

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

# HUDSON COUNTY



***DIVISION OF PLANNING***

***BIENNIAL REVIEW***

JUNE 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2018



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EXECUTIVE  
SUMMARY

Hudson County is New Jersey’s smallest and most densely populated county. Although it is geographically the smallest county in New Jersey, Hudson County boasts a diverse economy and significant housing development. It remains a leader in progressive planning within the state. The Hudson County Division of Planning 2016-2018 Biennial Review will look at the County’s initiatives and studies.

As the manager of the County’s Planning Board, the Division of Planning plays a vital role in reviewing all subdivision applications in the County and site plan applications for development along County roads that may affect traffic and drainage facilities. The Planning Board promotes sustainability and environmentally friendly development through their Land Development Regulations.

Since Hudson County residents voted to create the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund in 2003, the Board of Chosen Freeholders—with support from the Advisory Board and County Executive’s recommendations—has awarded over \$49 million to partnerships between municipalities and nonprofit groups for shovel-ready projects.

Momentum with the Hudson County Shade Tree Initiative has led to the installment of new trees along County roads and the approval of Hudson County’s first Community Forestry Plan.

The Division of Planning serves as the GIS data warehouse for 12 municipalities (excluding Jersey City), all of which rely on the County’s GIS software or trained personnel. GIS is used in order to assist the Hudson County Board of Elections with re-mapping all of the County’s election districts, performing demographic analysis and producing maps for the Division’s planning studies, and updating the Official Hudson County Map every 5 years.

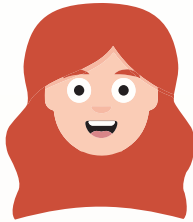
More exciting information on these projects is noted inside this document. As we move forward, the Division of Planning will continue to strive to promote innovative planning techniques for the betterment of the region.

Sincerely,

Francesca Giarratana  
Division Chief, Hudson County Division of Planning

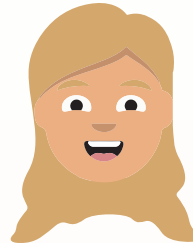
## DIVISION OF PLANNING STAFF

The Division of Planning is organized under the Department of Parks & Community Services, overseen by Director Thomas DeLeo and Deputy Director ShaRhonda Walker.



**FRANCESCA GIARRATANA, PP, AICP**  
Division Chief

Born and raised in Jersey City, Francesca attributes her upbringing to her initial interest in urban planning. She earned her undergraduate degree from American University and Master's from Rutgers Bloustein School of Planning. She started at the County as an intern and has proudly served the residents of Hudson County since 2011.



**GINA JARAMILLO, CPM**  
Office Manager (Executive Assistant)

Gina is an experienced office manager and is skilled in graphic design. Gina ensures that critical functions for the office are carried out and serves as human resource manager for the office. Gina also manages our office's participation in a high school internship program.



**SAMUEL SCHROEDER**  
Assistant Planner

A Hoboken resident, Samuel has lived in New Jersey since earning his Bachelor's in Urban Planning from the University of Cincinnati, where he participated in a cooperative education program earning experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors of the planning profession. Samuel is currently an AICP Candidate.



**KEVIN FORCE, PP, AICP**  
Principal Planner

A native of Teaneck and current resident of Jersey City, Kevin received his Master's in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University in 2013, where he concentrated in Community Development and earned a Certificate in Historic Preservation. Kevin's been with the Division since December 2013.



**JASON BOTTCHER, AICP, CFM**  
GIS Coordinator

Jason is a lifelong resident of Hudson County and has a background in historic preservation as well as being a licensed planner and Certified Floodplain Manager. Jason obtained his Master's in Urban Planning with a concentration in Sustainability and the Environment from CUNY Hunter in 2017.



**STEPHANIE LEE**  
Assistant Planner

Stephanie, a recent graduate of Bloustein's Master of City & Regional Planning program, has been with the County for nearly a year. She received her undergrad from Loyola Marymont University in California before relocating to New Jersey.



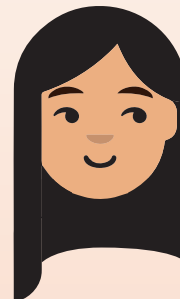
**MARIO TRIDENTE**  
Building and Zoning Inspector

A native of Hoboken and lifelong Hudson County resident, Mario is the liaison between municipal construction/zoning officials. Mario has received his Zoning Official certification from the Bloustein School of Government Services and has earned his Municipal Shade Tree Management and Hazard Shade Tree Assessment



**DARYL KRASNUK**  
GIS Specialist

A native of Flemington, NJ, Daryl now resides in Jersey City. Daryl earned a BS in environmental planning with an emphasis in geomatics at Rutgers University.

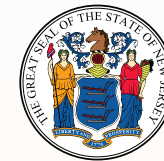


**ELIZABETH MORALES**  
Bilingual Clerk II Typist

Elizabeth, a Hudson County native, has worked as the bilingual Clerk Typist for the Division of Planning for the past 13 years. She is responsible for facilitating the efficient functioning of the office. She has a passion for networking with others, and leadership development.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Division of Planning participates in professional training every year. Each year, the Division sends representatives to the New Jersey American Planning Association Conference in New Brunswick to learn about strategies and best practices in planning. Additionally, the Division sent representatives to the 2017 National Planning Conference in New York City and the 2018 National Planning Conference in New Orleans. The staff participate in professional competitions and certification programs so they can best serve the needs of Hudson County.



### PP LICENSED

Two Division staff members are licensed Professional Planners(PP) in the State of New Jersey.

### AICP CERTIFIED

Three Division staff members have received certification by the American Planning Association.

## CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGER PROGRAM

The Division of Planning has a staff member certified by the Association of State Floodplain Managers to assist the County in meeting the challenges of flood and damage mitigation.

