

Hudson

County

Division



Of



P L A

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I N G

2013 Year in Review

Department of Parks and Community Services
Michelle Richardson, Director
Thomas DeLeo, Deputy Director
Division of Planning
Massiel Ferrara, Division Chief



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Executive Summary

Hudson County is New Jersey's smallest and most densely populated county but remains a leader in progressive planning within the state. In the past year, the Hudson County Division of Planning has been involved in major projects including open space preservation, economic and sustainable development and regional transportation improvements. The Hudson County Division of Planning 2013 Year in Review will take a look at the County's forward-thinking initiatives and studies, which include: the Open Space Trust Fund, the Hudson County Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the Post-Sandy Recovery efforts, sub regional studies through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) and ongoing planning initiatives in coordination with Together North Jersey and the NJ Department of Community Affairs.

This past year, the Division of Planning updated the 2005 Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Plan to create an emphasis on stewardship, funding shovel-ready projects and partnerships between municipalities and nonprofit groups. Since 2005, the Open Space Trust Fund has provided a total of over \$44 million in funding to 116 projects, such as the North Bergen/ Guttenberg Waterfront Park, Ellis Island Restoration, 1600 Park Avenue Development, Veteran's Field in Kearny, North Bergen Pool Complex and signage along the Hackensack River Water Trail.

The Report provides an update of goals and guidelines which focus on environmental justice, greater inclusionary planning by creating more partnerships and leveraging funding for projects. In 2013, the Division received 28 Letters of Interest for funding through the Open Space Trust Fund. Through the new funding guidelines process, the Advisory Board reviewed and recommended 13 projects for the 2014 funding cycle.

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.

These regulations emphasize green techniques such as rain gardens, grassed swales and bike racks along with shade tree planting standards on County roads. In 2014 the Division through the NJTPA will be updating their Land Development Regulations to include developer contributions, specific green technique standards and post-Sandy design elements. As a way to promote green design, the Planning Board holds an annual Smart Growth Awards ceremony to award projects that have been approved by the County Planning Board for their innovative design.

Although it is geographically the smallest county in New Jersey, Hudson County boasts a diverse economy and significant housing development. To facilitate economic development efforts, the Division of Planning, with the support of the Hudson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, coordinated the effort to create the 2010 Hudson County Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS Regional Plan) to guide the growth of jobs, development, and commerce in the county. Hudson County's CEDS Regional Plan was the only CEDS plan in the State to be approved by the US EDA and successfully adopted into the County's Master Plan as an addendum to promote sustainable economic development.

The CEDS plan is updated annually to review performance measures. Through an award from the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Post-Sandy Planning Grant Program, the Division will hire a consultant to prepare the next 5-year CEDS plan for 2015-2019.

A natural disaster such as Superstorm Sandy not only hindered economic development within Hudson County but has also exposed the County's vulnerability to hurricanes and tropical storms. After suffering from millions of dollars in damages to County properties, the County government and local municipalities have worked together to quickly recover from the storm's devastation and incorporate resiliency practices for future storm related events. Hudson County Division of Planning, in partnership with the Office of Emergency Management has utilized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assist in post-Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts.

The Division of Planning serves as the GIS data warehouse for 11 municipalities (excluding Jersey City), all of which do not have the GIS software or trained personnel. The Division has utilized GIS to assist the Department of Cultural Affairs and Tourism by producing the Super Bowl visitor maps included in the Hudson Reporters Huddle Zone Visitor's Guide.

Additionally GIS was 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 2013 Hudson County Open Space Re-Examination Report, mapping the County parks with information regarding available activities and hours, and most importantly beginning the work required to produce the Official 2014 Hudson County Map.

The year 2014 will be exciting for the Division of Planning and its GIS as the Division will be rolling out the ArcGIS Online Interactive Mapping Initiative; a platform aimed at providing important information and accessibility to the residents of the County through interactive mapping applications.

Hudson County has a massive transportation network that includes roads, rails and waterways. Since 2004, the Division of Planning has worked closely with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority to receive federal funding to conduct sub-regional studies that will ultimately improve the county's transportation network.

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.

Division of Planning Staff



DIVISION CHIEF

Massiel M. Ferrara, PP, AICP

Massiel Medina Ferrara joined the Hudson County Division of Planning in 2004 and has been serving as Division Chief and Board Secretary to the Hudson County Planning Board since 2012. Though born and raised in Newark, NJ, Massiel has lived in Hudson County since 2000 and currently resides in Weehawken Township. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Boston College in 1996 where she studied Sociology and Economics. In 2001, she received a Masters in Urban Planning with a specialization in Public Finance from New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service.

Prior to joining Hudson County, she worked for New York City's Housing Authority, managed a non-profit engineering research institute and served as Principal Transportation Planner for Morris County, NJ. Throughout her career, Massiel has worked on many open space initiatives and development plans including the 2004 Hudson Open Space and Recreation Plan, 2005 Hudson River Waterfront Walkway Implementation Plan and the 2008 Hudson County Master Plan Reexamination Report and 2013 Open Space Reexamination Report. In her role as Division Chief, she oversees the Hudson County Planning Board, Open Space Trust Fund Program, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee, Geographic Information Systems and various transportation studies.

OFFICE MANAGER (CIVIL SERVICE TITLE: EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT):

Gina Jaramillo

Gina Jaramillo is the Executive Assistant for the Hudson County Division of Planning. Gina is an experienced office manager and is skilled in graphic design. Gina supports the Division of Planning in all administrative duties related to the Hudson County Planning Board, Hudson County Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, and CEDS Committee. Gina ensures that critical functions for the office are carried out, and serves as human resource manager for the office. She manages the payroll, budgets, payments, records, and purchasing for the Division of Planning.



PRINCIPAL PLANNER:

Megan Massey, PP, AICP

Megan Massey is the Principal Planner and Open Space Coordinator at the Hudson County Division of Planning. She has a B.A in English and Art History from Rutgers University and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. For the past 5 years, she has worked as a Project Manager for several transportation studies through the NJTPA. She is also responsible for reviewing site plans and subdivisions for the County Planning Board. Within the past year, she has transitioned to Open Space Coordinator and manages over 60 active projects that are funded through the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund.

**GIS SPECIALISTS:**

Jason Bottcher

Jason Bottcher is a life-long resident of North Bergen, NJ, and now serves as the Division of Planning's GIS Specialist. He is currently nearing completion of his Masters in Urban Planning at CUNY - Hunter College. Jason's primary role is that of a mapping specialist with several projects in the beginning stages of deployment, the most notable of which is the impending launch of the County's ArcGIS Online Interactive Mapping Initiative. Jason also plays a role in a variety of other projects ranging from emergency management and planning, transportation, and open space in support of the Division of Planning's mission.



Christopher Roberts

Christopher Roberts is a GIS Specialist for the Hudson County Division of Planning. Chris grew up in Los Angeles, California and attended McGill University in Montreal, Quebec where he studied urban geography and anthropology. After graduating from McGill he worked at Navteq, a provider of electronic navigable maps. Chris is now a graduate student in the Urban Planning program of Hunter College in New York. At the Division of Planning, Chris assists in the maintenance of County spatial data and the development of the Interactive Mapping Initiative.





ASSISTANT PLANNERS:

Francesca Giarratana

Born and raised in Jersey City, Francesca attributes her upbringing to her initial interest in urban planning. She attended American University in Washington, DC for her undergraduate degree, studying politics and economics. In May, she will graduate from the Rutgers Bloustein School of Planning with a Masters' degree in City & Regional Planning. At the Division of Planning, Francesca's main responsibilities are serving as staff support to the Hudson County Planning Board and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee. Currently, she also serves as the project manager for the Hudson County Bike Share Feasibility Study, which is expected to wrap-up in June.



Byron Nicholas

Byron Nicholas is an Assistant Planner with the Hudson County Division of Planning. Byron is originally from Queens, New York. Byron earned his Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design from SUNY Buffalo in 2011, and his Master's in Urban Planning in 2013, also from SUNY Buffalo. His planning interests include urban design, transportation, geography, and architecture. Byron provides assistance to the planning board and with various planning studies, and is also serving as the Project Manager for the Update to the County's Land Development Regulations. Byron has also worked on putting together and editing the 2013 Hudson County Division of Planning Year in Review.

SITE INSPECTOR

Mario Tridente

Mario Tridente is the Building and Zoning Inspector for Hudson County Division of Planning. A native of Hoboken and lifelong Hudson County Resident, Mario is the liaison between municipal construction/zoning officials. Mario reviews all site plan applications to the Planning Board, conducts site visits, and ensures the applicants meet the required conditions of approval. Mario has received his Zoning Official certification from the Bloustein School of Government Services and Municipal Shade Tree Management and Hazard Shade Tree Assessment certifications from Rutgers University extension, (continued on next page).



In addition, Mario has completed courses at Bergen Community College for Building Inspector, (RCS) Residential, (ICS) commercial and (HHS) High rise, High Hazard along with Playground Equipment and Safety inspector from the National Recreation and Park Association. He also holds a certification in Floodplain Management from Monmouth University. He has also attended and successfully completed NJ EPA Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor's Program from the National Asbestos & Environmental Training Institute. Mario reviews and inspects grant projects for the Hudson County Open Space Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. He also serves as Hudson County's acting Shade Tree Manager where he supervises the planting and maintenance of trees and makes assessments of hazardous trees along Hudson County's roads that pose a danger to the public.

BILINGUAL CLERK/TYPIST

Elizabeth Morales

Elizabeth Morales, a Hudson County native, has worked as the bilingual Clerk Typist for the Division of Planning for the past 10 years. She is currently obtaining her Associate's degree at the Hudson County Community College for Business Management. She is responsible for facilitating the efficient functioning of the office. She has a passion for networking with others, and leadership development. She is also a proud mother of one daughter.



