

New Jersey Conservation



- 4** **SOUTH JERSEY GETS GREENER**
118 acres preserved in the heart of the Delaware Bay Watershed is a big win for wildlife, water, and climate resilience.
-
- 8** **COMEBACK STORY**
Pickering's morning glory, one of New Jersey's rarest plants, gets a second chance in the Pine Barrens.
-
- 10** **TUCKER FARM PRESERVED**
35-acre farm permanently preserved through partnership between landowners, local government, and conservation groups.



New Jersey Conservation
F O U N D A T I O N

Trustees

Louise Currey Wilson
PRESIDENT

Wendy Mager
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Meredith Moore
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

George N. Allport
TREASURER

Jane Higgins
SECRETARY

Kenneth H. Klipstein, II
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Liping An
Kathleen Bourke
Patricia Canning
Theodore Chase Jr.
Jack Cimprich
Rosina B. Dixon, M.D.
Clement L. Fiori
William T. Knox IV
Andrew Kricun
Kevin Kuchinski
James Lyons
Sean Moriarty
Frances Raymond Price
Alex Rivera
Meredith Taylor
Jennifer Williams

HONORARY TRUSTEES

Hon. Thomas H. Kean
Hon. Christine Todd Whitman

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Michele S. Byers
Bradley M. Campbell
Christopher J. Daggett
Wilma Frey
Tom Gilbert
John D. Hatch
Douglas H. Haynes
H. R. Hegener
Hon. Rush D. Holt
Cynthia K. Kellogg
Blair MacInnes
Scott McVay
David F. Moore
John Parker
L. Keith Reed
Jamie Kyte Sapoch
Leslie Sauer
Tama Matsuoka Wong

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alison Mitchell

ABOUT THE COVER

Christopher Huston captured this sunrise image of Franklin Parker Preserve after a fresh snowfall. Don't let the cold keep you indoors this winter! There is plenty of wonder to discover across this beautiful state. Find a preserve to explore near you by visiting njconservation.org/find-nature.



From Our Executive Director

Alison Mitchell

As the 65th anniversary of New Jersey Conservation Foundation draws to a close, we celebrate the remarkable achievements of this unique organization made possible by dedicated supporters like you!

This work is more important than ever, as the state continues to face development pressures from all directions. Over just the past five years, we've seen a surge in warehouse construction, which has added more than 43 million square feet across the landscape. That's the equivalent of fifteen Empire State Buildings! And with a warming climate, challenging federal policies and New Jersey predicted to be the first state in the nation to reach full build-out – the point where all land is either developed or preserved – the stakes couldn't be higher.

We have a unique but fleeting opportunity to safeguard natural areas while also improving green spaces in our cities – shaping a greener, healthier future for our state. And together we must act now.

That's why we're leading the way in implementing the two key recommendations in our Nature For All: A 2050 Vision for New Jersey report. The first is to ensure that New Jersey preserves 50% of its remaining open land – with a target of 500,000 acres by 2050. Achieving this goal will put New Jersey at the forefront of both the nation and the world, as noted scientists like E.O. Wilson call for the protection of half the earth if we are to sustain human life. At the same time, we are urging the State to establish a comprehensive Green & Healthy Cities Initiative aimed at greening the state's under-resourced communities and rectifying decades of environmental justice.

Despite strong headwinds at the federal level, the recent election of a new governor brings exciting opportunities. With your help, NJ Conservation will work with the incoming administration, partner organizations, and communities to accelerate the pace of land protection and to invest in new urban green spaces in cities like Camden, Trenton, and Elizabeth that will cool neighborhoods, and provide access to nature and locally grown food.

Together, we can ensure that New Jersey's beautiful landscapes and the communities that depend on them continue to flourish, securing clean air and water and thriving ecosystems across the state for future generations.

Thank you for being an essential part of this critical work.

With best wishes for a very happy and very green new year,

Alison Mitchell



New Jersey Conservation Foundation is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve land and natural resources throughout New Jersey for the benefit of all.

We protect strategic lands through acquisition and stewardship, promote strong land use policies, and forge partnerships to achieve conservation goals.

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, New Jersey 07931.





NEW JERSEY BIRDS x NEW JERSEY ARTISTS

There is a powerful connection between art and nature. Our new trading card series, **NJ BIRDS x NJ ARTISTS**, highlights that connection through a shared love of birds.

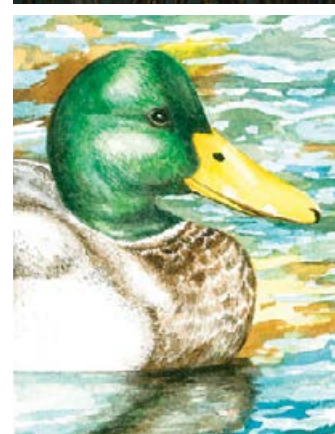
Each card features a unique work of art created by a New Jersey artist along with facts about the bird species depicted.

Packs of cards are already available online as a gift for supporting our work, and in 2026 we'll be offering them at our educational events as well as at gallery exhibitions around the state!

The first show will take place at SMUSH Gallery in Jersey City with an opening reception on Friday, March 13 from 6-9pm. Join us in celebrating both the spectacular birds and wonderfully talented artists of our state!

