

CITY OF OCEAN CITY
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION 11-48-119

**REQUESTING CAPE MAY COUNTY FREEHOLDERS CONSIDER SUBMITTING A
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GREEN ACRES
PROGRAM LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FOR
LAND ACQUISITION AND PARK DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Cape May County is eligible to receive up to 900,000 for land acquisition and park development for the County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Program by applying for a matching grant offered through NJDEP Green Acres Program; and

WHEREAS, Green Acres matching grant funding can be used to acquire land for recreation and conservation purposes including ocean, bay and/or river waterfront, or a lake, pond, beach or stream that provides opportunity for physical and visual public access, swimming, water sports, fishing and/or boating; a natural area such as a wildlife preserve, forest and/or wetland that provides opportunity for conservation, nature observation, water quality and water supply protection, camping and/or hiking; an historic property; or land suitable for playgrounds, athletic fields, and other types of active and passive outdoor recreation facilities or opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Green Acres matching grant funds may be used to assist in efforts to complete the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, which has only acquired 11,800 acres of the 21,820 acres that congress envisioned necessary to protect wetlands and wildlife resources of international importance; and

WHEREAS, Green Acres loan funding can be used for the development of land for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes, which must be accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, nineteen other counties in the state regularly apply for and receive matching funds from the State Green Acres Program; and

WHEREAS, on November 9, 1989, Cape May County voters approved, by a two to one margin, a ballot question endorsing the establishment of a trust fund to preserve open space and agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, the Trust is funded by a county property tax of one cent per \$100 of assessed valuation and raised \$5.5 million toward land preservation last year; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Cape May County Open Space and Recreation Plan recognizes that open space is of special importance to the County's future; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Cape May County Open Space and Recreation Plan recognizes that the County has an open space deficit of 4,001 acres and is in need of additional public recreational land and open space and therefore, recommends the maintenance and expansion of the existing County Park System, and the continuation of the County's Open Space Preservation Program in conjunction and coordination with other public and private open space preservation programs; and

WHEREAS, the County Comprehensive Plan states that the County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Program, in conjunction with State Green Acres and other programs and land trusts, is expected to reduce the County open space deficit; and

WHEREAS, two goals of the Open Space and Recreation Plan are to encourage coordinated open space and recreation planning, acquisition and development initiatives of state, county, and local governments and conservation organizations; and to effectively use funds from the Cape May County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Program, and other sources of funding that may become available; and

WHEREAS, Cape May County residents voted 52% in favor of the 2009 Statewide Open Space Bond Referendum and therefore urge the County to leverage dedicated tax dollars with voter-approved Garden State Preservation Trust dollars to support open space projects; and

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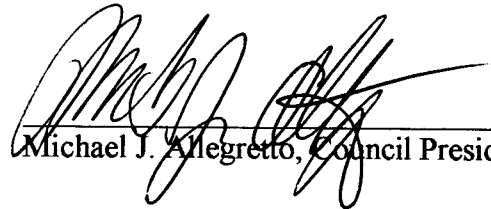
RESOLUTION 11-48-119

WHEREAS, County Trust fund monies should be equally allocated towards farmland preservation and open space projects; and

WHEREAS, ecotourism in Cape May County generates over \$522 million annually; and

WHEREAS, over \$260 million was approved through the last funding round of the "2009 Green Acres Bond Act" for local government open space acquisition and park development projects; and

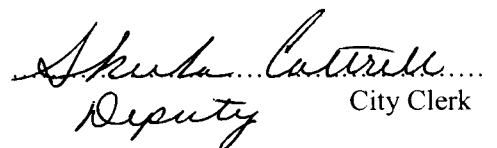
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Ocean City, does hereby request the Cape May County Board of Freeholders to consider submitting an NJDEP Green Acres Program Local Government Assistance Application for Land Acquisition and Park Development.


Michael J. Allegretto, Council President

Offered by ...COUNCILWOMAN BERGMAN..... Seconded by ..COUNCILMAN WAGNER.....

The above resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Ocean City, New Jersey, at a meeting of said Council duly held on the29TH..... day of ..NOVEMBER..... 20 ...11

NAME	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAINED
Allegretto	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Bergman	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Hartzell	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Kemenosh	_____	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
Ping	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Wagner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
Wilson	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____


Deputy City Clerk



AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

16 North High Street, Suite I, Millville, NJ 08332

October 19, 2011

The Honorable Jay A. Gillian
The City of Ocean City
861 Asbury Ave
Ocean City, NJ 08226

Dear Mayor Gillian:

Last summer, the American Littoral Society and Friends of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge sent a letter to Cape May County Freeholders asking that they consider applying to the state Green Acres Program to seek funding to match and augment funds currently raised through the County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The Trust, established in 1989, is funded by a county property tax of one-cent per \$100 of assessed valuation, which raised \$5.5 million toward land preservation last year. Since the program's inception, Cape May County has always had the option to leverage local open space dollars with matching state funding for a wide variety of projects. However, the County has only taken advantage of this matching funding once within its 22 years of eligibility, which was back in 1995. Failure to apply for state funding has meant that the County and its towns have missed out on millions of dollars in available funding.

