

Pinelands Conservation Fund Priorities, Funding & Schedule

Policy & Implementation Committee
February 23, 2024

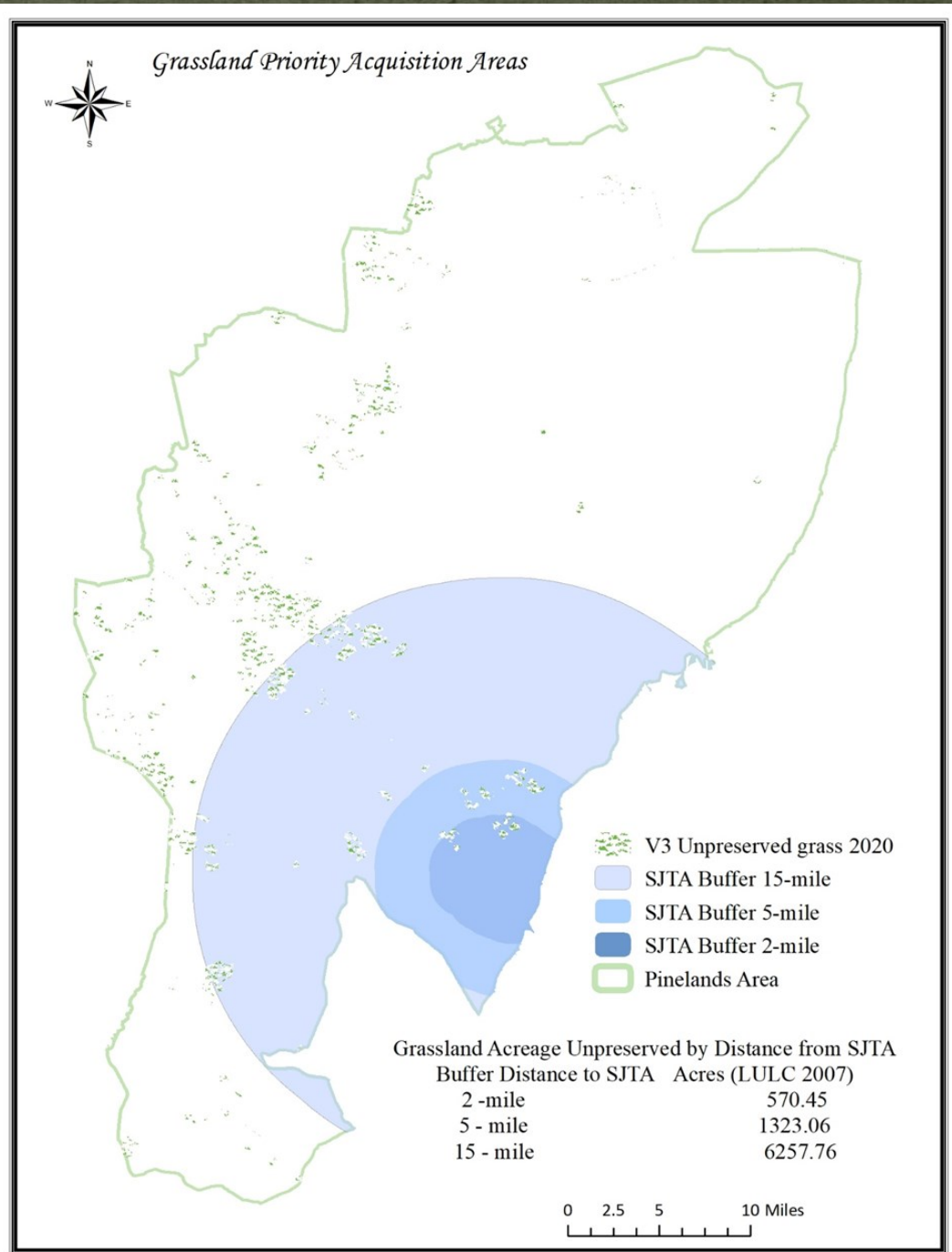
Background

- Permanent land protection:
 - 51% of Pinelands Area
- 20 Planning & Section 502 Acquisition Target Areas
 - All appropriated Federal funding for Section 502 areas expended
 - Rely on PCF to achieve Permanent Land Protection goals (\$9.5 M/8,971 acres preserved to date)
- Additional \$3 M funding added to PCF through SJTA MOA 2019-2024
- PCF acquisition priorities revised in 2021, but few projects