You can get your packs and view all of the pieces of art in our first series of cards by visiting:

njconservation.org/njbirdcards





South Jersey Gets a Little **GREENER**

A win for wildlife, water, and climate resilience in Cumberland County



In the heart of the Delaware Bay Watershed, New Jersey Conservation Foundation has preserved 118 acres of wild, wooded paradise – a place where towering trees, quiet wetlands, and rare wildlife all thrive together. This living, breathing ecosystem keeps our water clean, our air fresh, and our planet a little cooler.

Nestled near NJ Conservation's 700-acre Menantico Creek Preserve and bordering the Peaslee Wildlife Management Area in Vineland, the new property adds to a growing network of more than 3,500 acres of connected, protected lands. Together, these forests form an important wildlife corridor where countless species can move, feed, and reproduce safely. They also act as a natural carbon sink, absorbing greenhouse gases and helping to buffer the impacts of a warming climate.

This land is alive with the sounds and colors of South Jersey's Pine Barrens region. Visitors might spot a Pine Barrens tree frog, one of New Jersey's most distinctive and rare amphibians, or hear the rhythmic tapping of woodpeckers echoing through the trees. Dragonflies flit over vernal pools — temporary wetlands that fill with rainwater and snowmelt — while salamanders and other amphibians rely on these seasonal habitats to breed and thrive.

The property also contains wetlands and the headwaters of the Manumuskin River, a tributary of the nationally designated Wild and Scenic Maurice River. Protecting these headwaters is a crucial part of safeguarding downstream water quality, ensuring that communities and wildlife alike continue to benefit from clean, healthy waterways.

Forests like these help filter drinking water, prevent flooding, and provide quiet places to walk, birdwatch, and reconnect with nature.

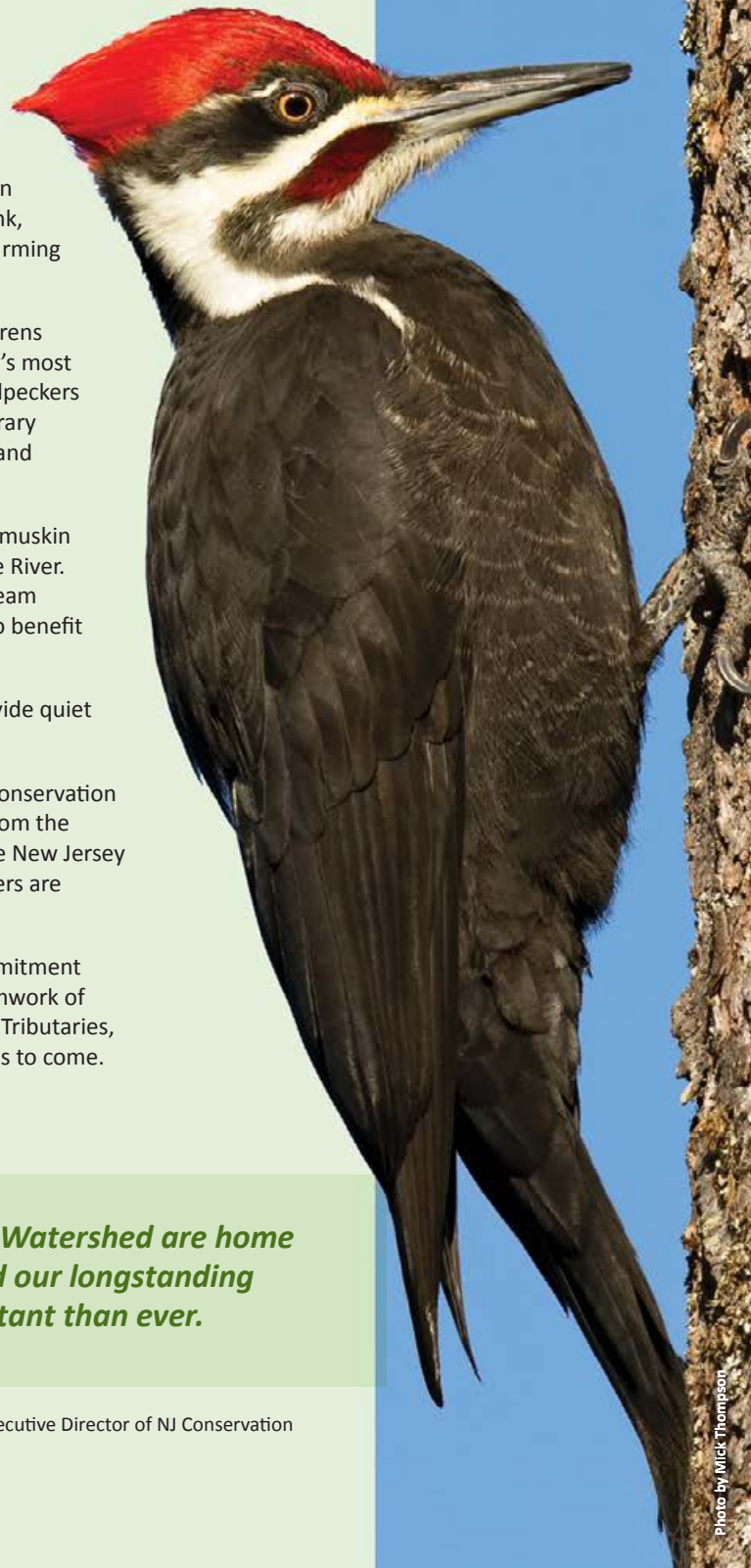
This project was made possible through a strong partnership among conservation organizations and public agencies. Funding for the acquisition came from the Open Space Institute's Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund, the New Jersey Green Acres Program, and Cumberland County. Together, these partners are ensuring that this forested land will remain protected forever.

