



New Jersey Conservation
FOUNDATION

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



Farmland Forever
PRESERVING NJ'S HERITAGE

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New Jersey, the “Garden State,” is the home of some of the world’s most fertile soils. Our Jersey tomatoes, sweet corn, blueberries, peaches, cranberries and other crops are second to none!

But New Jersey is also the home of suburban sprawl. We have more people per square mile than any other state, and pressure to turn family farms into housing, shopping malls, and corporate parks is enormous.

That’s why New Jersey Conservation Foundation has worked for decades to permanently preserve family farms throughout the state. We work hand-in-hand with many partners – including the State Agriculture Development Committee, U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service and county and municipal governments – to purchase development rights on farms, ensuring that they stay farmland forever.

Farming isn’t an easy business, but most farmers love what they do. Preservation dollars help take the financial pressure off farmers and allow them to invest in their farms ... and perhaps even pass the land down to the next generation!

In this Report, read the stories of four family farms in different parts of the state. The English Farm is a traditional farm that’s been in operation since before the American Revolution. Riverine Ranch is the only water buffalo farm in New Jersey, Cowtown hosts the state’s only rodeo, and Rabbit Hill is the only farm in the state to grow and malt grains for craft brewing and distilling.

We hope you enjoy learning about these farmers. They all have a commitment to keeping the garden in the Garden State. New Jersey Conservation Foundation shares that commitment.

With your support, we’ll continue working to preserve more family farms to ensure that New Jersey’s strong agricultural traditions endure. Thank you for all you do – New Jersey is a better place because of your support and generosity!



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OUR MISSION

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve land and natural resources throughout New Jersey for the benefit of all. Through acquisition and stewardship, we protect strategic lands from the Highlands to the Pine Barrens to the Delaware Bayshore. We promote strong land conservation policies at the local, state and federal levels, forge partnerships to achieve conservation goals, and provide support and technical assistance to partner groups. Since 1960, we have helped protect more than 125,000 acres of natural areas, farms, parks and water resources.

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For membership information, please visit our website at www.njconservation.org or call us at 1-888-LANDSAVE. Our mailing address is 170 Longview Road, Far Hills, NJ 07931.

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Farmland Forever

PRESERVING NJ'S HERITAGE

Farming isn't the easiest way to make a living, but most farmers love working their land and wouldn't have it any other way. Fortunately, New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program is helping farmers stay on their land and helping new farmers acquire their first farm. Read the stories of four unique Garden State farms preserved by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners.



A home where the water buffalo roam

Brian Foley gently coaxes the newborn water buffalo calf lying in the grass: “Hey, c’mon, get up, get up.” The little black calf climbs slowly to its feet. Nearby the mother watches, alert but not distressed.

“This is our 27th calf this spring, and we’re expecting about 25 more,” said Brian, stroking the calf’s head and checking to making sure it’s healthy. It ambles over to its mother.

The water buffalo at Riverine Ranch, a preserved farm in Warren County, clearly know and trust Brian and his wife, Courtney. “Water buffalo are an animal that needs human contact,” Brian explains. “They’re very docile.”

In fact, the Foleys’ water buffalo are almost dog-like in their curiosity and desire for attention. In a barn that houses pregnant females, they crowd toward the gate to greet Brian and a visitor, pushing their noses through the rails. The same thing happens with older calves in another barn.

Unlike many New Jersey farmers, Brian and Courtney were not raised on a farm. But Courtney had a childhood dream of owning a farm with animals, and her husband was determined to make it come true.

The Foleys did their research and learned that water buffalo have a long history of domestication in Asia and are prized for their rich, high-butterfat milk. They started about 13 years ago with eight water buffalo on rented farmland. When New Jersey Conservation Foundation put a 62-acre preserved farm up for sale in 2010, they jumped on the opportunity to have a place of their own.

Today, the herd is now at about 150 water buffalo ... and growing! Riverine Ranch is still the only water buffalo farm in the Garden State.

The Foleys have an on-farm facility for making gourmet fresh mozzarella cheese and brie-like aged cheeses, and culturing a thick, creamy yogurt. The products are sold at farmers markets and at a small weekend store on the farm.

Maintaining a happy water buffalo herd is central to the Riverine Ranch philosophy. “This is a perfect animal giving a perfect milk,” says Brian. “If you treat them right and give them good food, you can milk them for 18 years. It’s a partnership. We evolved with them.”

RIVERINE RANCH ■ WARREN COUNTY



Photo by Penelope Ayers



Photo by Sandy Perry



Photo by Sandy Perry

If you were blindfolded and dropped off at the Harris family farm in Salem County, you might think you're not in Jersey anymore. First, rangelands are dotted with grazing cattle, and cowboys on horses round them up. Then there's the 25-foot cowboy statue along Route 40, right next to the Cowtown Rodeo sign.

Welcome to the Wild West's outpost in the Garden State!

The Cowtown Rodeo and hundreds of acres of surrounding grasslands are a genuine New Jersey landmark – the state's only rodeo, owned by the Harris family since 1929. From May to September, the rodeo goes every Saturday night, drawing a loyal following for events like bull riding, barrel racing and calf roping.

Five generations of Harris family members have been involved in running the rodeo, the Cowtown farmers market and the farm's cattle business.

Last year, New Jersey Conservation Foundation and partners permanently preserved nearly 375 acres of grasslands surrounding Cowtown Rodeo by purchasing the development rights. Proceeds allowed patriarch Grant Harris to pass the business along to the next generation, daughter Katy and husband RJ Griscom, as well as purchase additional land the family had been leasing.

Another 79 acres were preserved at Cowtown in June 2019.

Grant said developers offered him and his wife Betsy "a ridiculous amount of money" to buy the land. Although they seriously considered it, they found they couldn't imagine Cowtown being gone. Preserving the land allowed them to keep the land and businesses in the family.

Katy and RJ are now running Cowtown's day-to-day operations and raising the next generation, their six-year-old son, Nathan. "This is a great life. Why would you want to do anything else?" asked Katy at an event to celebrate the land preservation.