INTERN

Kevin Force

Kevin Force is an Intern with the Hudson County Division of Planning. A native of Teaneck, NJ, Kevin earned his Master's in City and Regional Planning from the Edward J. Bloustein School at Rutgers University in 2013, where he concentrated in Community Development and earned a Certificate in Historic Preservation. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in History from The College of New Jersey in 2009. Kevin co-authored and edited the Hudson County Strategic Recovery Report. He has also worked on editing Hudson County's Community Forestry Plan and the 2013 Community Indicator Report. Kevin is also working on preparing the proposals for the NJ DCA's Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program for a county-wide storm recovery and resiliency planning effort which will result in an update to the Master Plan including a plan for the County Park System, and a new 5-year CEDS Plan which will include a County Capital Improvement Plan.





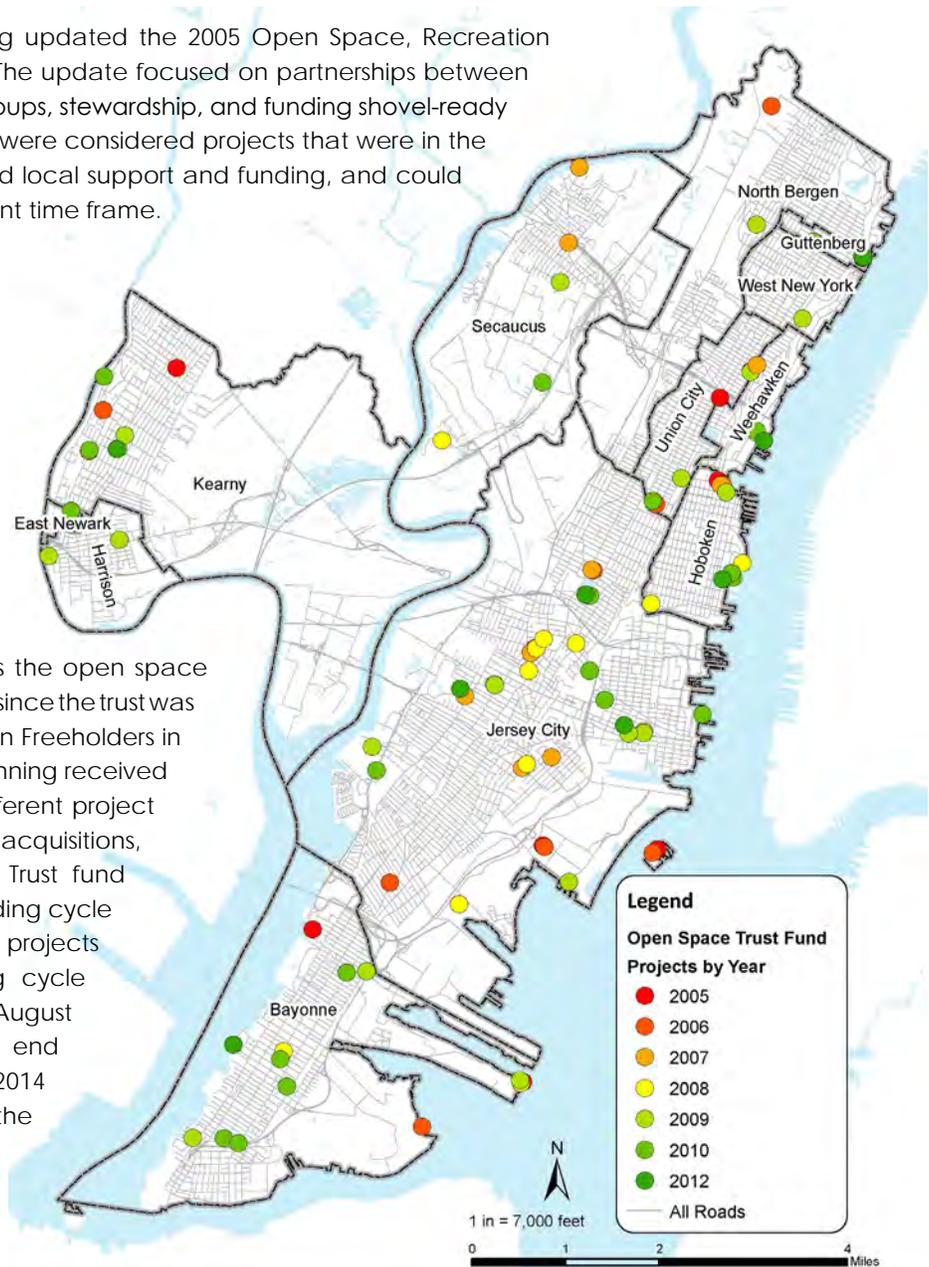
Children with adult supervision playing in Van Vorst Park, Jersey City. Courtesy of NJ.com.

open space trust fund

open space trust fund

In 2013, the Division of Planning updated the 2005 Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Plan. The update focused on partnerships between municipalities and non profit groups, stewardship, and funding shovel-ready projects. Shovel-ready projects were considered projects that were in the process of going out to bid, had local support and funding, and could be completed in the 2-year grant time frame.

The map on the right indicates the open space projects that have been funded since the trust was created by the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 2003. In 2013, the Division of Planning received 28 Letters of Intent by three different project types: park improvements, land acquisitions, and historic preservation. The Trust fund has \$4.6 million for the 2014 funding cycle which has 13 recommended projects for funding. The 2014 funding cycle review schedule started on August 30, 2013 and is expected to end one year later on August 14, 2014 with anticipated approval by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.



The 13 acre former Reservoir Number 3 in the Heights neighborhood of Jersey City has been preserved for future park space. Courtesy of Jerseycityindependent.com.

open space photo gallery



Apple Tree House, Jersey City



Ellis Island, Jersey City



Guttenberg Project, North Bergen



Maple Street Garden, Weehawken



Brennan Courthouse, Jersey City



Brighton Avenue Playground, Kearny



15 Street Library, Union City



Bell Playground, Kearny



Brennan Courthouse, Jersey City



Harsimus Cemetery, Jersey City



Hoboken Cove Boathouse, Hoboken



Culinary Arts Plaza, Jersey City

*All images are courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

2013 open space & recreation reexamination report

Major Initiatives

- New Implementation Tools and Funding Resources
- New Program Administration
- Improved Grant Management
- User-Friendly Plan Design and Layout



Hudson River Walkway, Hoboken



Lincoln Park Fountain, Jersey City

Updates to Funding Guidelines

- Letter of Intent
- Partnerships/Matching Funds
- Construction Punch Lists
- 2-Year Contract Term
- Project Status Reports



Reading Park, Kearny

Updated Goals

- Focus on Passaic River and Hackensack River
- Providing Open Space in Low-Moderate Income Neighborhoods
- Environmental Resiliency
- Empowering Nonprofits and Municipalities
- Creating Partnerships
- Leveraging Local, State and Federal Funding

*All images are courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

the community forestry program

Open space is important because it helps create a balance between the urban environment and nature. Parks and playgrounds provide needed recreational opportunities for inner city residents. Open Space also improves the air and water quality. Land that is left in its natural state acts as a filter for pollutants in rain and flood waters. Plants and animals that may be native to an area will be able to continue their way of life in "Open Space" areas.

In partnership with the Hudson County Division of Roads and the Law Department, the Department of Parks and Community Services has been drafting a Shade Tree Maintenance Plan in accordance with the NJDEP Community Forestry requirements, which would provide liability protection and funding for tree plantings and maintenance along County roads.

The Division of Planning would be responsible for grant, fund management and inspections along with maintenance of trees and plantings in partnership with the Division of Roads and the Division of Parks. The new program will use the HC Planning Board's "in-lieu-of-planting" contributions, grants and state aid to enable the County to perform low-mid level maintenance ultimately saving the County money on landscaping contracts. The program is a new initiative for 2013.



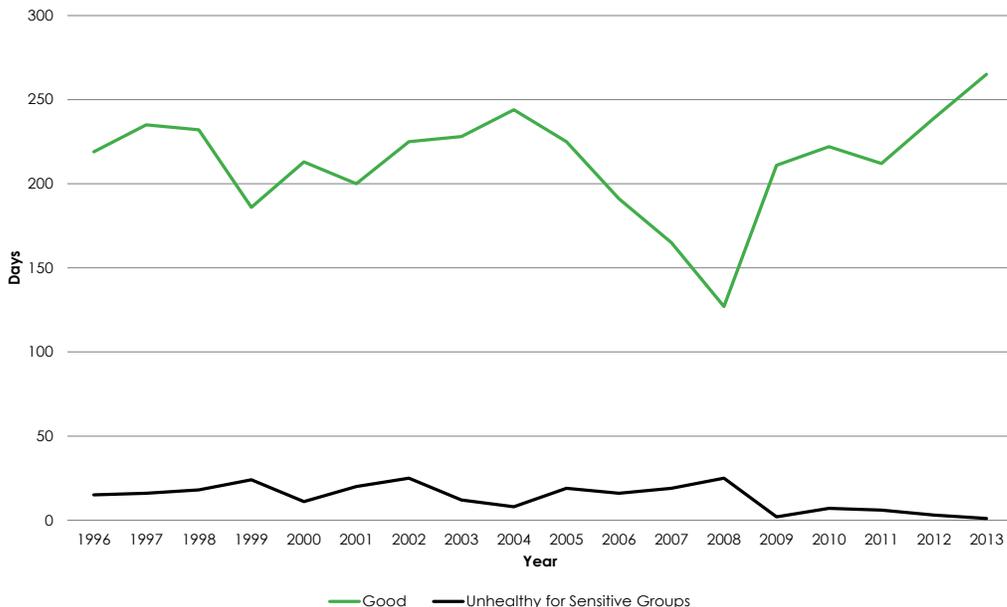
County Executive Thomas A. Degise and Hudson County Division of Planning Building Inspector Mario Tridente posing with kids at the Learning Community Charter School's tree planting event, December 10, 2013



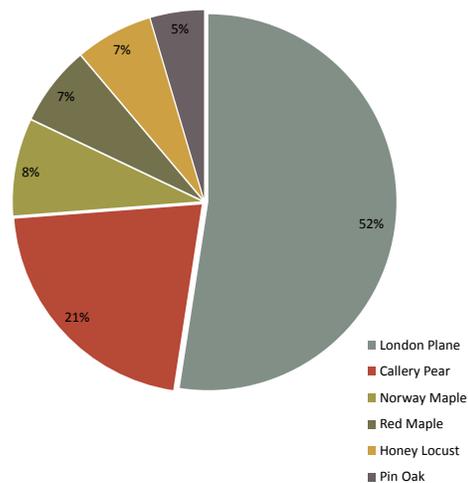
Seventy-Nine (79) Trees on their way for storage at Lincoln Park of which 18 trees were planted in 2013 November 7, 2013

Data from the United States Environmental Protection Agency shows that air quality is on an improving trend since 2008. Between 2004 and 2008, air quality in the county was at its worst after being relatively constant from 1996 to 2004. Data source: U.S EPA- Air Quality Index Report, Hudson County, 1996- 2013

Air Quality Index for Hudson County from 1996- 2013



Hudson County Tree Species Distribution





Green Street Planters, Environmental Protection Agency [water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm](https://www.water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm)

planning board

development and sustainability

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 Technique Checklist in its application to promote sustainability in building and site design.**

The Division of Planning receives applications, collects inspection and technical review fees, conducts a technical review meeting in which applicants are invited to attend, posts the Planning Board agenda 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, such as developer and shade tree contributions, working with the Law Department and the County Engineer's Office on franchise agreements (easements) and assisting with any post-approval permits (i.e. road opening permits, certificate of occupancy, etc) between the municipal construction officials and the County Engineer's office.



