

HUDSON COUNTY

P L A N N I N G



2014 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, regional transportation improvements, storm recovery and resiliency, and GIS mapping applications. The Hudson County Division of Planning 2014 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), new planning initiatives through the Planning Assistance Grants, sub regional studies through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), and ArcGIS Online mapping applications.

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 2015 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.

This past year, the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Board awarded over \$4 million to partnerships between municipalities and nonprofit groups for shovel-ready projects. Progress was made on many previous projects funded through the Trust Fund, including the opening of the new North Bergen/Guttenberg Waterfront Park, the Town of Guttenberg's only park. The Hudson County Shade Tree Initiative planted 48 trees along County roads, and made significant progress towards becoming more fully functional and implementing a Community Forestry Plan. The Shade Tree Program applied for and received a donation of tree seedlings from the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, and over 1,000 trees were distributed to municipalities, and to county residents on Earth Day.

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, approved and submitted the Annual Update Report to the CEDS Regional Plan, which guides the growth of jobs, development, and commerce in the county. The Hudson County CEDS Committee and Division of Planning staff provided support to Together North Jersey in developing a CEDS Regional Plan for the 13-county North Jersey region. Additionally, the CEDS Committee has developed a new collaborative partnership with the Hudson County Workforce Investment Board.

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. The Division of Planning completed the Hudson County Strategic Recovery Report, which allowed the County to analyze and assess recovery and resiliency in Hudson County, and enabled the Division to

pursue additional grant opportunities from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA.) The Division of Planning received funding from the NJDCA through the Post-Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program to develop an update to the County Master Plan, a new Parks Master Plan, a new 5-Year CEDS Regional Plan, and Capital Improvement Plan, each with a special focus on resiliency. The collaborative planning process to develop the four plans, the “Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County Planning Initiative,” will be led by a consultant team headed by H2M Associates, with a comprehensive public outreach program to be conducted by the Division.

The 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 is leading a new initiative to encourage municipal participation in FEMA’s Community Rating System, and is working to create a CRS Assistance Program to coordinate regional municipal participation through staff support and technical assistance, the development of an information clearinghouse, and hosting of strategic quarterly meetings for participants.

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 the Arc GIS to develop several user-friendly web-based applications, including an effective Flood Insurance Rate Map and new preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map comparison application, a flood depth estimation tool, and a Find Your Polling Place application to help county residents obtain information about polling locations and elected officials. 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 Division’s planning studies, and completing the new Official 2015 Hudson County Map.

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. The Hudson County Bike Share Feasibility Study, funded through a Together North Jersey Local Capacity Grant, was completed in early 2015, and provides many recommendations for implementation options and strategies for a Hudson County bike share program. Additionally, the Division has participated in three Road Safety Audits since 2014, which examined accident-prone roads in Jersey City and analyzed usage and safety for automobile traffic, trucks, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

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

Sincerely,



Massiel M. Ferrara

Division Chief, Hudson County Division of Planning

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 River Waterfront Walkway Implementation Plan, the 2005 Hudson County Open Space and Recreation Plan, the 2008 Hudson County Master Plan Reexamination Report and the 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, CPM

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 25 active projects that are funded through the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund.

**GIS SPECIALISTS:***Jason Bottcher, CFM*

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, attended McGill University in Montreal, Quebec where he studied urban geography and anthropology, and currently lives in Jersey City, NJ. 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, the development of the Interactive Mapping Initiative, and Planning Board work.





ASSISTANT PLANNERS:

Francesca Giarratana, AICP

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, and Rutgers Bloustein School of Planning for her Masters' degree in City & Regional Planning. In May 2015, she successfully passed the Comprehensive Planning Examination to receive her certification through the APA's American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). At the Division of Planning, Francesca's main responsibilities are serving as staff support to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee and as project manager for various planning projects. Currently, Francesca serves as the project manager for the "Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County" planning initiative. Previously, she served in the same role for the Hudson County Bike Share Feasibility Study, which wrapped up in early 2015.



Byron Nicholas

Byron Nicholas is an Assistant Planner with the Hudson County Division of Planning. Byron is from Queens, NY and currently lives in Jersey City, NJ. Byron earned his Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design from SUNY Buffalo in 2011, and his Master's in Urban Planning with a concentration in urban design 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 and 2014 Hudson County Division of Planning Year in Review documents.



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. 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 inspects trees along Hudson County's roads, and has earned his Municipal Shade Tree Management and Hazard Shade Tree Assessment certifications from Rutgers University extension.

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.

**PLANNING 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, the 2013 Community Indicator Report, and the 2014 Year In Review. Kevin is also providing assistance with the Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County Planning Initiative.





The New Jersey Meadowlands, Secaucus. Courtesy of HC Planning.

