Pinelands Conservation Fund

Permanent Land Protection
PCF Background

• Established in 2005
• Additional funding through CMCMUA
• Priorities amended in 2014
• Permanent land protection: 8,969 acres
• Additional funding through SJTA (2019)
• Suggested acquisition priorities revision in 2021
April 12, 2019, the Pinelands Commission authorized execution of amendment to the 2004 MOA between the Commission and the SJTA concerning short term development projects at the Atlantic City International Airport.

2004 MOA required creation of a 290 acre Grassland Conservation Management Area on the Airport property.

2019 MOA Amendment permitted SJTA to mow the on-site Grassland Conservation Management year round.
Offset for the 2019 MOA Amendment:

- Acquisition, creation and long term maintenance of a new Grassland Conservation and Management Area in the Pinelands.

- Enhancement of an additional 12 acres site for frosted elfin butterfly.

- Payments totaling Three Million Dollars were to be made to the Pinelands Conservation Fund for the acquisition of land with a priority given for threatened or endangered grassland bird habitat, if available.
Acquisition 2021

- New funding round
- $1,000,000
- Acquisition Priorities*
- Process
- Schedule
Land Acquisition Priorities

• Grassland habitats
• Impacts of climate change
  • Carbon sequestration
  • Fire management
  • Flood hazard
• “Traditional” acquisitions
  • 502 Fund Areas
  • Target Areas
Grassland Focus Area

Grassland Acreage Unpreserved by Distance from SJTA Buffer Distance to SJTA Acres (LULC 2007)

- 2-mile: 570.45 acres
- 5-mile: 1323.06 acres
- 15-mile: 6257.76 acres
Wild-Urban Interface Focus Area
## Project Evaluation Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Low (1)</th>
<th>Medium (3)</th>
<th>High (5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location: Is the project in PCF focus area</td>
<td>In RGA, Town, Village or Rural Development Area AND none of the designated focus areas</td>
<td>In designated focus areas and PAD, SAPA, APA or Forest Area</td>
<td>Within a five-mile radius of SJTA and inside the State Pinelands Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;E Habitats:</td>
<td>No state/federal T&amp;E habitat per NJDEP Landscape Model AND no NJPC and ENSP sightings</td>
<td>T&amp;E habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings</td>
<td>Grassland habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size:</td>
<td>Less than 50 acres</td>
<td>Between 50 and 100 acres</td>
<td>100 acres or more; add 3 additional points if greater than 500 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contiguity:</td>
<td>Greater than one mile from preserved habitat or open space</td>
<td>Less than one mile from known grassland T&amp;E habitats but not contiguous</td>
<td>Contiguous with preserved habitat or open space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner Contribution:</td>
<td>67.7% of acquisition costs</td>
<td>At least 75% acquisition costs</td>
<td>Greater than 75% acquisition costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term Maintenance Capability:</td>
<td>No monitoring or maintenance plan/ no identified land steward</td>
<td>Proposed Monitoring and maintenance plan; Not previously implemented</td>
<td>Established Monitoring and maintenance program / Gov’t. agency or NGO is prepared to manage land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change Mitigation:</td>
<td>Flood hazard mitigation</td>
<td>Wildfire Management</td>
<td>Carbon Sequestration/ Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose:</td>
<td>Historic Preservation</td>
<td>Open Space</td>
<td>T &amp; E or Climate Change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deed of Conservation Restriction

Template will be revised to address

- Habitat maintenance plan (grassland)
- Local populations protections
- Types of forestry practices
- Low intensity recreation
- Land management issues of monitoring and protection

April 30, 2021 P & I meeting for approval
Acquisition Process

**P & I** Approves priorities, deed language & schedule

**Staff** Advertise & send letters to agencies & entities in the land acquisition business  Receive and rank projects

**P & I** Review recommendations  Approves grant requests in closed session

**Staff** Send offer letters  Execute grant agreements  Provide payment AFTER closing and recordation of deed restriction

**P & I** Must approve any request for payment in advance of closing
Permanent Land Protection Schedule

- P & I Committee approval
  - March 26, 2021: Priorities & Matrix
  - April 30, 2021: Deed of Conservation Restriction
- Open application round ~ late May
- Deadline for submitting proposals ~ July 30
- Recommendations to P & I ~ October 2021
Questions?