

Topic:	State Land Use Law; Zoning; Natural Resource Protection & Conservation; Open Space Conservation
Resource Type:	Regulations
State:	Illinois
Jurisdiction Type:	State
Municipality:	N/A
Year (adopted, written, etc.):	2004
Community Type – applicable to:	Urban; Suburban; Rural
Title:	State of Illinois Conservation Area Zoning – Township Ordinance
Document Last Updated in Database:	May 5, 2017

Abstract

Under 60 ILL. COMP. STAT. 1/115-10 *et seq.* (2004), corporate township authorities are granted broad authority to establish subsidiary boards to study and make recommendations for the conservation of open space in order to “maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources.” After such a board is established, a township board may acquire, designate, plan, and zone by ordinance areas to conserve open space and other natural resources, and promote sustainable development. A township may acquire land targeted for open space preservation located within or contiguous to municipalities via petition or condemnation, after due notice and hearing, and failure to respond by a municipality.

Resource

60 ILL. COMP. STAT. 1/115-5 *et seq.* (2004)

Sec. 115-5. Definitions.

As used in this Article, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Board" means the township board in counties having a population of more than 150,000.

"Development of real property" means the constructing, installing, planting or creating of any permanent or temporary improvement of real property that has been acquired for open space purposes.

"Open land" or "open space" means any space or area of land or water of an area of 50 acres or more, the preservation or the restriction of development or use of which would (i) maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources; (ii) protect natural streams or water supply; (iii) promote conservation of soils, wet lands, or shores; (iv) afford or enhance public outdoor recreation opportunities; (v) preserve flora and fauna, geological features, historic sites, or other areas of educational or scientific interest; (vi) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring highways, parks, or other public lands; (vii) implement the plan of development adopted by the planning commission of any municipality or county; or (viii) promote orderly urban or suburban development. A township at any time may release a specified parcel of land from an open space plan and allow the development of the parcel to occur. Once development (as defined in Section 115-55) has commenced, the land shall no longer be eligible for acquisition as open space or open land.

"Open space plan" means the written plan adopted by the board to implement an open space program and includes properly adopted amendments or additions to the plan.

"Open space program" means the acquisition of the fee or of a lesser right or interest in tracts of open land in the township for open space purposes.

"Open space purposes" includes (i) the preservation and maintenance of open land, scenic roadways, and pathways; (ii) the holding of real property described in clause (i), with or without public access, for the education, pleasure, and recreation of the public or for other open space values; (iii) the preservation of portions of that property in their natural condition and the development of other portions of that property; (iv) the management and use of that property in a manner and with restrictions that will leave it unimpaired for the benefit of future generations; and (v) otherwise promoting the conservation of the nature, flora and fauna, natural environment, and natural resources of the township.

(Source: P.A. 91-641, eff. 8-20-99.)

Sec. 115-10. Open space plan; petition.

(a) A board desiring to enter upon an open space program may do so only after adoption of an open space plan under Section 115-15. The board shall commence preparation of an open space plan under that Section only upon the filing with the township clerk of a petition signed by not less than 5% or 50, whichever is greater, of the registered voters of the township (according to the voting registration records at the time the petition is filed) recommending that the board commence preparation of an open space plan.

(b) A proposed open space plan shall (i) identify all open land within the township that the board deems necessary to acquire in order to accomplish the purposes of the open space program; (ii) state the ways in which the acquisition of open land will further open space purposes; (iii) state the estimated costs of implementing the proposed plan; (iv) state

the approximate tax, per \$100 of assessed value, that will be levied to provide the necessary funds for implementing the proposed plan; (v) state the estimated timetable for implementing the proposed plan; and (vi) establish standards and procedures for establishing priorities for the acquisition of parcels identified in the plan.

(Source: P.A. 85-1140; 88-62.)

Sec. 115-15. Public hearing.

(a) Before adopting an open space plan or an amendment to a plan, the board shall conduct a public hearing on the plan or amendment, recommend adoption of the open space plan or receive a recommendation by petition of the voters of the township under Section 115-20 that the open space plan be adopted, and submit the question of adoption of the open space plan to the township voters under Section 115-20.

