Nonprofit Assistance Application Form

APPLICATION MATERIALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON PAPER (ONE COPY) AND ELECTRONICALLY.
(INDIVIDUAL EMAIL CANNOT EXCEED 25 MB.)

Complete and submit with all required attachments to:
GreenAcresApplications@dep.nj.gov and
NJDEP Green Acres Program
Mail Code 501-01
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Contact: (609)984-0500

For G.A. Use Only
Date Rec’d: ____________________
Application No. _____________

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title  Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation
Location of site  South Mountain Reservation
Municipality(ies)  Millburn
County(ies)  Essex
Street(s)  Glen Avenue
Block(s) and Lot(s)  Block 5503, Lot 1

Size of site to be acquired or developed: 650 acres

Type of Application (select one):
Acquisition: Will land be acquired in fee simple ______ or easement ______?
Development: Is land owned by ______ or leased to* ______ the Nonprofit?
(*Minimum 25-year lease must be provided upon project approval. Letter from landowner agreeing to do so must be submitted with application. Lease is subject to Green Acres’ approval.)

State Legislative District (of project site) ______ NJ-27  Congressional District (of project site) ______ NJ-07

Total Estimated Cost of Project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Acquisition:</th>
<th>Park Development:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$___________</td>
<td>$262,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey</td>
<td>Professional services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$___________</td>
<td>(up to 13% of construction) $34,060.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appraisal</td>
<td>Preliminary assessment</td>
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<td>$___________</td>
<td>$___________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary assessment</td>
<td>Other costs (itemized)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$___________</td>
<td>(contingency) $52,400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>$___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$___________</td>
<td>$___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demolition*</td>
<td>Total project cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>$___________</td>
<td>Total project cost $348,460.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other related costs (itemized) $_____</td>
<td>Total request this round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$___________</td>
<td>Total request this round $174,230.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total project cost $___________</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total request this round $___________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Demolition and incidental costs will be limited to established caps.

Profile of municipality and county in which project is located, per most recent census:
Municipality: Area 9.3 (in sq. mi.)  Population 20,308  Population per square mile: 2,183
South Mountain Reservation is a 2,110 acre nature preserve located in Essex County. The proposed project is located in Millburn at the southern entrance to the park. Proposed improvements include upgrade of existing parking and trailhead areas, as well as the development of additional parking using permeable surfaces.

The park can be accessed at multiple points, including the Locust Grove Parking Area to be improved. The proposed project will enhance access to the site by increasing parking, improving circulation, and enhancing trailhead access points.

If applicable, describe any possibility of transferring ownership of the site to any government agency or another qualifying nonprofit organization. The property will remain under the ownership of Essex County.

For acquisition projects, has the project site been identified by a municipality or otherwise designated for use in meeting municipal fair share low- and moderate-income housing obligations under the Fair Housing Act of 1985 (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301)? Yes No  If yes, please describe alternative plan to meeting such obligations, if known: 
Name of applicant organization: South Mountain Conservancy

a.k.a.______________________________________________________________

Address: P.O. Box 273

City: South Orange State: NJ Zip: 07079

Telephone number: (__) 973-868-6994 Fax number: (__) ________________

Chief Executive Officer: Dennis Percher, Chair

Does the organization qualify as a Charitable Conservancy for the purposes of P.L. 1979, c. 378 (C. 13:8B-1 et seq.)? ___ Yes ___ No

N.J. Charitable Registration #: CH2454600 from the New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs, Office of Consumer Protection/Charitable Registration. All organizations with current registration are listed at http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocp/charities.htm Nonprofit must be registered and in full compliance with the Charities Registration and Investigation Act of 1994. (N.J.S.A. 45:17-1A-18 et. seq.)

State major purposes, activities, and membership policies of the organization: South Mountain Conservancy is a volunteer-driven, nonprofit corporation founded in March 2000. Through volunteer activities, public programs, and partnership with the Essex County Parks Department, the Conservancy serves as a steward and advocate for the Reservation, striving to preserve, protect, and enhance the ecology, infrastructure, and nature beauty of the site.

Please attach the bylaws.

Describe your organization’s size, including number of staff, board members, committees, and membership. There are 7 members of the Board of Trustees, one Operations Director, seven Program Coordinators (Forest Regeneration (2), Hikes, Mayapple Trail, Chain Saw Gang, Trash Tacklers, and Curation), and four Hike Leaders. There were a total of 124 members of the Conservancy in 2018.

Please describe the proposed source of the required matching funds and any conditions of those funds (e.g. ownership interest in an acquisition project.) If matching funds are not in hand, please describe the status (i.e., planned application vs. pending application vs. secured award), amount (indicate anticipated or actual), and timing of award.

The County of Essex will provide the required matching funds.

Please list and describe relevant examples (if any) of grants successfully managed by the organization (or consultant who will manage the Green Acres project, if approved). Please describe the project and list funding source, grant amount, date awarded, and date completed.

Two prior Green Acres grants related to trail improvement. One focused on forest regeneration. The Conservancy has also received several recreational trails grants from NJDEP.
Person having day-to-day responsibility for this application:

Name          Dennis Percher
Address       P.O. Box 273
City          South Orange
State         NJ
Zip           07079
Telephone Number ( ) 844-766-6266 extension 973-868-6994
Fax Number ( )
E-mail address: chair@somocon.org

Signature       Date 3/26/2019

I, Dennis Percher (name of authorized official) hereby certify that the information provided within this Green Acres Nonprofit application is complete and true.

3/26/2019

Date

Signature of official authorized to submit application as per attached Governing Body Enabling Resolution
APPLICATION MATERIALS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ON PAPER (ONE COPY) AND ELECTRONICALLY.
(INDIVIDUAL EMAIL CANNOT EXCEED 25 MB.)

NOTE: This checklist should be returned with your completed application. If any items are not applicable, please indicate with ‘N/A’ next to that item.

1. Application Form: Are all questions answered? Is form signed?
2. Governing Body Resolution (the enclosed form must be used)
3. Project schedule. Please see attached Things To Be Done list and state when you anticipate addressing/completing each item.
4. Letter from nonprofit’s attorney certifying that the applicant qualifies as a Charitable Conservancy for the purposes of P.L. 1979, c. 378 (C. 13:8B-1 et seq.) (See excerpt on page 15)
5. Units and quantities cost estimate, prepared and signed by an authorized, licensed professional
6. Narrative description of proposal (must address, in order, each applicable factor contained in the enclosed Nonprofit Project Priority System)
7. Site specific mapping:
   a. Site location on legible street map
   b. Tax map outlining boundaries of site to be developed
   c. Existing property survey (if available)
8. Environmental Assessment (instructions enclosed)
9. Conceptual Site Plan. Plans should be prepared by an authorized, licensed professional. Site plans should identify all proposed facilities, any existing facilities and improvements, and any area of proposed tree clearing
10. Copy of 25-year irrevocable property lease or use agreement for project site (if applicable)
    ** Lease term must be 25 years from anticipated date of project commencement to ensure term of public use of facilities.
11. Proof of Publication of newspaper notice and copy of notification letter to municipal governing body(ies) regarding application submission. (See General Information.)
12. Photographs of the site (digital images and/or prints)
13. Letters of support (see Priority System Factor #5)
14. Letters from municipal and county planning boards describing how project is specifically consistent with the appropriate Master Plans (See Priority System Factor #5)
15. List of all applicable permits that may be required for the project. Applicants with projects requiring permits, grants, or other approvals must contact all applicable permitting agencies to secure permit information and application materials prior to the submission of a Green Acres application. Evidence of having met this requirement must be provided with the application. Technical assistance from Green Acres is available upon request.
16. Letter verifying pre-application conference with the Highlands Council, Meadowlands Commission, or Pinelands Commission, if applicable, including the Council/Commission’s comments on the proposed development project
17. By-laws
18. Breakdown of annual operating/maintenance expenses after development of site
19. Conceptual floor plan that indicates the proposed use of any structure to be developed
20. Verification that nonprofit is registered and in full compliance with the Charities Registration Investigation Act of 1994
RESOLUTION
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
GREEN ACRES ENABLING RESOLUTION  