## PLANNING INTERNS

Over the course of the past two years, the Division hired six interns. The role of interns in the office is beneficial to the office and the individuals. They aid the staff in long-term and short-term projects, providing a learning experience for soon to be planning professionals. The office is thankful of our interns since 2016 (listed alphabetically): **Hailey Graf, Soraya Hebron, Grant King, Um-E Munawar, Mihir Rastogi, and Eric Schkrutz.**



## STUDIES, INITIATIVES, MUNICIPAL COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

### COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEMS ASSISTANCE USERS GROUP

The Community Rating System, a voluntary program through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a way to reduce flood risk, encourage strategic flood plain planning and management, and increase resiliency for communities which implement additional standards, policies, and actions to reduce the risk of flooding damage beyond the minimum standards required for flood insurance through the NFIP. Municipalities receive credit for activities which reduce their risk of flood damage. Activities are classified into four different categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulations, Flood Damage Reduction, and Flood Preparedness.

In November, 2017 the Division of Planning kicked off the CRS User Group: Floodplain Management in Hudson County. At this meeting, the municipalities of the County heard from experts in community resiliency and hazard mitigation. Through this User Group, the people who are regulating and establishing building requirements can responsibly manage and mitigate the risks that face the County.

The next steps for the program include conducting one-on-ones with each municipality and developing online resources.

### DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

In December 2017, the Division of Planning lead the Department of Parks & Community Services in establishing a newsletter for the Department. Each division submitted short articles of recent accomplishments, which were highlighted in a dense for-page document. Some notable achievements include the lead poisoning partnership with PACO (Puerto Rican Association for Community Organization). The Division also assisted in this program by developing a “Lead Safe Hudson County” logo and branding. Also highlighted in the newsletter is the title change for the Hudson County Office of Business Opportunity & Community Service, formerly the Office of Minority & Women Business Enterprise. The Division developed the newsletter so that in the future it can be distributed via mail and email on a quarterly basis.

### POST-SANDY RECOVERY

The Hudson County Division of Planning received Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs through the Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program. Grant funding from the program was awarded to the Division of Planning for an update to the County Master Plan, a new County Parks Master Plan, a new 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan, and a new County Capital Improvement Plan. Each of the plans emphasizes resiliency. To enhance the planning and stakeholder outreach process, establish an overall set of goals, objectives, and guiding principles, and connect these four planning initiatives into a unified vision for planning and resiliency in Hudson County, the development and outreach process for all four plans was combined into the “Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County Planning Initiative.” H2M Associates, a private planning consulting firm selected by the County for the project, teamed with 4Ward Planning, Matrix New World Engineering, Inc., and Princeton Hydro, LLC. to complete the plans, while the Division of Planning led the public outreach component of the planning process.

The project website for the initiative, PlanHudCo.com, launched in the summer of 2015. The website featured an overview of the Division and consultant team members, the requirements and vision for each of the plans, and updates on the progress of the planning and outreach process. The website included public meeting listings, a questionnaire, and an interactive crowdsourcing map survey, providing another means for the project team to receive comments and feedback from Hudson County residents.

The Hudson County Master Plan Re-Examination Report was adopted in August of 2016.





Residential Boulevard



Mixed Urban Boulevard



Scenic Boulevard



Downtown Avenue



Mixed Use Avenue



Industrial Avenue



Main Street



Neighborhood Street

# HUDSON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## ABOUT THE PLANNING BOARD

The Division of Planning manages the County’s Planning Board which has jurisdiction over all subdivision applications in the County and site plan applications for development along County roads that may affect traffic and drainage facilities. Ultimately, the goal is to protect investment in the County road system and drainage facilities. Hudson County was the first Planning Board in the state to incorporate a Green Infrastructure Technique Checklist in its application to promote sustainability in building and site design.

The Division of Planning receives applications, performs a review of development regulations, conducts a technical review meeting in which applicants are invited to attend, and holds the Planning Board’s public hearing. The Planning Board’s application, site inspection and escrow fee schedule and Land Use Development Regulations are adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Post-approval, the Division of Planning assists with conditions of approval set forth in the resolution, working with the Law Department and the County Engineer’s Office on franchise agreements for any encroachment onto County Roadway and assisting with any post-approval permits between the municipal construction officials and the County Engineer’s office.

## LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

Awaiting official Freeholder approval, an update to the Hudson County Land Development Regulations for Smart Growth & Sustainable Development was prepared in 2016. This update reflects an increased focus on resiliency and complete streets since the last update in 2008. The update also recognizes the effects of development on the transportation, housing and employment needs of low-income populations and minority populations, which reflects the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Environmental Justice component.

As part of the update, a set of Street Typologies Guidelines were created to classify County roadways and identify appropriate design standards. Following Complete Streets Policy, the guidelines promote multi-modal transportation, walkability, safety, and accessibility enhancements. A illustration of these typologies can be found on the **left column** of this page.

# COMMISSIONERS

The Bylaws of the Hudson County Planning Board, recently amended in March 2018, state that the Board shall have nine members, including the County Engineer, who shall be appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

## RENEE BETTINGER

Chair  
A Jersey City resident and commissioner since 2002, she works as an interior designer and is a member of the National Association of Professional Women.

## SAMANTHA LUGO

Pro-Tempore  
A North Bergen resident and commissioner since 2016, she works as a school counselor in the North Bergen schools and is a former volunteer counselor and cheerleading coach.

## JAMES CRYAN

Commissioner  
A Hoboken resident and commissioner since 2011, he is the Municipal Administrator for West New York. He formerly served as the Executive Director of the West New York Parking Authority.

## FLOYD JETER

Commissioner  
A Jersey City resident and commissioner since 2017, he currently works with the Jersey City Office of Inclusion and is an adjunct professor at New Jersey City University.

## KENNEDY NG

First Alternate  
A Union City resident and commissioner since the 2000s, he serves as the Director of the Community Development Agency of Union City, is on the Union City School Board.

## THOMAS MALAVASI, P.E., P.P., C.M.E.

County Engineer  
Previously the Township Engineer of Maplewood, New Jersey, he became the Hudson County Engineer in 2016.

## DANIEL CHOFFO

Vice-Chair  
A Harrison resident and commissioner since 2003, he is the Business Manager for the Harrison Board of Education and a commissioner of the Harrison Housing Authority.

## HON. JERRY WALKER

Freeholder | District 3  
A Jersey City resident, Honorable Jerry Walker was elected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 2017.

## HON. JOEL TORRES

Freeholder Alternate | District 4  
A Jersey City resident, Honorable Joel Torres was elected to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 2017.

## RUSHABH MEHTA

Commissioner  
A North Bergen resident and commissioner since 2003, he serves on the North Bergen Zoning Board of Adjustment and is originally from Mumbai, India.

## ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ

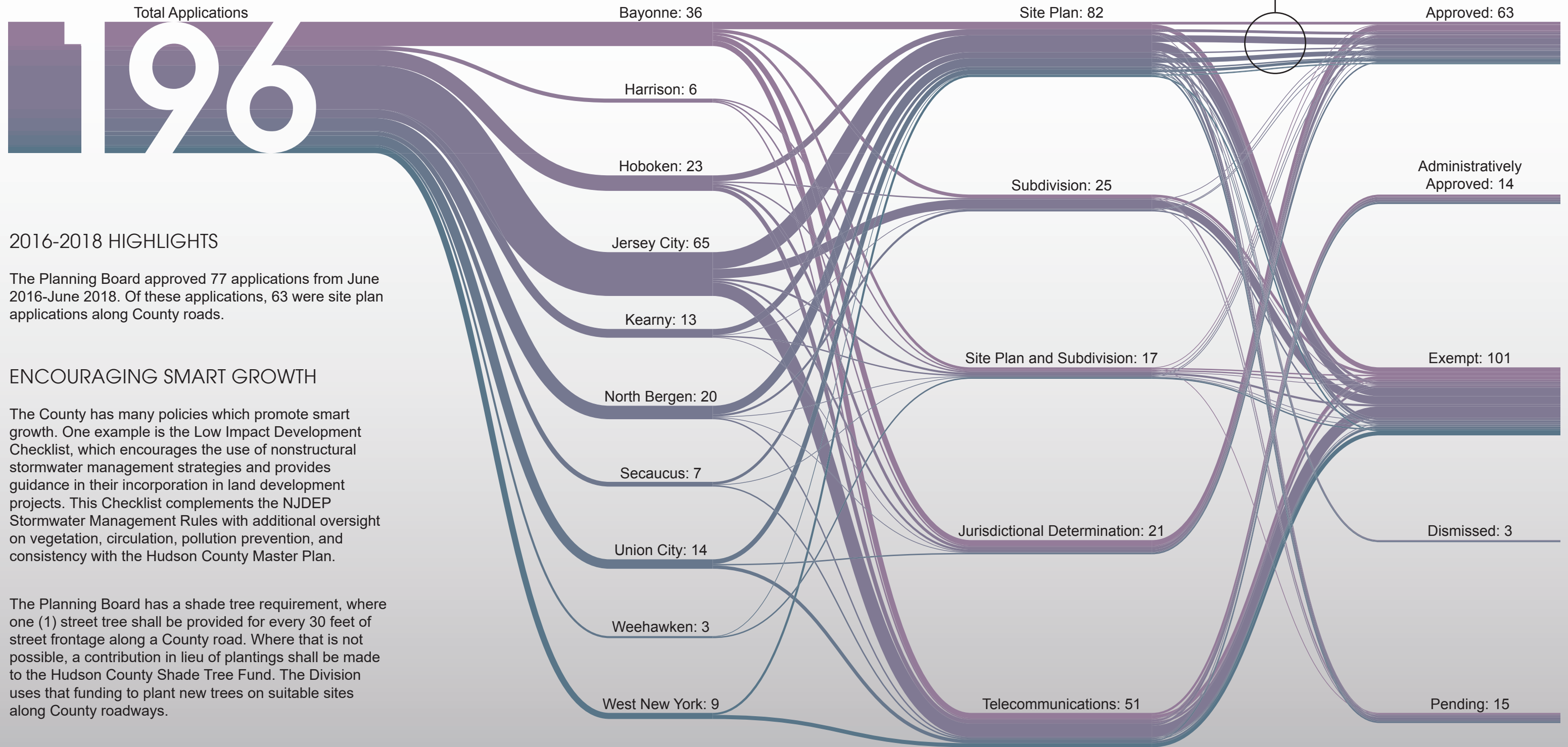
Second Alternate  
A West New York resident and commissioner since 2015, she teaches in West New York and is a commissioner on the Parking Authority there. She is originally from the Dominican Republic.

## JOSEPH GLEMOCKI, P.E.

Assistant County Engineer



# APPLICATIONS SUMMARIZED



## 2016-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

The Planning Board approved 77 applications from June 2016-June 2018. Of these applications, 63 were site plan applications along County roads.

## ENCOURAGING SMART GROWTH

The County has many policies which promote smart growth. One example is the Low Impact Development Checklist, which encourages the use of nonstructural stormwater management strategies and provides guidance in their incorporation in land development projects. This Checklist complements the NJDEP Stormwater Management Rules with additional oversight on vegetation, circulation, pollution prevention, and consistency with the Hudson County Master Plan.

The Planning Board has a shade tree requirement, where one (1) street tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of street frontage along a County road. Where that is not possible, a contribution in lieu of plantings shall be made to the Hudson County Shade Tree Fund. The Division uses that funding to plant new trees on suitable sites along County roadways.