(b) The board shall cause to be prepared a notice of the public hearing stating the date, time, place, and purpose of the hearing. The township clerk shall cause the notice to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the township not less than 15 nor more than 30 days before the date of the hearing. The township clerk also shall send notice of the hearing by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, not less than 20 days before the hearing, to the owners of property being recommended for acquisition and designation as open space or open land under the proposed open space plan. Those owners shall be those parties identified on the most current real estate tax assessment rolls for the county in which the township is located as being the parties to whom current real estate tax bills are being sent. A copy of the proposed plan also shall be filed with the township clerk, who shall make it available to the general public for inspection after publication of the notice of public hearing.

(c) At the public hearing, all persons desiring to offer statements or other evidence in support of or in opposition to the proposed plan shall be afforded an opportunity to do so orally, in writing, or both.

(d) Within 60 days after the public hearing, the board shall consider all of the evidence before it and may, based upon that evidence, recommend adoption or rejection of the proposed open space plan in whole or in part. The board's recommendation shall be in writing. If the board does not recommend adoption or rejection of the proposed open space plan, or if a petition from the voters of the township recommending adoption of the open space plan is not filed with the township clerk within 60 days after the public hearing, the open space plan may not be subsequently adopted unless another public hearing is held and notice given as provided in this Section. A recommendation by the board or by petition under this subsection (d) to adopt an open space plan shall be made no later than 138 days before the next regular election in order for the question of the adoption of the open space plan to appear on the ballot at that election. If the question of the adoption of the open space plan does not appear on the ballot, the open space plan may not be subsequently adopted unless another public hearing is held and notice given under this Section.

(Source: P.A. 85-1140; 88-62.)

Sec. 115-20. Referendum on recommended plan; petition.

(a) If the board recommends adoption of the open space plan, or if a petition is filed by not less than 5% or 50, whichever is greater, of the registered voters of the township (according to the voting registration records at the time the petition is filed) recommending adoption of the open space plan, then the Board, within 30 days of making of the recommendation or the filing of the petition, shall file a petition with the township clerk, requesting the clerk to submit to the voters of the township the question of whether the township shall adopt the open space plan and enter upon an open space program, with the power to acquire open land by purchase, condemnation (except townships in counties having a population of more than 150,000 but not more than 250,000), or otherwise in the township and with the power to issue bonds for those purposes under this Article. The total amount of bonds to be issued under this Section may not exceed 5% of the valuation of all taxable property in the township and shall be set forth in the question as a dollar amount. The township clerk shall certify that proposition to the proper election officials, who shall submit the proposition to the township voters at the next regular election. The referendum shall be conducted and notice given in accordance with the general election law.

(b) The question submitted to the voters at the election shall be in substantially the following form:

Shall (name of township) adopt the open space plan considered at the public hearing on (date) and enter upon an open space program, and shall the Township Board have the power (i) to acquire open land by purchase (insert ", condemnation," if the township is in a county having a population of more than 250,000) or otherwise, (ii) to issue bonds for open space purposes in an amount not exceeding \$(amount), and (iii) to levy a tax to pay the principal of and interest on those bonds, as provided in Article 115 of the Township Code?

The votes shall be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

(c) If a majority of the voters voting at the election on the question vote in favor of the question, the township shall thereafter adopt the open space plan recommended by the board or by the petition of the registered voters of the township and shall enter upon an open space program under this Article. If the proposition does not receive the approval of a majority of the voters voting at the election on the question, no proposition may be submitted to the voters under this Section less than 23 months after the date of the election.

(d) If a majority of the legal voters voting at referendum in any township approved a proposition at the consolidated election in 2001 in reliance upon and consistent with this Section 115-20 as it existed prior to the effective date of Public Act 91-847, then that referendum and all actions taken in reliance thereon are hereby validated and are legally binding in all respects.

(Source: P.A. 91-641, eff. 8-20-99; 91-847, eff. 6-22-00; 92-6, eff. 6-7-01.)

Sec. 115-25. Amendments or additions to plan.

If the board recommends any amendments or additions to a plan that has been adopted by a township, no property that is the subject of the amendment or addition may be acquired until the revised plan is approved by the voters at a referendum under Section 115-20 unless the amendments or additions do not provide for expenditures in excess of those provided in the original plan and do not provide for the acquisition of property other than from persons who are selling their property voluntarily.

(Source: P.A. 85-1140; 88-62.)

Sec. 115-30. Property within municipality; petition; referendum.

(a) If the open space plan recommended for adoption under Section 115-20 contains property that is situated within the corporate boundaries of a municipality, the corporate authorities of the municipality may, within 30 days of the recommendation, vote to authorize the board of a township in a county having a population of more than 250,000 to acquire by condemnation property that is situated within the municipality's corporate boundaries. If the corporate authorities of the municipality fail to act within that 30 day period, then none of the property included in the open space plan that is situated within the municipality shall be acquired by the board by condemnation. The municipality's failure to act constitutes a denial of authority to acquire that property by condemnation.

(b) If, within 30 days of the decision of the municipality to either authorize or deny the board the authority to acquire by condemnation that property included in the open space plan that is situated within the corporate boundaries of the municipality, a petition is filed with the township clerk, signed by not less than 15% of the registered voters of the municipality residing within the township (according to the voting registration records at the time the petition is filed), requesting that the question of whether the board shall be granted authority to acquire property within its corporate boundaries by condemnation be submitted to the voters of the municipality residing within the township, then the question shall be submitted to those voters in the form of a proposition. The petition shall state the public question to be submitted and contain a common description of the territory in plain and nonlegal language. The description shall describe the territory by reference to streets, natural or artificial landmarks, addresses, or any other method that would enable a voter signing the petition to be informed of the territory proposed to be acquired.

(c) The township clerk shall certify the proposition to the proper election officials, who shall submit the proposition to the voters of the municipality who reside within the township. The referendum shall appear on the ballot at the same election as the referendum required in Section 115-20. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the referendum shall be conducted and notice given in accordance with the general election law. The question submitted to the voters at the election shall be in substantially the following form:

Shall the Township Board of (name of township in a county having a population of more than 250,000) have the authority to acquire by condemnation open land that is situated within the corporate boundaries of (name of municipality) for open space purposes?

The votes shall be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

(d) The election authority shall include on the ballot the description of the territory proposed to be acquired as set forth in the petition. If the election authority determines that the description cannot be included within the space limitations of the ballot, the election authority shall prepare large printed copies of a notice of the public question that include the description. The notice shall be prominently displayed in the polling place of each precinct in which the question is to be submitted.

(e) If a majority of the voters voting at the election on the question vote in favor of the question, then the board may acquire by condemnation open land that is situated within the corporate boundaries of the municipality and included in the open space plan recommended for adoption under Section 115-20.

(f) If the corporate authorities of a municipality deny the board the authority to acquire by condemnation property that is situated within the municipality's boundaries and the referendum does not appear on the ballot at the election specified in this Section, or if the proposition fails to receive the vote of a majority of the voters voting on the question, then the board may not acquire the property by condemnation.

(Source: P.A. 91-641, eff. 8-20-99.)

Sec. 115-35. Property contiguous to municipality; petition; referendum.

(a) If the open space plan recommended for adoption under Section 115-20 contains property that is contiguous to the corporate boundaries of one or more municipalities, the corporate authorities of any of those municipalities may, within 30 days of the recommendation, vote to authorize the board of a township in a county having a population of more than 250,000 to acquire by condemnation property that is contiguous to the municipality's corporate boundaries. If the corporate authorities of a municipality fail to act within that 30 day period, then none of the property included in the open space plan that is contiguous to a municipality shall be acquired by the board by condemnation. The municipality's failure to act constitutes a denial of authority to acquire that property by condemnation.

(b) If, within 30 days of the decision of the municipality to either authorize or deny the board the authority to acquire by condemnation that property included in the open space plan that is contiguous to the corporate boundaries of the municipality, a petition is filed with the township clerk, signed by not less than 15% of the registered voters of the township (according to the voting registration records at the time the petition is filed), requesting that the question of whether the board shall be granted authority to acquire property contiguous to the corporate boundaries of the municipality by condemnation be

submitted to the voters of the township, then the question shall be submitted to those voters in the form of a proposition. The petition shall state the public question to be submitted and contain a common description of the territory proposed to be acquired in plain and nonlegal language. The description shall describe the territory by reference to streets, natural or artificial landmarks, addresses, or any other method that would enable a voter signing the petition to be informed of the territory proposed to be acquired.

(c) The township clerk shall certify the proposition to the proper election officials, who shall submit the proposition to the voters of the township. The referendum shall appear on the ballot at the same election as the referendum required in Section 115-20. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the referendum shall be conducted and notice given in accordance with the general election law. The question submitted to the voters at the election shall be in substantially the following form:

Shall the Township Board of (name of township in a county having a population of more than 250,000) have the authority to acquire by condemnation open land that is contiguous to the corporate boundaries of (name of municipality) for open space purposes?

The votes shall be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

(d) The election authority shall include on the ballot the description of the territory proposed to be acquired as set forth in the petition. If the election authority determines that the description cannot be included within the space limitations of the ballot, the election authority shall prepare large printed copies of a notice of the public question that includes the description. The notice shall be prominently displayed in the polling place of each precinct in which the question is to be submitted.

(e) If a majority of the voters voting at the election on the question vote in favor of the question, then the board may acquire by condemnation open land that is contiguous to the corporate boundaries of the municipality or municipalities and included in the open space plan recommended for adoption under Section 115-20.

(f) If the corporate authorities of a municipality deny the board the authority to acquire by condemnation property that is contiguous to the municipality's boundaries and the referendum does not appear on the ballot at the election specified in this Section, or if the proposition fails to receive the vote of a majority of the voters voting on the proposition, then the board may not acquire the property by condemnation.

(g) For purposes of this Section, "contiguous" means contiguous for purposes of annexation under Article 7 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

(Source: P.A. 91-641, eff. 8-20-99.)

Sec. 115-40. Later submission of proposition to include property.

If in a township in a county having a population of more than 250,000 a parcel of land cannot be acquired by condemnation because it was not approved at an election under either Section 115-30 or 115-35, that parcel can again be included in a proposition only if (i) the procedures set forth in Section 115-15 relating to amendments that add property to existing open space plans have been followed and (ii) not less than 23 months have elapsed since the date of the election at which the voters failed to approve the acquisition of the parcel by condemnation.

(Source: P.A. 91-641, eff. 8-20-99.)

Sec. 115-45. Powers of township board.

In any township in which the establishment of an open space program has been authorized by the voters under this Article, the township board, to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this Article and in addition to any other powers, duties, and functions vested in a township by law (but subject to limitations and restrictions imposed by this or another law), has the powers enumerated in the following Sections. (Source: P.A. 82-783; 88-62.)

Sec. 115-50. Study; coordinated plan.

The board may study and ascertain the open space resources and outdoor recreation facilities in the township, the need for preserving those resources and providing those facilities, and the extent to which those needs are being currently met. The board may prepare and adopt a coordinated plan of areas and facilities to meet those needs. (Source: P.A. 79-472; 88-62.)

Sec. 115-55.

(a) The board may acquire by gift, legacy, purchase, condemnation in the manner provided for the exercise of the right of eminent domain under Article VII of the Code of Civil Procedure and except as otherwise provided in this subsection, lease, agreement, or otherwise the fee or any lesser right or interest in real property that is open land and may hold that property with or without public access for open space, scenic roadway, pathway, outdoor recreation, or other conservation benefits. No township in a county having a population of more than 150,000 but not more than 250,000 has authority under this Article to acquire property by condemnation, and no other township has authority under this Article to acquire by condemnation (i) property that is used for farming or agricultural purposes; (ii) property that is situated within the corporate limits of a municipality or contiguous to one or more municipalities unless approval to acquire the property by condemnation is obtained under Section 115-30 or 115-35; (iii) property upon which development has commenced; or (iv) property owned by a religious organization, church, school, or charitable organization exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or similar provisions of any successor law, or any other organization controlled by or affiliated with such a religious organization, church, school, or charitable organization.