Land Acquisition Priorities -2021

- Grassland habitats
- Impacts of climate change
 - Fire hazard
 - Flood hazard
 - Carbon sequestration
- “Traditional” acquisitions
 - 502 Fund Areas
 - 20 Acquisition Target Areas

Grassland Focus Area



Project Evaluation Matrix

2021 & 2022

Factor	Low (1)	Medium (3)	High (5)
Location: Is the project in PCF focus area	In RGA, Town, Village or Rural Development Area AND none of the designated focus areas	In designated focus areas and PAD, SAPA, APA or Forest Area	Within a five-mile radius of SJTA and inside the State Pinelands Area
T&E Habitats:	No state/federal T&E habitat per NJDEP Landscape Model AND no NJPC and ENSP sightings	T&E habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings	Grassland habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings
Size:	Less than 50 acres	Between 50 and 100 acres	100 acres or more; add 3 additional points if greater than 500 acres
Contiguity:	Greater than one mile from preserved habitat or open space	Less than one mile from known grassland T&E habitats but not contiguous	Contiguous with preserved habitat or open space
Partner Contribution:	67.7% of acquisition costs	At least 75% acquisition costs	Greater than 75% acquisition costs
Long-Term Maintenance Capability:	No monitoring or maintenance plan/ no identified land steward	Proposed Monitoring and maintenance plan; Not previously implemented	Established Monitoring and maintenance program / Gov't. agency or NGO is prepared to manage land
Climate Change Mitigation:	Flood hazard mitigation	Wildfire Management	Carbon Sequestration/ Storage
Purpose:	Historic Preservation	Open Space	T & E or Climate Change

Extra points for carbon sequestration involving Atlantic cedar swamps.

2024 Changes

Goals to be
achieved

- Increase project participation over recent years' PCF rounds
- Support climate mitigation identified by Climate Committee PMA boundary analysis
- Address environmental justice initiatives
- Continue to build successful stewardship of preserved lands
- Add two Acquisition Target “planning” areas

Project Priorities - 2024

Acquisition target areas

- Climate committee recommendations for one expanded and one new acquisition target area
 - Maurice River Township – Port Elizabeth-Bricksboro Village
 - Pemberton Township – RGA

