



PAST GOALS & OBJECTIVES

2005 OPEN SPACE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN HUDSON COUNTY March 2005



2004/2005 Hudson County Open Space & Recreation Plan



Credit: Hudson County



Credit: Hudson County

Images: Bayonne's Richard K. Rutkowski Park prior to its full development in 2005 (above) and after the construction of the quarter-mile-long wood path.

As an initial step to this reexamination process, past Hudson County Planning documents were revisited: the 2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan and the 2008 Reexamination of the Master Plan. More specifically, the goals and objectives of these documents were evaluated.

The original goals of the Hudson County Open Space Plan:

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. To protect areas of remaining critical resources, including: Wetlands,
7. Flood plains,
8. Steep slopes,
9. Wildlife Habitats,
10. 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

While there has been significant success for many of the goals outlined in the 2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan, others have seen less substantial progress. The Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund has provided an effective way for municipalities and nonprofit groups to improve their communities with a variety of projects. Important acquisitions, especially in the Meadowlands region, and the near-completion of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway have changed the landscape of the county for the better and transformed these regions into outdoor tourist destinations. However, many densely populated areas remain underserved by small parks, the parks system remains fragmented and sometimes difficult to access, and critical environmental and scenic resources remain under threat from development. The County remains committed to serving as a catalyst for progress toward the realization of these goals and objectives.

In the following pages, the objectives from the 2005 Hudson County Open Space Plan are reviewed in the context of events and how Hudson County has approached them over the past few years. The progress of the objectives are defined as one of the following: Ongoing, Progress, Significant Progress, or Insufficient Progress. Additional background information is provided regarding the actions needed of the County and/or municipalities. Please note this information is not a fully inclusive evaluation of each objective. Rather, it is meant to illustrate a snapshot of why the objective was given a certain progress indicator.

The Hudson County Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Fund is the major implementation tool of the 2005 Open Space Plan. In evaluating the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund (HCOSTF) projects, improvements and work completed were tied to the goals and objectives of the plan. These connections are introduced as "RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS." The Trust Fund has been the critical catalyst for the success of Hudson County's goals for open space, recreation, and historic preservation. This specific analysis of past objective supports the importance of this program and its funds.

The goals in the 2013 report were based on those in the 2005 plan as well as stakeholder feedback, municipal plans, and new research. "Chapter 3: 2013 Goals" elaborates on the creation of these goals and their relation to past goals.

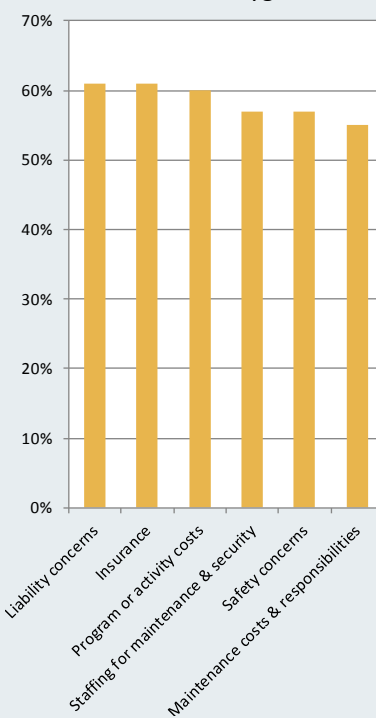
Image: Aerial of the Township of Secaucus' Anderson Creek Marsh



Credit: Hudson County

Active Living Research published a research brief in April 2012 that explored the connection between playground access, obesity and lower income neighborhoods. The report, titled “Promoting Physical Activity through the Shared Use of School and Community Recreational Resources” found that minority and low-income neighborhoods tended to have less after-hours playground facilities than affluent areas. Furthermore, “[m]any communities, especially those with populations at high risk for obesity, lack recreational facilities (pp. 2). The report also suggests ways to work with researchers to negotiate issues of liability, maintenance, safety, scheduling and costs.¹

Reasons for Restricting Public Access to School Playgrounds*



*Based on a national survey of school principals working low-income and Black or Latino dominant neighborhoods