Calhoun School Green Roof Learning Center, 2005, New York, NY
Courtesy of Greenroofs.com.

2013 Applications	
Total Number of Applications	80
Application Type	
Site Plans	38
Subdivisions	11
Site Plans/Subdivisions	6
Jurisdictional Determinations	25
Application Statuses	
Approved	54
Exempt	22
Dismissed/Tabled/Withdrawn/No Status	4
Application Site Totals	
Dwelling/Housing Units	3,315
Proposed Parking Spaces	4,008
Proposed Bicycle Parking Capacity	2,239
Number of Trees Proposed by Applicants	393

county planning board review is responsible for



2013 smart growth awards

The Hudson County Planning Board announced its 4th Annual Smart Growth Awards in 2013. The Division of Planning compiled a list of projects that were approved by the Planning Board in 2012. Applications were evaluated based on site selection, site design and proposed green infrastructure criteria from a number of sources including the American Planning Association, The U.S. Green Building Council, NJ Future, Smart Growth America, and U.S E.P.A. Elements of site selection included: selected sites that preserved existing resources and repaired damaged systems, projects that promoted energy efficiency and sites that were walkable and promoted public transportation.

gold

was awarded to *Bijou Properties* for 1415 Park Avenue in Hoboken. The project contains retail space, a charter school and residential units. It has a green roof and porous pavers throughout the site.



silver

was awarded to *Advance at Harrison* for the Riverbend Project. The residential building reviewed by the planning board will have bicycle parking. As part of the Harrison Waterfront Redevelopment Plan, the site will include, 1,950 residential units, a supermarket, hotel, retail and office space and will have great access to public transportation.



bronze

was awarded to *Jeff White* of 259 First Street, LLC for the Eureka in Hoboken. The project consisted of redeveloping an old silent theater into a mixed use building with office, retail and 2 residential units. The design of the building incorporates glass that will feature a silent movie star.



The **Peter. B Higgins, III Award for Smart Growth Leadership** was awarded to Captain Bill Sheehan (right) for his establishment and involvement as the Hackensack Riverkeeper. The **Smart Growth Award for Smart Planning and Policy** was awarded to the Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation (far right) for the "I Love Greenville Community Plan." The Plan aims to solicit \$1 million of state tax credits to Greenville each year for the Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit program. On December 10, 2013 "I love Greenville Phase One" has been accepted into the "Qualified Projects Pool"



What Makes Hudson County Planning Board Unique?

- ✓ Low Impact Development Checklist
- ✓ Green Techniques

Each Development Must Identify two (2) green techniques.

Examples: Native landscaping installation of bike racks, inclusion of porous pavers, or a green roof.

- ✓ Shade Tree Requirement

One (1) street tree shall be provided for every 30 feet of street frontage

OR Contribution in lieu of plantings to the Hudson County Shade Tree Fund

Who Makes Up the 2014 Hudson County Planning Board?

Commissioners

- Alain Gomez, Alternate #2
- Hon. Anthony Romano, Freeholder
- Betania Peralta, Commissioner
- Daniel Choffo, Commissioner
- Hon. Doreen DiDomenico, Freeholder
- James Cryan, Commissioner
- Joseph Glembocki PE, Assistant County Engineer
- Kennedy Ng, Alternate #1
- Michael Holloway, Commissioner
- Rushabh Mehta, Commissioner
- Renee Bettinger, Commissioner
- John J. Curley, Board Attorney
- Massiel M. Ferrara, PP, AICP, Board Secretary
- Megan Massey, PP, AICP, Principal Planner
- Francesca Giarratana, Assistant Planner
- Byron Nicholas, Assistant Planner
- Mario Tridenqte, Inspector
- Demetrio Arencibia, PE, PP, County Engineer

update to the land development regulations

The Land Development Regulations were created in 2008 for Hudson County as a guideline for applicants submitting site plans and/or subdivision applications to the Planning Board. The Regulations provide the timeline and rules for how applications are reviewed and approved by the Division of Planning staff and Planning Board. Since 2008, there have been many municipal regulatory changes in projects that have come before the board. The Division of Planning believes now is the perfect opportunity to conduct a study to update the County's Land Development Regulations in order to promote multi-modal transportation through complete streets, and advance the recovery efforts from Superstorm Sandy.

The County would like to update the regulations to:

one

A new circulation design can help alleviate excessive traffic congestion, provide a quick and efficient route for emergencies, protect right-of-ways for future street development, and promote a parking program that meets the needs of each land use type. Courtesy of Livingston City, CA.

Provide new Circulation Design Strategies for new development that could guide the planning board. These strategies could also be implemented by the County through developer contributions. Studies show that proper circulation design strategies can effectively increase accessibility and promote pedestrian safety.



two

The Pulaski Skyway Bridge links Jersey City and Newark, NJ. It was built between 1930 and 1932 and carries passenger and commercial vehicles over the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers. The East bound side of the bridge is currently closed for 2 years due to construction. Courtesy of Bridge Ink.

Initiate developer contributions for pedestrian studies/ traffic studies and infrastructure improvements. With the continued number of redevelopment projects seen throughout the County, larger projects need to ensure that pedestrian enhancements and safe circulation are incorporated into the overall plan for the area.



three

A "complete street" in NYC where each mode of transportation has a dedicated lane. Bicycle lanes are safely situated between sidewalks and a row of parking to minimize accidents. Courtesy of New Jersey Healthy Kids.

Reflect the language incorporated in the Complete Streets ordinance adopted into law by the Board of Chosen Freeholders in February, 2012. Complete Streets promotes multi-modal transportation by providing safety features and amenities for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transportation users.



“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land.”

- Aldo Leopold

four

Require applicants to plant shade trees along county roads every 30’ of frontage. If the applicant is not able to plant trees due to overhead wires or water and gas lines, the applicant will then be able to contribute to the County Shade Tree Fund. Currently, applicants must provide a signed and sealed cost estimate by a Landscape Architect detailing the cost for 3.5’ caliper trees, tree grates, and associated materials. The Regulations will be updated to include a set cost per tree which would include the cost of materials, labor, and tree.

TreesNY, an environmental and urban forestry nonprofit organization, has removed 740 square feet of concrete throughout NYC, courtesy of Trees NY.



five

Reflect updated Storm-Water Standards and best management practices. The Land Development Regulations currently lists 20 types of “green techniques.” Applicants pick two from the list to incorporate into their project. Additional information is required in terms of what techniques are site appropriate, types of native landscaping in New Jersey, revisions to elevation requirements, and additional information on rain garden placement, etc. The regulations must reflect post-Sandy construction standards and updated zoning ordinances.

NYC has won approval from the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, to capture much of its stormwater with green roofs and blue roofs as well as new types of plant beds and tree pits along its streets called bioswales. Courtesy of Lauren Moss from archpaper.com.



six

Update the existing Steep Slope Standards and incorporate proposed and existing development along steep slopes. The update should reflect other county plans throughout the state to review existing standards and implementation of steep slope standards on the county level.

New Jersey Palisades looking southward under the George Washington Bridge at Hazard’s Dock Boat Ramp. Courtesy of Flickr.com/photos/Jag9889.





Harborside Waterfront, Jersey City. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

economic development

comprehensive economic development strategy

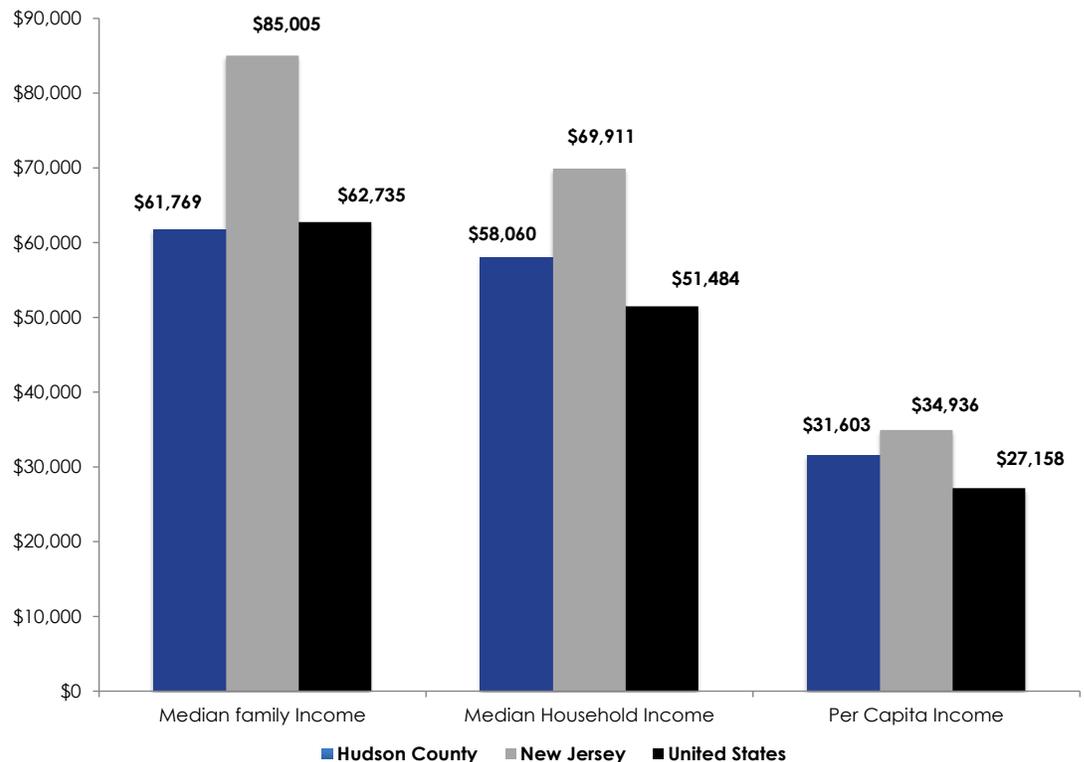
The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) committee consists of county agencies, municipalities, and non-profit organizations that is managed by Hudson County Division of Planning for staff support and technical assistance.