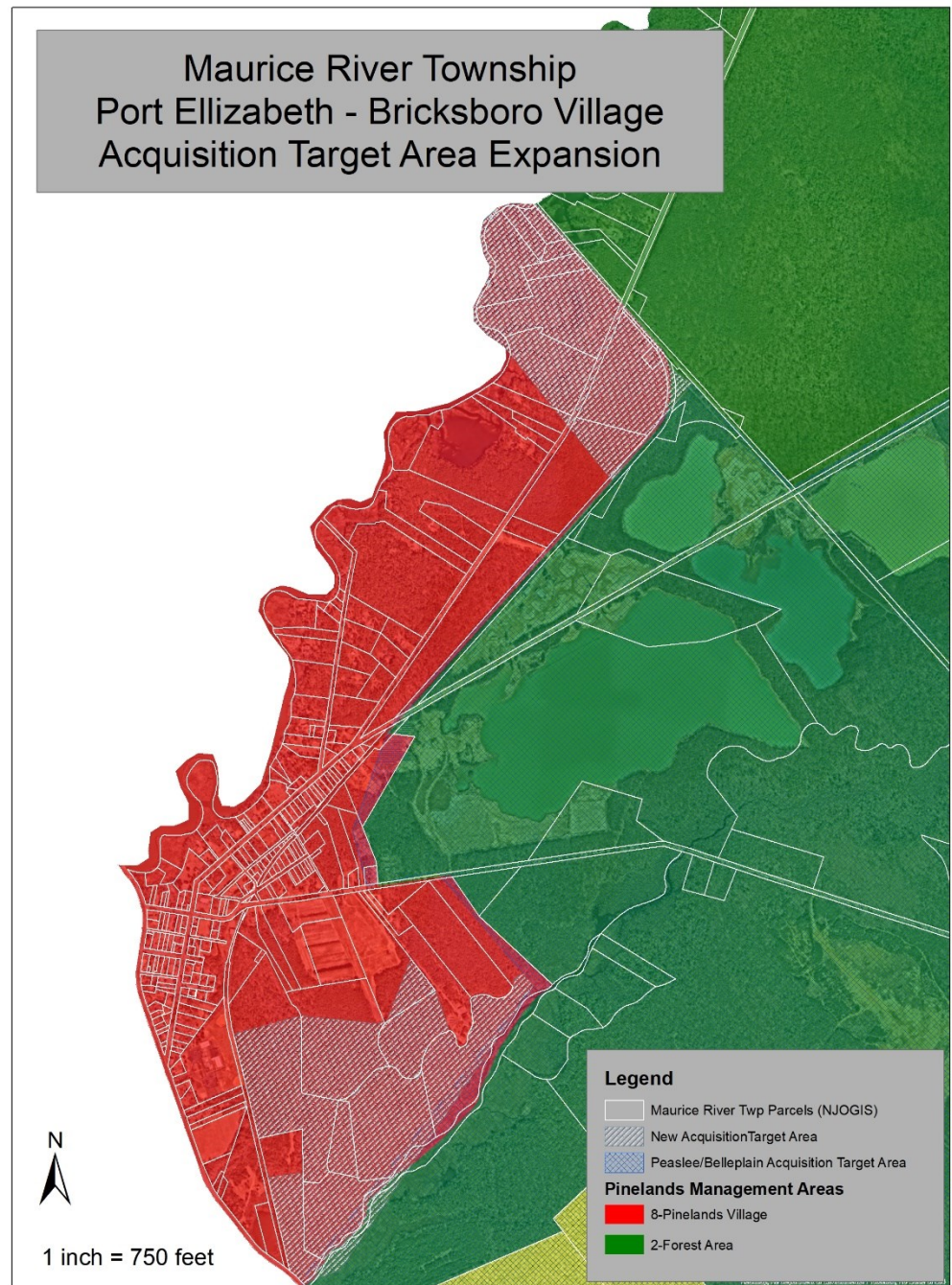
Priority Matrix changes

- Add PCF criteria for location in or adjacent to overburdened communities
- Maintenance agreement
- Additional points awarded for grassland maintenance objective