QUALITY OF LIFE

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Ensure access to recreation facilities for all residents	<p>PROGRESS: This remains a challenge area for Hudson County, due to high population density and a tightly woven urban grid.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Over 25 HCOSTF projects have accessibility components, either in terms of general accessibility to public areas or ADA compliancy to ensure access by a wider variety of users. See “Chapter 5: Open Space Trust Fund Projects” for further information on these projects.</p>
2- Ensure recreation facilities for all age groups	<p>PROGRESS: Several HCOSTF projects have increased or improved the recreation facilities for all age ranges. The County will explore public-private partnership options for increased recreation facilities for children. Municipalities may want to also consider options for reaching a compromise with public schools to allow public use of fields and/or facilities during non-school hours.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: One such project is the Renovation of Camp Liberty Pool project in Jersey City. It primarily serves Jersey City youth. It has a softball field, playground, multi-purpose field, basketball courts, handball courts, private in-ground pool, restrooms and changing areas, first aid station and a large covered pavilion area complete with a stage and tables for lunch, art, and rainy day activities. Another example is the development and reconstruction of Belgrove Drive Playground in Kearny which features playground equipment for 3-5 and 5-12 year-olds.</p>
3- Work toward goal of ensuring that open space availability adequately responds to population density throughout Hudson County	<p>PROGRESS: The acquisitions made through the HCOSTF have made progress toward this goal. See the population density and open space maps in “Chapter 6: Open Space Resources” to gauge the progress.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The map on “Page 3-Chapter 5” highlights the disbursement of OSFT awards throughout the County.</p>
4- Protect clean air and water through critical resource protection	<p>PROGRESS: The New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group (NJHDG) gathered water samples from 2004 to 2008 and found that local surface water quality had mixed results. Though water quality has improved over recent years with the help of improved sewage facilities, cleaner recreation uses, conservation efforts and Superfund site remediation, urban run-off and non-point source pollution continues to have negative impacts.¹</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: A handful of HCOSTF projects address issues of critical resource protection by either creating more sustainable buildings or taking steps to prevent damage to steep slopes. For example, the LEED Improvements for Veteran’s Field House project in Kearny include grey water rest room facilities, demolition recycling, solar panels and a wind turbine.</p>

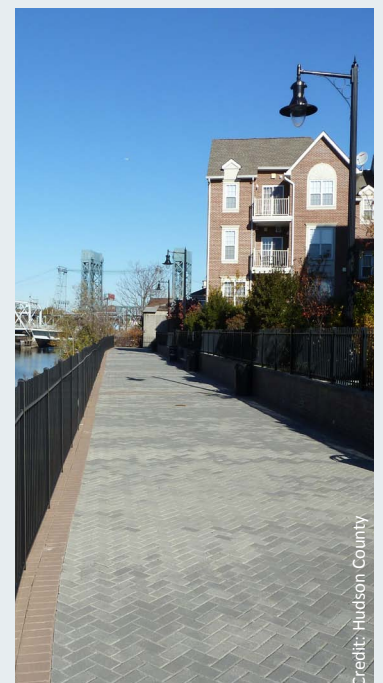
5- Identify new opportunities for small, local vest pocket parks throughout the County	<p>PROGRESS: Large, open spaces are difficult to come by in Hudson County, which makes small, green spaces and pocket parks an integral part of open space and recreation planning. The County is committed to increasing accessibility to pocket parks.</p> <p>RELATIONSHIP TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: One example is the Maple Street Reading Garden in Weehawken.</p>
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RECREATION

