

B. Meetings

Meetings of the Advisory Committee shall be held as determined by the Division of / D Q G
0 D Q Dr J C H P S W or Chairperson J H P H Q W

A simple majority of eight (8) out of the fifteen (15) voting members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

C. Responsibilities

The Advisory Committee will work closely with the County to:

1. Recommend formal rules and regulations that the Trust Fund will follow. The Bergen County Board of County Commissioners may amend these rules and regulations at any time as necessary.

The Advisory Committee shall assist the County of Bergen with regard to open space and recreation issues pertaining to the County Program.

D. Conflict of Interest

Any Advisory Committee member, who has an affiliation to any project where an application has been submitted for the Advisory Committee to review and recommend funding, must recuse him or herself from the application process of that particular project. "Affiliation" shall be construed to mean a connection to the project by way of familial, employment, elected official and/or board relationship. "Application Process" shall be construed to mean participation in the presentation, discussion, and voting of the project in question. A member who has recused him or herself from hearing a particular application is not precluded from participation in other applications before the Advisory Committee.

II. Municipal Park Improvement Program Regional Municipal Committees

Regional Municipal Committees will consist of the municipal administrators or Borough Clerk if there is no Administrator, from each of the Bergen County municipalities. Committee members shall make recommendations for funding to Division Staff after the review of applications and conducting a meeting of the sub-committee. Committee meetings will be held in those instances where funding requests exceed the funds available for any sub-region.

Grant Funding in this category is distributed into six established planning sub-regions, identified as follows:

- Central
- Northern Valley
- Northwest
- Pascack Valley
- Southeast
- Southwest

All applications for Municipal Park Improvement grants will be reviewed and a ranking number is computed for each per an application review scorecard. If the grant funding requests can be accommodated in any sub-region, then Division Staff will make recommendations for grant selections to the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee.

If funding requests exceed the funds available for any sub-region, then the Division staff will present grant request information, the results of the ranking scorecard, and convene a meeting with the respective Sub-regional Municipal Committee, who will review the eligible applications.

The Regional Municipal Committee shall make recommendations for funding to Division Staff. Division Staff will then review recommendations, make adjustments to recommendations if necessary, then present recommendations to the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee for inclusion in the annual funding recommendations list.

III. County Agriculture Development Board

The Bergen County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) consists of seven voting members - four farmer and three public members. There are also three ex-officio members: Bergen County Soil Conservation District, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Agent of Bergen County and a Bergen County Planning Board Member. Members are appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of the County Commissioners.

The CADB recommends grants to the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee for grants to enable the County to purchase a deed restriction ensuring the land will not undergo non-agriculture development.

IV. Historic Preservation Advisory Board

The Historic Preservation Advisory Board consists of seventeen members and is appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of the County Commissioners. The board reviews applications and recommends grant awards to the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee.

V. Bergen County Department of Parks

While not a committee, the Director, or designee, of the Bergen County Department of Parks shall be responsible for submitting a list of funding requests for the development of new and/or the rehabilitation of existing County Park facilities. The Director, or designee, of the Department of Parks, Division of Land Management shall be responsible for submitting a list of funding requests for the preservation of land for the County.

The Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee will invite Department representatives to present its funding requests to the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee at a scheduled meeting.

VIII. AMENDMENT AND SEVERABILITY

The County Executive and the Board of County Commissioners may amend this program statement at any time. Should any portion of this document be determined invalid or inappropriate or be deleted by Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, the remainder of the document shall remain in full force and effect.

- I. The County Executive and Board of County Commissioners maintains the following discretion:
 1. The County Commissioners must approve all grant awards to projects.
 2. The County Commissioners must determine annually, upon a recommendation of the County Executive, whether to raise Trust Fund dollars and the annual rate or amount to be raised.
 3. The County Commissioners may allocate Trust Fund dollars for the payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by the County for land acquisition, development of lands acquired for recreation or conservation purposes, and historic preservation activities.
 4. The County Executive and the Board of County Commissioners shall determine whether to continue the Trust Fund program in its present form or as modified.

II. Discretion to Relax Administrative, Procedural, and/or Substantive Requirements

1. The County may, in its discretion and if consistent with the principles and purposes of the Trust Fund Program Statement, relax the strict application of any of the administrative, procedural, and/or substantive requirements of the Trust Fund Program Statement and/or other non-statutory requirements when necessary and in the public interest, for good cause shown by the grant recipient for land acquisition. Such authority does not extend to statutory requirements, legislative mandates, Green Acres Rules and Regulations, or any other independent authority. The County is under no obligation to relax any of the administrative, substantive, or procedural requirements and retains complete discretion to determine whether to do so.

2. Procedure for Requesting Relief from Administrative, Procedural, and/or Substantive Requirements

Any Trust Fund grant recipient for land acquisition who seeks relief from any administrative, procedural, and/or substantive requirements(s) of the Trust Fund shall submit a written petition to the Department of Parks, Division of Land Management.

The grant recipient shall also submit a copy of the petition to the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, who will circulate it to the Board of County Commissioners and the County Executive.

The Department of Parks shall review the petition and present the request to the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee. The petitioner shall make a presentation to the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee in support of the requested relief.

After affording a hearing to the grant recipient, the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee shall make a recommendation concerning the disposition of the petition to the County Executive and the Board of County Commissioners. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15 et seq, any petition shall take the form of a recommendation from the Trust Fund Public Advisory Committee to the County Commissioners prior to any formal action by the County Commissioners.”