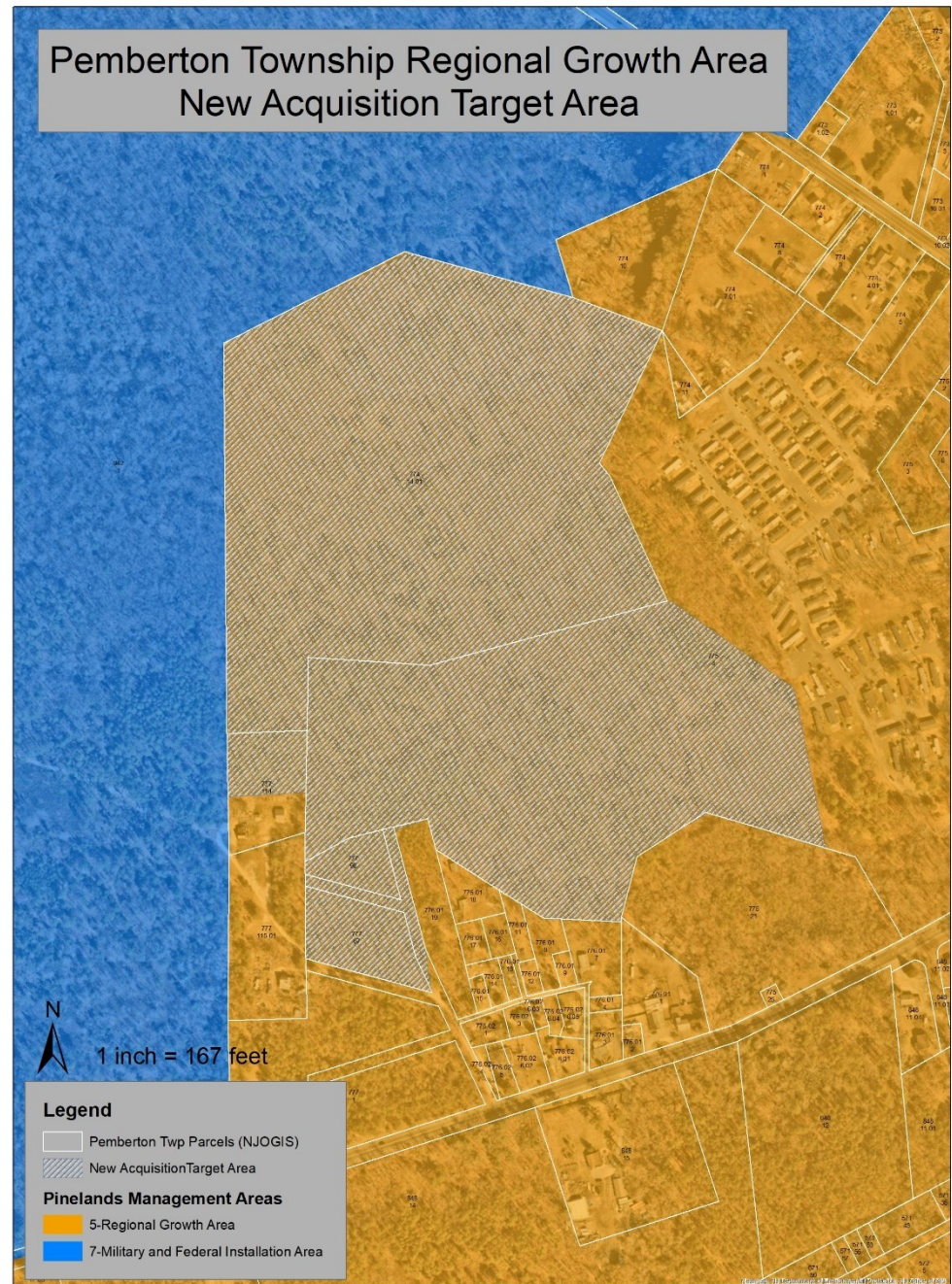
Expanded Acquisition Target Area

- Came from Pinelands Management Area analysis for climate change impacts
- Endorsed by the Climate Committee



New Acquisition Target Area

- Came from Pinelands Management Area analysis for climate change impacts
- Endorsed by the Climate Committee



Project Evaluation Matrix

2024

Factor	Low (1)	Medium (3)	High (5)
Location ¹ : Is the project in PCF focus areas for flood or wildfire	In RGA, Town, Village or Rural Development Area AND one of the designated focus areas	In designated focus areas and PAD, SAPA, APA or Forest Area	Within a five-mile radius of SJTA and inside the State Pinelands Area
T&E Habitats ² :	No state/federal T&E habitat per NJDEP Landscape Model AND no NJPC and ENSP sightings	T&E habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings	Grassland habitat exists based upon NJDEP Landscape model and/or NJPC and ENSP sightings
Size:	Less than 50 acres	Between 50 and 100 acres	100 acres or more; add 3 additional points if greater than 500 acres
Contiguity:	Less than one mile from preserved open space	Less than one mile from known grassland T&E habitats but not contiguous	Contiguous with preserved habitat or open space
Partner Contribution:	66.7% of acquisition costs	At least 75% of acquisition costs	Greater than 75% of acquisition costs
Maintenance & Stewardship:	Written maintenance /stewardship plan	Written maintenance/ stewardship plan and specific stewardship project proposal	Written maintenance/ stewardship plan and agreement to partner on future grant proposal for stewardship projects
Environmental Justice Communities Stressors ³ :	One stressor identified	Three or four stressors identified	More than five stressors identified

Add'l Evaluation Notes

- Projects must be located in Section 502 acquisition target areas or in one of the Pinelands Commission identified 21 acquisition target areas
- An additional three points will be awarded for projects that are intended to preserve open space with the objective of maintaining grassland habitat.
- Environmental Justice Community stressors are identified by NJDEP and include: high ozone, heavy traffic, known contaminated sites, solid waste facilities, and impaired surface water among other stressors.

Funding Structure Changes

- Enhance stewardship success
 - Increase traditional 33% PCF match for projects with specific stewardship plans
 - Allow partner to set aside funds for stewardship
 - No change in funding for other projects
- Build a better grant proposal (future ATB?)
 - Identify sites
 - Partners
 - Projects
 - Costs
 - Benefits

Permanent Land Protection Schedule (2024)

- P & I Authorization of PCF Priorities - February
- Preservation Summit – early April
- Report on Summit – April P & I Committee
- Open application round ~ early May
- Deadline for submitting proposals ~ September
- Project Recommendations to P & I ~ October