open space trust fund

open space trust fund

Open Space

Planning Board

Economic Development

Planning Assistance Grants

Transportation

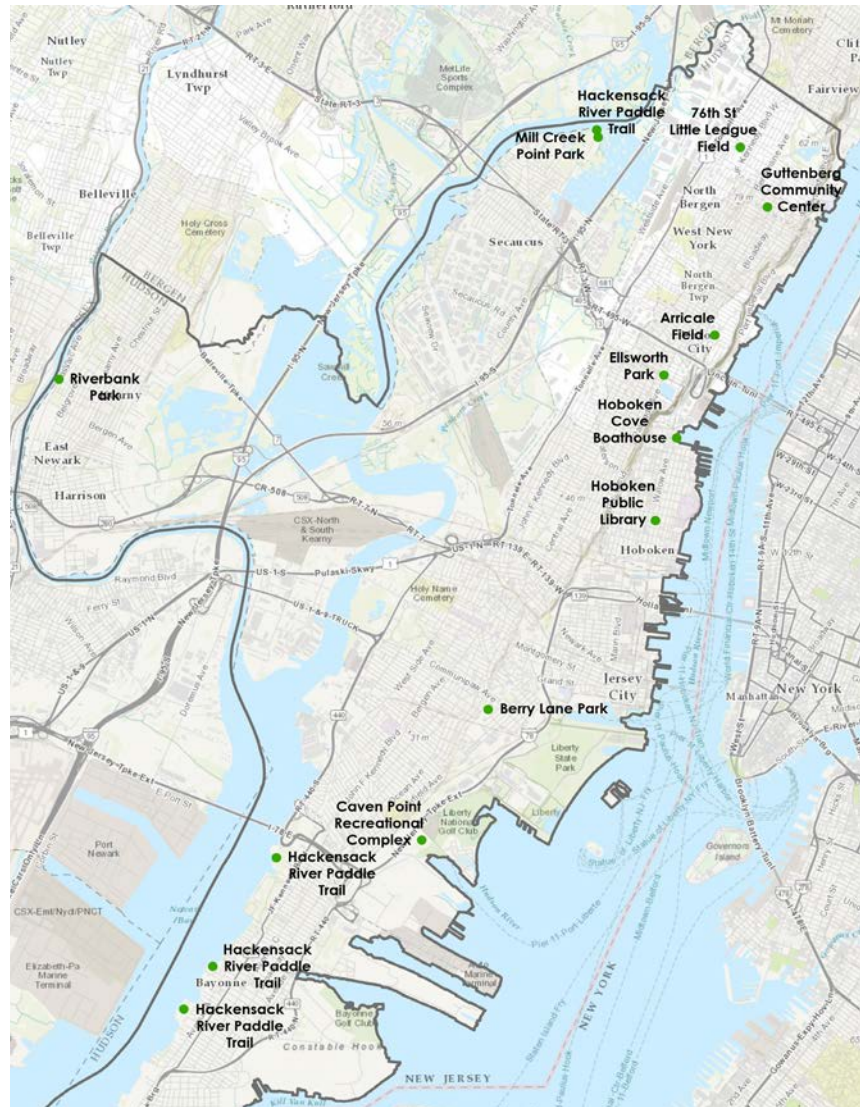
GIS

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 2003, the Board of Chosen Freeholders voted to create the Hudson County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is funded through a one cent property tax for open space purposes, recreation facility enhancements, and historic preservation.

The Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Board is charged by the Board of Chosen Freeholders to review, prioritize, and recommend projects for open space, recreation and historic preservation funding that meet the goals and objectives outlined in the Hudson County Open Space & Recreation Plan.

The Hudson County Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Board approved awarded funding to 13 new projects in 2014. A total of \$4,606,424 was awarded for the projects. The map on the right shows the location of the projects which were awarded funds by the Trust Fund in 2014.



Arricale Field Park, Weehawken. HC Planning.

2014 open space projects



Mill Creek Point Park Shelter Installation *Secaucus*

Installation of a gazebo, trash receptacles, benches, and tables.

Applicant- Town of Secaucus
Amount awarded- \$250,000

Harrison Library *Harrison*

Improvements to the library plaza including restoration of stairs, masonry, guard rails, architectural trim, replacement of columns, landscaping, interior plaster restoration for the reading room and mezzanine, and the preparation of a Historic Preservation Plan.

Applicant- Town of Harrison
Amount awarded- \$269,450

Hoboken Library Reading Garden *Hoboken*

Renovation of backyard garden space, including the addition of a paving stone surface, seating areas, and garden plantings.

Applicant- Hoboken Free Public Library
Amount awarded- \$124,000

Guttenberg Community Center *Guttenberg*

Construction of a 3-story community center connected to the Anna Klein School which will include an all-purpose room, public basketball court, gym, and additional classrooms for the school as needed. The space will be used by the school until 3pm and available to the general public afterwards.

Applicant- Town of Guttenberg
Amount awarded- \$300,000

Community Center Rooftop Playground *Guttenberg*

The project is for a rooftop park and playground on the proposed Guttenberg Community Center. The playground will be publicly accessible 7 days a week during daylight hours via an elevator and stairwell down to the street. The playground will include a gazebo, picnic table, outdoor garden, and playground equipment.

Applicant- Town of Guttenberg
Amount awarded- \$300,000

Hoboken Cove Park *Hoboken*

The City of Hoboken is redesigning Hoboken Cove Park to incorporate increased resiliency measures as part of Hoboken's US HUD-funded Rebuild By Design strategy. The award also includes funding for completing construction of the boathouse.

Applicant- City of Hoboken
Amount awarded- \$500,000

Hackensack River Paddle Trail *Bayonne, Secaucus*

Orientation and wayfinding signage in City Park in Bayonne, Rutkowski Park in Bayonne, Veterans Park in Bayonne, and Mill Creek Point Park in Secaucus, to raise awareness of and guide visitors to the 23 mile Hackensack River Paddle Trail.

Applicant- Hackensack Riverkeeper, City of Bayonne, Town of Secaucus
Amount awarded- \$10,474 Public Library
Amount awarded- \$124,000

Open Space

Planning Board

Economic Development

Planning Assistance Grants

Transportation

GIS

2014 open space projects

continued...

Open Space

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Berry Lane Park Phase III Stabilization Jersey City

Construction of a multipurpose synthetic turf field, installation of lighting, landscaping, installation of trees, bleachers, park furniture, a scoreboard, curbing, fencing, and permeable pavers in Area 5 of the park.

Applicant- Jersey City Redevelopment Agency
Amount awarded- \$1,000,000

Dog Park Construction at Riverbank Park Kearny

Construction of a .39 acre off-leash dog park in an underutilized section of Riverbank Park. The park will have two areas: one for small dogs and one for large dogs, and sidewalks providing access to town handicapped parking to the south of the site will be added.

Applicant- Town of Kearny
Amount awarded- \$175,000

Aricale Field Park Weehawken

The heavily used field is Weehawken's only Little League field. The project, which will upgrade the field and reduce maintenance costs, includes a new artificial turf field with underground drainage, new fencing and seating, and new batting cages.

Applicant- Town of Weehawken
Amount awarded- \$277,500

Ellsworth Park Union City

The project is to rehabilitate Ellsworth Park through conversion from primarily passive use to a multi-purpose facility with water features, a picnic area, and a bandshell/amphitheater. The project will also include grading, landscaping, drainage, and improved accessibility.

Applicant- City of Union City
Amount awarded- \$500,000

76th Street Little League Field Improvements North Bergen

Installation of artificial turf grass and other work to upgrade the field so that it can be used for girls softball in addition to only baseball. The improvements will also reduce maintenance costs and allow for increased usage of the field.

Applicant- Town of North Bergen
Amount awarded- \$500,000

Caven Point Jersey City

The Caven Point Recreational Complex Capital Improvements Project involves the rehabilitation of the grass soccer field which has fallen into disrepair, with large patches of dirt, mud, and rocks. The restoration of the field will allow many residents of the densely populated neighborhood to have soccer games on the popular field.

Applicant- City of Jersey City
Amount awarded- \$400,000

Guttenberg and North Bergen Waterfront Park Opening



The new Guttenberg and North Bergen Waterfront Park opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 6, 2014. The 1.5 acre park, located along River Road, with parts of the park in both Guttenberg and North Bergen, features a playground, picnic area, open grass area, and amphitheater for public concerts and other events. The Waterfront Park is the only park in Guttenberg, which covers only 0.243 square miles but includes 11,176 people. The park cost a total of \$3 million to build, was funded by the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund and New Jersey Green Acres Program, and is managed by both municipalities. The ceremony featured remarks from several public officials including New Jersey General Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, County Executive Thomas DeGise, North Bergen Mayor Nicholas Sacco, and Guttenberg Mayor Gerald Drasheff.



