

**BOROUGH OF WEST CAPE MAY  
COUNTY OF CAPE MAY  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #157-11**

**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

**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

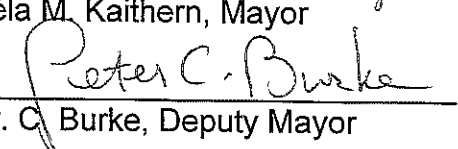
**WHEREAS**, County Trust fund monies should be equally allocated towards farmland preservation and open space projects; and

**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** that the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Cape May requests Cape May County Freeholders to consider submitting an NJDEP Green Acres Program Local Government Assistance Application for Land Acquisition and Park Development

  
Pamela M. Kaithern, Mayor

  
Peter. C. Burke, Deputy Mayor

Elaine L. Wallace  
Elaine L. Wallace, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

D. Ramsey Geyer  
D. Ramsey Geyer, Commissioner

Adopted: December 14, 2011

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Kaithern	✓			
Burke	✓			
Geyer	✓			

cc: CFO  
Cape May County Freeholders  
American Littoral Society ✓

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution duly passed and adopted by a majority of full membership of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of West Cape May, County of Cape May, New Jersey, at a meeting held on December 14, 2011.

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Municipal Clerk