Vote Yes on Question #2 This November 4 to Protect Clean Water, Open Spaces, Farms and Historic Sites for Future Generations

This November 4, New Jersey voters will have a chance to vote YES on the dedication of state funds to protect clean water and ensure our children and grandchildren continue to have access to parks, open spaces, family farms and historic treasures.

This measure will ensure dedicated long-term funding for the now-depleted Green Acres, Blue Acres, farmland and historic preservation programs, and continue investments to improve water quality, remove underground storage tanks and clean-up polluted sites.

**S JLWT strongly supports this measure and urges a YES vote on Question 2 this November.**

S JLWT is a member of the NJ Keep It Green coalition that worked to secure the state Legislature’s approval this summer to refer the measure to the ballot. NJ Keep It Green represents more than 185 conservation, recreation, farmland and historic preservation organizations throughout the state united in support of Question 2.

What is Question 2?
Question 2 would dedicate a percentage of existing corporate business tax revenues on a long-term basis to ensure reliable funding for land and water protection efforts. The state currently dedicates 4 percent of the money collected from the Corporate Business Tax to help pay for some environmental programs. The ballot measure changes the way some of those programs are funded and raises the amount from 4 percent to 6 percent beginning in July 2019.

Under the measure, Green Acres, Blue Acres and farmland and historic preservation programs will receive approximately $71 million annually for the first five years and then $117 million annually thereafter.

An estimated $29 million annually for the first four years will provide continued funding for critical environmental programs currently supported by the Corporate Business Tax revenue including:

- Watershed management ($5 million)
- Underground storage tanks ($9 million)
- Brownfields ($10 million)
- Public clean-ups of polluted sites ($5 million)

While funding for several of these programs would be reduced somewhat at the outset, critical baseline funding remains and is expected to grow over time. In 2019, when the dedication grows from 4 percent to 6 percent, nearly a quarter of the funding will be dedicated to these environmental programs.

*It is important to note that the measure only changes the dedication of existing tax dollars and does not increase taxes.*

**Providing for Parks**
If it passes, the ballot measure will continue to fund park acquisition and development  

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Join Us
We believe that children of all ages should get together to play outside and that’s what we help our members -- people like you -- do.

For example, each month we lead “Walks in the Woods” to various parks and natural areas in Gloucester, Camden and Salem Counties. Come out and meet like-minded people who enjoy a leisurely stroll in nature. Enjoy the presentations from our guides, who will share their knowledge about the stories, plants and animals that make these places special.

Want to get more involved? Join our Stream Assessment Program or Vernal Pool Survey Project and help us find “habitat hot spots.”

Become a member of the South Jersey Land and Water Trust, and work together with your friends to help save the natural areas we explore together! Memberships begin at $20. Make checks payable to South Jersey Land and Water Trust and send to P.O. Box 233 Glassboro, NJ 08028.

WANTED: PASSION
Do you have a passion to help protect our local environment? Get involved with one of our committees and meet other people who want to make a difference. All skills, talents, and abilities welcomed!

Water Quality & Habitat Protection Committee
Help protect and restore the habitat in our watersheds including stream monitoring, surveying vernal pools, wildlife assessment, stream and road cleanups and stream remediation.

Land Preservation Committee
To advance land preservation throughout the region.

Development Committee
Assist with fundraising events.

Committees meet bi-monthly at the SJLWT office located in Glassboro.

To advance land preservation throughout the region.

Support SJLWT ~ Become a Member
Basic ~ $20  Contributor ~ $35  Supporter ~ $50
Org/Gov’t/Business ~ $100  Conservationist ~ $200  Steward ~ $500

Make checks payable to: SJLWT
P.O. Box 233 Glassboro, NJ 08028
or on-line at www.sjlandwater.org.

Space is limited. Reserve Today

Join us for a fun evening dedicated to saving South Jersey’s wild places.