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Address needs identified in the open space and recreation needs assessment for facilities deficits	<p>PROGRESS: The 2005 Open Space Plan listed several deficits in park facilities. Some of the most prominent deficits were in special facilities (pavilions, golf courses, volleyball courts etc.) and running trails. In addition to the progress the County has already made, its current projects and plans will further improve the publicly identified facility deficits. For example, the County is managing the construction of a public golf course adjacent to Lincoln Park West, which is expected to open in 2015.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: In 2012, Hoboken was awarded funds for Improvements to Stevens Field, which will include the creation of a dog run.</p>
2- Increase funding priority for the maintenance and upgrading of facilities in County Parks and encourage the same in Municipal facilities	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Improvements to the Lincoln Park Athletic Fields 10 & 11 HCOSTF Project is an example of upgrading existing county facilities.</p>
3- Provide for scenic walkways and bikeways along the waterfront	<p>PROGRESS: Hudson County striped the first segments of a bike lane along River Road in the fall of 2012. Bike lanes are also being striped in Hoboken and Jersey City, and significant progress has been made along the East Coast Greenway with the completion of the Newark to Jersey City connection. For additional information, see the Waterfront Walkways section in “Chapter 6: Open Space Resources.”</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Nearly a dozen projects include or connect to waterfront walkways, one of them being the Morris Canal Greenway.</p>
4- Expand existing parks and encourage development of new parks where feasible	<p>PROGRESS: See “Quality of Life-Objective 5” (page 4) regarding progress.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: A dozen park areas were acquired through the HCOSTF, including the Berry Park Lane Expansion, Boyd McGuinness Park Expansion, and the Guttenberg/North Bergen Waterfront Park.</p>
5- Continue to react to public requests for new recreation facilities	<p>ONGOING: Public support for projects, assessed through tools such as surveys and support letters from individuals and community organizations, are important considerations for open space projects. See page 2 in “Chapter 2: Stakeholder Outreach” for more municipal and nonprofit information.</p>



Images: The 2013 Bike Jersey City Ward tour. The starting line at Exchange Place (top); a completed section of the Passaic Waterfront Walkway in Harrison (bottom).





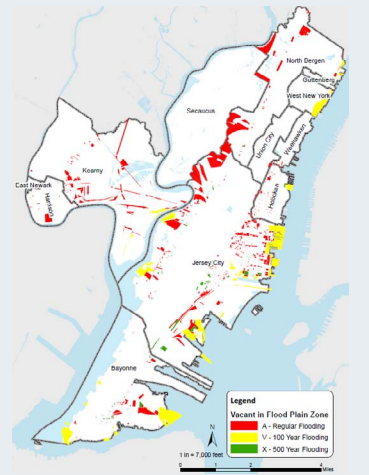
Images: East Cost Greenway Ride along HRWW (top). A section of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway in Hoboken has bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the water (middle); a section of the Passaic Waterfront Walkway (bottom).

WATERFRONT WALKWAYS

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Encourage the construction of a coordinated waterfront walkway along all the County's waterfronts.	<p>PROGRESS: The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway is nearly complete and is a major step towards this objective. However, walkways along the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers require more work.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Six projects on the Hudson River, four projects on the Hackensack River and three projects on the Passaic River.</p>
2- Work with private developers to ensure inclusion of walkways in each waterfront development project	<p>UNDER THREAT: Municipalities have made exceptional progress—especially along the Hudson River—with developers incorporating walkways into the public realm. However, due to recent legislative changes, public access to certain waterways is under threat.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: An example of a project that incorporated open space with new development was Harbor View Park in Bayonne.</p>
3- Partner with local municipalities, adjacent counties, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, state agencies and private non-profit conservation groups for development of walkways	<p>ONGOING: Continued coordination with local municipalities, developers, non-profit groups, and NJDEP to develop walkways.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Several multi-jurisdictional walkways along the Hudson, Hackensack and Passaic waterfronts have been accomplished through the Open Space Trust Funds. A few examples include the Hoboken/Weehawken Cove and the Guttenberg/North Bergen Waterfront Park.</p>
4- Follow the strategies outlined in the existing the Hudson Waterfront Walkway Implementation Plans and the Hackensack River Walk Plan.	<p>PARTIAL PROGRESS: The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway Plan encourages a multi-jurisdictional approach to create a coordinated and continuous 18-mile waterfront network along the Hudson. The development of Lincoln Park West and Skyway Park in Jersey City exemplify an effort to link county waterfront walkways with parkland.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: See "Recreation", objective 4.</p>
5- Develop a Passaic River Waterfront Walkway Plan.	<p>INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS: There is still no Passaic River Waterfront Walkway plan. This remains a priority of the County.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Completed projects, such as the Harrison's Passaic River Waterfront Walkway.</p>

GREEN SPACES

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Identify vacant parcels in each municipality as possible green spaces.	<p>PROGRESS: In the 2005 report, a list of vacant properties was included. Through stakeholder outreach, we have identified parcels that can be acquired for future green spaces. Vacant properties were also analyzed using New Jersey's MOD IV tax data. See "Chapter 7" for these maps.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The Farm Road/Oak Lane acquisition in Secaucus was awarded funds to convert vacant land to green space.</p>
2- Identify existing publicly owned parcels as possible green spaces.	<p>PROGRESS: Jersey City has developed a unique model for converting identified city-owned lots into urban green spaces. A similar idea might be explored in other municipalities.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Hudson County acquired a triangular piece of property and created a plaza in front of the Hudson County Community College.</p>
3- Assess needs for landscaping and tree maintenance.	<p>PROGRESS: Hudson County is currently developing a Forestry Initiative Management Plan under their 2008 HCOSTF grant.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: In 2010, recognizing its need for more shade trees, the Township of Harrison reprogrammed remaining HCOSTF funds for the planting of 50 new trees.</p>
4- Provide incentives for private developments to include accessible green spaces	<p>PROGRESS: All site plan development applications presented to the planning board must include two of the 20 green infrastructure strategies identified by the Hudson County's Land Use Development Regulations. The Reexamination Report seeks to further emphasize low impact development.</p>
5- Identify new opportunities for small, local vest pocket parks	<p>PROGRESS: See "Quality of Life" section. Through Stakeholder meetings in 2012, municipalities identified future acquisitions to create pocket parks.</p>
6- Coordinate with local communities, adjacent counties, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, the state and federal agencies to increase green spaces at public facilities.	<p>PROGRESS: There are many examples of multi-jurisdictional approaches along the waterfront. Additional cooperation between communities is encouraged.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The Township of Weehawken and the city of Hoboken have coordinated efforts to complete a cove along the Hudson River, while collaboration between the Town of Guttenberg and the Township of North Bergen has resulted in the creation of new waterfront open space.</p>

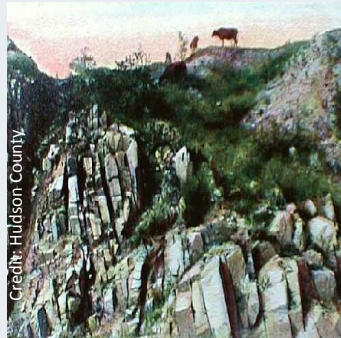


Vacant and flood prone areas in Hudson County. See page 9 in Chapter 7 for larger image.

A study published in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health explained how **green space** related to people's self perception of general health. The report found that "[...] the relation between **green space and health** is stronger for people with a lower socioeconomic status as compared with people with a high socioeconomic status, and is stronger for youth and elderly compared with adults."²



Images: The Jersey City Adopt-A-Lot programs enables residents to convert vacant lots into public garden areas (top); This historic postcard illustrates Weehawken's pastoral past (bottom).



ACQUISITION

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Encourage municipalities to prepare inventories of publicly owned properties to consider the use of such properties for open space or recreation facilities	ONGOING: The County is working with all municipalities to update inventories of publicly owned properties.
2- Create list of county acquisition priorities.	PROGRESS: Hudson County has compiled information about vacant lots as well as each property's distance from an open space resource. Information like this, along with other property acquisition goals, helps guide the county's acquisition priorities.
3- Encourage municipalities to prepare a list of municipal acquisition priorities	SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS: During stakeholder outreach meetings, municipalities listed priority sites for acquisition. Please see "Chapter 7 -Open Space Resources" for this feedback.
4- Utilize the recently passed Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to begin acquisition activities	PROGRESS: Since 2005, Open Space Trust Funds aided in the acquisition of 13 new or expanded sites. See "Chapter 5: Open Space trust Fund" for more information on these projects.
5- Partner with local municipalities, adjacent counties, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, state agencies and private non-profit conservation groups for joint acquisition of Open Space to leverage available funding	<p>SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS: A number of the HCOSTF projects have been awarded to collaborative applicants. The County encourages collaborative efforts for the awarding of the Trust's funds.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: A few examples include the North Bergen & Guttenberg Waterfront Park and the effort led by the County for the Hoboken & Weehawken Waterfront Walkway at Weehawken Cove.</p>

CRITICAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Identify remaining critical resources	ONGOING: The County continues to work with the municipalities and local non-profits to identify remaining critical resources.
2- Suggest critical resource protection ordinances for municipalities	PROGRESS: The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection recently issued public access rules that ease waterfront access requirements for developments. Hudson County is devoted to encouraging municipalities to pass ordinances requiring developers along the waterfronts to continue providing public access to the waterfront—despite the ease in state regulations.
3- Pursue acquisition of remaining critical resource areas	<p>ONGOING.: The County continues to work with municipalities to identify acquisitions with remaining critical resource areas.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The acquisition of land to construct Skyway Park in Jersey City along the Hackensack River.</p>
4- Re-evaluate any county capital program in critical resource areas	ONGOING. Major projects underway at Lincoln Park West, comprised of 123 acres along the Hackensack River, will add new and exciting natural features and recreational amenities.
5- Pursue cooperative resource protection with municipalities, adjacent counties, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, the state, federal agencies and private nonprofit conservation groups	<p>PROGRESS: Continued cooperation between government agencies and non-profit groups to complete gaps along the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway. Coordination between NJDEP, Hudson County and Jersey City to restore Lincoln Park West tidal channels.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The Farm Road/Oak Lane Acquisition in Secaucus and the Skyway Park plans in Jersey City exemplify successful coordination between various entities for the purpose of preserving open space.</p>



Hoboken/Weehawken Cove prior to walkway construction



Hoboken/Weehawken Cove after its completion



Lincoln Park West



Lincoln Park West



Credit: Hudson County

Image: Near Weehawken before the manufacturing age along the Hudson River (above); The improvements at Lincoln Park West and the future site of the Hudson County public golf course in June 2013 (below) . The area along the riverfront will include walkway.



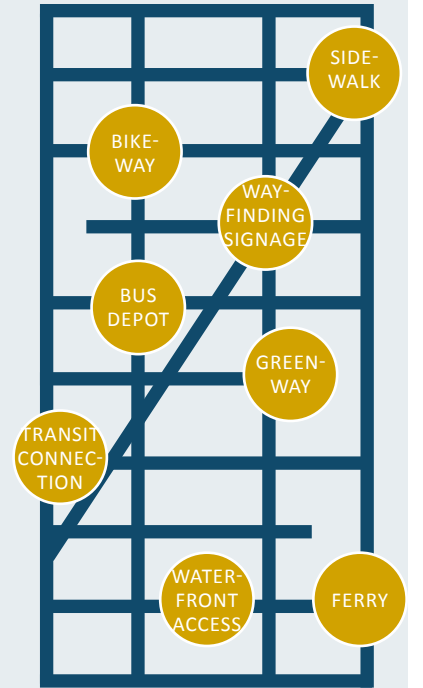
Credit: Hudson County

VIEWSHEDS

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Ensure completion of riverfront walkways	<p>PROGRESS: There has been significant progress on the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway. As work continues on the walkway, a concentrated focus is now being directed towards Passaic and Hackensack riverfronts.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: See “Waterfront Walkways” Objective 1</p>
2- Protect visual resources of the “Palisades” and long range harbor viewsheds	<p>PROGRESS: While some of the scenic resources of the Palisades have been preserved and enhanced, continued development in some areas has led to the degradation, in both scenic and environmental terms, of important Palisades “viewsheds.”</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Harbor View Park at The Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor created wonderful views . The Improvements at Donnelly & Veteran’s Park will create better access of the viewsheds along the Palisades in West New York.</p>
3- Ensure that new development provides public access to waterfront areas, recreational facilities and open space	<p>UNDER THREAT: Recent legislative changes have hampered the possibility of ensuring public access to waterfront areas .</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: See “Waterfront Walkways,” Objective 2</p>

NETWORK LINKS

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Provide for scenic walkways and bikeways along the Hudson, Hackensack and Passaic River waterfronts	<p>PROGRESS: Lincoln Park West offers scenic walkways and views of the Hackensack River. Richard A. Rutkowski Park in Bayonne has bike paths, fishing holes and views of the Newark Bay.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Located on the Hudson River, North Bergen and Guttenberg Park will offer scenic views of the river while offering recreational facilities and a passive park with an amphitheater.</p>
2- Provide way finding signage to nearby parks and recreation facilities	<p>PROGRESS: A grant from the Federal Highway Administration National Recreation Trail Program was awarded to the Hudson County Division of Planning for the installation of signage and bike racks along the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway. This wayfinding signage is to be installed in 2013.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Hackensack River Trail Stop-Improvement at Laurel Hill Park, Hoboken Cove Boathouse, Group Picnic Pavilion Area- Liberty State Park, Washington Park Association Community Based Park Improvement Proposal.</p>
3- Improve signage on bikeways throughout the county	<p>PROGRESS: The East Coast Greenway signage is featured throughout the County. In addition, municipal efforts in Hoboken and Jersey City have highlighted bikeways more effectively over recent years.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway has historical and wayfinding signage.</p>
4- Create more East/ West connections to link the waterfront areas	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The Jersey City Embankment presents an opportunity to create a 6 block east-west greenway. The proposed Morris Canal Greenway will create east-west connections while providing an historical narrative.</p>
5- Maximize access to cultural and historic facilities through public transportation and pedestrian walkway improvements	<p>PROGRESS: The Liberty State Park Circulator Cost-Benefit Analysis, discussed in Objective 1 of this section, also examined how public facilities may be accessed via public transportation.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The restoration of the Ellis Island Ferry Terminal is an HCOSTF project that incorporated and enables elements of public transportation.</p>
6- Actively participate in the ‘East Coast Greenway’ and ‘Liberty to Water Gap trail’ initiatives	<p>PROGRESS: As previously mentioned, there has been significant progress for both initiatives. The Hudson County segments of both trails are now complete.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: As part of the “Hackensack River Trail Stop at Laurel Hill” project, the Hackensack Riverkeeper utilized grant funds for signage to highlight the “Liberty Gap Trail.”</p>
7- Complete proposed walkways and bikeways identified on the County Green Map	<p>PROGRESS: A portion of the bike and walkways identified on the Hudson County’s Green Map have been constructed, but many more miles of trail are still needed to fully complete the Green Map’s vision of bike and walkway connections.</p> <p>See the maps in “Chapter 6:Open Space Resources.</p>



Images: The figure above demonstrates the many modes that weave together to form a complete network; Hudson County Parks and Community Services director Michelle Richardson along with former Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of the link between Jersey City and Newark along the East Coast Greenway (bottom).



Credit: Hudson County



Photo credit: Hudson County



Photo credit: Hudson County



Photo credit: Hudson County

Images: The above images are examples of Hudson County historic preservation projects: Loew's Theater (top); Weehawken Water Tower (middle); the former Bayonne Trust Company building as the site of the Bayonne Community Museum (bottom).

CULTURAL/HISTORIC

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Preserve the integrity of the County's historic districts and places and preserve structures of important historical significance	<p>SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS: The Open Space, Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund has provided funds to many municipalities to preserve and rehabilitate historic structures and districts. An inventory of historic sites and structures for each municipality may be found in "Chapter 6: Open Space Resources"</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Over a dozen HCOSTF projects involve preserving or maintaining historic districts or places. Examples include: the lighting and plaza restorations at the Brennan County Courthouse, the Weehawken Water Tower, and the Bayonne Community Museum.</p>
2- Encourage the creation of special interest districts which build on the county's unique cultural and historic resources	<p>ONGOING: The County continues to work with local non-profit groups and municipalities to create special interest districts to protect the existing historical places by ensuring they are in an historical district zone.</p>
3- Encourage municipalities to prepare inventories of properties with important historical significance	<p>PROGRESS: HCOSTF applications that involve sites listed on the historic register receive higher points than those without.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: See Objective 2 in this section.</p>
4- Create a list of county historical resource acquisition priorities	<p>ONGOING: The County continues to work with municipalities in updating their historical acquisition priorities.</p>
5- Encourage municipalities to prepare a list of municipal historical resource acquisition priorities	<p>PROGRESS: Municipalities created a list of historical resources acquisition priorities for County review for our stakeholder outreach meetings.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Two HCOSTF studies examine remaining historic resources at specific sites. These include the City Hall Historic Preservation project's study and the Harsimus Cemetery project.</p>
6- Utilize the recently passed Parks, Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to begin acquisition activities of these historic resources	<p>ONGOING: Since 2005, the County has worked with several non-profit groups and municipalities to preserve historic resources throughout the County.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: In 2012, the JC Landmarks Conservancy received funds for the relocation of the historic Peter Stuyvesant statue.</p>
7- Encourage the adaptive reuse of historically significant structures	<p>PROGRESS: Several historic buildings in Hudson County have undergone renovation for adaptive reuse.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Two awarded projects were Weehawken Water Tower and Park Project and Bayonne Community Museum (former Bayonne Trust Company Building).</p>
8- Encourage the use of façade easements to preserve the appearance of historic buildings	<p>PROGRESS: The County continues to encourage municipalities to preserve the appearance of historic buildings.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS- Jersey City recently completed preservation of the facade of the Apple Tree House in Jersey City, which was funded by 2 HCOSTF grants.</p>

EDUCATION/INVOLVEMENT

OBJECTIVE	COMMENTS
1- Produce pamphlet explaining key recommendations of this plan	<p>COMPLETE: A pamphlet was created for the 2005 Plan.</p>
2- Put Hudson County Open Space and Recreation Plan on County's Website	<p>COMPLETE: See the Hudson County Division Of Planning website at http://www.hudsoncountynj.org/open-space--recreation-plan.aspx. This final Reexamination Report will also be featured on the website.</p>
3- Partner with municipal, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, state and non-profit advocacy groups to advertise and cross promote existing recreation programs and activities and develop new programs	<p>PROGRESS: Departments within the county, like the Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA), promote the use of parks and encourage exercise. The Division of Planning has also created a series of brochures that explain the features of each county park (See: http://www.hudsoncountynj.org/county-park-system.aspx).</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Multiple grants have funded facilities that host recreation programs and activities. The Bayonne Community Museum, Kearny Reading Library, and Secaucus Reading Library all host community activities and events.</p>
4- Create new educational signage for existing and proposed recreation areas	<p>PROGRESS: Several parks in Hudson County are beginning to employ interpretive signage to educate the public about local wildlife, plants and history. A few parks that have such signage are Lincoln Park West and Braddock Park.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Several HCOSTF projects implemented educational signage in North 40 Park and the Group Picnic Pavilion Area at Liberty State Park.</p>
5- Create school programs to explain benefits of Open Space and environmental protection	<p>ONGOING: The Maple Street Garden in Weehawken and the parks planting efforts in Jersey City are examples of successful integration of education with open space.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: Secaucus Public Library and Business Resource Center Children's Reading Garden received an open space grant in 2007. The Secaucus Library offers several educational programs for residents.</p>
6- Create school programs to explain features of existing recreation programs and the benefits of physical fitness	<p>ONGOING: The Hudson County Improvement Authority (HCIA), as well as other local organizations, facilitate bicycle education classes and a variety of adult fitness classes. Schools throughout the county also host a series of "Fitness Days" and utilize county-owned facilities for sports practices and games.</p>
7- Assist the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission in providing public access to, and educational programs for, wetlands and other key environmental areas of the Meadowlands	<p>ONGOING: The County continues to work with the Meadowlands and other government agencies to provide public access and informational programs to the public.</p> <p>RELATION TO HCOSTF PROJECTS: The Hackensack Riverkeeper was awarded funds for a kayak launch as part of the Hackensack River Trail Stop-Improvement at Laurel Hill Park</p>



Photo credit: Jersey City Reservoir Preservation Alliance

Images: Public School #28 celebrates Community Day at Jersey City Reservoir Three in June 2012 (top); A Hudson County workshop in 2010 (bottom).



2008 OPEN SPACE GOALS & OBJECTIVES



Photo credit: Hudson County
The Hudson Bergen Light Rail.

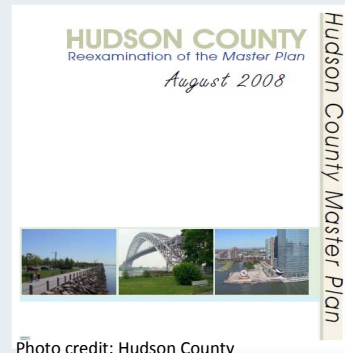


Photo credit: Hudson County
The Hudson County Reexamination of the Master Plan released in August 2008 and includes many elements that pertain to issues of open space.

The 2008 Hudson County Master Plan Reexamination Report incorporated the County's 2005 Open Space goals and objectives. Below is a more succinct description of these goals and objectives, which were evaluated in the beginning of this Chapter.

The 2008 Hudson County Reexamination of the Master Plan identifies the following general goals for the county: **Land Use, Economic, Housing, Community Facilities, Social Services, Utilities, Conservation and Historic Preservation.** Of these goals, land use, community facilities, conservation and historic preservation most closely relate to open space, recreation and historic preservation. These broader Hudson County goals are incorporated into the new Open Space Reexamination Report's goals and objectives—particularly in the increased focus on issues of environmental resiliency (stormwater run-off concerns, attention to environmentally sensitive areas, low impact development etc.), active transportation (pedestrian and cycling facilities etc.), social justice (park access, intervention in redevelopment efforts etc.) and historic preservation. A few of the 2008 goals include:

LAND USE

1. To maintain and improve areas that provide centers for employment, education, entertainment facilities, services, shopping and other resources.
2. To encourage existing manufacturing and industrial uses to remain, modernize and expand and to encourage new manufacturing and industrial uses to locate in the County.
3. To provide for a full range of retail businesses and personal services in suitable locations to serve the needs of the County.
4. To assist in the implementation of the development and redevelopment of the waterfronts of the Hudson, Passaic and Hackensack Rivers.
5. To integrate land use planning with transportation planning and capacities, including all modes, but particularly pedestrian and bicycle and to promote development intensities that will support mass transit.
6. To promote compact and mixed-use development patterns.
7. To promote the development of walkable communities fully linked and integrated with the pedestrian transportation grid.
8. To encourage redevelopment in areas in need of rehabilitation.
9. To encourage remediation and reuse of environmentally contaminated sites.
10. To minimize the negative effects of development and redevelopment on the natural and built environments.
11. To discourage development on environmentally sensitive sites.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

12. To provide recreational and park facilities that are accessible to all residents and provide a variety of amenities.
13. To meet the park and recreation needs of the County by utilizing both NJDEP's Balanced Land Use Standards and the National Parks and Recreation Standards.
14. To provide community services, such as elderly and child care services, that meet the needs of the population.
15. To encourage more efficient utilization of community services.
16. To provide accessible community facilities which meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

CONSERVATION

17. To encourage the cleanup and reuse of contaminated sites.
18. To preserve existing scenic vistas, particularly skyline views of Manhattan.
19. To protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as rare and endangered species, habitats, steep slopes, wetlands and surface water quality.
20. To reduce pollution and maintain a healthy environment.
21. To encourage recycling.
22. To reduce water pollution and "greenhouse gas" emissions by automobiles and other mobile sources through promotion of walking, bicycling and mass transit.
23. To reduce stormwater run-off and non-point source pollution through elimination of combined sewer overflows and implementation of Best Management Practices.
24. To reduce the "urban heat island" effect through reduction of impervious coverage, utilization of green building technologies and installation of shade trees.
25. To reduce the disturbance of natural lands
26. To meet county and municipal standards for parks and open space established in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

27. To preserve the integrity of the County's historic districts and places.
28. To preserve structures of important historical significance.

The section of the New Jersey Turnpike that crosses over the Meadowlands and the Hackensack River (below) transports approximately 110,000 vehicles per day, exposing the fragile ecosystem to large amounts of non-point source pollution.³



Photo credit: Hudson County

The urban heat island effect causes increased temperatures in urban areas due to more heat-absorbent areas (i.e. buildings, paved roads and parking lots, cars etc.), decreased air circulation and fewer shade trees.

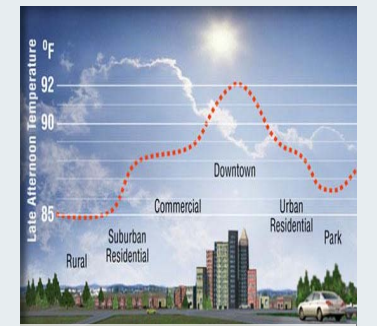


Image source: Berkeley National Laboratory

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