(b) For purposes of this Section:

(1) "Development" of property is deemed to have commenced if (i) at least 30 days before the filing of a petition under Section 115-10, an application for a preliminary plan or preliminary planned unit development has been filed with the applicable governmental entity or, if neither is required, a building permit has been obtained at least 30 days before the filing of a petition under Section 115-10; (ii) mass grading of the property has commenced; and (iii) within 180 days of the date the open space plan is recommended for approval by the board under Section 115-5 or by petition of the voters under Section 115-20, 115-30, or 115-35, the installation of public improvements has commenced.

(2) "Contiguous" means contiguous for purposes of annexation under Article 7 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

(3) Real property is deemed used for farming or agricultural purposes if it is more than 10 acres in area and devoted primarily to (i) the raising and harvesting of crops, (ii) the feeding, breeding, and management of livestock, (iii) dairying, or (iv) any other agricultural or horticultural use or combination of those uses, with the intention of securing substantial income from those activities, and has been so used for the 3 years immediately preceding the filing of a condemnation action. Real property used for farming or agricultural purposes includes land devoted to and qualifying for payments or other compensation under a soil conservation program under an agreement with an agency of the federal government and also includes the construction and use of dwellings and other buildings customarily associated with farming and agricultural uses when associated with those uses.

(c) If a township's acquisitions of open land, or interests in open land when combined with other lands in the township held for open space purposes by other governmental entities, equals 30% of the total acreage of the township, then the township may not acquire additional open land by condemnation.

(d) Any parcel of land that is included in an open space plan adopted by a township that has not been acquired by the township under this Section within 3 years, or within 2 years with respect to existing open space programs, after the later of (i) July 29, 1988, or (ii) the date of the passage of the referendum may not thereafter be acquired by condemnation by the township under this Section, except that if an action in condemnation to acquire the parcel is filed under this Section within that 3 year or 2 year period, as applicable, the parcel may be acquired by condemnation by the township notwithstanding the fact that the condemnation action may not be concluded within the 3 year or 2 year period, as applicable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a parcel of land cannot be acquired by condemnation under subsection (a) because of its use for farming or agricultural purposes, the 3 year or 2 year period, as applicable, shall be tolled until the date the parcel ceases to be used for farming or agricultural purposes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the fee or any lesser right or interest in real property that is open land may be acquired after the 3 year or 2 year period, as applicable, by any means authorized under subsection (a) other than condemnation.

(Source: P.A. 91-641, eff. 8-20-99.)

Sec. 115-60. Classification of areas; structures.

The board may classify, designate, plan, develop, preserve, administer, and maintain all areas, places, and facilities in which it has an interest and may construct, reconstruct, alter, and renew buildings and other structures and equip and maintain those buildings and other structures.

(Source: P.A. 79-472; 88-62.)

Sec. 115-65. Acceptance of money and personal property.

The board may accept gifts, grants, bequests, contributions, and appropriations of money and other personal property for open space purposes.

(Source: P.A. 79-472; 88-62.)

Sec. 115-70. Executive officer.

The board may employ and fix the compensation of an executive officer who shall be responsible to the board for the carrying out of its policies. The executive officer shall have the power, subject to the approval of the board, to employ and fix the compensation of assistants and employees the board considers necessary for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Article.

(Source: P.A. 79-472; 88-62.)

Sec. 115-75. Fees.

The board may charge and collect reasonable fees for the use of such facilities, privileges and conveniences as may be provided.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-80. Police powers.