Friday, November 7, 2014
Between 7:00 & 9:00 p.m.
Heritage Winery
480 Mullica Hill Road (Rte. 322, west of Rte 55)

Tickets:
$20 - Members  $25 - Non-members
Live Music by Kathy Lynch

Enjoy wine, cheese, dessert and coffee at a local winery and bid on lovely raffle baskets. Meet like-minded people. This event is great for lifelong SJLWT members and nonmembers alike. Bring a friend or bring a date. Great for singles, too!

Space is limited. Reserve Today
Send a check to SJLWT P.O. Box 233 Glassboro, NJ 08028 with note “Wine & Cheese” or log onto sjlandwater.org and click Donate Now and follow the instructions.
Land Preservation

through the Green Acres program. Green Acres has a proven track record of providing for the purchase and development of parks—state, county and local—across New Jersey. Moreover, Green Acres provided more than $336 million in grants to counties and municipalities for park development projects between 2000 and 2012. In addition, the measure will support the stewardship and upkeep of the parks and open spaces New Jersey already enjoys. It will fund critical repairs to parks, natural areas and lakes, rivers and streams across New Jersey making it easier for the public to visit and enjoy them.

Why Now?

All funds from the statewide bond measure that voters approved in 2009 are fully allocated. Put simply, there is no new money left for preservation programs in New Jersey, but tremendous needs remain.

According to a report by the NJ DEP, more than 650,000 acres still need to be preserved to protect water and natural resources and to provide recreational opportunities to a growing population. At least 350,000 acres of additional farmland must be preserved to maintain a viable agriculture industry, according to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

Vote Yes on #2.

SJLWT Assists in Preserving Two Woolwich Township Farms

SJLWT assisted in preserving two farms in Woolwich Township, Gloucester County this past spring. One was an 83-acre farm owned by DeLuca Lot Investors that had approval to build 31 houses on that property. Thanks to investment by New Jersey’s Farmland Preservation Program, Gloucester County, Woolwich Twp. and the efforts of SJLWT the land will remain farmland. In addition, SJLWT assisted in preserving the VanderGracht Farm, a 20-acre small horse farm with pasture that produces hay to support its operation. The property had preliminary major subdivision approval but will be preserved as a farm. There are several outbuildings including a barn, along with an outdoor arena for training. Nearby are several preserved farms, including Finocchiaro, 26 acres, Cali, 77 acres, and Eastblack (historically the Butler Farm), 47 acres totalling about 150 acres in all. SJLWT projects have added to the nearly contiguous stretch of preserved farmland in the Woolwich area.

SJLWT & Woolwich Township Plant Pollinator Habitats

By Matt Blake, Woolwich Township Director of Community Development

With its many subdivisions, Woolwich Township has its fair share of stormwater management basins it must routinely mow and care for during the growing season. In recent years, basins have become synonymous with all modern developments, and function to collect stormwater run-off, reducing flooding large trash, and pollution which would otherwise be exacerbated by our ever-expanding footprint of lawns and pavement. While conventional stormwater collection basins provide a very important role in reducing impacts to resources like waterways and lakes, many fall short of meeting other environmental goals, and can be unsightly and expensive to maintain.

In partnership with SJLWT funded by a grant from the Watershed Institute, an effort is now underway to begin retrofitting basins to save money, while creating new habitat for wildlife.

Christine Nolan, the Executive Director of the South Jersey Land & Water Trust, explained that the Township and her group began evaluating various stormwater basins earlier this year to identify sites, which could be modified to enhance water quality, habitat and aesthetics, while reducing

Vote Yes on Question #2

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Land Trust Accreditation

Land trust accreditation is an extensive, external review of the governance and management of the organization and the systems and policies it uses to protect land. Such systems and policies include Compliance with Law, Board Accountability, Conflict, Legal and Ethical Practices of Fundraising, Financial Records and Review, Ensuring Sound Land Transactions, and Stewardship.

Accredited land trusts are able to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The seal is a mark of distinction in land conservation. The public is increasingly demanding accountability from government and nonprofit organizations, including land trusts. Independent accreditation provides the assurance of quality and permanence of land conservation the public and donors look for and publicly recognizes a land trust’s ability to protect important natural places and working lands forever.