Preserving the farm not only kept Cowtown in the family, it also saves habitat for rare grassland birds. Bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows and savanna sparrows – all threatened species in New Jersey – breed in the pasture grasses, along with brown thrashers and Eastern meadowlarks, both species of special concern.

HARRIS FAMILY FARM ■ SALEM COUNTY





A cowboy tradition thrives in New Jersey



Taking off like a rabbit: grains and malt for brewing

A stiff breeze stirs the fields of barley at Rabbit Hill Farms in Cumberland County. Think “amber waves of grain,” as immortalized in the song America the Beautiful. The waves of swaying barley are silvery under the midday sun, not yet ripe for harvest. But they’re destined to become a key ingredient in beer brewing: malt.

Rabbit Hill is the only farm in New Jersey to grow and malt its own grains to sell to craft brewers and distillers ... barley, wheat, rye, spelt, oats and buckwheat.

The malting operation started after a radical decision on the part of the Bakker family – dad Abe, son Blair and daughter Hillary Bakker Barile – to transition away from five generations of potato farming.

As Hillary explains, demand for Rabbit Hill’s specialty – fresh cooking potatoes (as opposed to spuds for the food processing industry) – shrank as Americans’ eating habits changed. “It wasn’t a success for us anymore,” she said. “People don’t eat the way they used to.” The family knew they’d have to adapt to survive.

Blair was a home brewing hobbyist, and he suggested converting part of Rabbit Hill into a microbrewery, with all ingredients grown and processed on the preserved farm. But once the family understood the enormity of such an enterprise, they started with growing and malting grains.

In 2015, they planted grains in former potato fields, converted a barn into a “malt house” and set out to learn the old-fashioned process of “floor malting.”

Floor malting involves soaking the grains, spreading them on the barn floor, and repeatedly raking them to distribute heat evenly until the seeds begin to sprout. The grains are then kiln dried at low heat, turning starches into sugars - which will later be converted to alcohol during brewing.

Rabbit Hill’s grain and malt business took off like a ... you know! The preserved farm is now producing about a ton of malt a week, and selling everything it can make. Rabbit Hill’s most popular product is the Pilsner-style “Farmhouse” malt; its toasty, English-style “Chillum” is another favorite.

Hillary, who’s in charge of the malting, is thrilled to be making a unique, high-quality New Jersey product. And brewers and distillers who want to make a “local” or “all-Jersey” beverage now have a reliable supply of grains and malts exclusively from the Garden State!

RABBIT HILL FARMS ■ CUMBERLAND COUNTY



Photo by Sean Towers



Photo by Hillary Barile



Photo by Sean Towers

The 15-week-old piglets press their noses curiously against the wire fence separating them from the chicken yard.

“The pigs are pretty fascinated by the chickens right now,” observes farmer Carol English. The feeling is not reciprocated, however, and the chickens retreat to the henhouse.

Over in the pasture, mini-horse Hector trots up to the fence to greet visitors, while two Nigerian dwarf goats snooze in the sun, not bothering to get up. In the rooster yard, the bantams crow loudly and one aggressive fellow flies at a camera lens that comes too close. “The roosters can be territorial,” said Carol.

Such is a spring morning at the English Farm in Liberty Corner, one of the oldest working farms in Somerset County, established before the American Revolution. The farm is run by Carol English and her four siblings, who are the eighth generation of their family to farm the property.

The English farm produces eggs, flowers and organic vegetables, all sold at a roadside stand set up in one of the historic red barns. Hay is grown in the upper fields. The horse, goats and pigs are there mostly because they’re popular with customers.

“The kids love to see them,” said Carol, noting that many children who come to the farm stand haven’t experienced the sights, sounds and smells of a barnyard. The same goes for a lot of adults. Some families stop by the English Farm every week during the summer just to visit the animals.

The English Farm was established in about 1740, hosted an encampment of French soldiers during the Revolutionary War, and became a dairy after the railroad arrived in town in 1782. “My dad used to tell stories about delivering milk cans to the train,” said Carol. “They would be sent off to the city of Newark.”

The dairy operation was discontinued a few decades ago, but the property stayed in farmland. The English Farm was permanently preserved in 2008, when New Jersey Conservation Foundation assisted Bernards Township in purchasing the development rights on 81 acres, ensuring that the land will stay farmland forever.

Years earlier, Carol’s father, the late Woodruff English, set the stage for preservation by signing voluntary agreements to not sell the land for development. “It meant a lot to him, this land,” said Carol. “I think we picked the best option and we’re all very happy with it.”

ENGLISH FARM ■ SOMERSET COUNTY



Photo by Sandy Perry



Photo by Sandy Perry



Photo by Sandy Perry



Chickens and piglets and goats, oh my!

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In 2018, New Jersey Conservation Foundation preserved 965 acres of farmland which produce 369,595 bushels of tomatoes.

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Don't see your name? Let us know!

Those who donated in 2019 will be included in next year's annual report, so stay tuned!

Share your thoughts and questions with Alison Mitchell, Assistant Director & Acting Director of Development, at 908-997-0711 or alison@njconservation.org.



Thanks to your support and generosity, we'll continue working to preserve more family farms to ensure that New Jersey's strong agricultural traditions endure.

2018 Gaining Ground

NEARLY 2,900 ACRES PRESERVED THROUGHOUT THE STATE

■ BURLINGTON COUNTY

**THOMPSON-WRIGHT • 442 acres,
Woodland and Southampton Townships**

New Jersey Conservation expanded the Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve in the Pine Barrens with the purchase of this former cranberry farm. The land was owned by the Thompson and Wright families since the Civil War. After the family's cranberry company stopped production in 2004, the land reverted to wetlands and pitch pine forest. The property includes 5.5 miles of streams, including the pristine Burrs Mill Brook.

■ CAMDEN COUNTY

GATEWAY PARK 6 & 7 • 12 acres, City of Camden

These two properties along Admiral Wilson Boulevard were transferred to the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) from the Delaware River Port Authority to become part of Gateway Park along the Cooper River. The 25-acre park opened this April and is being managed by New Jersey Conservation in partnership with the CCMUA and Camden County to provide outdoor recreation, environmental education, river access, wildlife habitat and scenic enjoyment.