New Jersey Conservation Foundation continues its long-standing commitment to preserving the state's most valuable landscapes. Thanks to the teamwork of local partners like Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries, Vineland's forests will remain a thriving, resilient haven for generations to come. It's a lasting gift to both nature and the people of New Jersey.

“

The vanishing upland forests in the Delaware Bay Watershed are home to a wonderful diversity of plants and wildlife, and our longstanding conservation efforts in this region are more important than ever.

- Alison Mitchell, Executive Director of NJ Conservation



Land preservation project is a win for conservation and clean energy

A 92-acre forest at the northern edge of the Pinelands National Reserve was almost cleared to make way for a solar field before New Jersey Conservation Foundation and partner organizations stepped in to halt the plans and offer a win-win alternative.

The result after years of collaboration: a unique land preservation project that supports clean energy while also protecting vital natural resources.

Six Flags Great Adventure, an amusement park in Jackson Township, planned to build a solar field in the forest around the park to meet its energy needs. The catch? It was slated to come at the cost of at least 18,000 trees — that's where a coalition of conservation organizations, including including New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJ Conservation) and Save Barnegat Bay, intervened. While the coalition supported the park's renewable energy ambitions, it persistently advocated for the preservation of the forest.

The woodlands where Six Flags planned to build the solar field is home to countless plant and wildlife species, including the threatened northern pine snake and barred owl. The forest also encompasses critical headwaters that feed Barnegat Bay and the Delaware River. To ensure the safety of this ecosystem, the coalition filed a lawsuit against Six Flags, the solar developer and Jackson Township that prevented the renewable energy project from being carried out as originally designed.

The coalition successfully convinced Six Flags to relocate portions of the project to the existing parking lot and, as part of the

settlement, secured conservation easements on 257 acres of land within the park. A conservation easement is a legal agreement with the landowner to ensure the long-term protection of a property.

NJ Conservation staff worked hard to maximize the land to be preserved and to ensure that the most important areas of the park would be covered by the easements — a process involving years of negotiations with Six Flags. NJ Conservation assisted in finalizing the acquisition and, as part of the team effort, Save Barnegat Bay agreed to hold the easements, which were officially recorded this summer.

Under the final agreement, the forest to be cleared for the solar field was limited and, if energy production ever ceases on the site, the area will be left to return to its natural state.

"We were thrilled to collaborate with Save Barnegat Bay and other partners on this project which exemplifies how conservation and sustainability go hand in hand," said Alison Mitchell, executive director of NJ Conservation. "It became a win-win. Pristine natural resources were protected, and Six Flags achieved its goal to be powered by renewable energy."

Six Flags is one of the world's first solar-powered amusement parks.



Photo by Penelope Ayers



Federal Policy Threatens America's Conservation Legacy

America's wild spaces have long stood as a testament to our shared commitment to conservation. We have protected places where nature thrives and people find refuge from the rush of daily life. At the heart of that promise is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a program that has preserved millions of acres of public land and expanded access to the outdoors for everyone. Yet today, that legacy faces an unprecedented threat.

A coordinated effort by the Trump administration is now underway to dismantle LWCF by cutting \$387 million worth of funding, limiting property owners' rights to sell their land, and imposing roadblocks that will delay or derail urgently needed outdoor access and recreation projects.

LWCF funding supports the preservation of all kinds of public lands. In fact, New Jersey's five stunning national wildlife refuges were created through LWCF, including Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (pictured above) — the first wilderness area in the country designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — and Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, which is located along the Atlantic Flyway and part of a critical path for seasonal bird migration.

These refuges, along with the Cape May, Supawna Meadows, and Wallkill River refuges, encompass almost 70,000 acres of protected areas where native species can rest, raise

young, and stay safe from threats of development. These special places also provide outdoor recreation opportunities, including birding and hiking, in proximity to some of the most populated urban areas in the country.

If LWCF is dismantled, we risk losing the promise of wild places that belong to all of us. These lands are part of our national story and our collective future. Protecting them means standing up for clean water, thriving wildlife, and the right of every person to experience the beauty of the natural world. The time to defend that legacy is now.

**CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY
and urge them to protect the integrity of LWCF:**

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>



Pickering's morning glory **MAKES A COMEBACK** at Franklin Parker Preserve

If you've wandered through the sandy trails of New Jersey's Pine Barrens, you know the quiet magic that awaits. Amongst the sea of crooked trees and pine needles underfoot, comes the hum of dragonflies, and the sweep of open dunes and hidden wildflowers.

Among these blossoms is one of New Jersey's rarest treasures: Pickering's morning glory, a delicate, star-shaped white flower that nearly disappeared from our state's landscape.

