by the Department's Land Use Regulation Program or its successor;
   - Freshwater wetlands maps prepared by the Department under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, N.J.S.A. 13:9B-1 et seq., if they exist; or
   - If the documents listed under (1) and (2) above do not exist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps, in conjunction with County Soil Surveys published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture