THE LAND CONSERVANCY OF NEW JERSEY
OUTDOOR ISSUES
FALL 2016

96 ACRES PRESERVED IN WEST MILFORD

Hewitt-Butler Trail Easement, West Milford

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is pleased to announce the preservation of 96 acres of watershed land in West Milford, including a portion of the Hewitt-Butler Trail via a conservation and access easement.

Preserved in partnership with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Passaic County, the New Jersey Green Acres program and the Victoria Foundation, the land provides an important buffer for Norvin Green State Forest, located along the northern property limits. The easement adds to an existing greenway that extends from Sterling Forest State Park in New York to Long Pond Ironworks State Park in New Jersey. The Trail Conference maintains the Hewitt-Butler Trail and the 120 miles of surrounding trails in the area. The majority of the land is mature forest that provides habitat for multiple state endangered species.

By conserving this mountainous land, the Hewitt-Butler Trail and the West Brook Connector Trail will remain open to the public for generations to come. “The public access easement on the historic Hewitt-Butler Trail ensures access to hiking trail loops leading to Overlook Rock, scenic Lake Sonoma, and the dramatic vista of Manaticut Point,” said Ed Goodell, Executive Director at the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

The Land Conservancy will own and monitor the easement while the Trail Conference will continue to maintain the Hewitt-Butler Trail.

“We extend our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lefkovitz, who have owned and loved this land for more than 30 years,” said David Epstein, President of The Land Conservancy. “This was a team effort that was made possible by the support of our wonderful partners.”

This preservation effort will provide water quality protection for the West Brook, just upstream from the Wanaque Reservoir. The Wanaque Reservoir is the largest in New Jersey, providing clean drinking water to 2 million state residents.
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is celebrating our 35th anniversary and the many accomplishments we have achieved together since the organization’s founding. Our members and supporters have been strong advocates for our work as partners in our many wonderful successes. I am pleased to share some of our highlights:

- Preserved 24,000 acres of magnificent land
- Established and maintain five Preserves
- Secured five conservation easements and a farm that we manage
- Distributed $200,000 in scholarships provided to 50 young future environmental leaders
- Completed 130 open space, farmland preservation and trail plans to guide future open space preservation efforts
- Helped lead the effort to establish long-term, stable, state open space funding
- Organized 9,000 volunteers to work to care for and improve our parks
- Removed a housing subdivision and restored the land to its native forest; the first time this has occurred in New Jersey

As long-time Land Conservancy members and supporters, you know that in the past we worked to accomplish our mission by purchasing critical lands and adding them to existing park lands. But today, our governmental partners are less willing to own land and they lack the resources and staff to effectively manage and restore these lands. Going forward, The Land Conservancy will need to own more of the important property we preserve and will take on the responsibility of managing and restoring these lands as well.

One of our new goals will be to make these properties more accessible to the public to show that preserving open space yields more benefits than simply preventing unchecked development. Trail connectors, parking lots and kiosks will help New Jerseyans get out and enjoy some of the beautiful places we helped preserve.

I want to thank each of you that have supported The Land Conservancy because we could not have accomplished any of this work without your long term support. You have been the foundation of our organization, and we would not be here to celebrate 35 amazing years without you. With your commitment to our mission, we are dedicated to protecting and caring for the land in perpetuity. To do this for the next 35 years and beyond, we will need your help developing innovative solutions to meet the new challenges that the future will bring. I am confident that working together, we will have even more to celebrate in the next 35 years.

David Epstein, President
The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is pleased to announce the preservation of Hope Farm in Hope Township, with over 171-acres of farmland. Hope Farm was acquired 45 years ago by Campbell Foundry as a possible site for a new foundry, but those plans were never developed and the property remained in farmland. Today, the farm fields grow corn and hay. There is also a large pasture that is home to dairy cows, beef cattle, and goats.

“This is a great day for farmland preservation in Hope Township,” announced Robert May, Chairman of Hope Township’s Agriculture Advisory Committee, on the recent day when Hope Township, Warren County, the New Jersey State Agricultural Committee, The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, and the owners of Campbell Foundry joined together to preserve Hope Farm.

Hope Farm sits low on a long stretch of County Road 521 and backs up to Route 80. The Beaver Brook passes through the northern portion of the farm. Hope Farm adjoins Moravian Springs Preserve, owned by Ridge and Valley Conservancy, which is open to the public.

