

**ENVIRONMENTALISTS ANNOUNCE MAJOR NEW
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION INITIATIVE
"Earth Day" Weekend Kick-off was a Success**

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On April 20, the Long Island Pine Barrens Society announced a major new campaign against over-development called "Enough is enough!" The project, the Society's largest environmental effort since the Pine Barrens Preservation Initiative, which led to the creation of the 55,000-acre Pine Barrens Preserve, is focused on land acquisition priorities across Long Island, especially on the East End.

The Initiative involves public education and advocacy about the problem of over-development on Long Island. Top Ten lists have been created by town and region, of the most important parcels of land that must be preserved through public acquisition of the properties, efforts to streamline the preservation process, a print, radio and television campaign, review of proposed development projects that threaten the environment and stepped up litigation to prevent the approval of environmentally threatening development proposals.

Three years ago, Long Island planners projected final build-out of Long Island for the year 2012. At that point, all remaining open space on Long Island will have been committed for preservation or development. The recent building boom has caused many to move that date dramatically forward, so land use decisions in the immediate future will determine how much is saved and how much is lost.

A key component of the campaign has been to identify and scrutinize proposed development projects in every Long Island town -- especially those in state-designated Special Groundwater Protection Areas and in locally-designated Critical Environmental Areas. Volunteers are evaluating applications for new development to consider their impacts on drinking water and habitat protection, given the limited and diminishing open space left on Long Island. Next, a coalition of more than 100 environmental and civic groups will be encouraged to press government at every level to spend money already set aside by the public for open space preservation, to complete the purchase of the most environmentally-sensitive land. Then, efforts will focus on making preservation programs more efficient by clearing bottle necks in the land acquisition process at the state, county and local level. Finally, the Society will expand its legal efforts to block approvals of proposed development projects located in water-recharge areas.

Pine Barrens Society Executive Director, Richard Amper, explained, "We need to set priorities for preservation and an expeditious timetable to complete the task before development overwhelms the last remaining open space on Long Island at enormous cost to the economy, environment and quality-of-life of the place we all call home."

The new effort was launched at the start of Earth Day weekend by scores of environmental and civic leaders from across the Island carrying signs and wearing badges depicting bulldozers stalled at a forest and declaring "Enough is Enough!" T.V. public service announcements will begin at the same time to carry the message to every Long Islander. The Kick-off News Conference and Reception was held on the beginning of Earth Day Weekend, Friday, April 20, at noon at the Auditorium of the Shinnecock Building at Suffolk Community College, Eastern Campus, Speonk-Riverhead Road, Riverhead. The event will featured the display of full-color maps of the preservation plan, "Top Ten" lists of targeted parcels and the premiere screening of the anti-development media campaign, as well as a button-wearing, placard-waving pro-development rally.

"The kick-off of the Pine Barrens Preservation Initiative marked the beginning of the most successful environmental protection campaign in Long Island's history," Amper said, "We hope that the launch of the 'Enough is Enough!' initiative will mark the beginning of the last major open space preservation effort before the last vestiges of Long Island's natural history are lost forever to over-development."

The best way civic groups can contribute to the efforts of the "Enough is Enough" Initiative is by writing letters indicating their support of the Initiative addressed to the Pine Barrens Society. The support of civic groups is a valuable asset in the fight against over-development. We look forward to hearing from you soon.