Open Space Goals:

- (1) To improve the quality of life of Hudson County residents;
- (2) To provide accessible recreation opportunities to all Hudson County residents;
- (3) To provide green spaces for public enjoyment in all Hudson County communities;
- (4) To ensure completion of the Hudson, Hackensack and Passaic Riverfront Walkways;
- (5) To actively acquire new Open Space lands where needed and feasible;
- (6-10) To protect areas of remaining critical resources, including: Wetlands, Flood plains, Steep slopes, Wildlife Habitats, and open waters;
- (11) To protect important viewsheds throughout Hudson County;
- (12) To link proposed and existing recreation areas into an open space network;
- (13) To ensure protection of the County’s historic and cultural resources
- (14) To educate the citizenry about existing and future Open Space and recreation opportunities, and continue efforts to increase support for these activities

HUDSON COUNTY  
OPEN SPACE

ABOUT OPEN SPACE IN HUDSON COUNTY

“Hudson County is surrounded by three magnificent rivers, full of a diversity of cultures and incomes, and endowed with over 400 years of history.” - Thomas DeGise, County Exective

The Division of Planning plays an instrumental role in the way residents and visitors interact with open space. Throughout the County, there are parks large and small, that cater to the needs of neighborhoods and the region, and that act as passive places to benefit from nature and as active places for recreation. Our wide range of open space offerings continues to grow as the Division promotes the goals its established for itself, which can be see in the **left column** of this page.

RECREATIONAL AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

The County is required to prepare a ROSI as a condition of applying for and receiving Green Acres funding. The ROSI lists all Green Acres-funded properties as well as all other lands held for conservation and/or recreation purposes. Lands listed on a ROSI include those owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the County and may include land owned in fee, land leased by the County for recreation purposes, land owned by a private entity upon which the County holds a conservation easement, or any land in which the County holds a specific recreation and/or conservation interest.

The Division of Planning started the process of updating its ROSI at the end of 2017. With both Planning Board and the Freeholder Board approval, it is officially the first update since 2012. There were several new additions to the ROSI, including a portion of the Bird Sanctuary in North Bergen and a subdivision in Laurel Hill Park.



URBAN FORESTRY INITIATIVE

The County’s Urban Forestry Initiative has a mission to promote a progressive community forest and shade tree plan that fosters the sustainable development and maintenance of Hudson County’s urban forest resources, which will benefit the environment, improve human health and psychological well being, provide economic advantages, minimize County liability and the enhancement the overall quality of life for residents, workers, visitors, pedestrians and motorists alike.

In December 2017, the New Jersey State Forestry Services presented Hudson County with a Certificate of Approval for successfully completing its Community Forestry Management Plan. By establishing a plan and guidelines for the proper maintenance and expansion of the County’s urban forestry program and resources, the County is in compliance with the NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act, which provides liability protection and affords the County access to the Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) and associated grant opportunities.

Trees planted in 2016

Bayonne	15
Hoboken	9
Jersey City	16
Weehawken	6
Guttenberg	8

Trees planted in 2017

North Bergen	7
Bayonne	9
Jersey City	6

Trees planted in 2018

Hoboken	13
North Bergen	19
Jersey City	32
West New York	6
Union City	2

Trees planted through the program (as outlined to the right) do not include the count of any trees mandated by the Planning Board.

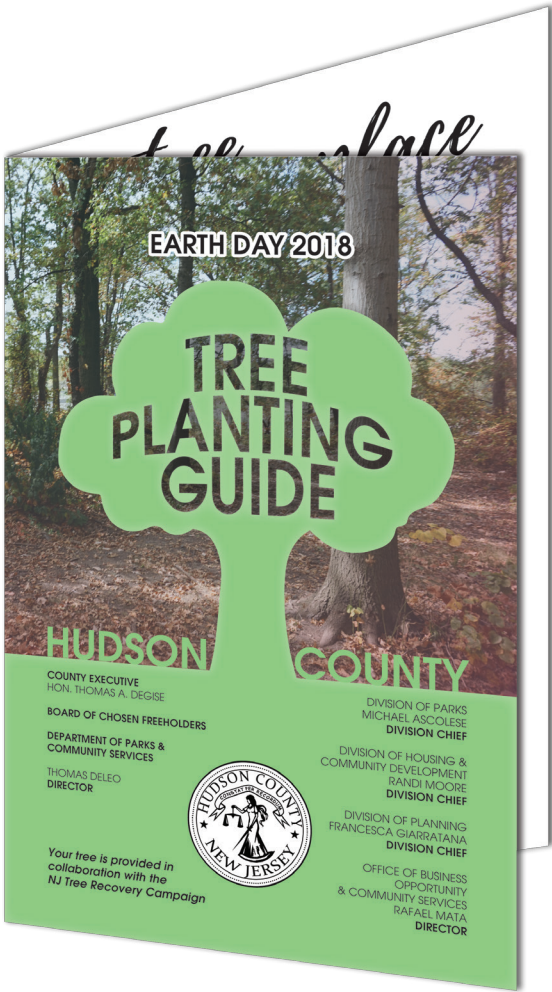
The Division of Planning also assisted in planting 81 trees in Washington Park in Union City.

Three year total: 229

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

The Division participates in the annual Earth Day Celebration, organized by the Hudson County Improvement Authority as an opportunity to educate the public on the important role trees play in the County. Planning staff distributed trees to County residents at the 2017 and 2018 events.

Planning staff also distributed a “Tree Planting Guide” to everyone who took home a tree. This guide, prepared by the Division, included special instructions for where to plant trees so that will be healthy and beneficial to landowners. Additionally, the document highlighted facts, such as trees and other vegetation cover account for 34% of the variation in surface temperatures county wide according to a preliminary study planning staff conducted on the effect of urban heat islands.





## OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND

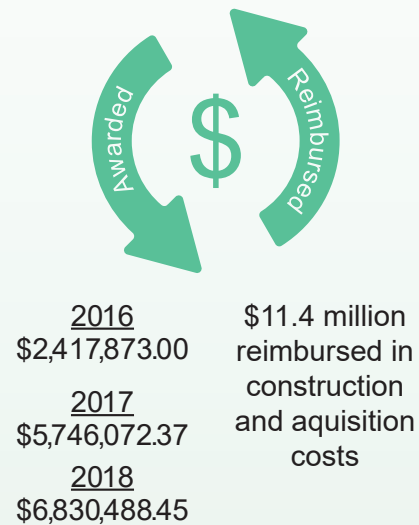
The Hudson County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund was established in 2003 after approval by a two-to-one majority of County voter participants. The Board of Chosen Freeholders annually approves the property tax rate which funds the Trust Fund.

### RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TRUST FUND

Over the past 11 years, 163 projects have been awarded throughout the County, totaling over \$64.5 million in funds: 32.4 Acres of open space have been preserved; 94 park improvement projects have been awarded; and 28 historic preservation projects have been awarded.

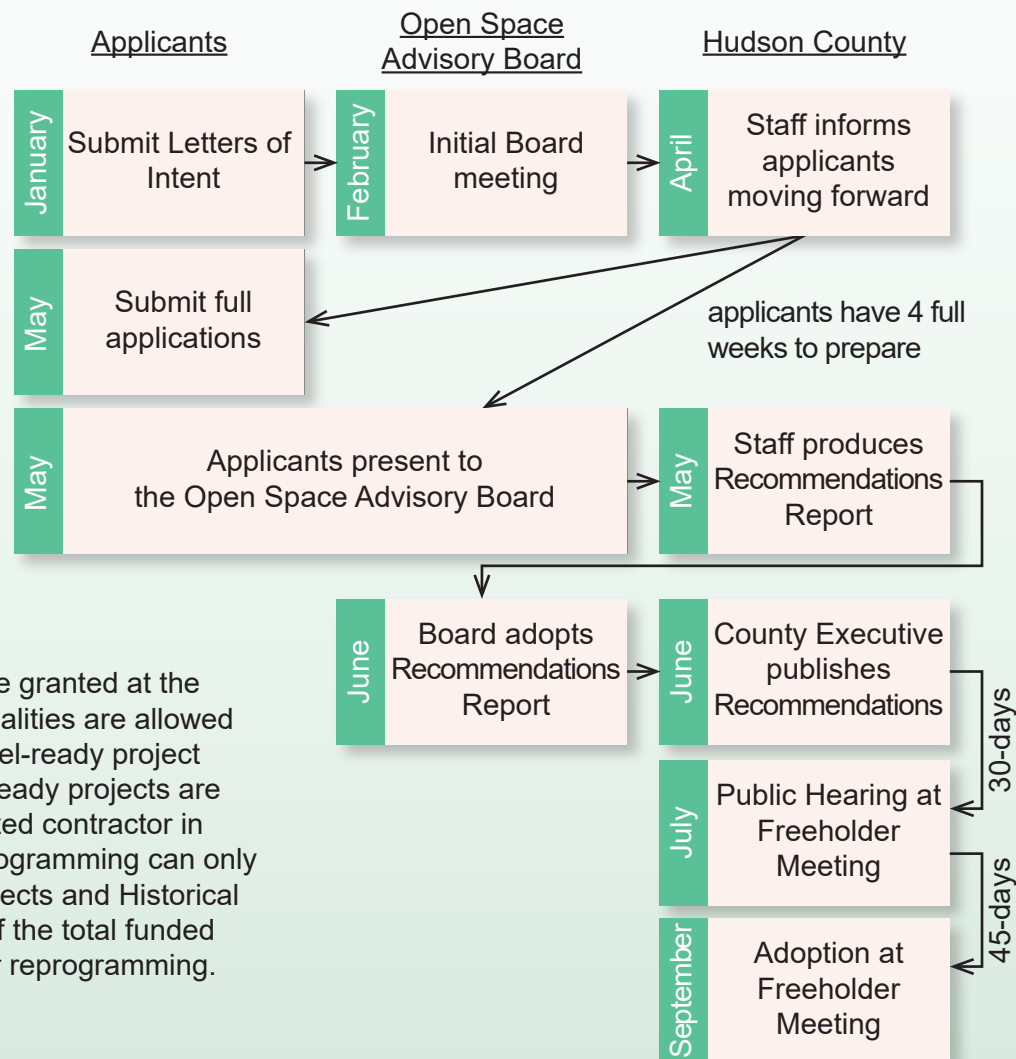
As previously awarded projects complete construction, residents of Hudson County have more recreational opportunities than before. An example of this is Collins Park in Bayonne. Awarded as part of the 2016-2017 funding cycle, the City of Bayonne sought park improvements including an enhanced layout, playground equipment, dog parks, tennis courts, athletic fields and more. The City used their awarded funds of \$448,000 in addition to \$52,000 in reprogrammed funds to construct a portion of their project.

### DOLLARS AWARDED

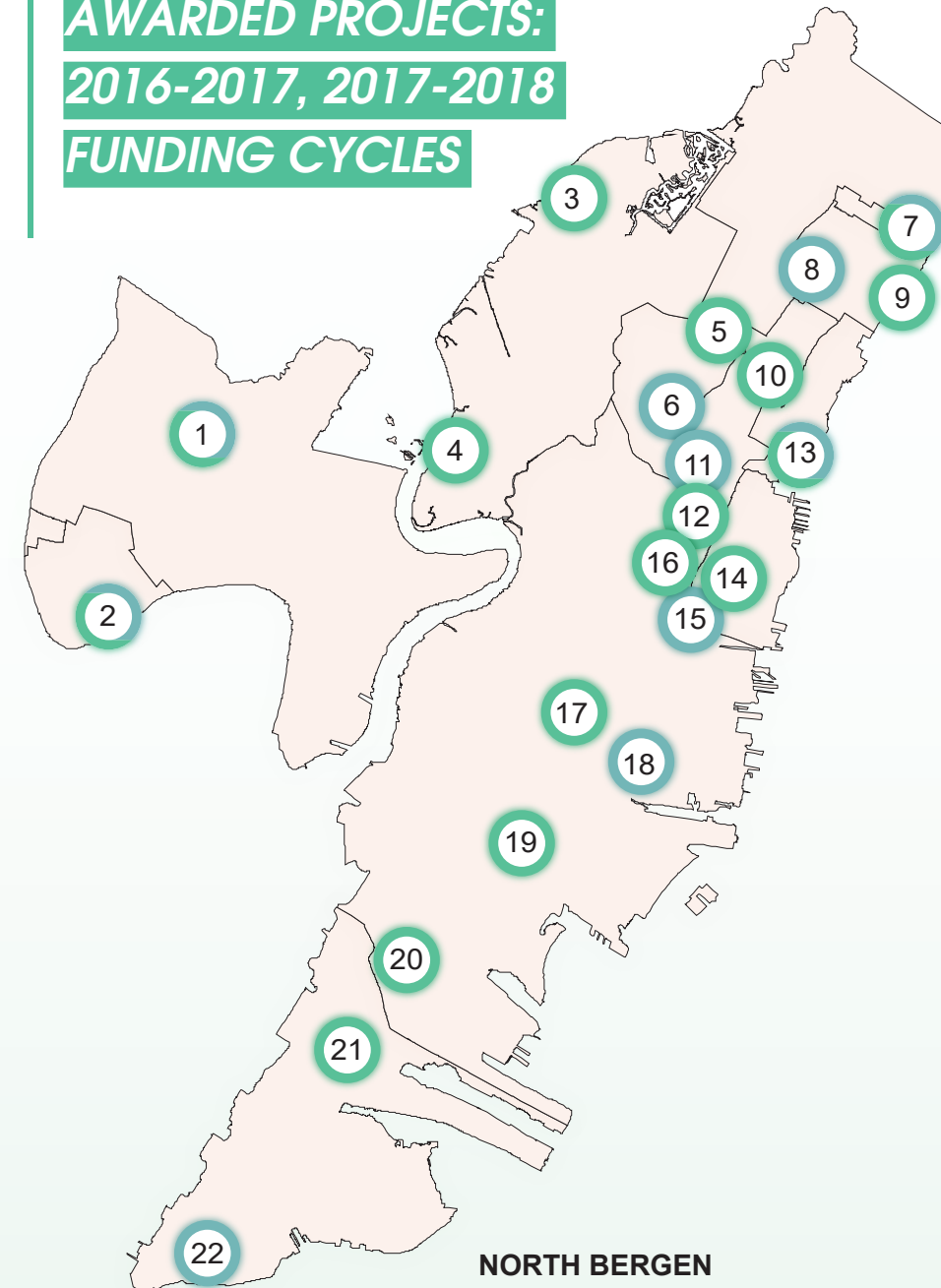


### REPROGRAMMING FUNDS

Reprogramming of funded projects are granted at the discretion of the County. Only municipalities are allowed to request a reprogramming to a shovel-ready project within the same municipality. Shovel ready projects are considered projects that have a selected contractor in place or are under construction. Reprogramming can only be awarded to Park Improvement projects and Historical Capital projects. No more than 50% of the total funded project award amount can be used for reprogramming.



## AWARDED PROJECTS: 2016-2017, 2017-2018 FUNDING CYCLES



#### KEARNY

- 1 Gunnell Oval  
2017 \$445,000.00  
2018 \$500,000.00

#### HARRISON

- 2 Cape May Street Park  
2017 \$900,000.00  
2018 \$450,000.00

#### SECAUCUS

- 3 Meadowlands Sports Facility  
2018 \$500,000.00
- 4 Laurel Hill Shoreline (County)  
2018 \$450,000.00

#### NORTH BERGEN

- 5 Policemen's Memorial Park  
2018 \$500,000.00
- 6 Paterson Plank Park  
2017 \$350,000.00

#### GUTTENBERG

- 7 Veteran's Park Improvements  
2017 \$329,073.10  
2018 \$201,957.00

#### WEST NEW YORK

- 8 Miller Stadium Field  
2017 \$473,999.27
- 9 Patricia McEldowney Field  
2018 \$500,000.00

#### UNION CITY

- 10 38th Street Playground  
2018 \$500,000.00
- 11 17th Street Playground  
2017 \$500,000.00
- 12 Washington Park  
2018 \$308,000.00

#### WEEHAWKEN

- 13 Weehawken Waterfront  
2017 \$900,000.00  
2018 \$500,000.00

#### HOBOKEN

- 14 Madison Street Park  
2018 \$500,000.00
- 15 Southwest Park Expansion  
2017 \$900,000.00

#### JERSEY CITY

- 16 Riverview Fisk Park  
2018 \$500,000.00
- 18 Jersey City Main Library  
2017 \$500,000.00
- 17 Old Bergen Church Cemetery  
2018 \$100,000.00

- 19 Berry Lane Skate Park  
2018 \$500,000.00

- 20 Mercer Park (County)  
2018 \$500,000.00

#### BAYONNE

- 21 Neil A. DeSena Park  
2018 \$500,000.00
- 22 Collins Park  
2017 \$448,000.00





Hudson County's bids for Amazon HQ2 (JCRA)



Hudson County Board of Elections



Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development



North Hudson Regional Fire/Rescue

# GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

## ABOUT GIS IN HUDSON COUNTY

*“Geographic information system (GIS) is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS integrates many types of data. It analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes. With this unique capability, GIS reveals deeper insights into data, such as patterns, relationships, and situations—helping users make smarter decisions.”*

— ESRI

The Hudson County Division of Planning uses GIS to help elected officials and local municipalities plan understand the forces which affect the quality of life in their communities and plan for the needs of tomorrow.

## ELECTIONS

The Divison of Planning works with the Board of Elections to ensure that County citizens can cearly locate their polling place on Election Day.