■ CUMBERLAND COUNTY

MENANTICO PRESERVE • 599 acres, Vineland

This forested preserve contains characteristic Pine Barrens vegetation and wildlife, and 2.2 miles of the scenic Menantico Creek. It's less than five miles from downtown Vineland and a short distance from downtown Millville. Together, the two cities have a population of nearly 90,000 residents and a need for

more public open space. We purchased the land in partnership with the New Jersey Green Acres Program, Cumberland County, William Penn Foundation, Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Natural Lands.

KIRKLAND • 9 acres, Maurice River Township

New Jersey Conservation transferred land adjacent to the historic East Point Lighthouse to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to provide additional public access, and to enable the construction of a buffer to prevent storm damage and coastal erosion. The lighthouse has been a landmark at the mouth of the Maurice River in Cumberland County for more than a century and a half.

■ GLOUCESTER COUNTY

FOOTE 1&2 • 30 acres, Elk Township

Corn and hay are grown on the two Foote family properties, which comprise about 66 acres of prime farmland straddling Elk Township in Gloucester County and Upper Pittsgrove Township in Salem County. New Jersey Conservation was able to preserve these farms through a unique collaboration with the two towns and two counties, as well as state and federal agencies through the United States Department of Agriculture's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

■ HUNTERDON COUNTY

BERRY/LIVINGSTON • 45 acres, Tewksbury Township

A portion of the historic Craigmear Farm, in the same family since before the American Revolution, was permanently preserved through a partnership between New Jersey Conservation, the State

Agriculture Development Committee, Hunterdon County and Tewksbury Township. The picturesque farm is located on a hillside near public open space and other preserved farms.

**KORN, McKEON, and TARRANT • 38 acres,
Lebanon and Clinton Townships**

New Jersey Conservation Foundation assisted the New Jersey Green Acres Program in preserving these wooded properties, adjacent to the state's Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area. Preservation of these lands protects a state-designated natural area and water quality in the South Branch of the Raritan River.

MILLNER • 130 acres, Delaware Township

The longtime owners decided to sell the property – a mix of fields and forest, traversed by the pristine Wickecheoke Creek – to New Jersey Conservation because they didn't want to see it developed. It's now part of the Wickecheoke Creek Preserve, an ever-growing patchwork of more than 1,100 acres of preserved open space and farmland. Funding came from the New Jersey Green Acres program, Hunterdon County and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority.

PELIO • 245 acres, Lebanon Township

New Jersey Conservation led the preservation of this much sought-after property, which is now a Hunterdon County park. The property's forests and fields connect preserved landscapes from Point Mountain Reservation to the Teetertown/Crystal Springs Preserve across northern Hunterdon County. The property protects critical wildlife habitat and water quality, provides a cross county trail connection and enhances the area's scenic beauty and agricultural character.

■ MERCER COUNTY

FOUNTAIN RIDGE • 12 acres, Princeton

The Princeton Ridge Preserve, a greenway of protected lands in northern Mercer County, was expanded with the preservation of this property. Fountain Ridge LLC transferred the land to New Jersey Conservation, completing preservation plans made years earlier during the development of a neighboring apartment complex. Mature forests on the property provide habitat for several endangered and threatened species, including the wood turtle, eastern box turtle, Cooper's hawk and barred owl.

The 442-acre Thompson-Wright property in Burlington County is now open to the public for hiking and birding. It will be managed as part of the Michael Huber Prairie Warbler Preserve.

LORD ESTATE • 66 acres, Hamilton Township

This property was actively farmed for many years, but the owner passed away and her estate considered selling the farm for housing. We approached Hamilton Township officials about preserving the land and used municipal and county open space funds to preserve the land, protecting the rural character of the southeast corner of the township.

MOUNT ROSE PRESERVE • 11 acres, Hopewell Township

More than three years after the Mount Rose Preserve was established at the site of a former corporate campus, an additional parcel of land within the 320-acre public park was secured. We purchased 11 acres where a defunct corporate education center was demolished. We plan to create a native meadow and hiking trail. The purchase was made possible by a donation from Betty Wold Johnson.

PRINCETON • 2 acres, Princeton

This wooded property was transferred to us by the municipality of Princeton, adding to the preserved open space in the town's environmentally sensitive Princeton Ridge section. The land protects natural habitat and creates future linkages on a trail network between preserved lands. A small stream – a tributary of the Millstone River – traverses the property.

■ OCEAN COUNTY

BOYLE, HAUG, SWALLWOOD and WILCOX • 1 acre, Lacey Township

The donation of these four small, undeveloped parcels expands the nearly 4,000-acre Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve at Forked River Mountain. Over the years, New Jersey Conservation has received many similar donations of small parcels.