Pickering's morning glory is a low, trailing vine that thrives in open, sunny sand dunes. Only four healthy populations remain in the state (with another dozen or so in desperate trouble), making it one of the most endangered plants in New Jersey. About half of the original populations are gone.

This plant's revival story is one of resilience and teamwork. New Jersey marks the northern edge of its natural range. Populations here are

completely isolated – the next closest live hundreds of miles away in North Carolina! That makes New Jersey's populations especially important for the species' survival.

Unfortunately, decades of habitat damage and change have taken a toll. Illegal off-road vehicle use has torn up dunes in the Pine Barrens. Dumping and the invasive Chinese bush clover plant have made things even harder. Forests have grown denser, shading out the open sandy spaces where the flower needs sunlight to thrive. For a time, Pickering's morning glory continued to dwindle.

But now this special wildflower is getting a second chance, thanks in part to the restoration of ancient dune habitat by New Jersey Conservation Foundation and other partners.

The work doesn't stop there. At Duke Farms, horticulturists are using seeds collected from the wild to grow plants, which is no small feat since this species is notoriously finicky in a greenhouse setting. After much experimentation, staff have found techniques that work, giving new life to a flower once headed towards disappearing from New Jersey entirely. These nursery-grown plants could one day help strengthen existing populations or reestablish the species in areas where it's been lost.

This is conservation at its best: science, patience, and passion working together to protect a species that might otherwise vanish. Thanks to these efforts, Franklin Parker Preserve is now home to four thriving experimental populations of Pickering's morning glory, with a total number of individual plants as large as most of the natural populations!

So the next time you explore the Pine Barrens, pause and look closely at the sandy ground beneath the pines. Somewhere among the dunes, a delicate white star may be blooming. With care and collaboration, even the rarest parts of New Jersey's natural heritage can shine again.

GAINING GROUND

9 projects

January —
October 2025

★ 9 new projects: 640 acres

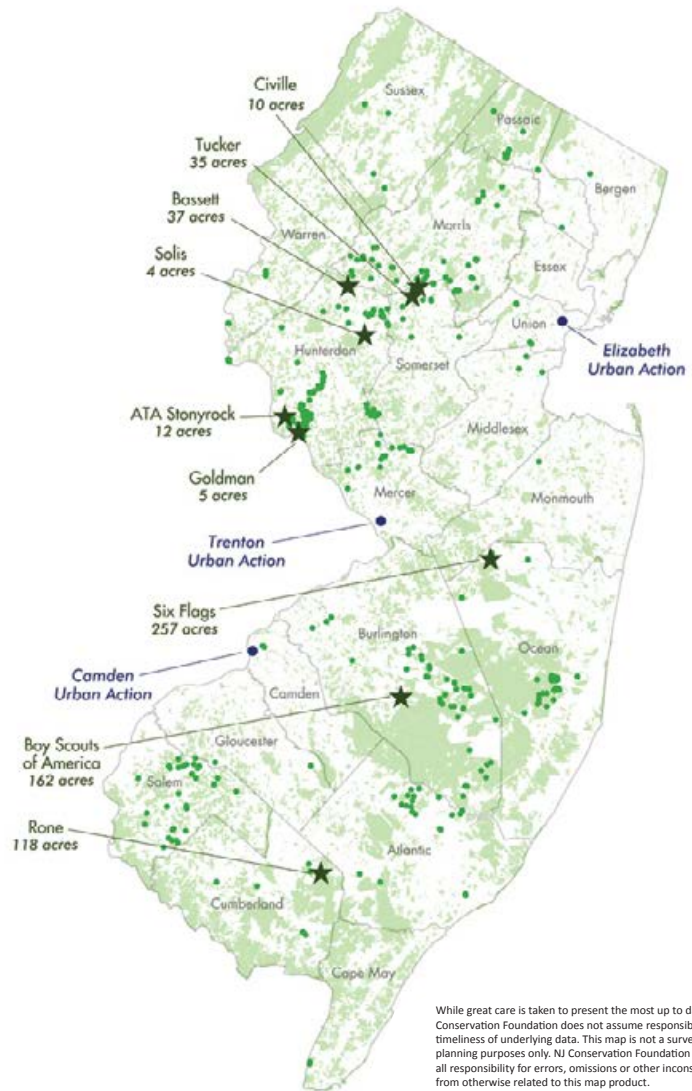
● Urban Action

● NJ Conservation Foundation
Owned & Managed Properties

■ All Preserved Land

New Jersey Conservation Foundation and its partners permanently preserved 640 acres from January through October 2025. These lands include family farms as well as natural areas that safeguard clean drinking water, protect wildlife habitat, and offer scenic beauty and outdoor recreation.

THANK YOU TO ALL
MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS
AND PARTNERS FOR
HELPING TO PRESERVE
THESE LANDS!



It's easy to join New Jersey Conservation Foundation online - visit the website at www.njconservation.org

Become a Member Today!



HIGHLANDS FARM PRESERVED

for agriculture, heritage, and open space

There's a new reason to celebrate in the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone! The Tucker Farm in Somerset County has been permanently preserved, ensuring this scenic, 35-acre working farm will stay in agriculture. It's a promise to keep farming, open space, and local food production thriving in the heart of New Jersey.