## MAPPING APPLICATIONS

The Division of Planning has made an effort to provide mapping resources to residents of Hudson County through it's ArcGIS Online Interactive Mapping Initiative. Via online application, residents can view flood insurance maps, track storms, and see how the County's tree canopy is growing. The application is also used to recieve public input. Currently in development is a “Parks and Recreation Finder,” which will allow residents and visitors to search for amenities in County parks. For example, if someone wants to have a picnic, they can see all the parks in the county that have public grills and picnic tables.

# 2020 CENSUS

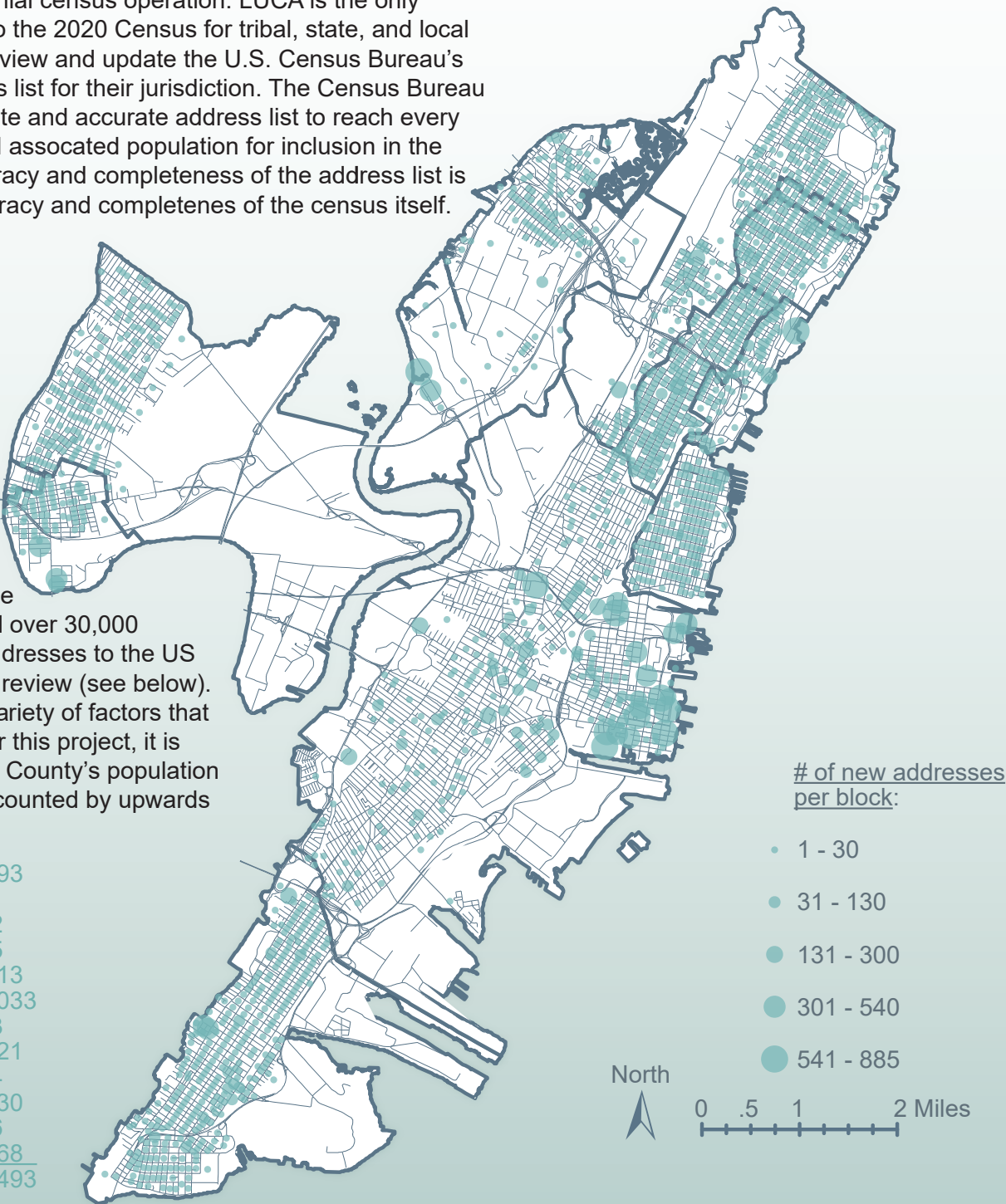
The Decennial Census is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution, ensuring equitable apportionment in Congress and a fair distribution of federal funds. The Division of Planning utilizes Census data or all its studies and plans. Ultimately, demographic data collected through the Census is a driver for public policy nationwide.

## LOCAL UPDATE OF THE CENSUS ADDRESSES OPERATION (LUCA)

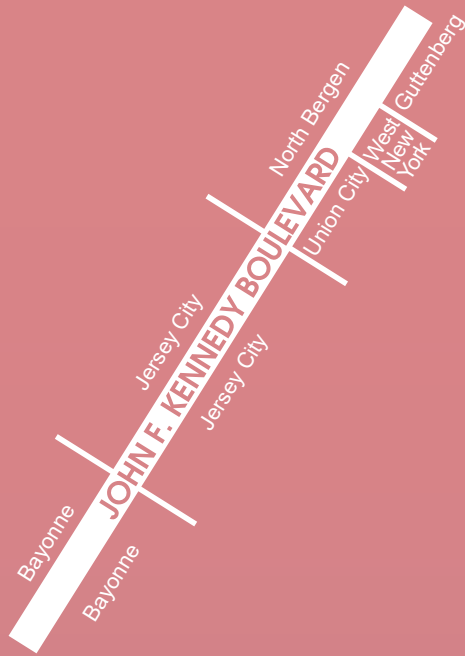
The Local Update of the Census Addresses Operation is a voluntary decennial census operation. LUCA is the only opportunity prior to the 2020 Census for tribal, state, and local governments to review and update the U.S. Census Bureau's residential address list for their jurisdiction. The Census Bureau relies on a complete and accurate address list to reach every living quarters and associated population for inclusion in the census. The accuracy and completeness of the address list is critical to the accuracy and completeness of the census itself.