Photo Credits: Top row- Kathryn Brenzel, NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Bottom row- Hudson County Division of Planning

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the community forestry program

The Hudson County Shade Tree Program achieved several major accomplishments in the past year. A main focus of the program was to greatly expand Hudson County's shade tree resource through the planting of trees in tree pits along County Roads. **A total of 48 trees were planted in 2014, primarily in existing tree pits.**

In addition to the new tree plantings, the program staff responded to 18 requests for hazard tree and tree maintenance requests throughout the County. Following inspections, tree trimmings or other forms of tree maintenance, or tree removals, were performed as appropriate to remedy the issue. Several meetings on safety procedures, as well as a series of training workshops, were held for staff participating in the tree plantings, which greatly increased the knowledge and awareness of the participating staff on safe working practices and procedures for tree plantings.

Further progress was made in 2014 towards fully and formally establishing the County's Shade Tree Program. **The Shade Tree Program drafted a Community Forestry Plan, and in 2014 received a \$3,000 grant from the New Jersey Community Forestry Program to work with a consulting Certified Arborist, who will assist with completing Hudson County's draft Community Forestry Plan.** The Plan guides the planning and management of the County's shade tree resource, including a maintenance plan and procedures to reduce tree hazards. **The Community Forestry Plan and Shade Tree Program has received preliminary approval from the NJDEP.**

An inventory of the County's trees, which will help to guide and prioritize planning and program resources, is an essential component of the program. The Shade Tree Program, with the assistance of New Jersey City University, is currently collecting data on street trees in the County right-of-way, including tree species, age, health, and the condition of tree pits and planting strips. **Nearly 600 individual tree pits, planting strips, and trees have been mapped with GPS units for the inventory.** The inventory will allow for the identification of hazard trees and other trees requiring pruning or care, street tree coverage, as well as potential planting locations. It will be updated and maintained following all tree inspections, plantings, maintenance, removals, and other changes to provide an up-to-date record for all trees. When complete, the inventory will be available to the public through the Hudson County Division of Planning's ArcGIS Online Interactive Mapping Initiative. Additionally, it is envisioned that the public will be able to edit the inventory, which will enhance the inventory's accuracy while encouraging awareness and participation.

Going forward, the Shade Tree Program plans to continue expanding the County's shade tree resource with additional tree plantings on County roads. The Program plans to incorporate its tree inventory into the USDA Forest Service's iTree Software Program to facilitate planning and management, and to utilize software tools such as canopy analysis, air quality reports, water quality and absorption data, and more. Finally, the Program plans to see the approval, adoption, and implementation of the initial Community Forestry Plan.



Hudson County Parks staff using equipment to plant a tree on John F. Kennedy Boulevard in Union City



Hudson County Division of Parks staff placing a tree in a tree pit in Bayonne

earth day 2015



Hudson County Division of Planning Staff
at Earth Day 2015

The Hudson County Division of Planning applied for and received a donation of tree seedlings from the State Tree Nursery through the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, a program intended to replace trees destroyed during Superstorm Sandy. Trees were distributed to Bayonne, Harrison, Kearny, and Union City. Tree seedlings were also distributed to the public at the Hudson County Improvement Authority's annual Earth Day Event at Liberty State Park on April 25, 2015.

A planting guide and informational brochure was developed and given out with the trees, and an interactive mapping application on the ArcGIS Online platform allowed recipients of trees to map the location of the trees they planted, aiding in creating an inventory of Hudson County trees. Over 1,000 tree seedlings were distributed to be planted throughout the County.

HUDSON COUNTY SHADE TREE PROGRAM

Tree Typology (species)	Height (feet)	Crown (feet)	Tree Description
Chestnut Oak	60-70	15-25	moderate drought tolerance, low salt tolerance, like full sun
Douglas Fir	40-60	15-25	moderate drought tolerance, low salt tolerance, like full sun
Flowering Dogwood	20-30	25-30	moderate drought tolerance, low salt tolerance, sun or partial sun
Hackberry	45-80	40-50	flood tolerant, salt and high pH tolerant, moderate drought tolerance, Asian Longhorn Beetle affected, sun or partial sun
Northern Red Oak	60-90	50-60	fast growing, state tree of New Jersey, drought and salt tolerant, likes full sun
Persimmon	30-80	20-30	fruit bearing if both male and female trees are present, sun or partial sun
Redbud	20-30	15-25	flowers in spring, drought tolerant, not salt tolerant, sun or partial sun
Red Maple	60-90	40	tolerates moisture and various soil conditions, moderate drought tolerance, not salt tolerant, Asian Longhorn Beetle affected, sun or partial sun
Sweet Gum	60-75	35-50	drops many hard spiky balls, wet tolerant, moderate drought and salt tolerance, sun or partial sun
Willow Oak	60-75	40-50	grows quickly, tolerates moist areas, drought, pollution, high salt tolerance, like full sun
White Oak	60-100	60-80	slow growing, moderate drought tolerance, high salt tolerance, sun or partial sun



Division of Planning booth at Earth Day 2015

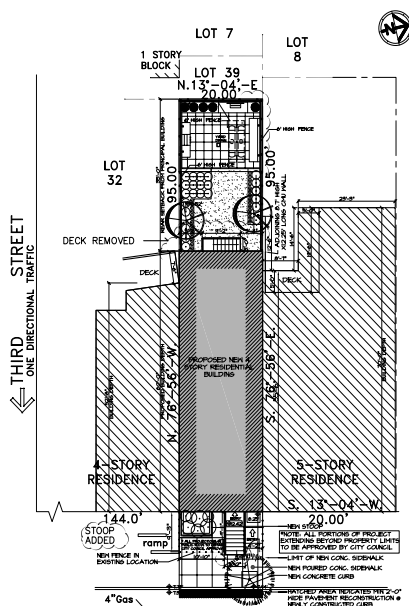
The Division of Planning manages the County's Planning Board which has jurisdiction over all subdivision applications in the County and site plan applications for development along County roads that may affect traffic and drainage facilities. Ultimately, the goal is to protect investment in the County 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.



Green Street Planters, Environmental Protection Agency
water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm



planning board

Hudson County Planning Board Applications

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Stormwater Management

Combined Sewer Systems are designed to collect rainwater, runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. New Jersey has 217 CSOs in within 21 communities. By upgrading CSO infrastructure, communities would be better able to promote sustainable practices, protect public infrastructure, reduce pollutants in waterways, bring people and jobs to the area, and create resilient cities in the 21st century.

Green infrastructure solutions keep runoff out of CSS while grey infrastructure solutions treat overflow in the comprehensive sewage system, including underground pipes and treatment plants. An example of a green infrastructure solution is a bio-retention basin drainage while an example of a grey infrastructure solution would be upgrading or expanding a storm water treatment facility. The following pages consists of 2014

Hudson County Planning Board applications that have demonstrated great stormwater management examples through the Planning Board's green techniques requirement. The applications are categorized by: Park Improvements, Redevelopment Projects, Waterfront Development, Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design – LEED, and Environmental Preservation and Economic Development – Meadowlands District. The picture adjacent to each category is not of the application's site, but rather, generally reflects specific techniques used by applicants throughout the County.