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition, development, and stewardship of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and  

WHEREAS, the South Mountain Conservancy desires to further the public interest by obtaining funding in the amount of $174,230.00 in the form of an $174,230.00 matching grant and, if available, a $0 loan, from the State to fund the following project(s): Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation at a cost of $348,460.00;  

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors resolves that Dennis Percher or the successor to the office of Chair is hereby authorized to:  

(a) make application for such a loan and/or such a grant,  
(b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required, and  
(c) act as the authorized correspondent of the above named applicant; and  

WHEREAS, the State shall determine if the application is complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and  

WHEREAS, the applicant is willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above named project;  

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE Board of Directors of the South Mountain Conservancy  

1. That the Chair of the above named body or board is hereby authorized to execute an agreement and any amendment thereto with the State known as the Locust Grove Parking Area Improvements;  
2. That the applicant has its matching share of the project, if a match is required, in the amount of $174,230.00;  
3. That, in the event the State’s funds are less than the total project cost specified above, the applicant has the balance of funding necessary to complete the project;  
4. That the applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in its performance of the project; and  
5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.  

CERTIFICATION  

I, Jon Stout, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the South Mountain Conservancy through electronic voting held on the 24th day of March, 2019.  

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and the official seal of this body this 25th day of March, 2019.  

[Signature]  
Jon Stout, Secretary, South Mountain Conservancy, Inc.  

A 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Corporation  P.O. Box 273, South Orange, NJ 07079  
www.somocon.org  info@somocon.org  (844) SOMOCON (766-6266)
PROJECT SCHEDULE
**Things to Be Done**

Please assume a hypothetical July 1, 2019 project commencement date (subject to change)

**Acquisition Projects**

1. Meet w/ Green Acres re: beginning appraisals
2. Submit appraisals to Green Acres
3. Obtain and submit Preliminary Assessment Report
4. Sign purchase contract with owner
5. Obtain and submit survey
6. Obtain and submit title insurance commitment
7. Close on property
8. Submit for final payment

**Development Projects:**

1. Obtain and submit Preliminary Assessment Report
2. Design project
3. Apply for/obtain permits (if necessary)
4. Submit plans to Green Acres for pre-bid approval
5. Go out to bid or get quotes (in accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law)
6. Award project contract
7. Begin construction
8. Complete construction
9. Submit for final payment

**Approximate Date**

- September 2019
- December 2019
- January 2020
- February 2020
- March 2020
- April 2020
- May 2020
- June 2020

Comments: _____________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Comments: _____________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
ATTORNEY LETTER
January 27, 2006

Green Acres Program
NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 412
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0412
Attn: Cathy Elliot-Shaw

RE: Nonprofit Assistance Application –
The Friends of Essex County Parks - South Mountain Conservancy

Dear Ms. Elliot-Shaw:

The undersigned represents The Friends of Essex County Parks (“FECP”), and the South Mountain Conservancy, an affiliate of FECP. By way of background, FECP has filed with the State to change its name to the South Mountain Conservancy. The FECP has submitted a Nonprofit Assistance Application along with the Parks Department of Essex County.

The Development Application Attachments Checklist indicates that we must send a letter certifying that the Applicant qualifies as a charitable conservancy.

FECP has submitted to the appropriate office of the United States a formal Application to qualify as a 501(c)3 corporation. That Application clearly indicates that the activities FECP and its new by-laws qualifies them as a Charitable Conservancy as set forth in N.J.S.A. 13:8B-1 et seq.
January 27, 2006
Page 2

Please accept this letter as the appropriate attachment to the Application. If any further documentation is required, please contact either this office or the FECP, P. O. Box 273, South Orange, New Jersey 07079.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL J. FELDMAN

MJJ:fa
COST ESTIMATE
### South Mountain Conservancy
2019 Green Acres Request
South Mountain Reservation Locust Grove Improvements
Cost Estimate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locust Grove Improvements</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Clearing (Remove existing asphalt and replace with new)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Parking Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* 74 Parking Spaces 1,900 Sq. Yards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Turn Around 100 Sq. Yards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Access Road 420 Sq. Yards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong>:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sidewalk along Glen Ave. 50 Sq. Yards</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathway (Gravel) 14 Sq. Yards</td>
<td>$3,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Path Rehabilitation 2,400 Sq. Ft.</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drainage Piping Under Pathway 120 Linear Feet</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Appurtenances</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Trimming</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Locust Grove Improvements</strong>:</td>
<td>$262,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL</strong>:</td>
<td>$262,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services @ 13%</td>
<td>$34,060.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingency @20%</td>
<td>$52,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL BUDGET</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>$348,460.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL 2019 REQUEST</strong>:</td>
<td><strong>$174,230.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Sanjeev Varghese, County Engineer
Essex County Department of Public Works
Project Overview

The focus of the requested grant funding is the Locust Grove Parking Area, which is located in Millburn and offers hikers and nature enthusiasts access to several trailheads. The Locust Grove Parking Area currently offers limited parking space, is prone to flooding, and the traffic pattern in and out of the Reservation at this point can be dangerous to hikers and other park visitors, many of whom are families with small children attracted to the nationally publicized Rahway “Fairy” Trail. The proposed improvements will expand parking, improve and create safer circulation, improve drainage to alleviate flooding, create a raised gravel and stone “turnpike” at the start of the Rahway “Fairy” Trail, replacing an unsafe bridge where it crosses a nearby creek. The pavement and trail improvements would incorporate permeable designs to improve drainage.

Factor #1: Open Space Needs

This rating factor is not applicable as the project does not involve acquisition.

Factor #2: Service Area Facility Needs

South Mountain Reservation is a nature reserve that is part of the Essex County Park System. At 2,110 acres, the Reservation is the largest open space resource in Essex County. It was built from land purchases than began in 1895, the year the Essex County Parks Commission was established. The design of South Mountain Reservation was finalized by the Olmsted Brothers in stages over the years, with a good deal of construction work (trails, foot bridges, shelters, etc.) carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

The Reservation is centrally located in Essex County, intersects portions of Maplewood, Millburn and West Orange, borders South Orange, and lies between the first and second ridges of the Watchung Mountains. Minor improvements have been made to the Reservation over the years, however, the property has been preserved primarily in its wild state. Woodlands abound in a variety of hardwood trees, and tall hemlocks tower above streams, creeks, and ponds. The west branch of the Rahway River flows through the valley. A reservoir and watershed owned by the City of Orange lies in the northern tract.

The South Mountain Recreation Complex lies within its boundaries, including Turtle Back Zoo and other exceptional recreational amenities. There is an extensive system of trails throughout the Reservation: more than 20 miles of wide gravel roads and more than 25 miles of blazed hiking trails, the longest blazed trails being the Lenape, Elmdale, Rahway, Oakdale, and the Turtle Back. The Lenape, the longest, starts at Locust Grove in Millburn and travels 7.6 miles within the Reservation before continuing 26 miles through several Essex County parks into Newark. Vistas of New York, Elizabeth, Union, Staten Island, and Newark can be viewed from the eastern ridge, 400 feet above the communities of Millburn and Maplewood. Deep in the woods, a 25-foot waterfall at Hemlock Falls is a dramatic feature.

The focus of the requested grant funding is the Locust Grove Parking Area, which is located in Millburn and offers hikers and nature enthusiasts access to several trailheads. The Locust Grove Parking Area currently offers limited parking space, is prone to flooding, and the traffic pattern in
and out of the Reservation at this point can be dangerous to hikers and other park visitors, many of whom are families with small children attracted to the nationally publicized Rahway “Fairy” Trail. The proposed improvements will expand parking, improve and create safer circulation, improve drainage to alleviate flooding, create a raised gravel and stone “turnpike” at the start of the Rahway “Fairy” Trail, replacing an unsafe bridge where it crosses a nearby creek. The pavement and trail improvements would incorporate permeable designs to improve drainage. As a result of the project, the Locust Grove Parking Area would accommodate more visitors, improve safety, increase permeability, and enhance the recreational experience for hikers and other parkgoers accessing the Reservation from this very popular southern entrance by car, train and bus.

**Factor #3: Environmental Protection**

This rating factor is not applicable as the project does not involve acquisition.

**Factor #4: Historic Resource Preservation**

This rating factor is not applicable as the project does not involve acquisition.

**Factor #5: Public Participation/Support/Planning**

(a) Support

The project is a high priority for South Mountain Conservancy as it will enhance access to the Reservation, improve safety, and create a healthier environment for residents to enjoy outdoor recreational activities. In addition, the proposed project has widespread support, as demonstrated by enclosed letters of support from the following sources: Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. and Millburn Environmental Commission.

(b) Planning

The project is consistent with the draft 2018-2022 New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and will support State’s the goals and objectives for open space and recreation investments over the next five years. Specifically, the project advances the State’s goals and objectives under the Recreation and Stewardship priority issues areas.

Under the priority issue of Land Preservation, the project will support the implementation of the following action items:

- Continue to provide funding to local governments and conservation organizations for open space preservation projects.

Under the priority issue of Recreation, the project will support the implementation of the following action items:
South Mountain Conservancy – 2019 Green Acres Nonprofit Park Development Application
Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation - Narrative

• Continue to provide Green Acres funding to local governments and nonprofits for the development of park and recreation facilities on municipal, county and state parkland or nonprofit-owned land.
• Continue local government and nonprofit funding for urban open space and recreation projects.
• Continue the preservation of land for conservation and recreation purposes in urbanized counties by the State.

Under the priority issue of Greenways and Trails, the project will support the implementation of the following action items:

• Support greenway and trail projects through Green Acres local government funding and technical assistance.

Under the priority issue of Stewardship, the project will support the implementation of the following action items:

• Increase public access to public open space and recreation areas.

The project is also consistent with local planning documents at the municipal and county levels, advancing key community objectives for enhancing access to quality recreation and open space amenities. The Essex County Park System’s Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan notes that “[s]ubstantial physical improvements are needed to existing structures, recreational facilities, and landscapes throughout the park system” and that it is necessary to ensure that all facilities are brought into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.1 Moreover, the Essex County plan provides a policy goal of entering into public-private partnerships with community groups in order to achieve the necessary improvements and enhancements.2

Finally, the project supports the goals and objectives of the Millburn Master Plan, including the following goals and objectives:

• Encourage appropriate land uses that promote the character of the Township as a small suburb of the highest quality, specifically the objective to:
  
  o Provide areas for recreation to serve the needs of all age groups, including indoor and outdoor facilities as well as active and passive recreational opportunities

• Develop and implement strategies to address town-wide sustainability, resiliency and to adapt to global climate change, specifically the objective to:
  
  o Support and adopt policies to protect and improve: • The quality of surface and ground water; • The local and regional water supply; • The bioavailability of land • Air quality; • The Township’s open spaces and natural resources

1 Essex County Park System, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, at 36.
2 Id. at 41.
Factor #6: Project Quality

(a) Accessibility

a. Close to Population Centers

Although South Mountain Reservation totals more than 2,000 acres in size, the property is surrounded by communities that are primarily residential in nature. The park is accessible from points throughout Essex County and beyond by way of multiple major roadways, including Interstate 78, Interstate 80, the Garden State Parkway, NJ-24, and NJ-10. The project site, Locust Grove Parking Area, is a short distance from the Central Business District in Millburn.

b. Accessible by Public Transportation

Locust Grove Parking Area is a two-minute walk from Millburn Train Station, which offers Midtown Direct service on the Morristown and Gladstone Line operated by NJ Transit. NJ Transit offers bus service on Route #70 that stops at Millburn Station.

c. Accessible by Walking and Bicycling

The trailheads and parking area at Locust Grove are located a short walk from the main commercial district in Millburn and are easily accessed by individuals who are walking or bicycling. Although there are paved roads traveling through the Reservation that accommodate bicycle uses, the primary use of the Locust Grove Parking Area is to access the various hiking trails at the Reservation. Nevertheless, the Parking Area is accessible by bicycle. The Parking Area is also close to Crest Drive, which is a heavily used walking and bicycling route to visit Washington Rock, a popular scenic overlook.

d. Creates Public Access where None Exists or Where Existing Access is Undeveloped or Restricted

The proposed project will improve and expand parking near Millburn Train Station, enhancing access to the many trails that travel throughout South Mountain Reservation. The proposed design includes expanded parking at the existing parking lot. The improvements would provide better circulation and increase safety for those using the lot to access hiking trails, especially families with small children at the start of the Rahway “Fairy” Trail. Additionally, the project scope includes trailhead improvements and the replacement of a narrow bridge that is considered unsafe. Additionally, the project will alleviate flooding by addressing drainage inefficiencies and incorporating the use of permeable surfaces to better manager stormwater flows.

(b) Recreation Potential

This rating factor is not applicable as the project does not involve acquisition.
South Mountain Conservancy – 2019 Green Acres Nonprofit Park Development Application
Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation - Narrative

(c) Water Access

This project will immediately increase physical and visual public access to water as the Locust Grove Parking Lot is the southern trailhead for the Rahway Trail which follows the west branch of the Rahway River upstream for 2.6 miles past the Diamond Mill and Campbell’s Ponds where fish are stocked in the spring. It ends near Hemlock Falls. A very popular six-mile, “Great Circle” hike uses the Lenape and Rahway Trails (both originating at Locust Grove) to follow the Rahway River and visit Hemlock Falls. In addition, for ambitious hikers willing to walk three-plus miles, the South Mountain Reservation includes the Orange Reservoir with its 1.7-mile, handicap-accessible path encircling the water (with fishing stations), a paddle boat rental, and a children’s water-themed Regatta Playground with the adjoining large, covered open-air Clipper Pavilion. Multiple trails are accessible from this area that lead back to Locust Grove.

(d) Project Quality

a. Includes multiple recreation and conservation purposes

The project enhances access, circulation, and safety in a heavily utilized parking area that connects parkgoers to numerous hiking trails that travel throughout South Mountain Reservation. Additionally, the project scope incorporates flood mitigation strategies to improve drainage around the site. In addition to parking improvements and expansion of available parking spaces, the project also includes replacement of a narrow bridge on the Rahway “Fairy” Trail that is in disrepair and will provide for a safer and more enjoyable experience for hikers, especially families with small children.

b. Uses effective landscaping with native species

The project will incorporate minor landscaping work as needed to reconfigure the site for circulation, parking, drainage, and access improvements. To the extent possible and necessary, the landscape design will include the planting of native species.

c. Provides opportunities for various active and passive recreational uses by diverse user groups

The Locust Grove Parking Area provides access to four trailheads that travel throughout South Mountain Reservation (see attached map). Other active and passive recreational uses of the Reservation include bicycling, paddle boats, a playground, Turtle Back Zoo, a dog park, waterfalls, and other unique features of the nature preserve.

d. Includes significant plantings of native tree species

The project will incorporate minor landscaping work as needed to reconfigure the site for circulation, parking, drainage, and access improvements. To the extent possible, the landscape design will include the planting of native tree species.
e. Minimizes use of impervious surfaces

The project design does not propose the addition of impervious surfaces. Rather, the existing parking lot and new parking area will incorporate permeable materials and swales to alleviate flooding and improve drainage.

(e) Cost Effectiveness

a. Donation of Labor, Equipment, or Materials or Partnerships

South Mountain Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies heavily on volunteerism from within the local community to carry out its mission. In 2018, its volunteers contributed nearly 4,900 hours to improve the park or provide programs that engage the public within it. The Conservancy proposes to enter into an interlocal agreement with Essex County in order to complete this project. This public-private partnership will allow the Conservancy to leverage the County’s capacity and other resources to complete and maintain the proposed improvements and enhancements.

b. Cost of Future Operation and Maintenance

There are minimal operation and maintenance costs as the project incorporates parking and trailhead improvements to existing facilities. These costs are not anticipated to significantly increase from current operations and maintenance costs incurred by the County (the responsible party).

c. Whether the Project Site has Development Approvals from Local Planning Board

This rating factor is not applicable as the project does not involve acquisition.

Factor #7: Project Priorities

(a) Provide Investment and/or Ecotourism Potential or Public/Private Sector Venture

The project has significant ecotourism potential as it seeks to improve and expand parking at a major access point to South Mountain Reservation. There are five hiking trails that start at the Locust Grove Parking Area or are close by. These can be accessed from the Locust Grove Parking Area which offer opportunities to view a number of natural and historical features found throughout the Reservation. These include ponds, waterfalls, a sculpture park, wildflower meadows, the historical Washington Rock and adjoining shelter, and many other resources. Additionally, there are a number of scenic overlooks found throughout the preserve. Finally, in 2019, for the tenth year, the Conservancy will host the Mayapple Trail Runs, a USA Track and Field sanctioned event that attracts over one hundred runners from across the region each spring to run distances of 10, 20, 31 (50 km), and 62 miles (100 km). The starting and end points for these races is Locust Grove. Completed in partnership with Essex County, the new project will be completed through a public-private venture that increases and enhances the use of public open space.
(b) Waterfront Development or Redevelopment

The project will enhance access to the trails that travel throughout South Mountain Reservation, most specifically the Rahway Trail which follows the west branch of the Rahway River, passing by the Diamond Mill and Campbell’s Ponds. Further upstream is the large Orange Reservoir with its handicap accessible path. The Reservoir offers opportunities to walk along the waterfront, play at the Children’s Regatta Playground, ride the miniature train, ride paddleboats, and experience other waterfront recreational activities.

(c) Trails, Bike Paths, or Greenways

The South Mountain Reservation has multiple trails totaling around 50 miles, half of which are narrow, blazed hiking trails. The Locust Grove Parking Area is the start of four trails: the Rahway and Lenape (blazed) and the River and Quarry woods roads, and the best access point for the nearby blazed Elmdale Trail. The vistas of New York, Elizabeth, Union, Staten Island, and Newark can be viewed from the eastern ridge, 400 feet above the communities of Millburn and Maplewood. Deep in the woods, a 25-foot waterfall at Hemlock Falls is a dramatic feature.

(d) Historic or Archeological Resource Enhancement or Preservation

While not listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, South Mountain Reservation received a SHPO opinion on 11/18/2018 and features a number of historic markers throughout its footprint. These includes Washington Rock, which is the Park System's bona fide Revolutionary War historic site, dating back to the late 1700's when Beacon Signal Station 9 was located here—one of 23 beacons built by General Washington to signal British troop movements quartered on Staten Island and New York City.

It was from this outlook that, on June 23, 1780, Essex County and Newark Militia were first warned that the British had launched an attack westward toward "the Gap," (Hobart Gap), a natural pathway to Washington's troops encamped at Morris Town. In a pincer movement designed to gain access to the Gap, Hessian troops fought bitterly along Vaux Hall Road, with the British advanced along Galloping Hill Road, until they were repelled, the Hessians at the base of the mountain and the British in Millburn—called Millville in those days. Washington Rock served again as a lookout for the Army when reactivated during the War of 1812.

Additionally, a significant amount of the construction work (trails, foot bridges, shelters, etc.) was carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.

(e) Wildlife Habitat Protection

The project is located within the footprint of South Mountain Reservation, a 2,100-acre nature preserve and will contribute to the enjoyment of the Reservation as a nature preserve that protects significant wildlife habitat in densely populated Essex County.
Multiple Uses and Provides Active and Passive Recreation Opportunities

The Locust Grove Parking Area provides access to numerous trailheads that travel throughout South Mountain Reservation. The 20-acre Turtle Back Zoo and the larger South Mountain Reservation complex offers visitors opportunities to participate in a wide range of active and passive recreational experiences, including walking/hiking paths, paddle boats, a dog park, various play areas (including the Regatta Playground, a petting zoo, pony rides, miniature golf, an ADA-accessible miniature train that travels throughout the Reservation, a carousel, and treetop adventure course (including a zip line). Most of these experiences are ADA-accessible, user- and family-friendly, and affordable to the diverse population found throughout the greater Essex County region.

Addition to or the Development of a Prior Green Acres-funded Acquisition or Development Project

South Mountain Reservation has been supported and enhanced through prior Green Acres funding.

Provide Donation of Land, Equipment, Labor or Cash

South Mountain Conservancy will work in partnership with Essex County to implement the project. The contributions of volunteers will ensure that the project maximizes the use of resources and optimizes the impact of the improvements on the park experience at the South Mountain Reservation.

Likelihood or Threat of Private Development for Other than Recreation and Conservation Purposes

This rating factor is not applicable as the project does not involve acquisition. There are no existing or anticipated threats of private development at the site.

Design and Construction that Utilizes Clean and Renewable Energy and Maximizes Energy Efficiency

This criterion is not applicable.

Rehabilitation or Redevelopment of an Existing Recreational Facility

The project includes the improvement of an existing parking area and trailhead. The scope also includes a new parking area (adjacent) along an old railroad right of way, drainage improvements, and the incorporation of permeable pavements to alleviate flooding. As a result, existing access to hiking trails and other recreational activities at South Mountain Reservation will be enhanced for all park visitors. Circulation improvements will make it easier to safely park a vehicle, walk to one of four immediate trailheads (Rahway, River, Quarry and Lenape Trails) and the nearby Elmdale Trail, enjoy the Reservation, and exit the park.
(l) Reclamation of a Former Brownfield Site

This criterion is not applicable.

Factor #8: Facility Design Sensitivity and Site Suitability

(a) General Recreation Facilities

1. Locating proposed facilities in already cleared areas, to minimize additional clearing of trees and vegetation;

The project will be located at the site of an existing parking lot, which will be slightly expanded. Minimal tree and vegetation clearing will be necessary to complete the project.

2. Locating proposed facilities where topography and soil conditions are suitable, to minimize grading, excavation, fill, and drainage of a site; and

The project site is located at the base of the mountainous terrain that is found throughout the Reservation. Expanding parking at this location will minimize vehicular traffic through the park, eliminate the need for significant clearing, and allow for parking to be completed on flat land. Minimal grading and drainage improvements (swales) will be incorporated to alleviate flooding. The anticipated earth work is very minimal and not anticipated to have a significant impact on the surrounding natural elements and resources.

3. Retaining, enhancing, or establishing vegetative buffers, or incorporating other site-sensitive techniques, to minimize impacts on sensitive areas such as shellfish beds, beach/dune systems, forests, wetlands, steep slopes, endangered or threatened species habitat, and aquifer recharge areas.

The project will not have an impact of the heavily forested areas found throughout the Reservation. The site is located at the base of the mountainous terrain at an existing parking area and railroad right of way and will not impact forests, slopes, or habitat.

(b) Structures/Buildings

There are no buildings including in the scope of work.
LOCATION MAP
&
TAX MAP
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Environmental Assessment

Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation

1. Description of the Proposed Action

   a. Briefly Describe the Total Development Project

The focus of the requested grant funding is the Locust Grove Parking Area, which is located in Millburn and offers hikers and nature enthusiasts access to several trailheads. The Locust Grove Parking Area currently offers limited parking space, is prone to flooding, and the traffic pattern in and out of the Reservation at this point can be dangerous to hikers and other park visitors, many of whom are families with small children attracted to the nationally publicized Rahway “Fairy” Trail. The proposed improvements will expand parking, improve and create safer circulation, improve drainage to alleviate flooding, create a raised gravel and stone “turnpike” at the start of the Rahway “Fairy” Trail, replacing an unsafe bridge where it crosses a nearby creek. The pavement and trail improvements would incorporate permeable designs to improve drainage.

   b. State Objectives of the Project

The goal of the project is to improve the Locust Grove Parking Area in order to accommodate more visitors, improve the safety of park visitors, address drainage and flooding issues, and enhance the recreational experience for hikers and other parkgoers accessing the Reservation from this very popular southern entrance by car, train and bus.

   c. Fully Describe Multi-Phase Projects

The proposed project is not multi-phase in scope.

2. Description of the Environment

South Mountain Reservation is located in the Lower Passaic and Saddle River Watershed Management Area. Moreover, “Essex County is located within the glaciated Newark Basin portion of the Piedmont physiographic province. The Newark Basin is an elongated northeast/southwest-trending rift valley.” The site sits on the Passaic Formation Sandstone and Siltstone facies. The primary rock type on the formation is sandstone, with a siltstone secondary rock type. The sandstone is interbedded grayish-red to brownish-red to a maximum thickness of roughly 3,600 feet. Geochronologically, the formation is estimated to be of the Lower Jurassic and Upper Triassic periods. The native soils consist mainly of Boonton Loam, which is a fertile soil consisting of clay, sand, and humus.
South Mountain Conservancy – 2019 Green Acres Nonprofit Park Development Application
Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation
Environmental Assessment

The 2,110-acre South Mountain Reservation is situated on top of a northeasterly sloping hillside. South Mountain Reservation is the largest and most complex of the open space facilities within the Essex County Parks System, with a diverse topography ranging from forested hillcrests with roadways, to a valley containing a stream and a reservoir. The Reservation, like most parks in the Essex County Parks System, was designed by the Olmstead family – who designed New York City’s Central Park – and contains a naturalistic landscape inhabited by local bird life and woodland animals typical of the northern New Jersey region. Woodlands abound in a variety of hardwood trees, and tall hemlocks tower above streams, creeks, and ponds. The west branch of the Rahway River flows through the valley in the southern portion of the Reservation. A reservoir and watershed owned by the City of Orange lies in the northern tract of the Reservation.

The Reservation lies within the boundaries of the South Mountain Reservation Historic District, roughly bound by Northfield Avenue, Old Short Hills Road Millburn Avenue, Wyoming Avenue, and Gregory Avenue. The District received a SHPO opinion on 11/18/2008. The Reservation has been preserved primarily in its wild state, with minor modifications over the years. During the American Revolution and War of 1812, Washington Rock within the footprint of the Reservation served as an important beacon signal station. There are no known historic or archaeological resources within the footprint of the project site.

The park is accessible from points throughout Essex County and beyond by way of multiple major roadways, including Interstate 78, Interstate 80, the Garden State Parkway, NJ-24, and NJ-10. The project site, Locust Grove Parking Area, is a short distance from the Central Business District in Millburn. Locust Grove Parking Area is a two-minute walk from Millburn Train Station, which offers Midtown Direct service on the Morristown and Gladstone Line operated by NJ Transit. NJ Transit offers bus service on Route #70 that stops at Millburn Station.

The area surrounding the Reservation is primarily light residential and comprised of the suburban communities of Millburn, West Orange, Short Hills, Maplewood, and South Orange.

3. Environmental Impact Analysis of Proposed Action

a. Discuss All Affected Resources and the Significance of Each Impact

The proposed project will improve and expand parking in the southern portion of the Reservation, enhancing access to the many trails that travel throughout South Mountain Reservation. The proposed design includes expanded parking at the existing parking lot. The improvements would provide better circulation and increase safety for those using the lot to access hiking trails, especially families with small children at the start of the Rahway “Fairy” Trail. Additionally, the project scope includes trailhead improvements and the replacement of a narrow bridge that is considered unsafe. Additionally, the project will alleviate flooding by addressing drainage inefficiencies and incorporating the use of permeable surfaces, where possible, to better manager stormwater flows.
b. Discuss Short Term and Long Term Project Impacts

Short-term projects include minor soil disruption to expand and improve the parking area for better access to the trails in the Reservation. Improvements to the site will result in better circulation, parking, drainage, and access improvements. Long-term impacts include extension of asphalt cover in an area already used for parking. However, the new pavement is minor in comparison to the 2,110-acre footprint of the Reservation and any permeability impacts will be offset by drainage improvements incorporated into the scope of work to alleviate flooding and standing water.

c. Discuss Anticipated Increase in Recreation and Overall Use of Site Over Time

The site is already a popular parking location for families accessing the Reservation for use of various trails. The expansion of the Locust Grove Parking Area will accommodate approximately 15-20 additional vehicles, which will result in increased vehicular traffic to the Reservation, as well as foot traffic as more families are able to more easily and safely access the park’s facilities. Drainage improvements and the new bridge will also make it easier for visitors to utilize the park’s recreational amenities.

d. Identify Adjacent Environmental Features that May be Affected by the Proposal

Adjacent environmental features include heavily forested areas that will not be disturbed by the project. Drainage improvements will alleviate flooding and have a positive impact on trees and vegetation surrounding the project site.

e. List Any Permits Required for Project and Brief Status

NJDEP Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Permit is likely needed.

f. Natural Heritage Data Request Form

Not applicable, as the project will not impact an undisturbed portion of the site. Parking is already available at the location proposed for improvement.

4. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

a. Identify Alternate Sites

The project site is already a parking area for accessing the many hiking trail in South Mountain Reservation, therefore, there are no alternative sites available without impacting an undisturbed portion of the site.
b. Discuss Alternate Levels and Types of Development

There are no alternative levels or types of development, as the project seeks to expand an existing parking area to improve safety, circulation, drainage, and accessibility.

c. Compare Environmental Impacts of Each Alternative

No alternative levels of development have been identified, therefore, there are no alternatives to compare.

5. Mitigating Measures

a. Describe the Measures that will be Undertaken to Mitigate Adverse Impacts

The South Mountain Conservancy is dedicated to ensuring that the entirety of South Mountain Reservation is cared for with the utmost of respect and diligence. In this spirit, the Conservancy resolves to take all proper measures and precautions during and after the course of work to ensure that the surrounding environment is not negatively impacted. These measures and precautions include, but are not limited to, the erection of silt fencing during and after construction, the proliferation of soil and sediment controls (as necessary), scheduling and staging efforts to minimize overall disturbance, and significant landscaping activities that include the replanting of any flora whose removal is required for the completion of work. Additionally, the Conservancy is committed to continued compliance with any and all rules and regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and/or other regulatory agencies regarding building, remediation, and environmental conservation, and to the attainment of all necessary permits for building, remediation, and environmental conservation, as needed.
CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN
Locust Grove Parking and Rahway “Fairy” Trail Improvements

Phase 1. Expansion and Improvement of Current Parking

A. Expand current lot to allow parking on both sides using permeable material
B. Construct a swale (---) and sidewalk (____) on the west edge to alleviate flooding and allow safe passage to the Rahway Fairy Trail from all parts of the parking lot and Glen Ave. (if someone parked across the street).
C. If only this phase is implemented, mark a turnaround area. Current lot is addressed, mark areas no parking areas (xxx), and create a turnaround area.
D. Construction of 380-foot, four-foot wide soil and stone raised “turnpike”
E. Replacement of unsafe, narrow bridge over creek
LAND USE AGREEMENT
WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program (“State”), provides loans and/or grants to municipal and county governments and grants to nonprofit organizations for assistance in the acquisition, development, and stewardship of lands for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Branch Brook Park Alliance is applying for Green Acres funding for improvements to the Ballantine Gates at Branch Brook Park; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Irvington Park Corp is applying for Green Acres funding for improvements to the ballfields at Irvington Park; and

WHEREAS, the Zoological Society of New Jersey, Inc. is applying for Green Acres funding for a new bear exhibit at Turtle Back Zoo; and,

WHEREAS, the Essex County Parks Foundation is applying for Green Acres funding for a new bear exhibit at Turtle Back Zoo; and,

WHEREAS, the South Mountain Conservancy is applying for Green Acres funding for parking and trail improvements at South Mountain Reservation; and,

WHEREAS, the five projects being proposed by nonprofit organizations in Essex County are located at parks and open space properties owned and maintained by the County of Essex; and,

WHEREAS, the State shall determine if the applications submitted by nonprofit organizations for projects within the Essex County Parks System are complete and in conformance with the scope and intent of the Green Acres Program, and notify the applicant of the amount of the funding award; and

WHEREAS, the applicant nonprofit organizations are willing to use the State’s funds in accordance with such rules, regulations and applicable statutes, and are willing to enter into an agreement with the State for the above-named projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders

1. That the County of Essex approves of the applications to be submitted by nonprofit organizations and supportive of the proposed improvements within the Essex County Parks System; and,

2. That the County of Essex will enter into a long-term lease or use agreement and a partnership agreement with each of the aforementioned nonprofit organizations, if the project(s) are approved.
This is a draft copy of a Resolution that will be approved by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders on Wednesday March 27, 2019. A final version of the fully executed, signed, and sealed Resolution will be forwarded to the Green Acres Program following the meeting.

CERTIFICATION

I, __________ , do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders at a meeting held on the _____ day of ________________, _____.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and the official seal of this body this _____ day of ________________, _____.

____________________________________
__________________ Secretary
PROOF OF PUBLICATION
OF PUBLIC HEARING
ADVERTISEMENT
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**CLAIMANTE CERTIFICATION AND DECLARATION**

I do solemnly declare and certify under the penalties of law that this bill or invoice is correct in all its particulars, that the goods have been furnished or services have been rendered as stated herein, that no harm or injury has been given or received by any person or persons within the knowledge of this claimant in connection with the above claim, and that the amount herein stated is justly due and owing, and that the amount charged is a reasonable one.

Date: 3/14/2019

Signature: [Signature]

Fed ID: 13-4123607

Official Position: Art Manager

**CERTIFICATION BY RECEIVING AGENCY**

[Certification Text]

**CERTIFICATION BY APPROVAL OFFICIAL**

[Certification Text]

Signature: [Signature]

This form approved for use by local governments by the local finance board.
State of New Jersey) as
County of Middlesex)
Gabrielle Sennon being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of NJ Advance Media; that Star Ledger is a public
newspaper, with general circulation in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth,
Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as
printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):
Star Ledger 03/13/2019

______________________________
Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of March 2019

______________________________
Notary Public

South Mountain Conservancy
Newark, New Jersey

Public Notice – For the purpose of applying for funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for improvements to South Mountain Reservation.

Notice is hereby given that the South Mountain Conservancy, in coordination with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, intends to make application for funding to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for the Improvement of South Mountain Reservation. A copy of the application will be on file at the South Mountain Conservancy and at Green Acres and available for review and comment after the March 30, 2019 submission deadline.

3/13/2019 $40.30
The SMC has applied for Green Acres funds from the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for improvements to South Mountain Reservation. They require we post the following notice:

South Mountain Conservancy
South Orange, N.J.

Public Notice – For the purpose of applying for funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for improvements to South Mountain Reservation.

Notice is hereby given that the South Mountain Conservancy, in coordination with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, intends to make application for funding to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for the improvement of South Mountain Reservation. A copy of the application will be on file at the South Mountain Conservancy and at Green Acres and available for review and comment after the March 30, 2019 submission deadline.

***

Annual SMC Trailkeepers & Chain Saw Gang Breakfast Saturday, March 30th, 9:30-12:30
March 7, 2019

Christine Gatti, RMC
Township Clerk
Township of Millburn
375 Millburn Avenue
Millburn, New Jersey 07041

Dear Ms. Carnevale,

In keeping with the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Green Acres Program guidelines, I write to you today on behalf of the South Mountain Conservancy. This letter is to notify the Township of Millburn of the South Mountain Conservancy’s intention to apply for Green Acres funding. This application will be submitted in coordination with the County of Essex Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, and will be used to improve South Mountain Reservation.

Attached please find a copy of the public noticed regarding this project, which will be published on March 13, 2019 in the Star Ledger. On behalf of the South Mountain Reservation, I look forward to working together to improve and enhance the facilities at South Mountain Reservation. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact my office directly.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Daniel K. Salvante
Director
PHOTOGRAPHS
Photos

Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation
LETTERS OF SUPPORT
March 1, 2019

Cecile M. Murphy  
Program Specialist  
Green Acres Program  
Mail Code 501-01  
P.O. Box 420  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Ms. Murphy:

The purpose of this letter is to support the South Mountain Conservancy’s application for a Green Acres Program Grant. The proposed project is trail maintenance and the creation of additional parking in Essex County South Mountain Reservation. This funding will enable the South Mountain Conservancy to assist Essex County in our ongoing initiative to revitalize the Essex County Parks System.

The upgrades will enable the South Mountain Conservancy – in partnership with Essex County – to upgrade hiking trails and make improvements to the parking area near Locust Grove in Essex County South Mountain Reservation. This will enhance access to the reservation, improve safety and help the County create a clean and healthful environment where residents can spend their recreational time. Such a project is in keeping with the Essex County Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan, which specifically lists the rehabilitation of park infrastructure as primary goals.

Receipt of Green Acres funding will allow the South Mountain Conservancy to help Essex County fulfill its goal of ensuring that the Essex County parks continue to meet the changing recreation and leisure time needs of our residents, to initiate projects that modernize our parks, and to enable us to maximize the use of our open spaces and facilities in a manner that inspires our residence to be proud of their county parks.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you should require anything further in support of this application, please feel free to contact my office directly. Working together we will continue Putting Essex County First.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.  
Essex County Executive

Putting Essex County First

ESSEX COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
March 26, 2019

Mr. Dennis Percher, Chair  
South Mountain Conservancy  
P.O. Box 273  
So. Orange, NJ 07079

Dear Mr. Percher:

I am writing in support of the South Mountain Conservancy's Green Acres application for Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation. This project will help alleviate many problems associated with the increasing popularity of the Millburn entrance to the South Mountain Reservation in the last few years. Increased car traffic has overwhelmed the current parking facilities, especially on weekends and holidays. It currently can accommodate 25 cars, at best. In addition, the advent of many families with young children to visit the popular Rahway "Fairy" Trail, which originates at the parking lot, has created a dangerous situation.

This grant will expand the parking and provide safe circulation for people, reduce flooding, create a safer environment and improve the experience of park users. My organization strongly supports this initiative and funding by the State and matching funds from Essex County's Open Space Trust Fund.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Elizabeth Vollavanh  
Chair, Millburn Environmental Commission
PLANNING BOARD LETTERS
February 25, 2019

Dennis Percher, Chair
South Mountain Conservancy Board of Trustees
P.O. Box 273
South Orange, New Jersey 07079

RE: NJDEP Green Acres Application
South Mountain Conservancy
Trail & Parking Improvements at South Mountain Reservation
Millburn, Essex County, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Percher,

Please note that the Essex County Planning Board supports the South Mountain Conservancy’s efforts to secure funding for trail and parking improvements at in the South Mountain Reservation. The proposed project is consistent with our Master Plan and will significantly enhance recreational and open space in our community.

The Essex County Planning Board supports the South Mountain Conservancy’s application because it is consistent with the goals of the Essex County Master Plan to beautify and improve access to open space and/or park facilities within the county. Specifically, the project supports the following goals and objectives of the Master Plan:

- Rehabilitate each County park for the full use and enjoyment of all County residents
- Support local and community-based efforts that preserve open space and that expand the recreational opportunities available to County residents
- Establish partnerships with community groups and user groups that support the County Park System
- Pursue federal, state, and nonprofit funding to improve County Parks, preserve open space, and conserve natural and cultural resources
- Capitalize on the unique features of the Essex County Park System, and provide new recreational programs and facilities to meet the needs of all County residents
- Establish a safe environment in each County park so that every visitor feels secure and at ease
This project is consistent with the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan, the New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and both local and county land use plans, particularly in regards to open space and recreation elements thereof. Specifically, the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan prioritizes providing maximum active and passive recreational opportunities and facilities at the neighborhood, local, and regional levels by concentrating on the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing parks and open space.

Additionally, the proposed improvements support the goals and objectives of the Together North Jersey Plan, which sets our region’s priority goals, and the Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities livability principles. Specifically, FA13 (Improve stewardship of natural lands, agricultural lands, open space, parks, historic resources) and FA12 (Improve health outcomes for our region’s residents).

Thank you for taking the initiative to advance this important project in our community. The Essex County Planning Board supports the South Mountain Conservancy’s effort to acquire grant funding from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Green Acres Program and wish you the best in securing funding for this project.

If you have any questions, please direct them to me at (973) 226-8500, extension 2580 or dantonio@essexcountynj.org.

Sincerely,

David Antonio, P.P., AICP
County Planner
Municipal Planning Board Letter

The County of Essex and the South Mountain Conservancy have reached out to the Millburn Planning Board to present the proposed project and demonstrate consistency with the local Master Plan.

A letter explaining the project’s consistency with the local Master Plan has also been requested from the Millburn Planning Board. The South Mountain Conservancy anticipates receiving the requested letter shortly. Upon receipt, the letter will be forwarded to the Green Acres Program for review, in keeping with the Green Acres Program application guidelines.
PERMITS
Permits

*Trail & Parking Improvements at Locust Grove, South Mountain Reservation*

- NJDEP Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
BY LAWS
ARTICLE I
MISSION AND OFFICE

1. The mission of the South Mountain Conservancy is to:
   Preserve the 2,047-acre South Mountain Reservation by maintaining and improving its trails, infrastructure, ecology and landscaping so that this unique Essex County resource can continue to provide natural beauty and lasting value to the residents of northern New Jersey;
   Promote the wise use of the Reservation and environmental awareness through activities, educational programs and public service efforts, including advising local government agencies and representing public opinion to them; and
   Partner with the Essex County Park System, community groups and allied organizations in support of the above objectives.

2. Any office of the South Mountain Conservancy, Inc. (“the Conservancy”) shall be located in Essex County, New Jersey.

ARTICLE II
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Conservancy shall be managed by a Board of Trustees (“Board”). Each trustee shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be a resident of New Jersey. With the adoption of these by-laws, the Board will consist of seven persons. The number of Board members may be changed from time to time by the vote of a majority of the
Trustees then in office. No decrease shall shorten the term of any Trustee then in office or reduce the number of Trustees to fewer than three.

2. The first Board consisted of those persons named as the initial Board in the Certificate of Incorporation of the Conservancy (formerly “Friends of Essex County Parks”). They held office until the 2005 meeting of the members, when successors were duly elected. Subsequently, all trustees shall be elected by the Board. They shall hold office until successors have been qualified and duly elected at the next Annual Meeting of the Board.

3. The Board shall elect a Chairperson from amongst its members to preside at its meetings. The Chairperson shall, with the advice and consent of the Board, appoint a nominating committee of one or more trustees which shall recommend to the Board the names of persons to be submitted for election as trustees at Annual Meetings of the Board. No elected trustee shall be an officer or employee of, or hold elective office in Essex County, New Jersey.

4. Thereafter, trustees elected at the Annual Meeting shall hold office for three-year terms, provided, however, that at the first Annual Meeting of the Board, the trustees shall be divided into three classes for the purpose of staggering their terms of office. The terms of office of the trustees initially classified shall be as follows: that of the first class shall expire at the next Annual Meeting of the Board, the second class at the second succeeding Annual Meeting. After such initial classification, trustees to replace those whose terms expire at each Annual Meeting shall be elected at that meeting to hold office for a full term in accordance with such classification.

5. Each trustee shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected, and until the successor has been duly elected and qualified, or until his or her prior resignation or removal as hereinafter provided.

6. The Board may remove any trustee thereof for cause only.
7. A trustee may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board or to an officer of the Conservancy. Unless otherwise specified in the notice, the resignation shall take effect upon receipt thereof by the Board or such officer. Acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

8. If the number of trustees is at any time changed by action of the Board, any newly created trusteeships or any decrease in trusteeships shall be apportioned among the classes as to make all classes as nearly equal in number as possible.

9. Newly-created trusteeships or vacancies in the Board may be filled by a vote of a majority of the trustees then in office. A trustee elected to fill a vacancy caused by resignation, death, or removal shall be elected to hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

10. An Annual Meeting of the Board shall be held every December, upon not less than ten days written notice to the current trustees of the time, place, and purposes of the meeting, for the election of trustees and officers and such other business as may come before the meeting. All other meetings shall be held at such time and place as shall be from time to time determined by the Board.