As a result of the LUCA program, the Division submitted over 30,000 new or missing addresses to the US Census Burea for review (see below). Considering the variety of factors that were examined for this project, it is estimated that the County's population is currently undercounted by upwards of 10%.

Bayonne	2,493
East Newark	51
Guttenberg	192
Harrison	295
Hoboken	2,413
Jersey City	14,033
Kearny	533
North Bergen	1,921
Secaucus	654
Union City	2,730
Weehawken	896
West New York	1,268
County Total	32,493

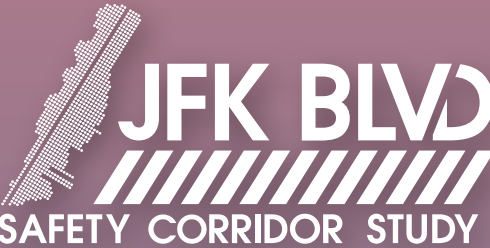






- 1
- Step One
- assess and quantify needs
  - survey 775 participants
  - host pop-up events
  - determine focus areas
- 2
- Step Two
- collect data and conduct analysis
  - install MioVison cameras
  - arrange walkability audits
- 3
- Step Three
- study recommendations and final report

- Walking and biking improvements
- More comfortable transit stops
- Crash and speed reduction strategies
- Opportunities to reduce storm related flooding



# TRANSPORTATION & CONNECTIVITY

## JFK BOULEVARD SAFETY CORRIDOR STUDY

The County submitted a proposal and received an award letter from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) for a subregional transportation study grant for \$300,000 to create a John F.Kennedy Boulevard Corridor Safety Study. Through the Division of Planning, the County has hired Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. to lead the study by analyzing current conditions and providing safety recommendations along JFK Blvd. and specifically in selected focus areas. Division of Planning and Engineering staff will contribute \$60,000 worth of staff time to study, as part of the agreement with NJTPA.

The Study will build on recent planning efforts and fully integrate transit service into the range of approaches and localized solutions to come. Ultimately, every transit rider is a pedestrian, and the same challenges that exist relating to crosswalks, sidewalks, and other infrastructure affect access to transit and the ease of trips in and around the corridor.

## HACKENSACK RIVERWALK REPORT

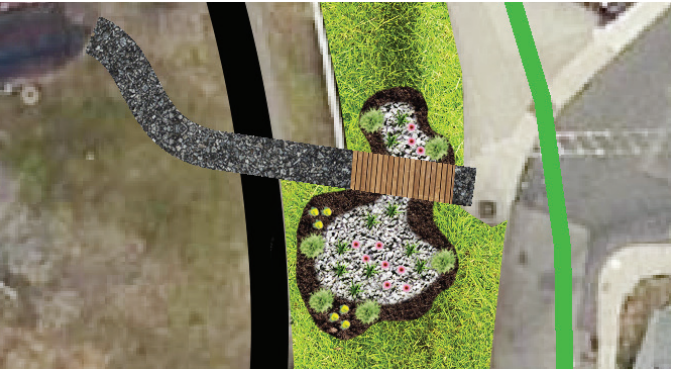
The Hackensack RiverWalk is a planned eight (8) mile waterfront park extending from Newark Bay in Bayonne to Bellman’s Creek in North Bergen. Completion of the Hackensack RiverWalk will provide a continuouspedestrian trail connecting parks, retail, office, commercial and residential areas of Hudson County. As part of the development of the Riverwalk, planning staff will coordinate with regional plans, such as the Morris Canal Greenway, to building North Jersey’s bike network.

A preliminary draft of the report breaks down the RiverWalk into 17 sections. Within each section, short-term and long-term opportunities for building the RiverWalk are established. Additionally, the plan outlines some of the challenges that are present. Looking at the greater context of the site and the materials that are currently used in the network will help stakeholders establish guidelines for future development along the Hackensack river.

## MORRIS CANAL GREENWAY

Mercer Park became an area of focus thanks to \$297,000 in Transportation Alternatives Program funding from the NJDOT in partnership with the NJTPA. The program is designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the nation’s intermodal system. Since Mercer Park is a critical portion of the Morris Canal Greenway plan, it was an ideal candidate for funding.

The County Engineers office and the Division of Planning, with guidance from Freeholders, developed a concept to restore life to a once forgotten portion of the Morris Canal. The concept includes new bike designations, a bioswale, raingarden, educational and historic signage, and beatification through fencing and archways. The concept compliments other investment that the County is making in the park, ensuring that this park meets the growing needs of the community.



## JC WALKS

Jersey City is home to vibrant neighborhoods where residents can walk to work, shops, restaurants and parks. It is a major regional destination for tourism, higher education, employment, and shopping. JC Walks aimed to build upon the City’s assets and provide a plan for great urban streets that are comfortable, safe, beautiful and interesting to walk in each of the City’s six wards.

The Division of Planning was active in the development of JC Walks by participating in several Walkability Audits. In this process, staff members provided a County and planning perspective on the current status of JC streets. Additionally, the staff experienced prototypes of intersections that demonstrated more ideal walkability. While temporary, the demonstration projects lead to some permanent changes on Jersey City streets only shortly after.



## STREETSMART CAMPAIGN

During the month of November 2017, local police departments ramped up enforcement of traffic laws for both pedestrians and motorists in the most dangerous Kennedy Boulevard intersections in five County municipalities. NJTPA developed and sponsored the Be Street Smart campaign that the County adopted. Division of Planning staff, along with the County Engineer and HCIA, collected data along JFK to record driver and pedestrian behavior before and after the study.





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