In expressing the shared satisfaction surrounding the completion of this important project, Mr. May noted, “The Campbell Foundry Farm has become the 13th preserved farm in the Township. With almost 1,300 acres of farmland now in Hope’s Farmland Preservation Program, the Township’s rural character will continue in perpetuity. The Hope Agriculture Advisory Committee appreciates the strong support of the Hope Township Committee, the advice and assistance of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, and the Taxpayers of Hope Township, who are long-time supporters of our farmland preservation efforts.” Corey Tierney, Administrator, Warren County Agricultural Development Board, added, “The Warren County Freeholders wish to thank all of our partners for their help on this project. Moreover, the landowners deserve special thanks for choosing to preserve this beautiful farm for future generations.”

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is proud to be part of the William Penn Foundation’s Delaware River Watershed Initiative, an unprecedented collaboration of more than 50 leading non-profit organizations developing shared action plans to reduce threats to water quality and protect our water supply.

Launched in 2014 with a 3-year, $35 million investment from the William Penn Foundation, the initiative is organized into eight project areas. The Land Conservancy of New Jersey is partnered with 11 others to concentrate on the area known as the New Jersey Highlands Cluster.

Encompassing 690 square miles, the Highlands cluster comprises much of northwestern New Jersey and includes five major watersheds – Paulinskill, Pequest River, Musconetcong River, Lopatcong Creek and Pohatcong Creek.

The Cluster plan incorporates a variety of projects to help improve water quality including land preservation and pollution reduction in our waterways.
FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION AND BLUEWAY DESIGN IN BERGEN COUNTY RECEIVE NJ BIZ AWARD

NJBIZ, the state’s weekly business paper, and the New Jersey League of Municipalities honored The Land Conservancy of New Jersey in the Public Private Partnership Awards for the Floodplain Protection and Blueway Design in Bergen County.

This event was established to honor and recognize unique public-private partnership programs that showcase innovative and practical approaches to, and notable successful examples of, government and private-sector partnerships that achieve public benefits.

The Land Conservancy’s award-winning program acquires flood-damaged properties, removes structures and permanently preserves the lands for recreation and conservation purposes. This Blueway program empowers the county to take the lead in ensuring the most vulnerable homes are removed, keeping residents and emergency responders from harm’s way. In its’ place, a meaningful, safe open space amenity is created for the residents of the community.

Bergen County has hired The Land Conservancy to prepare municipal Flood Acquisition Plans to document local impacts from flood events and identify project areas for acquisition based upon repetitive, ongoing flooding. The Land Conservancy has completed six plans with an additional seven plans to be completed in the next year. A direct outcome of this work is the purchase and removal of homes, which is successfully underway in Oakland Borough, with the fifth home acquired this year, following completion of the plan in 2014.

HANOVER’S RECREATIONAL FACILITY EXPANDED

After a multi-year effort, Hanover Township has preserved a 2-acre property along Reynolds Avenue to expand the borders of Bee Meadow Park.

Hanover closed on the additional two acres in August with investment by the Township, and contributions by the state and county.

“The completion of the Bee Meadow Greenway Phase III project by the Township fulfills a long-term vision of the Open Space Committee to expand Bee Meadow Park. This acquisition is an important step in this process, and adjoins property we helped Hanover preserve in 2008. We congratulate the Township on completing this project!” said Barbara Heskins-Davis, Vice President of Programs at The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

Bee Meadow Park is Hanover’s premier recreational facility. Residents can obtain a fishing license for Bee Meadow Pond, enjoy the playground and see a show at the amphitheater during the summer. When the last piece is acquired, it will be a total of 126 acres.
Eighteen Investors Bank employees recently spent the day at our WildAcres Headquarters cleaning, pruning and sprucing up our property for the winter.

Investors Bank has been a supporter of The Land Conservancy of New Jersey since 2003. Over 200 Investors Bank employees and interns have participated in 17 projects through our award-winning Partners for Parks program.

Investor’s Bank was recently presented with our annual Rosalie Lavinthal Volunteer of the Year award at our 8th annual Gray Cup Golf Classic.

We are deeply appreciative of Investors Bank’s longtime support of The Land Conservancy, which has enabled us to continue to expand our land preservation and stewardship efforts through our Partners for Parks program.