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.



Residents collaborating to plant a rain-garden. Courtesy of Image Buddy.

development and sustainability

2014 Applications	
Total Number of Applications	76
Application Type	
Site Plans	37
Subdivisions	11
Site Plans/Subdivisions	5
Jurisdictional Determinations	14
Application Statuses	
Approved	34
Administratively Approved	3
Exempt	22
Dismissed/Tabled/Withdrawn/No Status	3
Application Site Totals	
Dwelling/Housing Units	2,059
Proposed Parking Spaces	3,401
Proposed Bicycle Parking Capacity	160
Number of Trees Proposed by Applicants	1,127

county planning
board
review
is
responsible
for

Site Plans
Subdivisions
Traffic and Drainage
Affecting
County Roads

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

James Cryan, Chairman

Rushabh Mehta, Vice-Chair

Renee Bettinger, Pro-Tempore

Demetrio Arencibia, PE, PP,
County Engineer

Daniel Choffo, Commissioner
Joseph Glembocki PE, Assistant
County Engineer

Michael Holloway, Commissioner

Hon. Kenneth Kopacz, Freeholder

Betania Peralta, Commissioner

Elizabeth Hernandez, Alternate #2

Kennedy Ng, Alternate #1

Hon. Anthony Romano, Freeholder

John J. Curley, Board Attorney

Massiel M. Ferrara, PP, AICP, Board
Secretary

Megan Massey, PP, AICP, Principal Planner

Byron Nicholas, Assistant Planner

Christopher Roberts,
GIS Specialist/Assistant Planner

Mario Tridente, Inspector

Open Space

Planning Board

Economic Development

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Example of a Rain Garden Courtesy of Image Buddy



Example of a Bio-Swale. Courtesy of Image Buddy



Example of a Bio-retention Basin. Courtesy of Image Buddy

Park Improvements

The Town of West New York

Improvements to Veteran's Park

The Town of West New York undertook a capital improvement project consisting of park improvements to Veteran's Park to repair existing slope erosion by extending the park outward to the east. Construction included but was not limited to construction of a primary slope retaining wall, the installation of lighting, shade trees, native landscaping, storm sewer improvements and other park amenities such as outdoor workout equipment and bicycle racks. The Town of West New York has proposed native landscaping, bicycle parking and urban forestry where 19 additional trees on the site were proposed to satisfy the Planning Board's green technique requirement.

Redevelopment Projects

236 Sherman Avenue, LLC.

313-315 Frank E. Rodgers Blvd. Harrison, NJ

The developers of this property submitted a Planning Board application to demolish an existing dilapidated and unsafe building and propose to subdivide a lot into two lots and construct two mixed use buildings on the resulting lots. The proposed building will consist of commercial use on the first floor and residential apartments on the second and third floors. The applicant has proposed native vegetation, redevelopment of the site and green parking via permeable pavers for their green technique requirements. One shade tree along the site's 50 feet of frontage within Frank E. Rodgers Blvd's right-of-way was also proposed to satisfy the County's shade tree requirement.

316 Park Corporation

316 Park Avenue, Hoboken, NJ

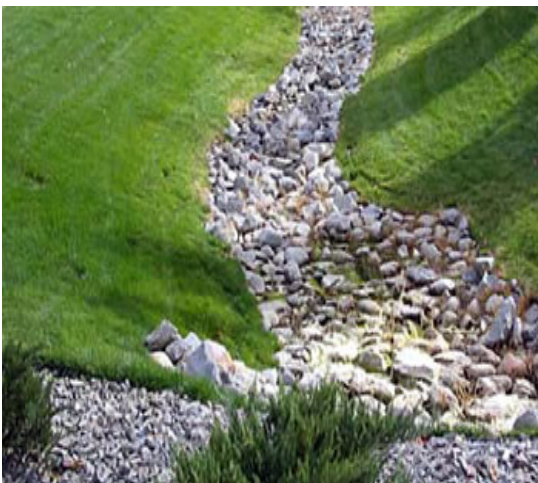
The redevelopment proposal of this site consists of demolishing an existing multi-family structure to construct a four-story building with two residential units. The applicant has exceeded their green technique requirement by proposing a green roof, semi-permeable pavers in the rear yard, native landscaping, redevelopment, and a detention tank that collects and slowly discharges roof rain water and excess water from the rear yard into the municipal water system. The applicant proposes to keep the existing tree on the County's right-of-way which contributes to the reduction of the urban heat island effects.



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



Example of a retention swale. Courtesy of Image Buddy.



Example of a bio-detention basin. Courtesy of Image Buddy

Waterfront Development

Advance at Harrison, LLC.

1000 Frank E. Rodgers Blvd. South

As the first phase of development, the applicant sought approval to construct a five-story, 150 bed hotel, to include a lounge, conference space and other amenities. The proposal also consisted of an approximate 4,340 square feet of street level commercial space. The site's green techniques were met since the applicant will be redeveloping a former industrial lot and proposes to plant native vegetation throughout the site. The shade tree requirement is fulfilled by the applicant proposing to plant 4 trees in planters throughout the site's 108 feet of frontage along Frank E. Rodgers Blvd.

Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design - LEED

236 Sherman Avenue, LLC.

313-315 Frank E. Rodgers Blvd. Harrison, NJ

This application was submitted to the County's Planning Board to receive approval to deconstruct two existing three-story buildings to construct a five story building with four residential units over a first floor parking spaces. In addition to multiple green stormwater techniques, such as: native landscaping, remediation and redevelopment of a prior brownfield site, bicycle racks to accommodate 5 bicycles and on-lot treatment of stormwater runoff - where water will be detained to alleviate the municipal system's capacity and be reused to flush toilets, the applicant also proposes roof mounted solar panels to harvest clean energy. One shade tree is also proposed within the County's right-of-way.

Environmental Preservation and Economic Development - Meadowlands District

Secaucus Road, Secaucus, NJ.

This project approved by the Planning Board consists of redeveloping 1.2 million square feet of impervious land to construct a new FedEx warehouse and distribution facility. The scope of the project includes proposals for public amenities such as new sidewalks and a bus stop along Secaucus Road. The developers proposed native landscaping, preservation of the wetlands designated area on their site and bicycle parking racks as a green technique to encourage mass transit use. The developers have provided earnest donations towards the Penhorn Creek Contribution Fund and the Shade Tree Contribution Fund.

Open Space

Planning Board

Economic Development

Planning Assistance Grants

Transportation

GIS

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 Division has received a New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) federal grant to fund the update to the Land Development Regulations.