For generations, New Jersey has been known as the "Garden State" by name and by nature. Rolling fields of corn, hay, and vegetables once covered much of the state, feeding local families and nearby cities alike. Over time, development has claimed more and more farmland, but places like the Tucker Farm remind us that agriculture is still a vital part of New Jersey's identity and its future.

The Tucker Farm remains active grazing land for locally raised Black Angus cattle, supplying beef to local markets and supporting the region's agricultural economy. Its gently sloping pastures and wide-open views create a peaceful green buffer along the edge of Peapack & Gladstone's downtown. It's a daily reminder of the community's connection to the land and the people who work it.

The preservation of the Tucker Farm also fits into a broader movement to protect and strengthen local food systems. As more residents look for fresh, locally grown food, preserved farms like the Tucker Farm play a crucial role in keeping agriculture viable and visible in New Jersey. They help shorten the distance from farm to table and keep the landscape open for future generations of farmers.

This project also adds to nearly 100 acres of preserved farmland nearby, creating a growing network of green space that safeguards clean water, protects wildlife habitat, and keeps the region's rural character alive.

Preserving the Tucker Farm was a true partnership between landowners, local government, and conservation groups. Somerset County purchased an agricultural easement from

Farmland Program picks up the pace:

After developing a new valuation formula, the state farmland preservation program recently approved 22 farms for preservation in 2025, with more in the queue!



longtime landowners Andrew and Judith Tucker, who generously donated 25 percent of its value.

The preservation process was managed by New Jersey Conservation Foundation on behalf of the Borough. NJ Conservation helped secure a grant from the New Jersey Highlands Council that covered half of the easement's value through its Highlands Open Space Funding Program, supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Highlands Conservation Act. Additional funding came from Somerset County's Open Space Trust Fund, a State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) Municipal Planning Incentive Grant, and the Borough's own Open Space and Recreation Trust Fund.

In fact, Tucker Farm marks a milestone – it's the first farm in New Jersey to be preserved using a combination of SADC and Highlands Council funding.

While protecting farmland like the Tucker Farm offers bucolic scenic views and rolling hills, it also ensures that farming has a future in our state. Every acre preserved helps keep land open and locally grown food on our tables.

REMEMBERING JIM WYSE

In November, alongside his friends and family, we shared memories and celebrated the remarkable achievements and enduring legacy of Jim Wyse.

Jim served as general counsel to New Jersey Conservation Foundation for more than three decades and was widely recognized as one of the premier conservation attorneys in the nation and the foremost expert on conservation easement law. He was instrumental in the preservation of thousands of acres of important land throughout New Jersey, including the magnificent Franklin Parker Preserve.

A quiet, scenic retreat in the heart of the preserve is now dedicated to Jim in recognition of his contributions and commitment to conservation.

Gifts can be made in memory of Jim by visiting:
njconservation.org/donate-now



Photo by Jhoel Delgado

Photo by David Zaback

thank you!

New Jersey Conservation Foundation welcomes new donors and expresses our thanks to all who made contributions between January 1, 2025 and September 30, 2025. With your support, we preserve and protect New Jersey's lands and natural resources.

New Donors

(from January 1 - September 30, 2025)

American Water Charitable Foundation
Donna and John Anderson
Subira Augustin
Elizabeth and Steven Baglio
Casey Bauer
Ivan Belcic
Lesly Benavides
Rick Berry
Mark Bloomberg
Mary Beth Botts
Richard Braemerr
Harold Bromm
Christopher Broome
Michelle Burger
Winston Choi-Schagrin
Elizabeth Clark
Edward G. Copeland
The M&L Crawford Family Fund
Jessica D'Onofrio
Maria David
Dietrich Diecke
Kimberly Duncan
The Episcopal Academy
Wendy Fabrizio
Jack Failing
Cynthia Fair
Willment C. Folk
Joelle Freeman
Lorraine Freeney
Kaitlyn Fulfaro
Mikki Fuller
Paul Furfari
Joseph Fysz
Kate and Jose Gonzalez
Kyle Graham
Noelle Guabello
Eric Haas
Anne Harrison
George Herman
Mark Herrmann

The Herschend Enterprises Fund
Ingrid Hibben
Keesha Jones
Tristan Kane
Janice Kennedy
Andrew Knaak
Claudia and John Larsen
Steve Larzelere
Kathryn Lascelle
Allison Lavallato
James Lefkowitz
David Levy
Lawrence Ludden
Keith and Gina Megay
Sean D. Moriarty, Esq.
Lynne Mueller
Joseph Pannullo
Bakula Patel
Bharti Patel
Aven Patterson
Marian Perez
Steve and Suzanne Perricone
Mirna Plakalovic
Nicholas Platt
Joelle Quilla
Madison Ranges
Christopher Rentko
Emily Rodia
Janelly Rodriguez
Debra Roelke
William and MaryJo Russell
John Ruymann
Jacinthe Sasson-Yenor
Kris Schantz
Abigail Schmelzer
Dustin Serra
Pamela Shafer
Shulman Lobel, LLP
Arthur Slutzky
Deepa Subash
Claire Taylor
Trent House Association, Inc.
Verdantas
Nancy Wolff
Cindy Wong
Nick Zungoli
Janice Zuzov