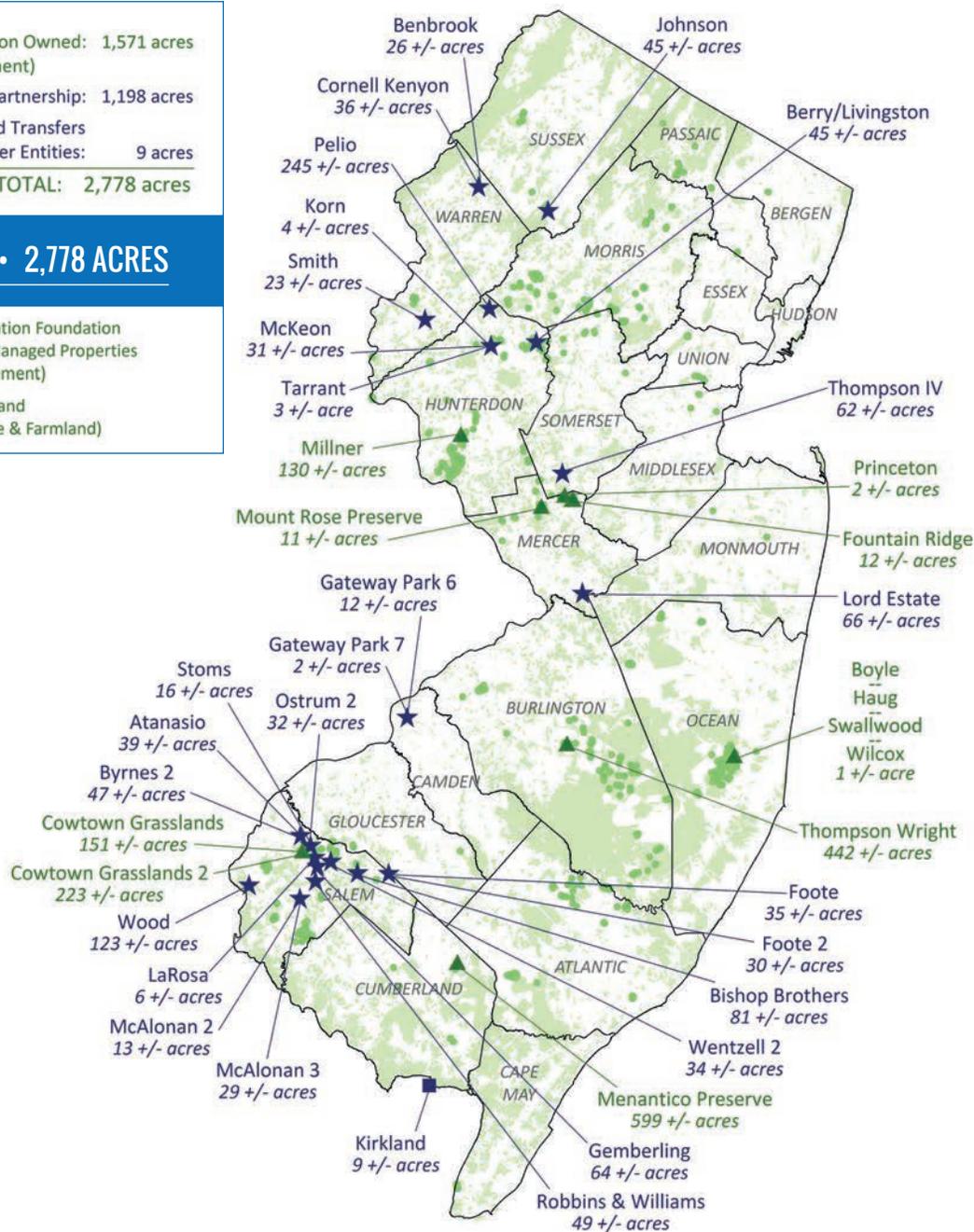


▲ NJ Conservation Owned: 1,571 acres
 (Fee or Easement)
★ Preserved in Partnership: 1,198 acres
■ NJ Conservation Land Transfers
 to Other Entities: 9 acres

TOTAL: 2,778 acres

40 PROJECTS • 2,778 ACRES

● NJ Conservation Foundation
 Owned & Managed Properties
 (Fee or Easement)
 Preserved Land
 (Open Space & Farmland)



SALEM COUNTY

ATANASIO • 39 acres, Pilesgrove Township

New Jersey Conservation assisted Salem County in preserving this farm, where Phil Atanasio raises beef cattle and horses and grows hay. Salem County purchased the development rights, using grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee and grants to New Jersey Conservation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Atanasio farm is next to other preserved farms, including the Byrnes farm and the Cowtown Rodeo grasslands.

BISHOP BROTHERS • 81 acres, Upper Pittsgrove Township

If you like potato chips, there's a good chance you've munched on snacks made from potatoes grown in the Bishop Brothers' fields. Bruce and Tom Bishop farm about 1,000 acres, mostly devoted to "chip potatoes." New Jersey Conservation assisted Salem County in preserving the 81 acres by contributing part of its grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Bishop Brothers also grow spinach, sweet corn and peas for the Seabrook Farms frozen vegetable brand.

BYRNES 2 • 47 acres, Pilesgrove Township

Ed Byrnes grows tomatoes for both a canned tomato business and a company producing sun-dried tomatoes, as well as corn and soybeans. The 47 acres he preserved in 2018 are only a small part of his farming enterprise; he farms a total of 1,100 acres, of which 430 are now preserved. New Jersey Conservation assisted by contributing part of its grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

COWTOWN GRASSLANDS 1 & 2 • 374 acres, Pilesgrove Township

New Jersey Conservation helped preserve 374 acres of grasslands surrounding the Harris family's famous Cowtown Rodeo. The newly-preserved land is used for grazing and breeding horses and cattle, and provides habitat for grassland birds like bobolinks and meadowlarks. The Cowtown Rodeo is America's oldest weekly professional rodeo, and preserving the grasslands allowed Grant Harris to pass the property down to the next generation. This is the first property in New Jersey preserved under the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resource Conservation Service's "Grasslands of Special Significance" program.

FOOTE 1&2 • 35 acres, Upper Pittsgrove Township

Corn and hay are grown on the two Foote family properties, which comprise about 66 acres of prime farmland straddling Upper Pittsgrove Township in Salem County and Elk Township in Gloucester County. New Jersey Conservation was able to preserve these farms through a unique collaboration with the two towns and two counties, as well as state and federal agencies through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

GEMBERLING • 64 acres, Pilesgrove Township and Woodstown Borough

We helped the New Jersey Green Acres Program acquire land from the Gemberling family to expand the state’s Salem River Wildlife Management Area. The acquisition also allowed for the completion of a major greenway along Woodstown’s southern border, connecting the Wildlife Management Area with borough parkland.

LA ROSA • 6 acres, Woodstown Borough

With the help of New Jersey Conservation, Woodstown Borough purchased this wooded property along the Salem River to add to its growing inventory of parks and greenways. The property expands the borough’s Salem River Greenway and is near other preserved properties. It supports bald eagle foraging habitat and Coopers hawk breeding habitat, and is less than 500 feet from an active bald eagle nest. It is also habitat for freshwater mussels known as triangle floaters, listed by the state as a threatened species.

McALONAN 2&3 • 42 acres, Alloway Township

New Jersey Conservation helped farmer Ray McAlonan preserve two farm properties where he grows corn and hay and raises sheep. The land sits close to the shores of Alloway Creek and has been in his family for over 50 years. Proceeds from the sale of development rights allowed him to make improvements to his farm. New Jersey Conservation contributed funds from its U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service grant.

