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River Rahway River Association Supports Green Acres Ballot Question

Vote Yes to Fund Preserve Parks, Open Space and Farmland

On November 3, 2009, the voters of New Jersey will go to the voting booth with an important referendum that needs their support to approve a \$400 million bond to preserve open space, natural areas, farmland, clean water and historic sites. Since 1961, the New Jersey Green Acres Program has been the model for the United States.

The timing is crucial, with the Garden State Preservation Trust essentially empty and no longer able to undertake new preservation vital to New Jersey's water supply, health and prosperity. The Trust has been pivotal in supporting statewide and local efforts to provide for open space, parks, farmland preservation and historic preservation. With strong bipartisan support, the State Legislature has approved the public question on the November 3 ballot that will give voters the opportunity to continue the state's investment in preserving water quality, lakes and streams, working farms, natural areas, and historic treasures.

As an enthusiastic supporter of Union County's Open Space, Recreation and Historic Trust Fund, the Rahway River Association understands the importance of having Green Acres to supplement local moneys for the development of the Rahway River Greenway throughout the watershed. Future acquisitions and park improvements depend upon continued funding by the New Jersey Green Acres Program. As part of the 135 organization coalition, the New Jersey - Keep It Green Coalition, the Rahway River Association has been a leader in persuading municipal and county jurisdictions to preserve open space in the 41 square mile Rahway River watershed.

In the last decade, the RRA as lobbied for the preservation of the North of Inman tract in Edison Township, Clark Nature preserve in Clark Township and the Wall Street Wetlands in the City of Rahway. The Rahway River Association is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to preserve open space, protect natural resources and improve the water quality of the Rahway River watershed. For more information please visit rahwayriver.org.