\$500 and Above Donors

(from January 1 - September 30, 2025)

Adventure Aquarium
George N. and Grania Allport
American Farmland Trust
American Water Charitable Foundation
Liping An
Anonymous Donors
Estate of Laura Ascari
Jacquie Asplundh
Roger P. Asselta
Chris and Kelly Atwell
Balwierczak Charitable Fund
Joseph and Daniele Basralian
Rick Berry
Luke M Beshar
W. M. and Barbara Blumenthal
Bohren and Bohren Associates, Inc.
Andrea Bonette
Bourke Family Fund
Charles K. Bowman, Jr.
The Brady Family Fund
Thomas A. and Barbara Brummer
Jennifer Bryson
Bunbury Fund at the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Roger Byrom and Wendy Rasmussen
Patricia and Jim Canning
Edward B. Casson
Arlene Ceterski
Ruth Charnes and David L. Hansen
Theodore and Victory Chase
Winston Choi-Schagrin
Jack R. Cimprich and Ronnie E. Cimprich, VMD
Tracey and CD Clarke
Peter and Jeanne Clarke
Elliot Cohen

Joseph S. and Jeannie Colalillo
Unni Cooper
Karen L. Cramer
The M&L Crawford Family Fund
Thomas and Brenda Curnin
Christopher J. and Beatrice Daggett
Michael Dawson and Robert Tomaselli
John P. de Neufville
William deCamp Jr. Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole and Giblin
Winsor-Delap Family Fund
The Maggie and Michael Delia Foundation
Dell Technologies
Robert and Katharine Denby
Patricia DePol Charitable Foundation, recommended by Beth Yingling and Ken Green
Dietrich Diecke
Richard and Rosina B. Dixon
Tim Duggan
Joseph Z. Duke and Jennifer Johnson
Duke Farms
EarthShare of New Jersey
Lynn and Tom Ebeling
Richard and Norma Edom
Jeanne R. Eisele
The Episcopal Academy
Ernest Christian Klipstein Foundation
Cynthia Fair
Michael J. Faul, Jr.
The Always Fine Fund
Clem and Joanna S. Fiori
Jason-Michael Flintosh
Randolph Floyd
Willment C. Folk
Deborah S. Freedman and Avram Paradise
Wilma E. Frey
Friends of Michael Huber Preserve, Inc.

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC
Garden Club of Morristown
Garden Club of Princeton
Fred and Gael Gardner Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Bruce M. Gast
The Gelfand Family Foundation, Inc.
Peter George
The William L. Gibson Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
Glennmede Trust Company, NA
Curtis and Sophie Glover Family Foundation
Goldman Sachs & Company
Kate and Jose Gonzalez
Gorrie Family Foundation
Gordon and Llura Gund Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Mark Canright and Amy Hansen
Harris Family Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Chris Harwell and April Kabbash
The Merrill G. & Erita Hastings Foundation
John D. Hatch and David Henderson
Peter Haugk Charitable Fund
Healey Family Foundation
The Kenneth Martin and Christine Hepburn Foundation
Catherine and Richard W. Herbst
Herold Law, P.A.
The Herschend Enterprises Fund
Ingrid Hibben
Tom and Jane Higgins
Hilb Group
Howard Hirsch
Samuel G. Huber
Interstate Hiking Club

Barratt and Jennifer Jaruzelski
Robert and Florence Jennes
Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts Program
Henry Jonas and Tricia Deering
Phillips Family Charitable Fund
Dr. Stephanie B. Jones
Martin D. Judd and Christine Yovnello
The Kaufelt Family Fund
Janice Kennedy
Alessandra H. Kingsford
Estate of Augustus Knight
Estate of Jane B. Knight
Elizabeth P. Kohn
Sybil B. Kramer
Kuchinski Family Giving Fund
William Kurtz
Claudia and John Larsen
Jan Larsson
Joseph and Jennifer Lemond
Mark and Patty Leuchten
David Levy
The Robert A. and Carla Lee Lewis Charitable Gift Fund
Richard and Vivian Lewis
Liebhaber/Cooke Giving Fund
Jeffrey and Anita H. Liebman
Carolyn Lloyd-Turbett
Jim Lyons and Jennifer Palmieri
Marty and Lisa MacCollum
Wendy Mager and Eric Monberg
Edward A. and Mary Lynn Marra
Alexander Mateus
Helen & William Mazer Foundation
Robert McLean Foundation Trust
Scott and Hella McVay
Christopher A. Merton
Hon. Joseph H. Metelski
Miranda Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey
Vanessa F. Mitchell