In preparing for accreditation, SJLWT has had the opportunity to review and implement policies that will help streamline our operations and lead to more effective land conservation. The process is challenging, but a smart investment. SJLWT is stronger and more efficient and this process helps ensure the long-term success of the organization. SJLWT will be reviewed for accreditation in 2015.

Maple Ridge Becoming A Reality

By Rich Dilks

Once a popular golf course, the 112-acre Maple Ridge site sits along the banks of Mantua Creek and is now in sight. The State Park, the Friends of Maple Ridge made and the new park at Maple Ridge is now a reality. The State Park’s location is a very near future. The preservation of public lands is a careful and deliberate process, and that process with Maple Ridge has taken time. Over the past several months, progress has quietly but steadily been made and the new park at Maple Ridge is now in sight. The State of New Jersey is committed to acquiring Maple Ridge as a State Nature Preserve- the first of its kind in New Jersey- as part of our State Parks system. Gloucester County and Mantua Township are equally committed to doing their parts in the maintenance and management of the new Nature Preserve. Maple Ridge is under contract for purchase by the state with settlement in the very near future.

With the creation of the State Park, the Friends of Maple Ridge have done what we and SJLWT have set out to do. We are now taking up a new mission- to become a permanent Friends organization working with SJLWT to provide a means and opportunity for all of us to work with park officials for the benefit and improvement of the new park.

It has been said that every place that has been saved, every parcel of land that has been preserved, and working lands forever.

We thank everyone who has supported and contributed to this effort and we look forward to a great new State Park for all to enjoy for many years to come.
Habitat Protection

SJLWT Protecting Wetlands & Swamp Pink

The South Jersey Land and Water Trust is currently working on 3 wetlands enhancement projects that protect and enhance forested wetlands that support federally listed swamp pink. About 75% of remaining plant populations are found in Southern New Jersey. Swamp pink is a beautiful member of the lily family that blooms in early spring and was once common in South Jersey wetlands. It is very susceptible to erosion and changes to hydrology.

In recent years Swamp pink has been impacted by the ever increasing white tail deer population and illegal off-road vehicle activity. Swamp pink is an evergreen and in some places is the only deer edible plant found in winter wetlands, so it ends up being deer salad. Deer browse the winter leaves which prevents the plants from making enough nutrients to produce a flower in the spring. Heavily deer browsed swamp pink populations that used to produce 100’s of flowers only a decade ago, now only produce a few if any.

SJLWT Fencing & Caging Projects:

Washington Township, the Goodwill Tract, located on a tributary of the Big Timber Creek in partnership with the Township, US Fish & Wildlife Service and the NJDEP. A 2,300 ft. fence was recently installed and will protect about 11 acres of wetlands and upland habitat which SJLWT will monitor.

Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, located on a tributary of the Big Timber Creek is working to install a fence in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Camden County and Camden County College.

Shore Gate Golf Course in Cape May County, SJLWT has installed over 60 cages and will monitor and work to restore the wetland ecosystem. SJLWT is working in partnership with the owners and NJDEP.

SJLWT & Woolwich Township Plant Habitats

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long-term maintenance costs. “With this funding, we were able to assist the Township, the General Charles G. Harker School, and a local Homeowner’s Association, on three projects. This brought together a wide variety of partners, and leveraged additional funding, which will have a big impact for both the community and environment.”

Using plans designed by Craig McGee of the Camden County Soil Conservation District (CCSCD), the Township’s Public Works Department plowed and seeded two of the basins located on the Municipal Complex and School, using a native meadow mix of drought resistant grasses and wildflowers. This will provide host plants and a food source for butterflies and other pollinator species that are struggling in the natural world and need help.

The third project occurred at the Reserve at Creek Run Basin, where the Homeowner’s Association organized the planting of 230 trees and shrubs. Brent Dodulik, the HOA Board President said, “Our homeowners spend a lot of money each year mowing the basin. When the Township approached us with the idea of planting the basin into a forest, we welcomed the opportunity. Seeing all these volunteers and students out to lend a hand, really tells you something about the kind of community we have here.”