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

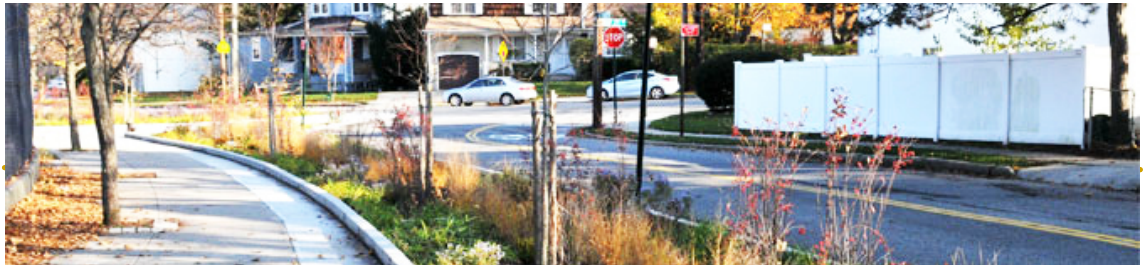
TreesNY, an environmental and urban forestry nonprofit organization, has removed 740 square feet of concrete throughout NYC, courtesy of Trees NY.



five

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.

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.



six

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

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.





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

economic development

comprehensive economic development strategy

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee is comprised of county and municipal officials, non-profit organizations, business, finance, transportation, and industry leaders, developers, and other economic development professionals. The Hudson County Division of Planning provides staff support and technical assistance to the CEDS Committee.

The CEDS Committee leads the effort to create a CEDS Regional Plan. This plan is a 5-year economic plan to guide the growth of jobs, development, and commerce in the County. The CEDS Plan is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Economic Development Administration (USEDA) to become eligible for federal public works grants and economic development assistance from the EDA. The USED A approved the first 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 USED A.**

An additional requirement for grant eligibility is the submission of annual updates to the CEDS document, which highlights economic development projects, update key economic growth metrics, and identify priority infrastructure needs. The Division of Planning completed annual update reports for 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, which were all approved by the USED A.

Highrise office and housing developments along Jersey City's waterfront. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.



hudson county ceds and regional economic development

The Hudson County CEDS Committee and supporting staff have recently contributed to regional CEDS efforts. Through the Together North Jersey effort, a CEDS strategy was created for the 13-county region. During the process, Hudson County provided insight into the CEDS process overall and highlighted successful examples of economic development throughout the County. In addition, the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association received funding to develop a CEDS that focuses on the needs of the urban areas of the North – Central Region of New Jersey. From Hudson County, the municipalities of Bayonne, Hoboken, and Jersey City are included in the scope. Hudson County and the CEDS provided feedback and input for this report as well.

collaboration between ceds committee and workforce investment board

In 2014, a new partnership was formed between the CEDS Committee and the Hudson County Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The Hudson County WIB is responsible for the planning, policy guidance, and oversight of the entire workforce development system including the integration of the welfare to work programs with the two One Stop Career Centers -- one in Union City and one in Jersey City.

Through the collaborative partnership, the CEDS Committee and Workforce Investment Board seek to create a consistent economic development and workforce investment policy for Hudson County. The two committees share some committee members and supporting staff in common. The CEDS and WIB plan to collaborate on research and share data and other resources. They intend to highlight through their research the strengths of industries in Hudson County, how both the CEDS and the WIB can connect resources and employers, and understand what types of investments are the most effective. The partnership will also serve to increase the stakeholder connections and involvement of both committees.



comprehensive economic development strategy committee members

Appointed Members

2014 Hudson County CEDS Executive Board

Chairman, Paul Silverman, SILVERMAN

Vice-Chair, Maria L. Nieves, President & CEO of Hudson County Chamber of Commerce

David Behrend, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

Anthony Cammarata Jr., Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Nicholas Dalesandro, P.E., Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation

Gregory Dell'Aquila, JDA Management and Construction

James DiDomenico, Hudson County Transportation Management Association

Richard Dwyer, Public Service Electric and Gas Company

Aaron Foreman, J. Maar Development Group

Dan Frohwirth, Jersey City Economic Development Corporation

Patrick Kelleher, Hudson County Building Trades Council (United Plumbers 24)

Marcia Kahnowitz, Workforce Investment Board

Alan Lambiase, South Kearny Industrial Association

John Lane, Hudson County Division of Engineering

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

Maria L. Nieves, President & CEO of Hudson County Chamber of Commerce

Michael Novak, Hoboken Chamber of Commerce

Paul Silverman, SILVERMAN

Barbara Smith O'Neal, Business Incubator, Small Business Development Center

Elizabeth Spinelli, Hudson County Economic Development Corporation

Elnora Watson, Urban League of Hudson County

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

2014 CEDS Speaker Series:

JANUARY

TIP Strategies- Together North Jersey's (TNJ) Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

MARCH

Karl Hartkopf, NJ Office of Planning Advocacy- Presentation on the NJ Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 and the Choose NJ "Site Selector" tool

JUNE

Barbara George Johnson, Executive Director, John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy- "Creating an Urban-focused CEDS for the North-Central NJ Region"

Anthony Corsi, Director, Hudson County Workforce Investment Board "North Jersey Partners" project

SEPTEMBER

Kevin Force, Hudson County Planning Intern - "Sixth Street Embankment"



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?

A new 5-year CEDS strategy for 2015-2019 is being developed through the "Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County Planning Initiative," funded through a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA). Through this process, the consultants will analyze a variety of data including socio-economic trends, land and industry trends, labor market conditions, and real estate conditions. There will also be extensive outreach, especially with private sector stakeholders.



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

Open Space

Planning Board

Economic Development

Planning Assistance Grants

Transportation

GIS



Morris Canal and downtown Jersey City from Liberty State Park. Courtesy of HC Planning

planning assistance grants

community development block grant-disaster recovery planning grants

The Hudson County Division of Planning received Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs through the Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program. The grant program is intended to support long range planning for community redevelopment and resiliency in the counties and municipalities most affected by Superstorm Sandy. The Division of Planning has received six grants through the program and is launching two planning initiatives: “the Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County Planning Initiative” and “the Supporting and Strategizing for Resiliency Planning Initiative.”



Observer Highway in Hoboken flooded during Hurricane Sandy. Courtesy of Eduardo Munoz CNS/Reuters

“engaging & strengthening hudson county planning initiative”

Grant funding from the program has been awarded to the Division of Planning for an update to the County Master Plan, a new County Parks Master Plan, a new 5-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan, and a new County Capital Improvement Plan. Each of the plans will have a special emphasis on resiliency. To enhance the planning and stakeholder outreach process, establish an overall set of goals, objectives, and guiding principles, and connect these four planning initiatives into a unified vision for planning and resiliency in Hudson County, the development and outreach process for all four plans has been combined into the “Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County Planning Initiative.” The County has selected H2M Associates to lead the planning process. H2M is teaming with 4Ward Planning, Matrix New World Engineering, Inc., and Princeton Hydro, LLC. to complete the plans. The Division of Planning will be leading the public outreach component of the planning process.

master plan

- A Master Plan is a policy guide for development and includes elements such as demographics, economic development, housing, transportation, the environment, and land use.
- The new Master Plan update will address changing conditions in the County since the previous update in 2008.