Robert B. and Veronica F. Mitchell
Alison Mitchell and Chris Keep
Meredith Moore and Steve Rabbe
Morehouse Family Charitable Fund
Sean D. Moriarty, Esq.
Kurt Munkacsi and Nancy Jeffries
Daniel E. and Janet G. Murnick
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
The O'Mealia Family Fund at Schwab Charitable
Nelson Obus and Eve Coulson
Odd Bird Brewing
Millicent Palmer
Joanne Pannone
Joseph Pannullo
Tari Pantaleo
John F. and Maja Parker
The William Penn Foundation
Suzanne Perrault and David Rago
Ruvani Perumal and Nicholas Gibney
Winifred M. and George P. Pitkin Foundation, Inc.
Nicholas Platt
Pockets - A Family Foundation
Kathryn A. Porter
Princeton Hydro
The Promethean Foundation, Inc.
PSEG
Lee Ann Quenault and Marc Merton
Estate of Barbara Ray
Reed Family Foundation, Inc. recommended by John S. and Leslie V. Reed
Reed Family Foundation, Inc. recommended by L. Keith and Lisa Reed
Janice Reid
R. David Reynolds
Jaclyn Rhoads

Timothy C. Riegert
The Risor Foundation
Ritter Family Fund
Laurance S. Rockefeller, Jr.
Emily Rodia
Rosemont Foundation
Roxiticus Foundation
Dana and Steven Saporta
Leslie Jones Foundation
Eric and Miranda M. Scher
Estate of Susan A. Schmidt
The Schmidt Family Foundation
Leslie and Thomas Schorr
Bruce E. and Sara Schundler
James A. & Sharon Schwarz Donor Advised Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater MetroWest NJ
Adam Seiden
Jeffrey Shafer
Patricia Shanley and Christopher Barr
Silent Maid 1924
Anthony Silva
Richard C. and Christine Smith
Sowsian's Landscapes
Stark & Stark
State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Services
Hunt and Margaret Stockwell
Stone Foundation of New Jersey
Jacqueline Strigl
Chambers Family Fund
Sumner Gerard Foundation
Nancy A. Swift
Pete Taft and Mara Connolly
Meredith Taylor
Teetsel & Jacobs Charitable Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
Charles K. Thompson
Barbara H. Trought
Verdantas
Curtis and Ann P. Viebranz
Johanette Wallerstein Institute

Mary A. Walter
James and Barbara Webb
Well Manager, LLC
Heidi Wendel
The Morris & Clara Weshnak Family Foundation
The Hon. Christine T. Whitman
Louise L. Wilkens
Currey Wilson Family Fund, a Donor Advised Fund of Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Barbara B. Wolfe
Michele Wu and Eric Paternoster
Adam Zellner

Memorials

(from January 1 - September 30, 2025)

Peter A. Costanza, Jr.
Mark Herrmann
Foxy
Michael Wills
Pamela Hirsch
Jan Larsson
Marion Evelyn Jones
Kingsford
Alessandra H. Kingsford
Charlie Leck
Mary A. Leck
Thomas J. Maher
Richard Braemerr
Steve and Suzanne Perricone
William and MaryJo Russell
Steven Mania
Anonymous
Michelle Burger
Robert F. Dahl and Barbara Fordyce
Pamela Shafer
Shulman Lobel, LLP
Janice Zuzov
John "Jay" Nugent
Kris Schantz
Sudhaben K. Patel
Arny Patel

Stephen Pogust
Joseph O'Hara
Sharon Post
Noelle Guabello
Joan Weinman
James Lefkowitz
Leslie Wolfson's Mother
Joelle Quilla
Kenneth "Teddy" and Dorothy Yates
Janice Kennedy

Tributes

(from January 1 - September 30, 2025)

George Allport
Harry and Lynn O'Mealia
Bodi
Maria David
Michele S. Byers
Ruth Charnes and David Hansen
Michael Dawson and Robert Tomaselli
Joseph Pannullo
Debra Roelke
Candace McKee Ashmun Preserve, Forked River
Rick Berry
Dr. Emile DeVito
Michael and Marilyn Dee
Beryl Doyle
Lois K. Stewart
Wendy Henson
Linda Henson
Peter and Cynthia Kellogg
Bourke Family Fund
Bill Lynch
Edythe M. Toussaint
Buddy and Doris Lyons
Jim Lyons and Jennifer Palmieri
New Jersey Forest Fire Service and their work on the Jones Road Fire
Christopher Broome
Kanubhai S. Patel
Bakula Patel
Bill Schultz
Allison Lavallato



Honoring David F. Moore

At this year's fundraising gala, we were delighted to recognize David F. Moore - visionary leader, tireless advocate, and one of New Jersey's most influential conservationists.

Dave began his extraordinary career as a forester in New England, and returned to his home state of New Jersey as Superintendent of Allaire State Park. In 1964, he became the state's first Chief of Natural Areas, launching groundbreaking efforts to identify and protect New Jersey's natural treasures.

As Executive Director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation from 1969 to 1999, Dave led the preservation of vast areas of New Jersey and was instrumental in the passage of a series of landmark environmental laws including the Pinelands Protection Act and the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act. He was pivotal in the creation of the state Farmland Preservation Program, and laid the groundwork for the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act.

He also played a key role in founding a number of key partner organizations, including the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and New Jersey Future.

Dave's work is rooted in a lifelong, unwavering commitment to land conservation - one that has helped shape generations of environmental leaders and safeguard the landscapes we hold dear.

AWARDS SEASON!

Jay Watson, Senior Fellow for Conservation Justice, was joined by his family to receive the Audrey Zapp Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award from The Friends of Liberty State Park for his work and advocacy over his career.