11. No written notice shall be required for regular meetings of the Board for which the time and place have been fixed. Special Meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Board or by a majority of the trustees then in office. Written, oral, or any other method of notice of the time and place shall be given for Special Meetings of the Board in sufficient time for the convenient assembly of the Board. The notice must specify the purpose of the meeting.

12. A majority of the entire number of trustee positions on the Board, including open positions, shall constitute a quorum. Whenever vacancies on the Board prevent formation of a quorum, then, in such event, the quorum shall consist of a majority of the number of trustee positions on the Board excluding the vacancies. A majority of the trustees present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn a meeting to another time and place. Except to the extent provided by law and these By-Laws, an action of
the Board shall be by a majority of the directors present at the time of the vote, a quorum being present at such time.

13. If the Chair is vacant, or in the absence of the Chairperson, any other trustee chosen by the Board shall preside over meetings.

14. The Board or any member of the Board may participate in a meeting by means of a conference telephone or any other means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear each other. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at that meeting.

15. The Board may act without a meeting if each trustee consents in writing or electronically to such action. Such written consent or a printed copy of electronic consent shall be filed with the minutes of the Board.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS

1. In addition to the Chairperson, the Board may elect a Co-Chairperson of the Board, a Secretary, one or more Assistant Secretaries, a Treasurer, one or more Assistant Treasurers, and such other officers as it may see fit.

2. Each officer shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Board and until his or her successor has been duly qualified and elected. Nonetheless, the Board may vote to change its officers at any time.

3. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all of the funds and securities of the Conservancy, and shall deposit said funds in the name of the Conservancy in such bank accounts as the Board may from time to time determine. Whenever required by the Board, the Treasurer shall render a statement of accounts.
4. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Board. The Secretary shall serve all notices for the Conservancy which have been authorized by the Board and shall have charge of all books and records of the Conservancy.

ARTICLE IV

MISCELLANEOUS

1. The Conservancy shall keep complete and correct records and books of account, and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Board.

2. The fiscal year of the Conservancy shall begin on the first day of January of each year.

3. The Board shall have the power, by a two-thirds vote of the then-current members of the Board, to alter or repeal the By-Laws of the Conservancy or make new By-Laws of the Conservancy.

4. The Board is authorized to select such banks or depositories as it deems proper for the funds of the Conservancy. The Board shall determine from time to time who shall be authorized on behalf of the Conservancy to sign checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money, and acceptances, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness.

5. Agreements executed for or on behalf of the Conservancy shall be signed by such person or persons as the Board may from time to time designate.

6. Neither trustees nor officers shall receive any fee, salary, or remuneration of any kind for their services as trustees and/or officers. However trustees and officers may, with approval of the Board, be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Conservancy upon presentation of receipts.
OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES
The Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs owns and operates the project property. The Department operates this park, in addition to the rest of its properties, on an annual budget of approximately $20 million annually. These funds are allocated generally for personnel, equipment, utilities, and other expenses as they arise, the largest of which is maintenance. Other expenses include those allocated for quality of life programming, which includes, but is not limited to, educational programming, festivals, summer camps, arts & crafts, distance runs, and the staging of roughly thirty annual concerts throughout twenty locations. The budgetary framework of the County park system is such that the Department’s maintenance division services the entirety of the County park system, with the most critical cost of operations for county parks is derived mainly from the cost of maintenance.

However, the County does not anticipate the proposed improvements to increase the existing operations and maintenance cost of South Mountain Reservation. The project site is currently in use as a parking area and trailhead and requires the expenditure of staff time and other resources within the existing parks budget. As improvements to the site will not significantly alter the footprint, there are no anticipated increases in the cost of maintenance.
NONPROFIT
VERIFICATION
New Jersey Division of Revenue

Certificate of Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation
(For Use by Domestic Non-profit Corporations)

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 15A:9-4 New Jersey Non-profit Corporation Act, the undersigned corporation executes the following Certificate of Amendment to its Certificate of Incorporation:

1. Name of the Corporation: Friends of Essex County Parks, Inc.
2. Corporation Number: IRS EMPLOYER_ID #: 56-2410919
3. Article First of the Certificate of Incorporation is hereby amended to read as follows:
   The name of the corporation is South Mountain Conservancy, Inc.
   The first sentence of Article Fifth of the Certificate of Incorporation is hereby amended to read as follows:
   No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in article three hereof.
4. The corporation DOES NOT have members.
   A. Not Applicable
   B. For corporations WITHOUT members:
      Number of Trustees 6 Voting FOR 6 Voting AGAINST 0
      Trustees present at meeting 6
      Date of Adoption: December 13, 2005
5. Other Provisions:
   NONE

Signature: ____________________________  Date: __1/3/06__
Chairperson of Board of Trustees

Name: Sydell Rabin, Chairperson, Board of Trustees

This document MUST be filed in triplicate.

NJ Division of Revenue, PO Box 308, Trenton, NJ 08646
South Mountain Conservancy

16 September 2007

South Mountain Conservancy, Inc.
P.O. Box 273
South Orange, NJ 07079

Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Re: Employer Identification Number 56-2410919 and DLN 17053353002013

Dear IRS Contact Person:

Please reference the enclosed letter of March 5, 2004 from the IRS to the above referenced entity regarding its status classification as a 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi) organization during the “advance ruling period.” I am writing to (1) inform you that the organization has changed its name from Friends of the Essex County Parks, Inc. to South Mountain Conservancy, Inc., and (2) to send you the information needed to determine whether the organization has met the requirements of the applicable support test during the advance ruling period.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Certificate of Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation, filed with the State of New Jersey, Division of Revenue in January 2006. The first sentence of Article First of the Certificate of Incorporation was amended to change the name to South Mountain Conservancy, Inc. (For your information, South Mountain Reservation is one of the Essex County parks previously benefited by the efforts of the Friends of the Essex County Parks, Inc. and is now the sole focus of the efforts of South Mountain Conservancy, Inc.)

Also enclosed please find financial statements from the advance ruling period, January 2003 through December 2006.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please advise. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dennis Percher
Chair

Enclosures
Internal Revenue Service
Director, EO Rulings & Agreements
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Date: April 9, 2008

SOUTH MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY INC
PO BOX 273
SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

Department of the Treasury

Employer identification Number:
56-2410919
Document Locator Number:
17053-092-81006-8
Toll Free Number: 877-829-5500

Acknowledgement of Your Request

We received your Form 8734, Support Schedule for Your Advance Ruling, or other information regarding your public support status. When communicating with us, please refer to the employer identification number and document locator number shown above.

Your tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code remains in effect.

What Happens Next?

The information you submitted was entered into our computer system at our processing center in Covington, Kentucky, and has been sent to our Cincinnati office for initial review. We approve some cases based on this review. If this is the case, you will receive a letter stating that you are a publicly supported organization.

If the review indicates that additional information or changes are necessary, your case will be assigned to an Exempt Organization Specialist in Cincinnati who will call or write you. We assign cases in the order we receive them.

If the additional information indicates that you meet one of the public support tests, you will receive a letter stating that you are a publicly supported organization. If the public support tests are not met, we will send you a letter re-classifying you as a private foundation. That letter will tell you why we believe you do not meet the public support tests, and will include a complete explanation of your appeal rights.

When Can You Expect To Initially Hear From Us About Your Application?

Normally, you may expect to hear from us within 120 days. If you do not, you may call our toll free number at 1-877-829-5500 Monday through Friday. Please have your identification numbers available so that we can identify your case. If you would rather write than call, please include a copy of this notice with your correspondence.

Notice 3369 (eq) - (Rev. 12/2000)