Investors Bank volunteers have worked at different sites in New Jersey accomplishing a variety of tasks including removing invasive plants and shrubs, marking trails, planting, weeding, replacing fencing, and more.

We are delighted to accomplish so much with the employees of Investors Bank and thank them for their commitment to our mission.
Our 8th Annual Gray Cup Invitational Golf Classic was held on Monday, September 19, at the exclusive Somerset Hills Country Club in Bernardsville.

Attendees enjoyed a fantastic day of golf at a widely-acclaimed venue while helping us raise $146,000 to continue our state-wide, award-winning programs in land preservation, stewardship and education.

The Gray Cup Invitational Golf Classic is named in honor of dedicated conservationist C. Graydon “Gray” Rogers for his many years of service to The Land Conservancy of New Jersey, including 10 years on the board of trustees and three years as chairman of the board.

Although a rainy morning, the weather cleared up and the golfers savored a delicious cocktail reception and buffet dinner overlooking the beautiful grounds at sunset.

There were multiple course contests throughout the day, with Ryan Skipton winning Longest Drive, and Karen Dietz and Fred Whaley Closest To The Hole. The Gray Cup champion was Bryan Donohoe with -74.

To view additional photos from the day, go to tlc-nj.org/golf

PLANNED GIVING: LEAVING A LEGACY GIFT

Name The Land Conservancy of New Jersey in your will through a bequest or as a beneficiary through other planned giving and ensure we pass this legacy down to future generations.

Imagine the difference you can make in the lives that follow. A legacy gift preserves your land forever and allows you to take advantage of tax benefits associated with charitable giving. You can benefit through reduced capital gains, estate, and income taxes.

We hope you will think of us as you review your real estate plan. By making a planned gift, you will join other visionary donors who are helping to secure the future of precious lands and water for all to enjoy.

To make sure your goals for your gift are achieved, please contact Christi Kobus Rokicki, our Director of Development, at 973-541-1010 ext. 25
MAP CENTER PRODUCES WINNING WORK

Our Geographic Information System Manager, Ken Fung, came in 2nd place at the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Chapter of The Urban and Regional Systems Association contest held in Atlantic City on October 13, when all MAC URISA attendees were given a ballot to vote on their favorite poster.

Ken’s award-winning map was in connection with our work assisting Sussex County in updating their Open Space and Recreation Plan. Ken developed a series of maps to identify properties of value in protecting water quality.

The conference showcases innovative uses of GIS technologies across the region.

WETLANDS RESTORATION

The Land Conservancy of New Jersey worked for many years with the Tre Amici Hunt Club to find the right fit for preserving some of their farm in Hampton Township, Sussex County.

The Paulinskill Valley Wetlands Restoration Project preserved 106 acres of this lovely property via a wetlands reserve easement. This project was completed under the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

This easement program restores and enhances critical wetlands on private agriculture lands throughout the United States. The easement is held by the federal government, and NRCS works directly with the landowner to restore and enhance wetlands and improve habitat.

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS: A LOOK BACK

- TOTAL OF 24,000 ACRES PRESERVED TO DATE
- NEW LOGO AND BRAND IDENTITY ESTABLISHED
- NJ BIZ AWARD RECEIVED
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Corporations:
- REI

Foundations:
- Baker Street Trust
- PSEG Foundation
- William Penn Foundation

Memorial Gifts:
- In memory of Jane Maitland
- Gary Maitland
- In memory of Seymour Gitkin
- Anna-Lisa Dopirak
- In memory of Lt. Colonel & Mrs. Milton A. Laitman
- Dr. Donald & Dr. Lynn Siebert

Office Volunteers:
- Judith Brown
- Phyliss Duddy
- Susan Kliczynski
- Marisa Pisano
- Josephine Politi
- Janet Walker
- Ann Weissenburger
- Christie Whitehouse

SKIP THE MALL AND CELEBRATE THE OUTDOORS

This year on Black Friday, we’re going to join our partners at REI outside, and we’d like you to opt outside with us. Grab some friends and go for a stroll at our South Branch Preserve. Be sure to tag your photos on Instagram @tlcnewjersey.

For directions to our preserves, go to: www.tlc-nj.org/ourpreserves