- Several major events have affected Hudson County since the last update to the Master Plan, notably Hurricanes Irene and Sandy. The update to the Master Plan will have a special focus on recovery and resiliency in Hudson County, and will utilize data from FEMA, as well as study the effects of combined sewer outflows (CSOs) and other infrastructure on resiliency, the environment, and the economy. The plan will be groundbreaking in its integration of general master planning and hazard mitigation planning.
- This Master Plan update will also be the County's first since the 2008 financial crisis. The update will study and discuss the impacts, including housing trends, business and economic development, and

parks master plan

- The Parks Master Plan will provide a strategic planning approach to the management of the County Park system.
- The Plan will look at the use amenities and needed improvements throughout each of the parks. A special focus of the plans will be looking at programming uses in the parks and the balance between active and passive recreational spaces.
- Through the planning process, the usage of parks and amenities will be studied through observation, and residents' ideas and opinions about the parks will be collected through surveys.

comprehensive economic development strategy

- The CEDS Plan is a requirement of the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). The current CEDS Plan is expiring, and the Hudson County CEDS Committee and Division of Planning need to create a new 5-year plan for 2015-2019.
- Through the new CEDS Plan, data will be collected, and an analysis conducted to look for trends and determine existing and future conditions.
- In a new partnership with the Hudson County Workforce Investment Board, the CEDS Plan will delve deeply into looking at where to target investment by demographics, and geographically by neighborhoods.
- The CEDS planning process will include labor force analysis and look at ways to help bridge the gap between the skills of the workforce and the demands of employers.

capital improvement plan

- A Capital Improvement Plan is a multi-year plan for the purchasing and funding of infrastructure and equipment, which will help to plan ahead, prioritize, and budget for the County's needs.
- The development of the Capital Improvement Plan will assist the County with long-term facility planning.
- Through the Plan, infrastructure and techniques to strengthen and protect County buildings and facilities against natural disasters will be identified.
- The Capital Improvement Plan will be coordinated with necessary projects identified in the other three plans as well as additional projects identified as essential for the County.

vision

The completion of the four plans through the collaborative "Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County Planning Initiative" planning process will create a unified vision for the future of Hudson County, with broad encompassing goals, objectives, and policies for land use, transportation, housing, infrastructure investment, economic development, open space and recreation, environmental protection, tied together by the essential common goal of resiliency. The plans will be accessible and user friendly, and it is the intent of the Planning Initiative that the plans be used regularly as guiding documents for professionals and the public in advancing and creating the future of Hudson County. The initiative officially kicked off in May 2015 and the final plans are expected to be completed in May 2016.

public outreach

The Division of Planning will be conducting a broad outreach campaign with several methods and strategies to encourage participation in the planning process. The Division staff will meet with officials from County departments, as well as from each municipality. There will be focus groups or forums to solicit input from special groups, including environmental non-profits, developers, and business owners. Three public meetings will also be held, with one each in the northern, southern, and western sections of the County.

There will be a project website providing information and updates on the initiative, and online surveys will collect information on the views, opinions, and needs of Hudson County residents which will guide the planning process and be incorporated into the plans. Finally, the Division of Planning staff will be going out to meet and speak with County residents in person through kiosks at County events, County and municipal facilities, transportation hubs, shopping centers, and high pedestrian traffic.



The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway, provides protection from storm surges. Left, at Bayonne Park, right, at Weehawken Cove. Courtesy of HC Planning

"supporting and strategizing for resiliency planning"

Additionally, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs awarded the Division of Planning grants from the Post Sanding Planning Assistance Grant Program for a:

"Community Rating System Assistance Action Plan"

"Hudson County Debris Management Plan"

debris management plan

Hudson County is vulnerable to a variety of natural and man-made disasters. Flood waters, storm surge, and high winds from storms such as hurricanes, nor'easters, and other coastal storms cause damage throughout the county can create impactful debris, including structural debris, household goods, personal belongings, garbage, rocks, trees, and hazardous materials. Hurricane Sandy created large amounts of debris, which caused additional damage and loss of service to facilities and infrastructure in Hudson County, and required significant time and resources to remove.

The Division of Planning received funding from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs through the Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program to develop a "Hudson County Debris Management Plan." The planning process for the Debris Management Plan will be led by a professional planning consultant, and will be developed for the Hudson County Improvement Authority, with grant management and staff assistance provided by the Division of Planning. The Debris Management Plan will also serve to compliment the County's general emergency management and response operations in Hudson County's All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, updated in 2014.

The completion of the Debris Management Plan will provide an opportunity to assess the County's current vulnerabilities to storm damages and disasters and the debris generated by these disasters, analyze capabilities and needs for debris management, and develop a plan of action to implement new methods, programs, and policies to meet current and future debris removal and disposal needs. It will outline coordination and management responsibilities for debris clean-up, prioritization of clean-up of debris impacting critical infrastructure and transportation routes, and plans for handling different types of debris in a safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly way. The planning process will enable the County to study and incorporate lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy and other significant historical storms and disasters, and to implement new policies, strategies, and techniques which will help the County prepare for, and be more resistant and resilient to, the effects of future storm and

community rating system plan

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the process of adopting new Flood Hazard Maps. The Flood Hazard Maps reflect the risk of damage from flooding and storm surge during storm events, and are used to determine flood insurance rates. These new maps will be formally adopted later this year following the 90-day public comment period. The new maps will add over 200 properties in Hudson County to the Special Flood Hazard Area and affect insurance premiums for numerous properties in the county. Additionally, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 could significantly raise insurance premiums for many NFIP insured properties.

The Community Rating System, a voluntary program through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a way to reduce flood risk, encourage strategic flood plain planning and management, and increase resiliency for communities which implement additional standards, policies, and actions to reduce the risk of flooding damage beyond the minimum standards required for flood insurance through the NFIP. Municipalities get credit for activities which reduce their risk of flood damage. Activities are classified into four different categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulations, Flood Damage Reduction, and Flood Preparedness. Based on number and type of activities, the municipality will earn points, and the number of points achieved will determine the community's rating in one of 10 classes. The class, reflecting the community's reduced risk, will reduce flood insurance premiums for properties in the community. Through participation in the Community Rating System and adoption of different mitigation activities and strategies, premiums can be reduced between 5% and 45%. In addition to reducing risk, the reduced premiums can also help to offset an increase in premiums resulting from the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014.