The Division coordinated the effort to create the 2010 Hudson County Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, "CEDS Regional Plan." This plan is a five-year economic plan to guide the growth of jobs, development and commerce in the County. The 2010 Plan was approved by the US EDA and adopted as an addendum to the Hudson County Master Plan.

The CEDS plan is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, USEDPA, in order to become and remain eligible for federal public works grants and economic development assistance from the EDA. The United States Economic Development Administration approved the Hudson County Regional CEDS Plan through a letter dated March 23, 2012. **Hudson County was the first County in New Jersey to have their plan approved by the USEDPA.**

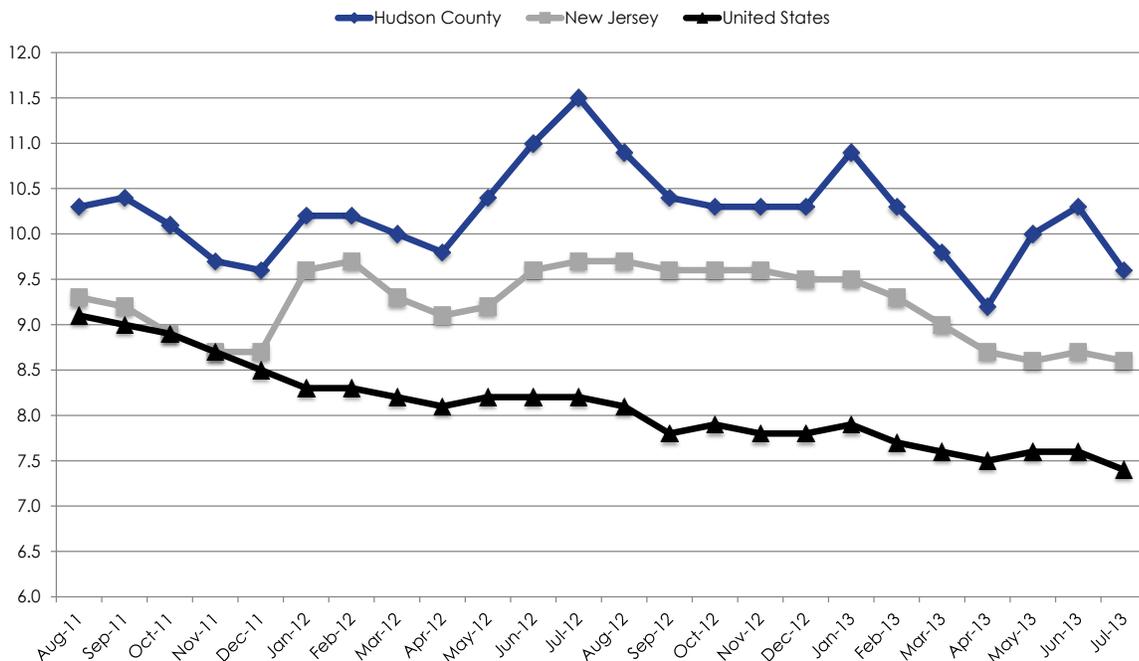
An additional requirement for grant eligibility is the submission of annual updates to the CEDS document, which highlight economic development projects, update key economic growth metrics, and identify priority infrastructure needs.

Income Statistics for 2011



Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
*2013 preliminary data

Unemployment Rate Over a 24-Month Period (August 2011- July 2013)



Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

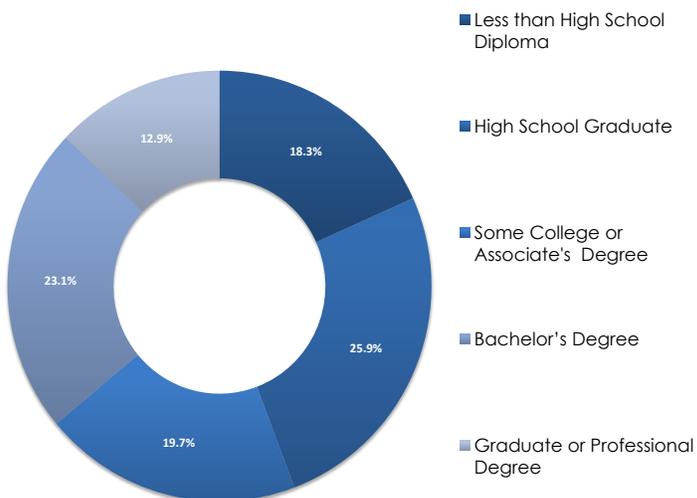
*Data is not adjustable for seasonal variations



Highrise housing developments along Hoboken's waterfront. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

Although Hudson County's unemployment rate is higher than the state's and country's unemployment rate from 2011 to 2013, unemployment in the County is on a downward trend. As educational attainment increases, the County's unemployment rate is expected to decrease. Hence, a major initiative for the 2010 Hudson County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is to "promote training opportunities and programs for the unemployed, the under employed and entry level workers."

Hudson County
Educational Attainment
(25 & Over Population)



Source: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

*2013 preliminary data

comprehensive economic development strategy committee members

Appointed Members

Anthony Alizzi, Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation
David Behrend, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
Anthony Cammarata Jr., Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Anthony Corsi, Workforce Investment Board
Gregory Dell'Aquila, JDA Management and Construction
James DiDomenico, Hudson County Transportation Management Association
Caren Freyer-Desouza, Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Aaron Foreman, J. Maar Development Group
Johnny Garce, Union City Community Development Agency
Patrick Kelleher, Hudson County Building Trades Council (United Plumbers 24)
Alan Lambiase, South Kearny Industrial Association
John Lane, Hudson County Office of the County Engineer
Debbie Alaimo Lawlor, AICP/PP, NJ Meadowlands Commission
Suzanne Mack, NJ Transit Citizens Advisory Board
Christopher J. Mackin, CFPR, Blue Water Advisors
Alan Magrini, Hartz Mountain Industries
Terriann Moore-Abrams, Esq., Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Michael Novak, Hoboken Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Smith O'Neal, Business Incubator, Small Business Development Center
Elizabeth Spinelli, Hudson County Economic Development Corporation
Elnora Watson, Urban League of Hudson County
Jonathan Wharton, Stevens Institute

2013 Hudson County CEDS Executive Board

Chairman, Paul Silverman, SILVERMAN
Vice-Chair, Maria L. Nieves, President & CEO of Hudson County Chamber of Commerce
Secretary, Massiel Ferrara, Hudson County Division of Planning

Local Representatives

County Executive, Ex-Officio, or his designee
Hon. Albert Cifelli, Hudson County Freeholder
The Mayor of the City of Bayonne, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the Borough of East Newark, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the Town of Guttenberg, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the Town of Harrison, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the City of Hoboken, Ex-Officio or her designee
The Mayor of the City of Jersey City, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the Town of Kearny, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the Township of North Bergen, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the Town of Secaucus, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the City of Union City, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the Township of Weehawken, Ex-Officio or his designee
The Mayor of the Town of West New York, Ex-Officio or his designee

2013 CEDS Speaker Series:

JANUARY

PSE&G/Lime Energy Program for
Municipalities and Non-Profits

APRIL

Dr. Marcia Lyles – Superintendent JC
Schools

Bill LaRosa - Tourism/Super Bowl
Updates

Caren Feyer-DeSouza (CEDS rep for
PSE&G) - PSE&G NJ Energy Strong
Program

JUNE

Greg Strid, Chair of the Hudson
County Long Term Recovery
Committee- Word Renew Disaster
Response Services Needs Assessment

Ms. Susan Langhoff and Ms. Pamela
Mason –FEMA presentation Business
Continuity and Disaster Preparedness
Plan

SEPTEMBER

Paul Ceppi, from NJ EDA – Stronger NJ
Grant Program

Bill LaRosa - Tourism/Super Bowl
Updates



Jersey City's skyline is comprised of the tallest buildings in the State of New Jersey. The buildings house major financial companies such as UBS, Goldman Sachs, Citibank, and Merrill Lynch. These companies contribute a substantial amount of tax revenue into the county. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

what's next with economic development in hudson county?

The CEDS Plan is due for an update for the next 5 years (2015-2019). Through an award from the NJ Department of Community Affairs (NJ DCA) Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program, the Division will hire a consultant to prepare this report. The updated report will explore the short-term and long-term economic impact of Superstorm Sandy, as well as the new issues and vulnerabilities that were exposed by this major storm. In addition, a Capital Improvement Plan will be developed through the award from the NJ DCA grant program. This plan will identify needed capital improvement projects, along with associated costs, timelines for completion, and possible funding sources.



The Goldman Sachs Building in the foreground of Downtown Jersey City's skyline. Courtesy of Businessinsider.com.



Taxis in Hoboken, NJ affected by heavy flooding from Superstorm Sandy. Courtesy of Graphs.net/super-storm-hurricane-sandy-images.html.

post-sandy recovery planning

One year prior to Superstorm Sandy's devastating impact on Hudson County and the rest of the region, the remnants of Hurricane Irene produced widespread flooding throughout the County. The picture on the right shows flooding at Jersey City's City Hall Building. Image is courtesy of blogs/corbis.com/2011/hurricane-irene-scenes-from-the-storm



Hudson County, New Jersey's smallest, most densely populated county, was significantly impacted by Superstorm Sandy, which inflicted damages from wind and storm surge between October 28th and October 30th, 2012.

As a result of the damages to County facilities and equipment from Superstorm Sandy, Hudson County submitted a total of \$9,514,110.77 in claims to FEMA. The total damages to public infrastructure in the county were estimated by the Department of Roads and Public Property at \$5,940,487.09. A total of 10,864 households in Hudson County applied for FEMA Individual Assistance for funds to cover repairs of storm damages; 4,972 of these were determined by field inspectors to have sustained damages ranging from minor to complete destruction. The total estimated monetary loss of these households was over \$25 million.

vulnerability

Hudson County remains vulnerable to future storm events because of several factors. Its geographic location near the Atlantic Coast is in the pathway of hurricanes and tropical storms. The county is surrounded by tidal river coastlines, and 34% of the county's area lies within the FEMA floodplain (Federal Emergency Management Agency), (www.csc.noaa.gov/snapshots). There is a large, dense population and critical infrastructure in low-lying areas at risk for storm surge; it is estimated that 97,519 people and hundreds of critical facilities were exposed to storm surge during Superstorm Sandy. Additionally, the county has large vulnerable populations (senior citizens, low-income residents, and disabled), with about 15.1% of county residents with incomes below the poverty level, and an estimated 9% of residents 65 and older living within the FEMA floodplain.

response

Post Superstorm Sandy, Hudson County government agencies and municipalities have partnered together on a variety of recovery and resiliency projects. The County, through a collaboration with the Hudson Regional Health Commission and Hudson County Schools of Technology, has established a special needs shelter. Cooperation among the twelve municipalities of Hudson County was essential to the regional response and recovery effort following Superstorm Sandy. From the beginning, County government actively participated in this collaboration. Immediately after the storm, the County's Office of Emergency Planning and the Division of Planning led meetings with each municipality to guide them in creating Letters of Intent to apply to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to begin recovery.

New Jersey received approximately \$300 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). \$3.075 million of these funds have been allocated to Hudson County and its municipal governments and agencies to provide back-up generators at critical facilities. Additionally, \$1.7 million was allocated to the County's HMGP-Local Projects Program.



Flooding at a Hoboken intersection due to Superstorm Sandy's strong storm surge. Courtesy of Burnanenergyjournal.com.

In 2013, Hudson County received approximately \$25 million in funding for housing and rental assistance from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' (NJCA) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), (NewJerseyRebuild.org). The chart below shows the amount of funds awarded to Hudson County by type through the CDBG-DR program.

On October 28, 2013, HUD announced that New Jersey will receive approximately \$1.4 billion through the second round of funds to provide additional assistance for continuing recovery efforts. The second round of CDBG-DR funding will focus on the following programs: homeowner assistance; rental housing; Sandy special needs (to complete the unmet needs from the first funding round; economic development; infrastructure; support for state and local government entities; services unsafe structure demolition, and zoning/code enforcement; and planning oversight, and monitoring.

The municipalities, in coordination with the County government, and with Federal and State assistance, have taken significant actions to recover from storm damages, as well as develop and implement measures to become more resilient against future storms. Hudson County municipalities collected and distributed supplies to the hardest hit residents.

Hudson County's municipalities have applied for grants to cover the costs of equipment, recovery and response operations, repairs and replacement of facilities and infrastructure, and long-range recovery and resiliency planning. Additionally, several municipalities, in coordination with public and private partners, have developed plans for new protection and mitigation infrastructure, which may be implemented in the future. Municipalities have also worked with County departments to improve communication and response to future events and are collaborating on a 2014 update to the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NJ Superstorm Sandy CDBG-DR Program	Funds Awarded to Hudson County
Homeowner Resettlement (HRP)	\$4,030,000
Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM)	\$1,309,000
Small Rental Properties/Landlord Rental Repair (LRRP)	\$750,000
Fund for Restoration of Large Multi-Family Housing (LMF)	\$14,642,449
Sandy Special Needs Housing Fund (SNH)	\$1,440,592
Small Business Grants (SBG)	\$1,352,421
Total	\$23,524,462*

Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) disbursement of funds by type to Hudson County through the Department of Community Affairs (NJCA) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan. Courtesy of NewJerseyRebuild.org

*Total does not represent funds for all grant programs allocated to Hudson County; Actual total is \$24,672,638.

Data retrieved on 06/20/14

future planning

In November 2013, the Hudson County Division of Planning began working on the Hudson County "Strategic Recovery Planning Report" to submit to the NJ DCA through the "Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program." Through this effort, overall goals and objectives for resiliency and recovery for the County were identified. These include both short term for immediate action, as well as, long term to resolve ongoing issues. They are prioritized according to need as low, medium, or high.

The Division of Planning compiled information from municipal meetings to highlight in the "Action Plan" section of the Report. The Action Plan identifies projects such as the purchase of new equipment, installation of infrastructure, and repairs and upgrades to facilities identified by the County government and the municipalities which will further storm recovery and resiliency. Potential funding sources for the implementation of these projects are listed.

Strong storm surge damaged the brickwork leading up to Lady Liberty causing the park to temporarily close down for restoration and repairs (right). Picture courtesy of Tenement.org.



Fallen trees from strong storm winds damaged a car and building facade (far right). Picture courtesy of Bryan Kremkau.

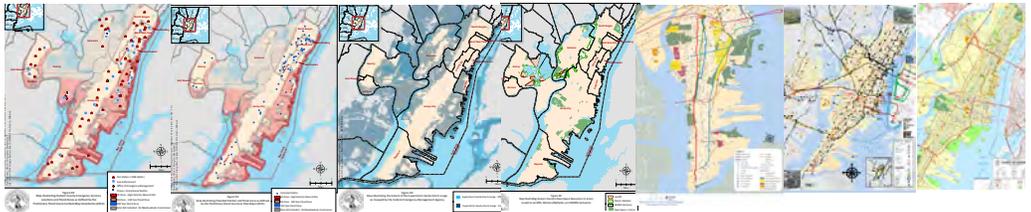


what is GIS and how is it helping with sandy recovery?

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is an indispensable tool used to represent digital data in an illustrative or spatial format. Examples of GIS documents include commuter transit maps, low-mod income census tract maps, zoning maps, flood maps, and transit hub analysis. The primary responsibility of the County's GIS program is to provide maps, data, and assistance to the 11 municipalities (excluding Jersey City which has GIS capabilities) and the County's departments and divisions as well as coordinating dataset updates with the State.

The Division assists the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management and County MIS on the Hudson County Emergency Notification System initiative. In coordination with HC OEM, the County has utilized a Homeland Security grant in order to purchase an ArcGIS Online license which will significant expand the Division's GIS capabilities as it relates to emergency planning and response and will be a mainstay in the HC OEM's Emergency Operations Center.

GIS Maps produced by the County of Hudson's Division of Planning to display Sandy's storm surge extent, emergency services, and evacuation shelters and transportation systems throughout the County.



what's next with post-sandy recovery in the upcoming year?

In March 2014, the NJ Department of Community Affairs approved the "Hudson County Strategic Recovery Planning Report." With this approval, the Hudson County Division of Planning submitted four grant applications to the NJ DCA. The grant funds will be used to update the County Master Plan and the Parks Master Plan along with creating the 2015-2020 CEDS plan and a Capital Improvement Plan. The 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan update will help Hudson County become more resilient to future storm events and other natural or man-made disasters. Superstorm Sandy caused significant damages in Hudson County, exposing or exacerbating vulnerabilities.

The Strategic Recovery Planning Report is intended to support community redevelopment in Hudson County through long range recovery and resiliency planning goals and objectives for the county, which sustained damage from Superstorm Sandy. The County's Master Plan will allow Hudson County to examine and address the damages and impacts from Superstorm Sandy, and take actions to implement recovery and mitigation projects and measures to make Hudson County more resilient. The Hudson County Parks Master Plan Update will serve to guide the long-range planning, operations, and maintenance of the Hudson County Parks System, as well as the recovery effects of Superstorm Sandy and mitigation efforts to reduce vulnerabilities to future storms.

The new 5-year CEDS plan provides an opportunity to study changing conditions in Hudson County. The report should explore the short-term and long-term economic impact of Superstorm Sandy, as well as the new issues and vulnerabilities that were exposed by this major storm. A Capital Improvement Plan will allow the County to prioritize, plan for, and arrange funding sources to implement needed capital improvement projects. The effects of Superstorm Sandy caused significant damages to County roads, facilities, and other equipment and infrastructure. The Capital Improvement Plan will enable the County to not only repair the damages from Superstorm Sandy, but to replace, upgrade, and add new facilities and infrastructure which will be more resistant and resilient to the effects of future storm events.



A lonesome construction vehicle at Rockaway Beach to assist with Sandy recovery efforts.



NY Waterway's "The Christopher Columbus" carrying passengers between New York and New Jersey. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

transportation

subregional transportation study

Hudson County is one of 13 subregions that are represented on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA). The County, with a population of 641,244 is the most densely populated county in the state with 31,713 people per square mile. The Division of Planning along with the Office of the County Engineer and the Division of Roads identifies and provides solutions for the transportation challenges that the County faces.

The County has an extensive network of mass transit and infrastructure; with 40% of the County's commuting population using public transportation, it is key that it runs efficiently, (U.S Census 2010). Service includes the PATH, Hudson-Bergen Light Rail system, bus lines, and ferry terminals. There are over 299,000 workers in Hudson County; 47% work within the county, 30% travel outside the county and 23% commute to Manhattan (U.S Census 2010). According to the 2010 Census, it takes on average 33 minutes for Hudson County residents to commute to work.

The Hudson-Bergen Light Rail System consists of 3 service lines, 24 stations, and connections to other transportation systems such as NJ Transit's bus and commuter rail, the PATH system, and Metro North's commuter rail. Picture is courtesy of HC Division of Planning.



Since 2004, the Division of Planning has received federal funding through the NJTPA to conduct subregional studies that examine our transportation network. The chart below shows the name of the studies, their funding amounts and implementation progress.

Chart's data source is courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

Hudson County Subregional Transportation Studies		
Name of Study	Funding Amount	Progress
2004 Northern Hudson County Bicycle and Pedestrian Study	\$100,000	Lead to Implementation of Safety Measures for Pedestrians
2008 The River Road- Hudson Waterfront Circulation Study/The Hudson River- Palisades Corridor Circulation Study	\$355,180	Lead to the striping of Bicycle Lanes on River Rd.
2010 Jersey City/Hoboken Connectivity Study	\$300,000	Lead to the Redesign of Observer Highway with the installation of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure for safety and connectivity between Jersey City and Hoboken
2012 Bayonne/Greenville/Journal Square BRT Study	\$250,000	The County is still exploring potential implementation strategies

Hudson County

bikeshare feasibility study

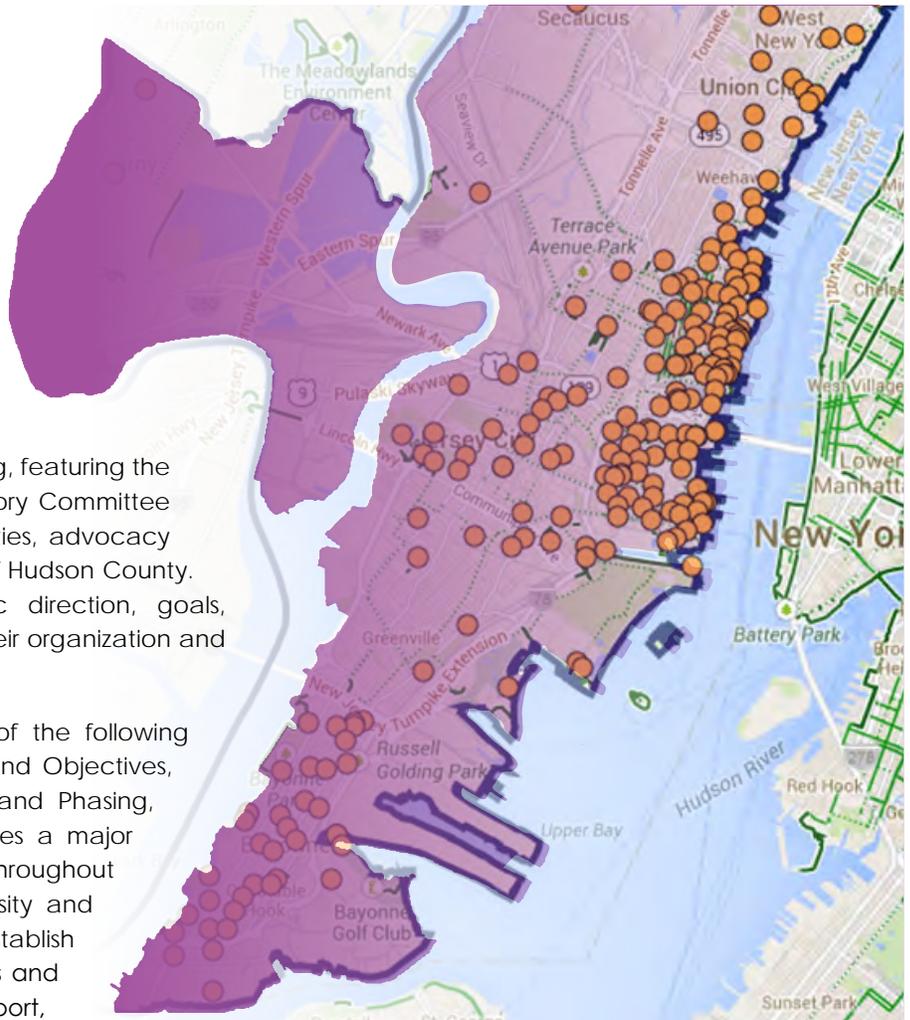
Bikes are more present now on city streets than ever before throughout Hudson County. Many new residents view bike infrastructure not only as an important amenity, but also as an indicator of a vibrant and desirable place to live.

Bike share is a service by which bicycles are made available for short term rental at self-serve kiosks. Bikes can be picked up at one kiosk and returned to another. Bike sharing has emerged world-wide as one of the fastest growing alternative transportation options for urban and suburban environments. Bike share systems have proven especially effective in urban environments as bicycle are considered the most efficient mode of transportation for short trips, require little in terms of new infrastructure construction, promote a healthy community, and take the burden of safely storing a bicycle off of the user.



(Left to Right: Hudson County Division of Planning Urban Planners Francesca Giarratana and Megan Massey using Capital Bike Share in Washington D.C. Picture is courtesy of HC Division of Planning

(Below) This crowd sourcing map designed by Toole Design consultant firm is featured on the Division of Planning's website. Residents can recommend to place self-serving bicycle stations near their homes or local places of interests. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.



The Hudson County Bike Share Feasibility Study kicked off in October 2013. This project is being funded as part of Together North Jersey's Local Government Capacity Grant Program. The study is being conducted by a project team headed by Sam Schwartz Engineering, featuring the Toole Design Group. The Technical Advisory Committee is a collaborative effort by the municipalities, advocacy groups, and transportation organizations of Hudson County. The TAC provided the overall strategic direction, goals, objectives, and impact of bike share on their organization and operation.

The Bike Share Feasibility Study consists of the following major elements: Public Outreach, Goals and Objectives, Case Studies, Service Area, System Size and Phasing, and Ridership Forecasts. The study features a major analysis for a potential bikeshare program throughout the County. Transit hubs, population density and businesses were some "indicators" used to establish the foundation of the study. These findings and others will be highlighted in the final report, which is set to be released in June 2014.

what's next with transportation in hudson county

In the upcoming year, the Division of Planning will shift its focus for transportation from studies to facilitating the continued efforts for safety throughout the county. These efforts involve a collaboration of organizations, including the Office of the County Engineer, the NJTPA, and the Hudson TMA. There are multiple initiatives that the County is currently promoting. The Road Safety Audit for JFK Blvd. West (between Communipaw Avenue and Montgomery Street), which was completed by Rutgers in late 2013, has led to the implementation of multiple pedestrian safety measures in the area. Another Road Safety Audit along a county road will be launching in 2014.

Street Smart, NJ's Pedestrian Safety Program, launched last year with a pilot in Jersey City. The campaign uses radio, outdoor and transit advertising, along with grassroots public awareness efforts and law enforcement to address pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The Division of Planning is discussing the possibility of establishing a Hudson County pedestrian safety committee with key stakeholders and continues to explore grant opportunities. **Later this year, the Division of Planning will utilize \$100,000 in grant funding from NJTPA to update to the County's Land Development Regulations which will include implementing complete streets throughout the County.**

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's Subregional Studies Program for the Bayonne/Greenville/Journal Square Bus Rapid Transit Study resulted in Parsons Brinkerhoff, the selected consultant, identifying JFK Boulevard as the preferred route for BRT elements. Proposed elements includes priority signalization for buses, enhanced stations, real-time information and system branding. The Division of Planning is reconvening the BRT Steering Committee to identify potential funding sources and continue coordination with NJTPA, NJ Transit, and NJDOT.



For 45 years, the Bayonne Bridge was the world's longest steel arch-bridge. Initially, the bridge was planned for motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians only. The arch design was implemented to have the option to accommodate 2 rail lines in the future although they were never built. Data source is courtesy of The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. Image is courtesy of 2guysphoto.wordpress.com/2013.



A neighborhood in Union City with the Hudson River and Manhattan in the background. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

community

what's happening throughout the county?

state and county see eye-to-eye on the environment

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has provided \$755,000 in recreational trail grants to multiple counties within the State. **Hudson County has received \$80,000 worth of grants where three \$24,000 grants were allocated to: the Secaucus Town's Mill Creek Point Trail Connection and Greenway Improvement Project, the Student Conservation Association's Liberty State Park Crew, and the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency's Morris Canal Greenway: Berry Lane to Erceel Webb Segment.**

One \$8,000 grant was awarded to the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Meadowlands Paddle Trail: Water Markers and Brochure. The goals of the Governor's Recreational Trails Program to "improve access to open space, enhance environmental resources... preserving and enhancing natural resources and open spaces" are consistent with Hudson County's Master Plan. The County has received the 2nd largest amount in funding from the grant program. This exemplifies the amount of care that Hudson County residents have for their open spaces and the natural environment.

the division of planning, geography, and superbowl xlvi

The Meadowlands Sports Complex is a labyrinth that only locals would know how to maneuver. Tourists that need to find their way around during major events like Superbowl XLVI can quickly get frustrated, resulting in headaches. **To provide a navigational aid, the Division of Planning, in conjunction with both the Department of Cultural Affairs & Tourism and the Hudson Reporter, created the Huddle Zone Guide.**

The Division produced transportation maps using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assist visitors not familiar with the county. The guide was distributed throughout Hudson County. Additionally, the Division worked closely with both State entities and the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management in preparation for the Super Bowl and associated events.



Meadowlands Sports Complex consists of the Izod Center, the Meadowlands Racetrack, the American Dream Meadowlands, the Quest Diagnostic Training Center and the MetLife Stadium (left) that hosted Superbowl XLVI. Courtesy of www.Flickr.com/photos/babyknight.

user-friendly mapping tools for the community are coming soon!

The Division of Planning recently purchased an ArcGIS Online license in order to enhance the Division's GIS capabilities with financial assistance from the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management. Through the Interactive Mapping Initiative, the Division will be able to afford GIS functionality to county departments that lack both GIS software and trained GIS professionals. The initial focus of the program is centered on implementation within HC OEM's Emergency Operations Center, online elections mapping and 'Find Your Poll Location' functions, and a Parks and Recreation finder. The program will also provide a GIS focused webpage for both County and public use.



Emergency Preparedness Drill held in Bayonne, NJ. Hudson County's Office of Emergency Management participated by transporting a "victim" played by a student at the Bayonne High School Drama Club. Courtesy of the Jersey Journal.

mapping the county's election districts

Voting is the right of all citizens in a democracy. Voter turnout is one measurement of civic involvement and may be used to gauge local interest and participation in community events. Hudson County's voter turnout for the 2012 general election was the largest since the 2008 election. Almost 200,000 citizens in Hudson County cast their votes in November 2012, almost as high as the number of voters who cast ballots in 2008, both presidential election years, which draw greater voter turnouts than other years.

Since 2010, the Division of Planning has been coordinating with the Board of Elections to digitize all applicable election boundaries and create election district and ward maps for public distribution. **Throughout 2013, the Division printed upwards of 1500 linear feet of maps for the Board of Elections.**



Downtown Jersey City District Boundary map. The ArcGIS Online Interactive Mapping Initiative, (an interactive mapping application) will be available for the public to view their election districts, polling information, and all of their elected officials from the federal through the local level. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

parks and recreation jersey city parks improvement

berry lane park and its amenities

The following images are renderings of the proposed Berry Lane Park and its amenities: A proposed soccer field is located to the right. Rendering is courtesy of Archpaper.com.



A rain garden is a unique environmental feature that is proposed for the park. It can be used to retain water after rain events. Rendering is courtesy of Archnews.com.



Retrofitted concrete silos will be another new feature at the park. Old silos will be reused for a more creative and playful use. Rendering is courtesy of Archnews.com.



Steven Fulop, the Mayor of Jersey City has recently announced that the City will invest approximately \$6 million in park projects to improve both the quality of life and expand recreational opportunities for residents. According to the *Hudson Reporter*, The City will invest approximately \$2.65 million of capital funds from the 2014 budget and will utilize \$1.465 million of Green Acres funding, as well as **\$4.4 million in Hudson County Open space Trust Fund dollars. The project also received an additional \$43,000 for programming.** Acquisition of the 11 properties that comprise the first phase of the Berry Lane Park project spanned nearly five years and included extensive negotiations with property owners.

Jersey City residents are looking forward to the completion of Berry Lane Park which will increase the amount of recreational space in the City by 9%. Amenities in the park will include: two basketball courts, two tennis courts, a baseball field, a soccer field, and a playground. The new park is expected to feature a rain garden that will consist of 600 newly planted trees. The park will also incorporate adaptive reuse of the existing concrete silos, remnants of the former rail yard, to be retrofitted with water spraying mechanisms. This will serve as a spray park for children and their parents.

In addition to Berry Lane Park, other parks within the City will undergo renovations: Mary Benson Park, Leonard Gordon Park, Reservoir #3, Van Vorst Park, First Street Park, Boyd-McGuinness Park, and Riverview-Fiske Park.

community development

McGinley Square East Redevelopment Plan

The *McGinley Square East Redevelopment Plan* is a bold approach for Jersey City to revitalize one of its historically significant neighborhoods. According to the *Hudson Reporter*, the Plan covers an area of about 10.2 acres and includes a proposed 22-story St. Peter's University building, which will contain residential units, a movie theater and retail, as well as possible dormitories, classrooms, child care facilities, and a park required by the City as a giveback to the historic community.

The 2011 *McGinley Square East Redevelopment Plan* was drafted by the Jersey City's Planning Division with the intent to promote the resurgence of McGinley Square as a center of commerce, education, entertainment and culture within a revitalized and livable transit-oriented neighborhood. The plan is marketed around McGinley Square's historic proximity to an excellent mass transit network that can potentially catalyze new development at a once thriving commercial center.

The Plan is receiving widespread recognition for incorporating the best principals of sustainable development, including the combined principals of Smart Growth, New Urbanism, and Green Building design as a catalyst for economic development in the area.

St.Peter's University new residential building



A rendering of the \$165 million, 300 unit, residential tower in McGinley Square. Courtesy of the Jersey Journal.



Another rendering of the 20- story residential building in McGinley Square that would cater to students and working adults by KPN Architects, Courtesy of Spectorgroup.com.



A developer's rendering of the proposed new-look McGinley Square featuring Montgomery Street looking east from Bergen Avenue. Courtesy of Jerseycityindependent.com/2011/09/28.

"Over time, McGinley Square declined as a center of business and commerce, as did many urban centers during the latter half of the 20th century. However, there are positive signs of revitalization in the area with St. Peters College's expansion with a new Student Center on Montgomery Street; the former 7th Precinct Building at 769 Montgomery Street conversion into new housing units; and the Beacon (the former Jersey City Medical Center) is in the process of being converted into luxury apartment units with health club facilities and many more amenities."

-Jersey City, City Planning Division 2011

overview of hoboken storm mitigation strategies

Hoboken is taking important measures to implement sustainable and resilient infrastructure practices to recover from the effects of Superstorm Sandy and future major storm systems. During storm events, the Hoboken sewage system is strained resulting in system backups that produce flooding in the lowest-lying areas. Stormwater that flows into the combined sewage system in Hoboken is exacerbated by the high percentage of impervious surfaces in the City (*Overview of the Hoboken Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan, 2013*).

hoboken green infrastructure strategic plan

In Spring 2013, NJ Transit, as part of Together North Jersey (TNJ), the USHUD, funded regional planning effort for the 13-county northern NJ region, began the *Hoboken Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan* as part of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development.

This project, one of 18 competitively-selected Local Demonstration Projects sponsored by TNJ, focused on: creating a framework for green infrastructure on both a city-wide and district by district basis; identifying the most cost-effective place-based best management practices (BMP); understanding how these measures can improve the resilience of Hoboken’s transit infrastructure; locating and prioritizing the assets and priorities most in need of protection; and developing a set of strategies the City can employ to implement the Plan.

Based on analysis of the carrying capacity of the underlying land forms, and contingent upon watertable data which will have to be part of a follow-up study, the Plan proposed a Conceptual Framework that organizes the City into three zones:

The Gray Zone, which contains a shallow depth to bedrock and therefore cannot infiltrate stormwater efficiently, is most appropriate for above-ground BMPs such as rainwater harvesting and green roofs.

The Green Zone, which has a greater depth to bedrock and soils that are capable of accepting and infiltrating sotrmwater and as such is most appropriate for vegetated BMPs like rain gardens, swales, and stormwater trees.

The Blue Zone, which contains the lowest elevations in the City and therefore may be available for the detention of stormwater.



On average, the Hoboken Waste Water Treatment Plant is overwhelmed by storm flows five times a month, but the city is hoping this plan will decrease storm flows to just four times per year with the new strategies that includes: constructing wetlands, rooftop rainwater harvesting, and adding permeable greenery on city streets. Courtesy of Together North Jersey.

This framework provides an overarching conceptual contract that can be used to educate residents, business owners and developers as Hoboken advances its green infrastructure program. It can also be used to help guide strategies for the individual sewersheds and future redevelopment of the areas in the northwestern part of the city.

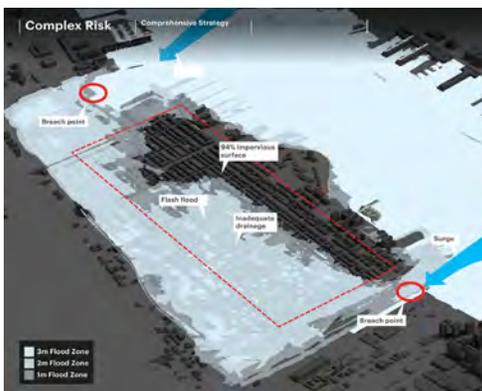
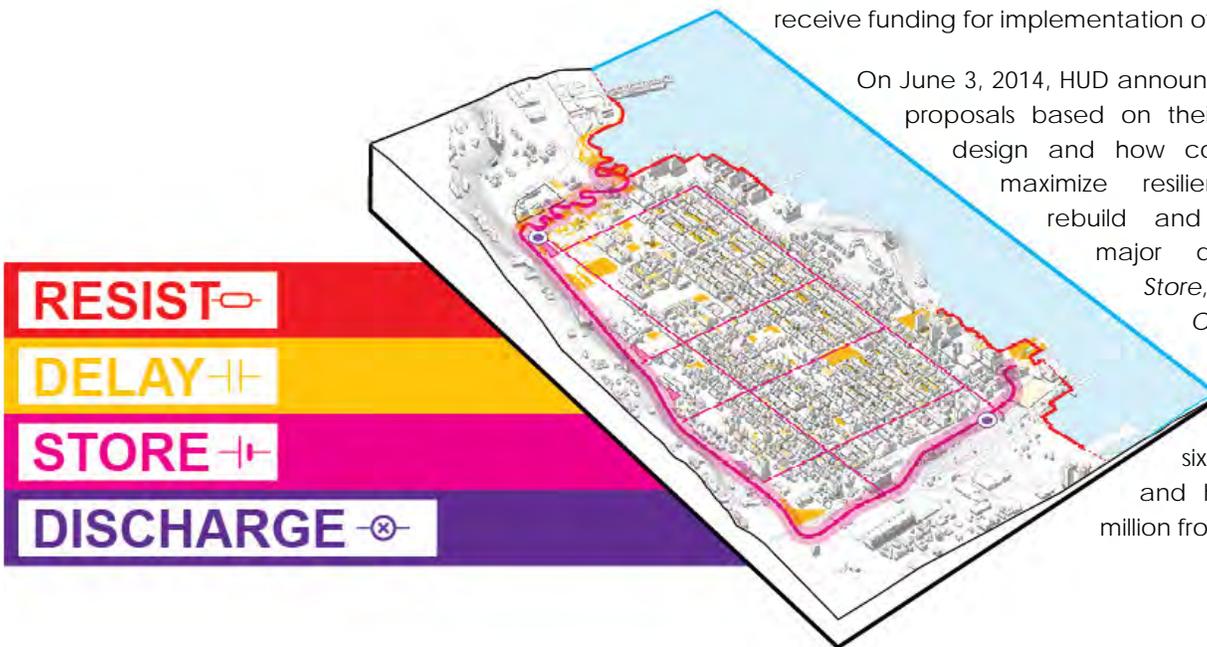
-Hoboken Green Infrastructure Strategic Plan, 2013

resist, delay, store, discharge: a comprehensive strategy for hoboken

Beginning in June 2013, ten collaborative design teams have been working on projects for the Rebuild By Design initiative. Launched by the President’s Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the competition engages teams of architects, engineers, and planners, working with local stakeholders such as community groups, non-profit organizations, and elected officials, to create proposed project solutions to protect Sandy-affected regions from the effects of future storm events and climate change through innovative design and infrastructure solutions. The project ideas were presented to the public, as well as various government agencies, and HUD selected several finalists.

One of the project finalists is *Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge: A Comprehensive Strategy for Hoboken*, created by a partnership lead by Dutch architecture firm OMA with Royal HaskoningDHV, Balmori Associates, and HR&A Advisors. To protect the City of Hoboken from flash floods and storm surge, OMA has developed a comprehensive plan which creates a system combining hard infrastructure and soft landscape to protect against coastal surges (resist), allow the urban fabric to stall the flow of storm water runoff (delay), create an interconnected circuit of green infrastructure surrounding the city to capture and hold storm water (store), and install water pumps and create alternate routes to facilitate drainage (discharge). The city-wide strategy utilizes techniques designed to have the best value, greatest impact, and fit the specific context of the dense, urban environment of Hoboken. The winners of the competition will receive funding for implementation of their projects.

On June 3, 2014, HUD announced the winning proposals based on their excellence in design and how communities can maximize resilience as they rebuild and recover from major disaster. *Delay, Store, Discharge: A Comprehensive Strategy for Hoboken*, was one of the six winning teams and has won \$230 million from HUD!



Models from the *Rebuild by Design* initiative that focuses on the resist, delay, store and discharge strategy. Courtesy of rebuildbydesign.org.

rebuild by design

new meadowlands: productive city + regional park

The *New Meadowlands* Team engaging in community workshops with stakeholders such as: the Meadowlands Commission, the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, Rutgers University, Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSEG), Hackensack Riverkeepers and many more... courtesy of rebuildbydesign.org.



The renderings depicts scenery from the *New Meadowlands* project which would consist of a hybrid of flood protection, urban development and decontamination techniques. The renderings also shows opportunities for a resilient district. All renderings are courtesy of rebuildbydesign.org.

The *New Meadowlands* is a Rebuild by Design finalist project by MIT's Center for Advanced Urbanism (MIT CAU) in collaboration with two Dutch firms: Zones Urbaines Sensibles (ZUS) and De Urbanisten (URBANISTEN) that focused on the combined effects of flooding, heat islands, pollution, social vulnerability, and vital network protection as opposed to just flood risk alone. The project proposes the concept of a resilient district which would include rebuilding landscapes for water storage and recreation which can ultimately add value and create new development opportunities along the edges of the Meadowlands between natural and urban systems. A "resilient district" would also incorporate a plan to provide emergency amenities allowing critical supplies, data access, energy and waste management to adjacent communities for a 2-3 week period after a disaster.

The FEMA flood zones of the metropolitan area of NY-NJ, including the Meadowlands, consists of a combination of critical infrastructures, polluted land and compromised ecosystem services, and vulnerable neighborhoods. With over one million people projected to relocate to the metropolitan area in the next decade, it is important to resolve these issues that affect low-lying flood zones where 2.5 million people currently lives. The *New Meadowlands* project articulates an integrated vision for protecting, connecting, and growing this critical asset to both New Jersey and the metropolitan area of New York. Integrating transportation, ecology, and development, the project transforms the Meadowlands basin to address a wide spectrum of risks, while providing civic amenities and creating opportunities for new redevelopment.

On June 3rd, 2014, HUD announced the *New Meadowlands* project received \$150 million as a project finalist.

featured 2013 projects underway in other municipalities throughout the county...

North Bergen

In collaboration with the state chapter of the American Planning Association, under their Community Planning Assistance Program (CPAP), the Coalition to Preserve the Palisades Cliffs held a community meeting to restore and rehabilitate the "Bird Sanctuary" located in North Bergen's James J. Braddock North Hudson County Park. Residents from North Bergen, West New York, Guttenberg and representatives from Hudson County Dept. of Parks and Community Services and N. Bergen Parks Dept. were all able to provide their input on the project. Courtesy of the Jersey Journal - *Coalition to Discuss Fate of North Hudson Bird Sanctuary.*

Weehawken

Phase II and III began in late May to complete two gardens, a playground and a dog run along Weehawken's waterfront park. The park is all paid for by *Roseland Property Inc*, the real-estate development company of many commercial and residential properties along the waterfront. A hotel and day-care center is also planned to be built along the waterfront. The development should generate an approximate 225 jobs for Weehawken. Courtesy of the Hudson Reporter - *Final Phases of \$5 million Waterfront Park Underway.*

Harrison

2013 marked the beginning of construction for the new \$256 million Harrison PATH station. Gov. Chris Christie joined local officials to praise the project's economic development. Construction on the new PATH station would add 470 direct construction jobs totaling \$42 million in projected payroll taxes and \$344 million in regional economic activity. The new station expected to be completed in 2017, will feature an extended platform, glass-enclosed station entrances and modern elevators. Courtesy of the Jersey Journal - *Christie Cheers \$256M Harrison PATH Station, Set to Open in 2017.*

Union City

In April 2013, Union City Commissioners approved \$6.5 million to renovate and beautify Washington Park, located on the Jersey City border. The project included planting 660 shade trees, 115 evergreen trees, 1,100 shrubs and 800 other plants. The park now has a combined baseball, soccer, and football field with artificial turf above an extensive water drainage system. Courtesy of the Jersey Journal- *Union City Approves \$6.5 million overhaul of its section of Washington Park.*

Bayonne

The current Bayonne Community Museum building was used as a bank for over 85 years until it was purchased by the City of Bayonne on December 19, 2001. The Bayonne Community Museum received three Open Space Trust Fund grants to renovate the interior of the building, including repair of electrical system and the addition of new facilities such as gallery space, offices, a reception area and ADA-compliant rest rooms. The museum building is a local landmark designated by the Bayonne City Council. Courtesy of *Visit Hudson County.*

Guttenberg/ North Bergen

In March, 2013, phase II began for the joint Waterfront Park project between Guttenberg and N. Bergen. Both towns have agreed to collaborate to bring residents from both townships a new park that will provide a picturesque view of the New York City skyline. Once built, the area will have a playground, a shaded area, a waterfront walkway, restrooms, a parking lot and a possible amphitheater. North Bergen received a \$24,000 trail grant administered by the Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program. The project also received funding from other sources including Hudson County's Open Space Trust Fund and the State's Green Acres Fund Program. Courtesy of the Hudson Reporter - *Slow But Steady Joint Waterfront Park Coming Soon*

Guttenberg

In April 2013, Guttenberg Town Council and Board of Education passed two unprecedented resolutions to constitute an Inter-Local Shared Services Agreement between the municipality and the school board. One is for a shared service agreement for the design and construction of the Guttenberg Recreational/Cultural Center and the renovation of Anna L. Klein School. The other resolution is a shared agreement for the operation, use and maintenance of the facility. The building will serve as a community, recreation and cultural center and the existing gymnasium in the Klein School will be converted to a school library/ community media center. The projected cost if the center was estimated to be \$20 million, funded in part by a \$3.7 million grant from the New Jersey Department of Education and School Development Authority. Mayor Gerald Drasheff mentions that it is a combined project that is unique in New Jersey. It will be a combination of a community center, recreational center and an expansion of the Anna L. Klein School. Courtesy of the Hudson Reporter - *Guttenberg Will Soon Have Rec Center With Classrooms*

Kearny

Kearny's Cardoza Park is a 1.5 acre waterfront park that was acquired from the former Maguillian Fuel & Oil property. The project was awarded \$300,000 in 2010 from the Open Space Trust Fund to create the passive park with amenities such as benches, lights, a walkway, access to the Passaic River waterfront, and a small parking area. The property was named after the late Portuguese American, Frank M. Cardoza who was an active citizen in Kearny by serving on many Town boards and committees. On Tuesday, October 22, 2013 Mayor Alberto Santos and others celebrated the Park's dedication ceremony. Courtesy of KearnyUSA.com - *Mayor and Council Unveil Sign and Dedicate New Frank M. Cardoza Park*

Weehawken/Union City

Weehawken's Hackensack Reservoir No. 2 was the largest privately owned undeveloped property remaining in the township. In 2011, both Weehawken and Union City have purchased the property from United Water. The 14.4 acre reservoir has not been in operation since 1996. Now it will be transformed into a passive park with a train around it. The purchase is being funded by an \$8.66 million low-interest loan from the Trust for Public Land, \$2 million in Green Acres funds, and \$168,000 each from Weehawken and Union City. Courtesy of The Jersey Journal- *Weehawken and Union City Will Have New Park Where Defunct Reservoir, Purchased for \$11 Million, Has Been Idle For 15 Years*

West New York

The town of West New York adopted bond ordinance #17/10 in 2010, and #23/13 in 2013 to appropriate \$6.6 million worth of bonds for capital improvement projects. \$1.05 million were allocated towards the improvement of Veteran's Park and Donnelly Park as a HC Open Space Trust Fund Grant. The park is currently under construction and will feature an amphitheater, outdoor gym equipment and many other amenities.

Planning for 2014

Hudson County's Division of Planning is continuously working hard to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. In 2014, the Division will be managing at least \$286,000 worth of grant projects. \$180,000 will be allocated towards post-Sandy planning initiatives from the Department of Community Affairs; \$100,000 will be funding the Update to the Land Development Regulations Study; and \$6,000 will be utilized to fund the Communities Forestry Program. The Division of Planning will also continue to manage the Planning Board, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee, and the Open Space Trust Fund. This year the Bikeshare Feasibility Study will be completed and the ArcGIS Online Interactive Mapping Initiative will begin. Please take a look at our website for updates to these projects and much more.



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