OSTRUM 2 • 32 acres, Pilesgrove Township

This farm is comprised of 100 percent prime and statewide important soils, and contributes to the agricultural viability of the area. It is completely surrounded by contiguous preserved farmland, including several farms preserved by New Jersey Conservation, and contains a tributary of the Salem River.

ROBBINS & WILLIAMS • 49 acres, Alloway Township

The Robbins-Williams farm sits at the headwaters of the Swedes Run stream in a largely forested part of Alloway Township. The Swedes Run is an important tributary of the Mannington Creek, ultimately flowing to the sprawling Mannington Meadows on the Salem River. Preservation of the farm helps protect the abundant wetlands and wildlife of the greater Salem River watershed.

STOMS • 16 acres, Pilesgrove Township

With the help of New Jersey Conservation, Salem County preserved the Stoms family farm. The 16 acres of hayfields are adjacent to the preserved Cowtown Rodeo grasslands and are leased to the Harris family. Salem County purchased the development rights, using grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee and grants to New Jersey Conservation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

WENTZELL • 34 acres, Pilesgrove Township

New Jersey Conservation assisted Salem County in preserving 34 acres of the Wentzell farm, which has been in the same family since the early 1900s. The Wentzells currently grow field crops like corn, soybeans and hay after running a dairy operation for decades. Salem County purchased the development rights, using grants from the State Agriculture Development Committee and grants to New Jersey Conservation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service.

WOOD • 123 acres, Pennsville Township

With assistance from New Jersey Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquired the Michael Wood property to expand the 2,200-acre Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The wildlife refuge is dominated by brackish tidal marsh and is an important resting and feeding area for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife.

SOMERSET COUNTY

THOMPSON IV • 62 acres, Montgomery Township

With the help of New Jersey Conservation, Montgomery Township preserved 62 acres of forested land in the Sourland Mountains. The property was formerly the site of a summer camp dating back to the 1930s, and was recently targeted for preservation due to its environmental sensitivity and proximity to other preserved lands. The land includes two tributary streams, wetlands, springs, steeply sloping hills, and mature beech, oak and tulip poplar forest.

WARREN COUNTY

BENBROOK and CORNELL-KENYON • 62 acres, Hardwick Township

New Jersey Conservation assisted Warren County in preserving 62 acres to expand the county’s White Lake Natural Resource Area. The former Benbrook and Cornell-Kenyon properties include more than a half-mile of frontage along the Paulinskill River, and now provide public access for fishing, hiking and nature observation.

2018 Funding Partners

- Alloway Township
- Byram Township
- Cumberland County
- Elk Township
- Gloucester County
- Hunterdon County
- Lebanon Township
- NJ Water Supply Authority
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program
- Highlands Council
- Pilesgrove Township
- Salem County
- State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC)
- Upper Pittsgrove Township
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Warren County

2018 Policy Update

OUR POLICY TEAM WORKS TO DEFEND NEW JERSEY'S LAND, WATER, AIR AND WILDLIFE.



Staff

Michele S. Byers, *Executive Director*
Erica Arlès, *Administrative Assistant, Land Acquisition & Stewardship*
Alix Bacon, *Regional Manager, Western Piedmont*
Mark Barrick, *Information Technology / Office Manager*
Tim Brill, *Central Jersey Project Manager*
Beth Davisson, *Project Manager, Black River Greenway*
Justin Dennis, *Camden Land Steward*
Emile DeVito, Ph.D., *Manager of Science & Stewardship*
Wilma Frey, *Senior Policy Manager*
Jane Gardner, *Campaign Project Assistant*
Tom Gilbert, *Campaign Director – Energy, Climate & Natural Resources*
Jane Halsted, CPA, *Accounting Manager*
Maria Hauser, *Personnel Manager / Executive Assistant*
Steven Jack, *Associate Land Steward*
Russell Juelg, *Senior Land Steward*
William Lynch, *Assistant Director, Education Programs & Communications*
Lisa MacCollum, *Assistant Director of Land Acquisition*
Kelly Martin, *Development Associate*
Melanie Mason, *Land Steward*
Alison Mitchell, *Assistant Director & Acting Director of Development*
Stephanie Monahan, *Assistant Director for South Jersey*

Timothy Morris, *Director of Stewardship*
Marie Newell, *Project Coordinator, Acquisition*
Tanya Nolte, *GIS Manager*
Sandy Stuart Perry, *Staff Writer*
Francis Rapa, *Regional Manager, Delaware Bay Watershed*
Esmeralda Peña Piña, *Gateway Park Fellow*
Julia Raskin, *Program Manager for Camden Parks and Greenways*
Karen Richards, CPA, *Director of Finance & Administration*
Heidi Marie Roldan, *Corporate & Foundation Relations Manager*
Greg Romano, *Assistant Director & Director of Statewide Land Acquisition*
Gerard Sauchelli, *Associate Land Steward*
Neha Savant, *Herpetologist*
Susan Schmidt, *Administrative Assistant / Receptionist*
Bill Scullion, *Land Steward, South Jersey*
Connor Stone, *Development & Communications Coordinator*
Laura Szwak, *Director of Outreach & Education*
Ingrid Vandegaer, *Manager, Highlands Region*
Kathleen Ward, *Director of Development*
John S. Watson, Jr., *Senior Director of Statewide Land Protection & Community Relations*
Allison Williams, *Conservation Coordinator*

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, age, national origin, ethnic background, disability or any other characteristic protected by law. We are committed to building a diverse team and strongly encourage all qualified professionals to apply.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

We continued to advance our “Environmental Principles to Protect our Public Lands, Water, Air and Wildlife” in our advocacy work with New Jersey’s congressional delegation, issuing action alerts supporting national conservation funding and opposing proposed rollbacks to federal water and land protections in what are very challenging times for environmental protection at the national level.

NEW FARM BILL

On December 20, the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law. We worked in cooperation with national partners in advocating for farmland preservation funding and natural resource protections on farmland. Funding for permanent preservation of farmland through the United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Conservation Easement Program increased to \$450 million per year – an overall increase of \$2 billion over 10 years.