Matt Blake, the Township Director of Community Development, said, “The idea that we can turn unattractive Basins into wildlife gardens that save money and beautify our neighborhoods, is just something every town ought to be looking at. Moving forward, a better and more cost-effective approach would be to require developers to create naturalized basins as part of the approval process, rather than retrofitting them after the fact.”

SJLWT Picks up 7 Tons of Trash So Far This Year!

Atco Lake Cleanup

On a freezing cold January 22nd, Stewards of Open Space volunteers cleaned up the upper portion of Atco Lake Park. 11 volunteers cleaned up the wetlands and woods behind the Shoreline Dr. and nearby detention basin. We removed 1 couch, 1 chair, 2 piles of carpets, remains of plastic pool, 1 inflatable pool, 1 bicycle, 1 mattress, 1 box spring and 8 bags of trash and debris.

Big Timber Creek Park Cleanup

On February 25th, the Stewards of Open Space, the NJDEP Watershed Ambassador and 20 Boy Scouts from Troop 811 cleaned up the cove along the Big Timber Creek at Timber Creek Park.

The flood and winds from Hurricane Irene washed a large amount of floatables into the cove. The high water line from the storm was 6 feet higher than the average high tide. 6 tires, 1 large propane bottle, 1 bowling ball, 1 rusted 55 gal barrel, 1 roll of wire fencing and 15 bags of debris were removed. The trash was carried up the steep slope along the creek and removed by Camden County Parks. Along with past cleanups we have removed over 35 large bags of floatables from the cove.

Volunteer Clean-ups

Upcoming Cleanups & Walks

Stewards of Open Space Camden County

Atco Lake Cleanup & Walk
Saturday, November 8 at 10:00am
Lake Worth Clean Up & Walk
Saturday, December 20 at 10:00am

SJLWT organizes cleanups throughout the year. Contact Michael Hogan at 609-476-2086, hoganphoto@verizon.net for more info.

Cooper River Park Cleanup

On April 29th, 110 volunteers removed over 7,000 lbs of trash and debris from along the river and park, enough to completely fill a 30 yard dumpster. We cleaned the river from behind the county driving range along Park Drive, along Kings Highway and into Farnam Park. Volunteers from SJLWT, United By Blue, Subaru, Stewards Of Open Space Camden County, Camden Greenways, Camden Childrens Gardens, NJCF, Charles Brimm High School, Temple Univ., Camden County-Division of Environmental Affairs, The Pub, Bloom Services, Wheelabrator Gloucester/Waste Management, NJ American Water, Starbucks and Lamp Safe.

New Brooklyn Park Cleanup

At New Brooklyn Park, 12 volunteers led by Great Egg Harbor Watershed Ambassador Alice Riordan cleaned the southern portion of the park along Sicklerville Rd. to Cedarbrook Rd., along the road and into the woods. We removed 26 hefty bags of trash and debris, 1 muffler, 1 tire, 1 five gallon outboard gas tank, 5 yard signs, 1 hubcap.
To preserve and protect the land and water resources of Southern New Jersey – maintaining and enhancing the natural, cultural, and historic heritage of the region.

Join us at our upcoming events!

- Annual Wine & Cheese Tasting at Heritage Winery
  Friday Evening, November 7 at 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

- Maurice River Bluffs Walk
  Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m.

- Atco Lake Cleanup & Walk
  Saturday, November 8 at 10:00 a.m.

- Peace, Love & Preservation with Love Alive
  Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m.

- Peace, Love & Preservation withLove Alive
  Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m.

- Blue Hole Walk
  Saturday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m.

- Lake Worth Cleanup Up & Walk
  Saturday, December 20 at 10:00 a.m.

- Maurice River Bluffs Walk
  Saturday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m.

- Annual Wine & Cheese Tasting at Heritage Winery
  Friday Evening, November 7 at 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.