The Hudson County Division of Planning, in coordination with the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), intends to serve as a resource to municipalities and encourage participation in Community Rating System through a CRS Assistance Program. The CRS Assistance Program will help to coordinate mitigation efforts in a regional context, and provide assistance to municipalities that may not have the technical capabilities to implement some of the risk reduction activities on their own. The County will serve as an information clearinghouse and provide planning and GIS professional and technical assistance and support. The Division of Planning will provide assistance with mapping, analysis, open space, research, ordinance, master plan development, and outreach. The Hudson County OEM will provide assistance with mitigation strategies (Hazard Mitigation Planning), critical facilities planning, training, outreach, and warning systems. The Division of Planning and OEM will also help to develop public information such as brochures and press releases. Potentially, the CRS Assistance program may also provide assistance to utility companies and Municipal Utilities Authorities for remediation projects, drainage maintenance, facilities inventory, flood inventories, as well as help municipalities coordinate shared services agreements.



Drainage and shoreline improvements at Lincoln Park West, Jersey City. Courtesy of HC Planning

Updates, best practices, training opportunities, strategic recovery plans, and other important information related to the CRS and NFIP programs will be posted in a dedicated clearinghouse page on the Division of Planning website. Quarterly meetings will be held by the Division of Planning and OEM for all municipal CRS participants to share updates and best management practices, set goals, objectives, and policies, and discuss implementation progress. The participation is voluntary, and each municipality is responsible for its maintaining its own participation in the CRS program. The program has a goal of having all municipalities, except Union City, participate in the CRS program and achieve a minimum of a Class 9 rating, which result in a 5% reduction of insurance premiums through the NFIP.

The Division of Planning hosted a workshop for Hudson County municipal officials at the USS Juneau Memorial Center on February 5, 2015. The workshop featured Amanda Gowans, Insurance Services Office/CRS Specialist, who gave a presentation which provided an overview of the CRS program, followed by a presentation by the Division of Planning on the CRS Assistance Program, and a question and answer session.

The Division of Planning received funding from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs through the Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program to develop a "Hudson County Community Rating System Assistance Action Plan." A consultant will be hired to complete the plan.



NJ Transit train at Secaucus Junction Station. Courtesy of Trevor Logan, Jr.

transportation

road safety audits

Hudson County features some of the most intensely used transportation infrastructure in the country, and with that use often comes conflict: truck drivers, motorists, public transit users, cyclists, and pedestrians all must be accommodated. How can we improve the safety of our streets for all users? Road Safety Audits (RSA) often provides answers. During an RSA, experts from Rutgers University's Transportation Safety Resource Center lead a local audit team through accident-prone areas. The team analyzes intersections, human behavior, speed management, and sign visibility for potential problems. The team then proposes short-term solutions that fit within current budget constraints. Past RSAs within Hudson County have led to new construction, such as traffic safety features along Bergen Avenue and Central Avenue in Jersey City.

To this end, the Division of Planning has participated in three RSAs since 2014. Two examined intersections and stretches of road in and around Jersey City's Journal Square, and a third examined intersections along Marin Boulevard, also in Jersey City. These areas were selected for Audits because they contained streets that were ranked among the most dangerous in the County as well as the State.



Roadway Characteristics & Operations: Marin Boulevard

Road Characteristics	Hudson County 637 / Marin Blvd	
SRI	09000637 (RSA: Montgomery Street – 2 nd Street)	09061567 (RSA: 2 nd Street – 6 th Street)
Jurisdiction	Municipal	
Functional Class	Urban Minor Arterial	
Speed Limit	25	
Number of Lanes	2, parking both sides	2, no parking
Median Type	None	
Medium Width	0	
Pavement	48 – 49	48
Shoulder	0	
Traffic Volume	11219 NB, 5869 SB	
Study Mileposts*	0.05, 0.19, 0.31, 0.36, 0.41	0.2

* Crash queries include geocoded counts within 0.01 miles of the intersection

bikeshare

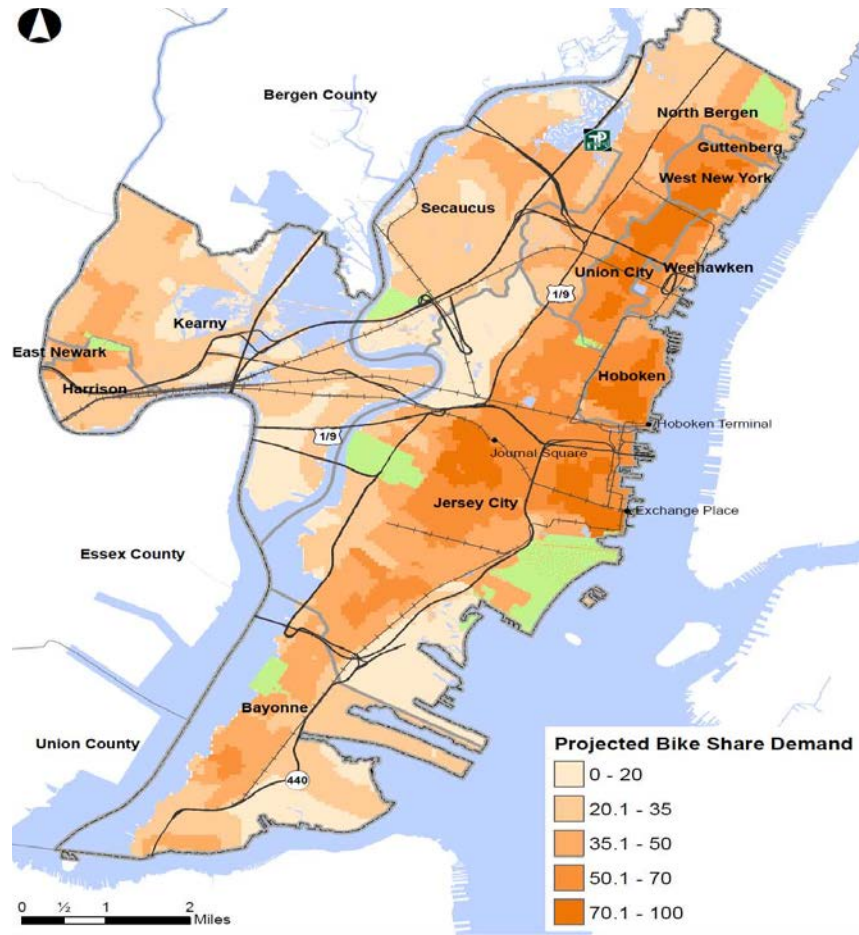
Bikes are more present now on city streets than ever before throughout Hudson County. Many new residents view bike infrastructure not only as an important amenity, but also as an indicator of a vibrant and desirable place to live.

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.