Farm Bill conservation programs create significant opportunities to protect high-priority farm and ranch lands, grasslands and wetlands with matching funds. NJ Conservation has preserved 78 farms totaling over 6,000 acres with these funds since the program began.

CLEAN ENERGY

We worked closely with New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, National Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund to shape and pass landmark clean energy legislation signed by Governor Murphy. The law requires 50% of the energy consumed in the state to come from renewable sources by 2030 and establishes new incentives for solar energy and ambitious targets for offshore wind, energy storage and efficiency.

PENNEAST PIPELINE

We kept the proposed PennEast gas pipeline at bay for another year. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection denied permits for PennEast’s incomplete application, and we pursued litigation challenging their seizure of preserved and private lands as well as Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s flawed conditional approval for the project.

LEFT: New Jersey congressional staff members from the offices of Senators Menendez and Booker, Congresswomen Watson Coleman and Sherrill and Congressmen Pallone, Smith, Malinowski and Kim join NJ Conservation Foundation, the NJ League of Conservation Voters and partners at a Congressional briefing in February 2019 to discuss federal environmental legislation.

2018 Interns

NOAH BAKER
 Rowan University
 Babbott intern
 Summer 2018,
 Administration of
 Franklin Parker Grant Program

MATTHEW MCINERNEY
 Don Palmer intern
 Fall 2018-Winter 2019
 Rally; policy; stewardship projects

JUSTIN ARNOLD
 Colorado State University
 Babbott intern
 Summer 2018
 Stewardship of Franklin Parker
 Preserve

CONNOR STONE
 Pennsylvania State University
 Winter-Fall 2018
 Somerset Open Space Plan

CAMDEN FELLOWS
 Kavon Eslambolchi
 Marcus Burrell
 Tucker Birmingham

DOUGLASS COLLEGE
 Rutgers University extern:
 Dana Ladd

2018 Grant Awards

FRANKLIN PARKER CONSERVATION EXCELLENCE GRANTS ■ 19 PROJECTS; TOTAL AWARDED \$40,320

The Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants provide funding for nonprofit conservation organizations working in New Jersey. The grants are designed to enhance proficiency in land conservation, develop long-term viable programs, and support creative, innovative projects that can serve as models for other communities and projects. Since its inception in 1989, the Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grants Program, previously administered by Conservation Resources Inc., has awarded more than \$1,769,891 for 468 nonprofit conservation projects throughout the Garden State. Funding for the grants comes from Victoria Foundation, Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

CONSERVE WILDLIFE FOUNDATION OF NJ \$1,500 Summer Mist-Netting and Radio Telemetry Project-Bat Research

The goal of this project is to collect data regarding myotis bats in order to reveal habitat requirements, population locations, roost sites, home range and foraging behavior. This data will be used in developing land conservation, regulatory, and Forest Stewardship Plans.

FRIENDS OF BLACK RUN PRESERVE \$2,500 Connect Access in the Black Run Preserve

The Friends will install a Peace Bridge, a 20' long, six-foot wide weathered steel pedestrian bridge over a breach in an old cranberry bog dike. The bridge will connect two sides of the Preserve and link to the Rancocas Conservancy's Cold Spring Preserve trails.

Kudzu Eradication Project

The Invasive Species Strike Team, a program of the Friends, will complete eradication treatment in a minimum of three kudzu populations. A total of 27 sites have been found in NJ. The Strike

Team will produce a status report on New Jersey kudzu populations and post it to their website to inform partners and the public about this menacing plant.

GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION \$2,800 Stewardship of a 20-Acre Addition to their Conservation Management Area

The Watershed will restore habitat and improve public access to a newly acquired 20-acre tract adjacent to their Conservation Management Area in Harding Township.

GROW IT GREEN MORRISTOWN \$1,000 Bilingual Signs in a Community Garden

Bilingual educational signs at the Early Street Community Garden in Morristown will welcome residents to the garden and explain the various sustainable design elements incorporated in the garden and park.

ISLES, INC. \$2,500 Community Gardens in Trenton

Isles will increase the capacity of community members to develop, engage in and manage gardens and urban agriculture on public land through education and incorporation of conservation practices.

MONMOUTH CONSERVATION FOUNDATION \$2,000 Advancing the Field to Farm Project

The project will continue establishing a local farmland network, in partnership with the statewide effort, to keep land in agricultural production and ensure farmland is not developed before it can be successfully passed to the next generation of farmers.

MONTGOMERY FRIENDS OF OPEN SPACE \$750 Enhance Public Access in Cherry Brook Preserve

The Friends propose to develop a kiosk and extend a pathway to improve and invite public access into the Cherry Brook Preserve.

MUSCONETCONG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION \$2,000 Loop Trail along the Musconetcong River

An existing 1.5 mile overgrown and impassable trail runs along the Musconetcong River. The Watershed Association will improve and expand the trail to continue on the other side of the Musconetcong River, into Bethlehem Township, completing a 3.5-mile loop trail. This will be the only loop trail along the Musconetcong, a National Wild and Scenic River.

NEW JERSEY AUDUBON SOCIETY \$2,000 Accessible Habitat & Pollinator Areas for People with Special Needs

NJ Audubon will develop wheelchair accessible bed planters, four resting benches, and a new wheelchair friendly path to the bed planters at their Sherman Hoffman Sanctuary in Bernardsville. The facility will be part of their nature education programming for youth and adults with special needs.

PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE \$2,500 Pinelands Land Protectors Volunteer Network

The Pinelands Land Protectors consists of 353 volunteers working on public and nonprofit lands in the Pinelands National Reserve to protect critical habitat from the harmful effects of off-road vehicle use, dumping, poaching, and other issues. The project will increase the number of volunteers to over 400.

RANCOCAS CONSERVANCY \$2,500 Acquisition of the Katz Trust Property

The Conservancy is preserving the Katz Trust property, 200 acres adjacent to Brendan Byrne State Forest. Upon acquisition, the Conservancy will implement a management plan with its partner, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, to block off-road vehicles from entry into the preserve and to restore native plants, including Atlantic White Cedars. The grant funds will be used to cover soft costs for this acquisition.