The board may police its property and exercise police powers in respect thereto or in respect to the enforcement of any rule or regulation provided by the ordinances of the township and may employ and commission police officers and other qualified persons to enforce the same.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-85. Natural resources studies.

The board may undertake studies pertaining to the natural history, archaeology, history or conservation of natural resources of the township.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-90. Lease of lands.

The board may lease land for a period not longer than 50 years from the date of the lease to a responsible person, firm, or corporation for construction, reconstruction, alteration, renewal, equipment, furnishing, extension, development, operation and maintenance of lodges, housekeeping and sleeping cabins, swimming pools, golf courses, campgrounds, sand beaches, marinas, convention and entertainment centers, roads and parking areas, and other related buildings and facilities. In any lease of land leased under this Section, upon expiration of the lease title to all structures on the leased land shall be vested in the township.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-95. Lease of buildings or facilities.

The board may lease any building or facility constructed, reconstructed, altered, renewed, equipped, furnished, extended, developed, and maintained by the township to a responsible person, firm, or corporation for operation or development, or both, and maintenance for a period not longer than 20 years from the date of the lease. (Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-100. Dedication of nature preserves.

The board may dedicate open lands, held by the township under this Article, as nature preserves within the Illinois system of nature preserves as provided in Section 15 of the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act and may cooperate with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in matters relating to the purposes of this Article.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-105. Borrowing money; bonds.

The township board may borrow money and issue bonds, after referendum, for the purpose of acquiring, developing, rehabilitating and renovating open lands for open space purposes, as defined in Section 115-5, pursuant to an open space program adopted as provided in this Article, in and for the township in any amount not to exceed 5% on the valuation of taxable property in the township, to be ascertained by the last assessment for State and county taxes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness or, until January 1, 1983, if greater, the sum that is produced by multiplying the township's 1978 equalized assessed valuation by the debt limitation percentage on January 1, 1979.

Whenever the board desires to issue bonds under this Article, or whenever the board receives a petition from not less than 5% or 50, whichever is greater, of the registered voters of the township, according to the voting registration records at the time the petition

is filed, requesting the board to issue bonds under this Article, the board, concurrently with the filing of a petition with the township clerk requesting him to submit to the voters of the township at the next election the question of whether or not to adopt an open space plan and enter upon an open space program, shall certify that proposition to the proper election officials who shall submit to the voters of the township at the next election the question of whether or not the board shall issue bonds to finance an open space program and provide for the levy and collection of a direct annual tax upon all taxable property within the township to meet the principal and interest on the bonds as they mature, which tax shall be in addition to and in excess of any other tax authorized to be levied by the township. The amount of bonds to be issued under this Section shall be set forth in the question as a dollar amount. The election shall be conducted and notice given in accordance with the general election law. The question submitted to the voters at the election shall be in substantially the following form:

Shall (name of township) issue bonds to finance the acquisition, maintenance, development, rehabilitation and renovation of open space lands for open space purposes as provided by the Township Open Space Article of the Township Code and levy and collect property taxes, in excess of any other tax authorized to be levied by the township, sufficient to meet the principal and interest on the bonds as they mature, but not in an amount in excess of \$(amount)?

The votes shall be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

If a majority of the voters voting on the question vote in favor of the question, the board shall issue bonds as provided in this Article provided such bonds are issued within 6 months after the voters vote favorably on such question. If such proposition does not receive the approval of a majority of the voters voting at the election on the question, no proposition may be submitted to such voters pursuant to this Section less than 23 months after the date of such election.

The board shall then adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds, prescribing all the details thereof, and stating the time or times when the principal thereof and the interest on the bonds become payable, and the place of payment thereof. The bonds must, however, be payable within not less than 3 nor more than 40 years from date thereof, and be issued to bear interest at not to exceed the maximum rate authorized by the Bond Authorization Act, as amended at the time of the making of the contract. Such a resolution shall provide for the levy and collection of a direct annual tax upon all the taxable property within the corporate limits of such township sufficient to meet the principal of and interest on the bonds as they mature, which tax shall be in addition to and in excess of any other tax authorized to be levied by the township.