Pictured with Jay (center) are his daughter Chelsea, wife Debra, son John Watson III, and daughter-in-law Fabiana.

In another recognition of his incredible career, the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters honored Jay with the Changemaker Award at their annual gala.

Congrats, Jay!



In October, New Jersey Conservation Foundation joined project partners in accepting a 2025 Smart Growth award from New Jersey Future, honoring the 15.5-mile Cooper River Water Trail in Camden. Rudisha Okezie, Camden Area Regional Manager (pictured right), accepted the award on behalf of the incredible team that continues working to reconnect the community to its rivers!

Find trail maps and more info on the Cooper River Water Trail at: camdencounty.com/service/parks/cooper-river-water-trail



Donor Spotlight

In April, six-year-old supporter Aven donated the proceeds from his cookie and banana bread sales to New Jersey Conservation Foundation! He had a blast making and selling the baked goods for Star Child Nature School's Changemaker Market.

Aven's favorite park is Woodford Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge in Medford, NJ. He also enjoys playing in his backyard, where he climbs a big, beautiful maple tree that lives there.



You can help protect New Jersey's forests, open spaces, wildlife and communities! Sign up for our Action Network for updates on how you can make a difference.

Photo by John Brandauer

Former staff leaves lasting legacy

Susan Schmidt worked as an administrative assistant at New Jersey Conservation Foundation for nearly 14 years until her retirement in 2020. Sue, as she was known to her colleagues, had a remarkable way of brightening each morning, often greeting everyone as a "dear heart and gentle person."

Sue was a genuinely caring individual, and would look forward to hearing the latest news about everyone's families, especially the accomplishments of their children. A rider in her younger years, Sue had a profound love for horses. She also loved dogs and always made sure that Percy, a staff service dog, had a full water dish. Sue was incredibly generous during her time on staff – even donating a winning lottery ticket!

Her generosity continued beyond her retirement and even after her passing in 2022. Earlier this year, the organization received a substantial gift from Sue's estate, which will significantly aid our efforts to preserve even more of New Jersey's land and natural resources for future generations.

Thank you, Sue, for your enduring legacy and profound impact on the mission and people of NJ Conservation.

To become a member of New Jersey Conservation Foundation's planned giving program, the Red Oak Society, please contact:

Bo Humphrey, Director of Development, at 908-234-1225 or bo.humphrey@njconservation.org.

Staff

Alison Mitchell, *Executive Director*

Erica Arles, *Land Program & Stewardship Program Coordinator*

Alix Bacon, *Project Manager, Sustainable Agriculture*

Mark Barrick, *Information Technology / Office Manager*

Tim Brill, *Regional Manager Central Jersey*

Rebekah Buczynski, *Project Manager, North Jersey Stewardship*

Elise Cavicchi, *Land Protection Coordinator*

Anthony Cucchi, *Director of Programs*

Beth Davisson, *Highlands & Black River Acquisition Specialist*

Emile DeVito, Ph.D, *Manager of Science & Stewardship*

Richard Dodds, *Regional Manager, Black River Greenway, Highlands, & Wickecheoke Greenway*

Jessica Fasano, *Communications Manager*

Geo Fellema, MPA, *Development Manager*

Jane Gardner, *Policy & Development Assistant*

Jane Halsted, CPA, *Accounting Manager*

Amy Hansen, *Policy Manager*

Maria Hauser, *Director Human Resources / Board Liaison*

Bo Humphrey, *Director of Development*

Steven Jack, *Land Steward, South Jersey*

Robyn Jeney, *Regional Manager, South Jersey*

Russell Juelg, *Senior Land Steward*

Annie Licata, *Staff Writer*

Bill Lynch, M.S., *Director of Engagement & Communications*

Lisa MacCollum, *Sourlands/Hopewell Valley Acquisition Specialist*

Melanie Mason, *Land Steward*

Timothy Morris, *Director of Stewardship*

Tanya Nolte, *Conservation Information & GIS Manager*

Rudisha Okezie, *Regional Manager, Camden Area*

Allison Pieffer, *Stewardship Coordinator*

Martin Rapp, *Project Coordinator, North Jersey Stewardship*

Karen Richards, CPA, *Director of Finance & Administration*

Heidi Roldan, *Director of Program Funding*

Bill Scullion, *Land Steward, South Jersey*

John S. Watson Jr., *Senior Fellow for Conservation Justice*

New Jersey Conservation Foundation is an equal opportunity employer and we are committed to building a diverse workforce and Board of Trustees.



New Jersey Conservation
F O U N D A T I O N

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

www.njconservation.org



Join Our Email List

We'd like to have your email address so we can keep you updated on New Jersey Conservation Foundation news, program and events.

Please send your email address to info@njconservation.org or call 1-888-LANDSAVE (1-888-526-3728).

Maximize Your Impact: Become a Sustaining Member

Monthly giving is the easiest and most efficient way to support land preservation work.

For as little as \$10 a month you can ensure a steady stream of support to protect forests, farms, and natural lands across New Jersey.

Sign up online at njconservation.org/sustaining then click "I would like my gift to repeat monthly" or scan the QR code to save land in New Jersey now!



Juvenile bald eagle by Penelope Ayers