RIDGE AND VALLEY CONSERVANCY **\$2,200**
Pine Pond Preserve Invasive Species Management

The Conservancy will protect the floristic quality of this site by engaging in invasives control projects, guided by a botanical survey and stewardship plan, largely funded with a 2017 Franklin Parker grant. The Preserve is part of the Branchville NJ Natural Heritage Site.

SADDLER'S WOODS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION **\$2,000**
Saddler's Woods Riparian Restoration Project

This project will restore 15 acres of riparian forest habitat to reduce erosion and sedimentation in the Newton Creek Watershed in Camden County. The Association will engage community members in hands-on stewardship activities to accomplish this project.

SOURLAND CONSERVANCY **\$3,500**
Sourland Stewards-Restoration of Baldpate Mountain

The Sourland Stewards, 18 trained volunteers, will engage in habitat restoration projects on a ridge of the Ted Stiles Preserve at Baldpate

Mountain. This project will improve critical habitat for a state-listed plant species (yellow giant hyssop) as well as several listed bird species and work towards practical solutions to ash tree decline in NJ natural areas.

SOUTH JERSEY LAND AND WATER TRUST **\$620**
Carneys Point Planning and Access Improvements

The Trust will make several improvements to their Preserve, including installation of entrance and park rules signage, removal of a dilapidated shed, and trail blazing. The Trust will also update its Forest Stewardship Plan to be more habitat friendly.

THE WATERSHED INSTITUTE **\$2,500**
(formally Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association)
Forest Stewardship and Management

This grant will enable The Watershed Institute to purchase and erect deer fencing, conduct seasonal plant surveys, remove invasive plants and implement forest management practices. This work will be part of a long term experiment studying the impacts of deer

herbivory and oak-hickory forest regeneration on their Watershed Preserve in Pennington.

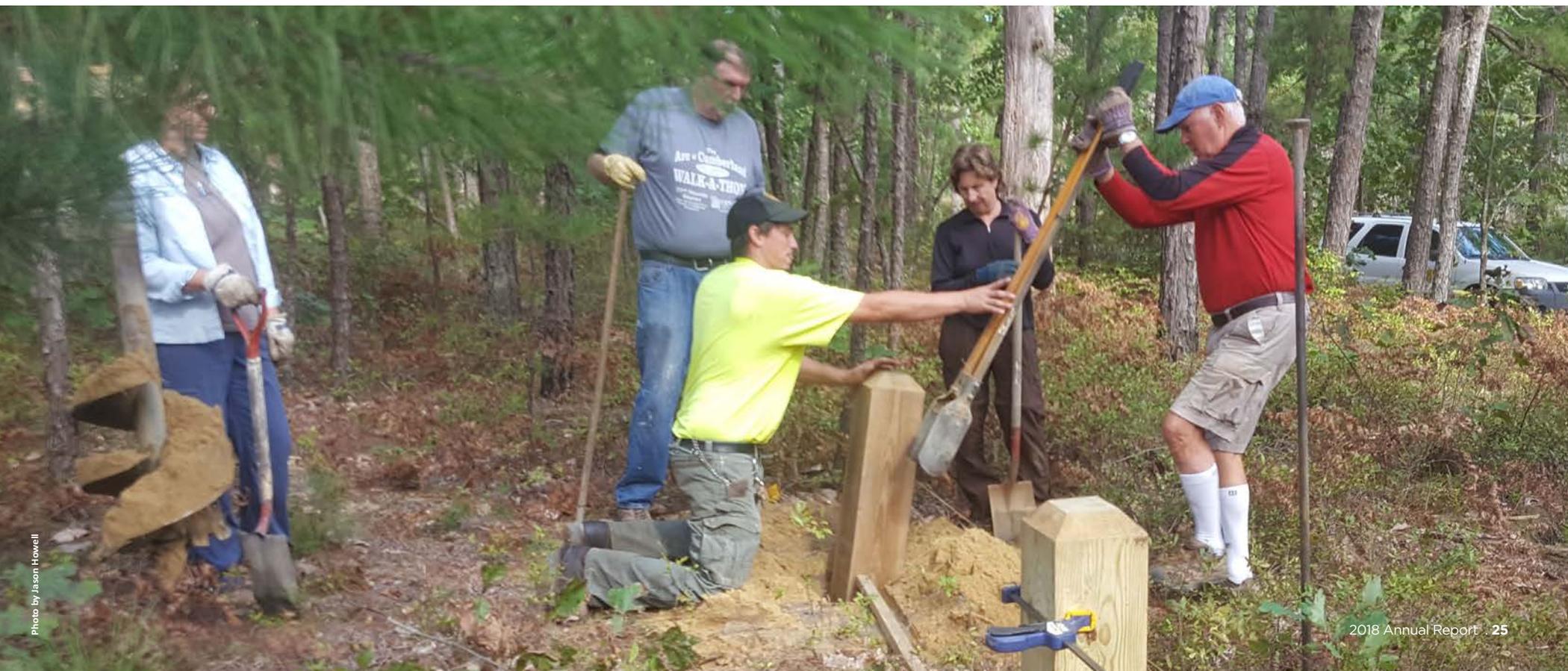
THE WETLANDS INSTITUTE **\$3,500**
Use of Technology to Learn Terrapin Behavior

This project will attach battery-powered digital radio transmitters to local terrapins to learn more about their behavior. The data will be used to improve habitat management for these turtles.

WHIPPANY RIVER WATERSHED ACTION COMMITTEE **\$2,450**
Rain Garden Installation

The Committee, in cooperation with the Bethel AME Church, will install a rain garden to serve as a green infrastructure demonstration project and to help in the Committee's comprehensive watershed enhancement plan along the Whippany River in Morristown.