A certified copy of the resolution providing for the issuance of any such bonds shall be filed with the county clerk of the county in which the township is located and constitutes the basis and authority of the county clerk for the extension and collection of the tax necessary to pay the principal of and interest upon the bonds issued under the resolution.

With respect to instruments for the payment of money issued under this Section either before, on, or after the effective date of Public Act 86-004, it is and always has been the intention of the General Assembly (i) that the Omnibus Bond Acts are and always have been supplementary grants of power to issue instruments in accordance with the Omnibus Bond Acts, regardless of any provision of this Article that may appear to be or to have been more restrictive than those Acts, (ii) that the provisions of this Section are not a limitation on the supplementary authority granted by the Omnibus Bonds Acts, and (iii) that instruments issued under this Section within the supplementary authority granted by the Omnibus Bond Acts are not invalid because of any provision of this Article that may appear to be or to have been more restrictive than those Acts.

If a majority of the legal voters voting at referendum in any township approved a proposition at the consolidated election in 2001 in reliance upon and consistent with this Section 115-105 as it existed prior to the effective date of Public Act 91-847, then that referendum and all actions taken in reliance thereon are hereby validated and are legally binding in all respects.

(Source: P.A. 91-847, eff. 6-22-00; 92-6, eff. 6-7-01.)

Sec. 115-110. Report. No later than March 31 of each calendar year, the board of any township that has established an open space program pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall file with the township clerk a report describing the actions taken by such board to implement its open space plan. This report shall include at least the following information:

(1) The amount of taxes levied and received by the township in the preceding calendar year;

(2) The amount of all monies spent in the preceding calendar year in implementing the open space plan and the specific purposes for which all monies were spent;

(3) The legal and common descriptions of all lands acquired in the preceding calendar year; and

(4) The purpose for which all properties acquired are being used.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-115. Property tax exemption.

All property acquired by any township for open space purposes pursuant to an open space program as defined in this Article shall be exempt from real property taxation for assessment year 1988 and each assessment year thereafter.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-120. Applicability.

Only the following provisions of Sections of the Township Open Space Act as changed or added by Public Act 85-1140 shall apply to open space programs validly established prior to July 29, 1988 (the effective date of Public Act 85-1140): (i) Section 2.02 (Sections 115-10 and 115-15 of this Code) as such Section relates to amendments that add property to an existing open space plan; (ii) Section 4.02(a)(i) and (iv) (items (i) and (iv) of subsection (a) of Section 115-55 of this Code); (iii) Section 4.02(b) (subsection (c) of Section 115-55 of this Code); (iv) Section 4.02(c) (subsection (d) of Section 115-55 of this Code); and (v) Section 6 (Section 115-110 of this Code). Public Act 85-1140 shall apply to any condemnation action to exercise the right of eminent domain provided in Section 4.02 of the Township Open Space Act (Section 115-55 of this Code) filed on or after June 1, 1988 and not brought to final and unappealable judgment on or before July 29, 1988 (the effective date of Public Act 85-1140). However, the provisions of Public Act 85-1140 shall neither require additional public hearings or referenda in connection with any open space program validly established prior to July 29, 1988 (the effective date of Public Act 85-1140), except with respect to amendments pursuant to Section 2.02 of the Township Open Space Act (Sections 115-10 and 115-15 of this Code) that add property to an existing open space plan, nor render unenforceable or invalid any bonds properly issued in connection with such open space program.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)

Sec. 115-125. Validation.

Sections 4.06 through 8 of the Township Open Space Act were inadvertently omitted from the Township Code when that Code was enacted by Public Act 88-62. Those Sections are being added to the Township Code as Sections 115-75 through 115-120. They shall be construed as a continuation of the corresponding provisions of the Township Open Space Act and not as a new or different law. Every otherwise lawful action taken in reliance on and in accordance with those Sections after December 31, 1993 and before the effective date of this amendatory Act of 1994 is hereby validated.

(Source: P.A. 88-670, eff. 12-2-94.)