

A scenic autumn forest path with a wooden fence. The path is paved and leads into a dense forest of trees with vibrant yellow, orange, and red foliage. A wooden fence runs along both sides of the path, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves. The scene is bathed in warm sunlight, creating a peaceful and inviting atmosphere.

Pinelands Conservation Fund

**Policy & Implementation Committee
Public Session**

October 31, 2025

Grant Round Summary

- \$3,000,000 available
- May 9, 2025, Commission announced grant availability to eligible entities
- September 19, 2025, project proposal applications due



Grant Round Summary

- 1 application submitted
 - NJCF
 - Burlington County
- Staff reviewed and scored against evaluation matrix
- Staff recommendation in closed session



Factor	Low (1)	Medium (3)	High (5)
Location: Is the project in PCF focus areas for flood or wildfire	In RGA, Town, Village or Rural Development Area AND one of the designated focus areas	In designated focus areas and Preservation Area District, Special Agricultural Production Area, Agricultural Production Area or Forest Area	Within a five-mile radius of the Atlantic City Airport operated by the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) and inside the State Pinelands Area
Threatened and Endangered Species Habitats:	No state/federal T&E habitat per NJDEP Landscape Model AND no NJPC and ENSP sightings	T&E habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings	Grassland habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings
Size:	Less than 50 acres	Between 50 and 100 acres	100 acres or more; add 3 additional points if greater than 500 acres
Contiguity:	Less than one mile from preserved open space	Less than one mile from preserved open space and known grassland T&E habitats but not contiguous	Contiguous with preserved open space and known grassland T&E habitats
Partner Contribution:	66.7% of acquisition costs	At least 75% of acquisition costs	Greater than 75% of acquisition costs
Maintenance & Stewardship:	Written maintenance /stewardship plan	Written maintenance/ stewardship plan and specific stewardship project proposal	Written maintenance/ stewardship plan and agreement to partner on future grant proposal for stewardship projects
Environmental Justice Communities Stressors:	One stressor identified	Three or four stressors identified	More than five stressors identified

Closed session



Closed Session Summary

- Committee approved award of all available funding, \$3,000,000, to NJCF
 - Acquisition in the Medford-Evesham Priority Acquisition Area, Burlington County
- Recommended 1 year to execute grant agreement (November 2, 2026) recognizing:
 - Additional funding sources
 - Other granting institution requirements
- Next steps: letter to project partner notifying of the award



Questions?