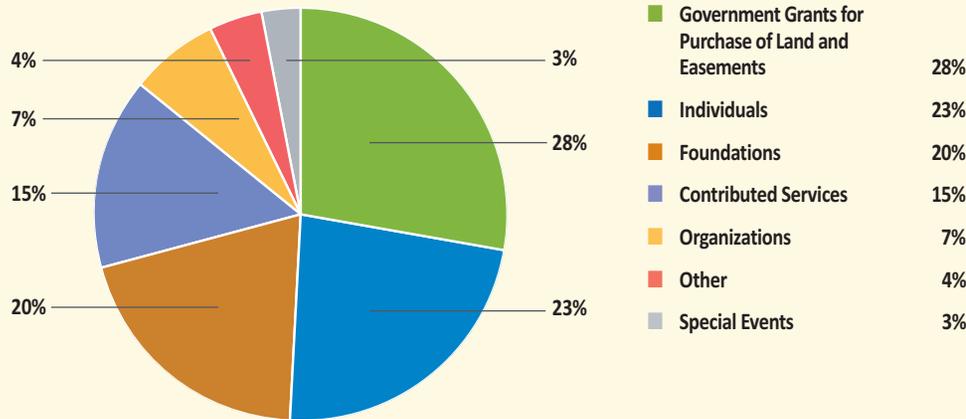
BELOW: Volunteers organized by Pinelands Preservation Alliance install barriers to deter off-road vehicle use in Wharton State Forest, one of many volunteer projects funded by the Franklin Parker Conservation Excellence Grant.



2018 Financial Position

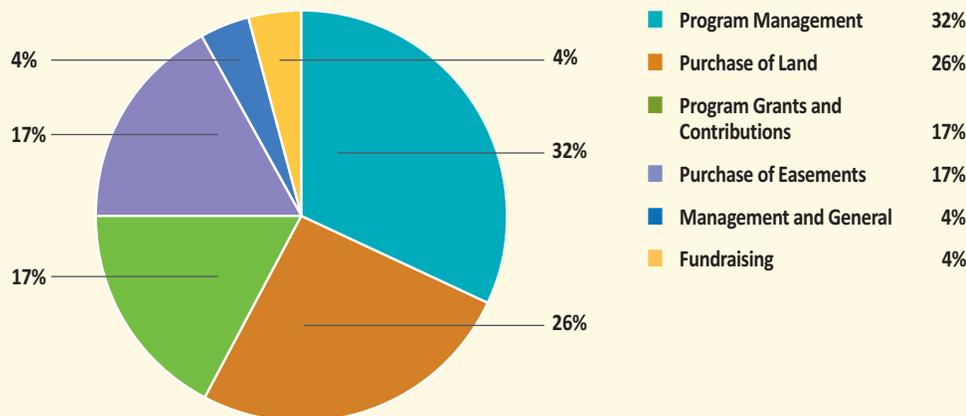
Support and Revenue

\$11,716,484*



Expenses and Land Purchases

\$15,111,337*



DECEMBER 31
2018 (1)

DECEMBER 31
2017 (1)

Assets

	DECEMBER 31 2018 (1)	DECEMBER 31 2017 (1)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	8,593,807	\$2,880,298
Investments	6,045,952	13,261,177
Unconditional Promises to Give, net	156,025	554,803
Beneficial Interest in Split Interest Agreements	194,003	283,168
Land, Buildings and Easements	37,450,385	36,569,773
Other Assets	478,907	223,898
Total Assets	52,919,079	\$53,773,117

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

	DECEMBER 31 2018 (1)	DECEMBER 31 2017 (1)
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	238,211	199,236
Refundable Advance	—	243,000
Total Liabilities	238,211	\$442,236

Net Assets

	DECEMBER 31 2018 (1)	DECEMBER 31 2017 (1)
Without Donor Restrictions	46,856,609	46,150,321
With Donor Restrictions	5,824,259	7,180,560
Total Net Assets	52,680,868	53,330,881

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	52,919,079	\$53,773,117
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(1) Extracted from the December 31, 2018 audited financial statements

*Unaudited financial information

To receive a copy of the complete audited financial statements, please send a request to info@njconservation.org



Leaving a Legacy

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Red Oak Society was founded in 2011 to recognize those who donate to New Jersey Conservation Foundation through planned giving. We thank the conservation-minded members who are preserving New Jersey's natural resources and lands for future generations.

To become a member of the Red Oak Society, please let us know if you wish to support New Jersey Conservation Foundation's mission by:

- Giving through your will or charitable trust
- Giving through IRAs, qualified retirement plans, insurance or donor advised funds
- Gifts of conservation easements, cash, securities and real estate

To discuss how your planned gift will help ensure the permanence of preservation, contact Alison Mitchell, Assistant Director & Acting Director of Development, at 908-997-0711 or alison@njconservation.org.

While it is not necessary to advise us in advance that you have included New Jersey Conservation Foundation in your estate planning, we encourage you to let us know of your plans so that we may thank you and learn more about your interests. If you wish to add us in your will or estate plan, please use the following listing: New Jersey Conservation Foundation/170 Longview Road / Far Hills, NJ 07931. Our tax identification number is 22-6065456.

MEMBERS OF THE RED OAK SOCIETY

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 Evelyn Arcuni*
 Carl Austin
 Edward F. Babbott*
 Ira H. Beckman*
 Louis C. Bodenheimer*
 David Bolger
 Andrea Bonette
 Louise Bossert*
 JoAnn Bowman
 Rose Bracco*
 Zella Brady*
 C. Austin Buck*
 Ann H. Bumsted*
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 Maureen Ogden
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 Franklin E. Parker*
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 Robert Pierson*
 Elizabeth Potter*
 Joann S. Ramos
 Barbara Ray*
 L. Keith and Lisa Reed
 Elizabeth B. Reed
 Allen Reese and Joseph M. Hengel
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 Artemis Vardakis*
 Nan Hunter Walnut*
 Ruth Creighton Webster*
 Catherine Welsh*
 Dorothy Moran Werner*
 Clarissa Willemsen
 Muriel Williams*
 Virginia T. Williams*
 Louise Currey Wilson
 William T. Wyman
 Esther Yanai*
 Robert L. Zion*

*denotes deceased members



NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
Bamboo Brook | 170 Longview Road | Far Hills, NJ 07931

www.njconservation.org



“Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People.”

J. I. RODALE

Photo by Jim Baffi