There is simply no reason why the County shouldn't be doubling its open space funds to assist with any number of municipally supported projects which would benefit the county as a whole. We would like to ask that you and your City Council consider passing a resolution urging the county to apply for state Green Acres funding, which can be used for up to two years. Nineteen other counties in the state apply for and receive matching funds from the State Green Acres Program. For example, between 2005 and 2010, Atlantic County utilized over \$3.2 million in Green Acres funding for land acquisition and almost \$285,000 for park infrastructure.

Because the County dedicates a portion of its one-cent tax toward the acquisition of parkland and natural areas, it has always had the option to double the funds it raises every year by merely submitting a simple application. State funds can be used to help the County and your township acquire new or enhance existing land for recreation and conservation purposes, including playgrounds, camping and hiking areas, athletic fields and recreation facilities, boating and fishing areas, and historic properties.

In addition, the County can also utilize matching state funds to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as well as non-profit land preservation trusts in establishing and/or expanding nature preserves, state wildlife management areas, and local and federal refuge lands including Corson's Inlet State Park, Howard Stainton Wildlife Refuge and Cape May Coastal Wetlands WMA.

The Cape May National Wildlife Refuge draws thousands of wildlife enthusiasts annually. A recent ecotourism report, *Economic Impact of Ecotourism Resources in Cape May County*, conducted through Atlantic Cape Community College, found that over \$522 million are generated through wildlife watching alone in Cape May County. Indeed, according to Diane Wieland, director of the Cape May County Department of Tourism, this amount is about double what it was a decade ago. Considering the accelerating economic value of ecotourism in the county, the Freeholder Board should be doing everything possible to advance and support open space and park development efforts throughout the county.

Thanks to voter passage of the 2009 Green Acres Bond Act, The Governor, recently signed into law several bills that will direct over \$260 million to preservation throughout the State of NJ. The County is eligible to apply for some of this money, which could bring up to one million dollars into the county for any number of locally supported projects; however, to get these funds, the County needs to submit its application during the next funding round expected to be announced later this fall. It is important for the County to act now because this fall may be the last funding round until a future stable source of funding is passed to support the state Green Acres Program.

Therefore, we urge the City Council to please consider passing the enclosed resolution. Upper Township Committee has already passed a resolution supporting this action on October 11th. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further. I am also available to come and speak with the Council at your next meeting.

Respectfully,

Jessica Daher
Conservation Coordinator

cc: Peter Ault, Chairman, Environmental Commission

Enclosures (2)

TOWNSHIP OF UPPER
CAPE MAY COUNTY
R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION NO. 212-2011

RE: REQUESTING THE CAPE MAY COUNTY FREEHOLDERS TO CONSIDER
SUBMITTING A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GREEN ACRES PROGRAM LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FOR
LAND ACQUISITION AND PARK DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, Cape May County is eligible to receive up to \$900,000.00 for land acquisition and park development for the County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Program by applying for a matching grant offered through NJDEP Green Acres Program; and

WHEREAS, Green Acres matching funding can be used to acquire land for recreation and conservation purposes that will provide opportunity for both physical and visual public access; and

WHEREAS, Green Acre matching grant funds may be used to assist in efforts to complete the Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, which has only acquired 11,800 acres of the 21,820 acres that congress envisioned necessary to protect wetlands and wildlife resources of international importance; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Cape May County Open Space and Recreation Plan recognizes that the County has an open space deficit of 4,001 acres and is in need of additional public recreational land and open space and therefore, recommends the maintenance and expansion of the existing County Park System, and the continuation of the County's Open Space preservation Program in conjunction and coordination with other public and private open space preservation programs; and

WHEREAS, ecotourism in Cape May County generates over \$522 million annually; and

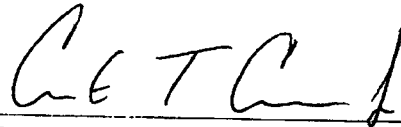
WHEREAS, over \$260 million was approved through the last

*Certified as a true copy of a
Resolution passed by the
Township Committee of the
Township of Upper at a regular
meeting held on 12/11/11.
Barbara S. [Signature] Secretary-Treasurer Clerk*

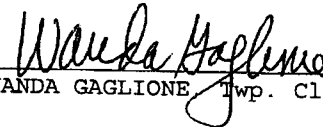
funding round of the "2009 Green Acres Bond Act" for local government open space acquisition and park development projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Upper, in the County of Cape May and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The allegations of the preamble are incorporated herein by this reference.
2. The Upper Township Committee requests the Cape May County Freeholders to consider submitting an NJDEP Green Acres Program Local Government Assistance Application for Land Acquisition and Park Development.
3. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be provided to the County of Cape May Board of Chosen Freeholders.



Curtis T. Corson Jr., Dep. Mayor



WANDA GAGLIONE Twp. Clerk

Resolution No. 212 -2011

Offered by: Gabor

Seconded by: Newman

Adopted: October 11, 2011

Roll Call Vote:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSTAINED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Conrad	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Corson	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Gabor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Newman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Palombo	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>