Hudson County

bikeshare feasibility study

NJTPA, via Together North Jersey's HUD funded Local Government Capacity Grant Program, provided Hudson County with financial assistance to conduct a Hudson County Bike Share Feasibility Study. The study was conducted by a project team headed by Sam Schwartz Engineering, featuring the Toole Design Group. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was 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 Exploration of a Public Bike Share Program in Hudson County Study analyzed implementation options and strategies for bike share that aligned with and enhanced local efforts.



Source: Sam Schwartz Engineering, 2014

Spatial data analysis was performed to project demand for bike share stations throughout Hudson County.

key concepts

- Defined goals, objectives, and performance measures to guide implementation and operations of a bike share system.
- Analyzed bike share demand through an analysis of metrics.
- Proposed a phased service area and identified potential station locations.
- Developed ridership and membership forecasts based on existing systems.
- Provided quantitative summary of the financial benefits, costs, and risks of a bike share system.
- Highlighted equity recommendations to expand service to a wider scope of Hudson County residents.



Bike lanes on Logan Avenue, Jersey City

Open Space

Planning Board

Economic Development

Planning Assistance Grants

Transportation

GIS

A phased implementation was recommended based on the analysis.



Hudson County residents suggesting bikeshare station locations during an open house meeting. Courtesy of HC Planning



overall findings

The final draft report was completed in early 2015, approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and publically released in June 2015.

To complement initial municipal bike share implementation, the study identified future phased expansion of the service area in Hudson County based on a series of demand metrics and appropriate density models. For Phase II, the study identified 65 additional potential bike share locations and 19 additional stations for Phase III.

The study developed important resources for local implementation: forecasts for ridership and membership, financial analysis, and recommendations for a low or no-cost bike share membership model to expand the social equity of the system.

This project also developed an assessment methodology that other areas in the region could use if they are considering a bike share program.

recommended

- Form a Hudson County Bike Share Task Force.
- Ensure that the Hudson County bike share system best meets the identified goals and objectives and is evaluated by the performance measures to determine success.
- Encourage and support the incorporation of equity strategies to expand service potential.
- Explore bike network planning and design throughout the County.
- Install robust bikeways throughout the County designed to attract a diverse range of potential bicyclists and bike share users.



geographic information systems

geographic information systems, explained

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 to moderate 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 (HC OEM) 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 significantly expand the Division's GIS capabilities as it relates to emergency planning and response and will be a mainstay in HC OEM's Emergency Operations Center.

interactive mapping initiative

The Division of Planning maintains a website, the Interactive Mapping Initiative, that is dedicated to providing online mapping services to Hudson County residents. Over the last year and a half, the Division of Planning has deployed several online map applications. The following pages describe the Division of Planning's online GIS efforts in the past year.

Portal for Hudson County Interactive Mapping Initiative. From this web page you can access all the mapping applications published by the Division of Planning.



The ArcGIS Online Interactive Mapping Initiative is a system built upon both publicly available data and data created by the County that allows the easy publication of interactive maps. Above you will find mapping applications offering citizens information such as election polling locations and demographic data about Hudson County.

This site is maintained by Hudson County's [Division of Planning](#).

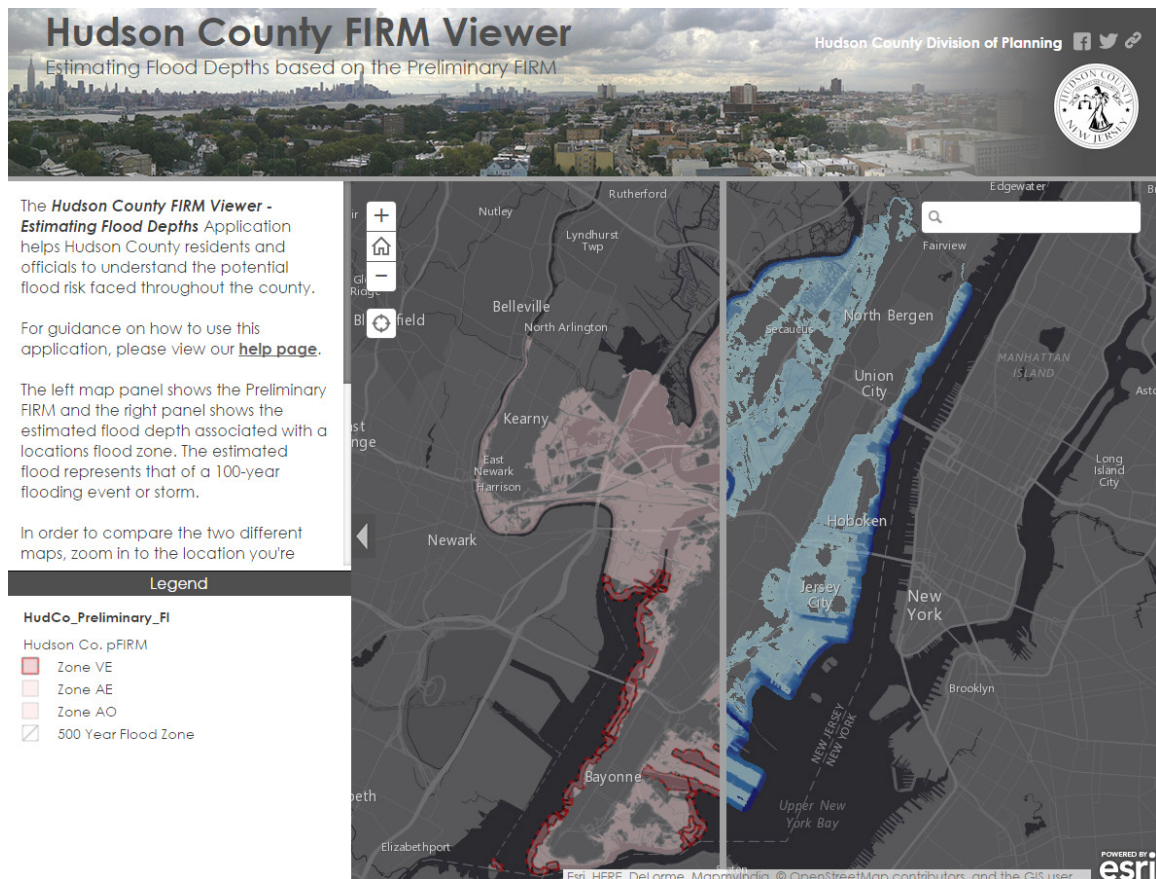
flood insurance rate map viewer

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) periodically issues Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) which define areas at risk during major flood events. Preliminary new maps were released in December 2013 and are expected to become effective by the end of 2015.

Because there are substantial coverage changes from the last maps issued in 2006, the Division of Planning has developed two online applications that let Hudson County residents see these changes in their neighborhood.

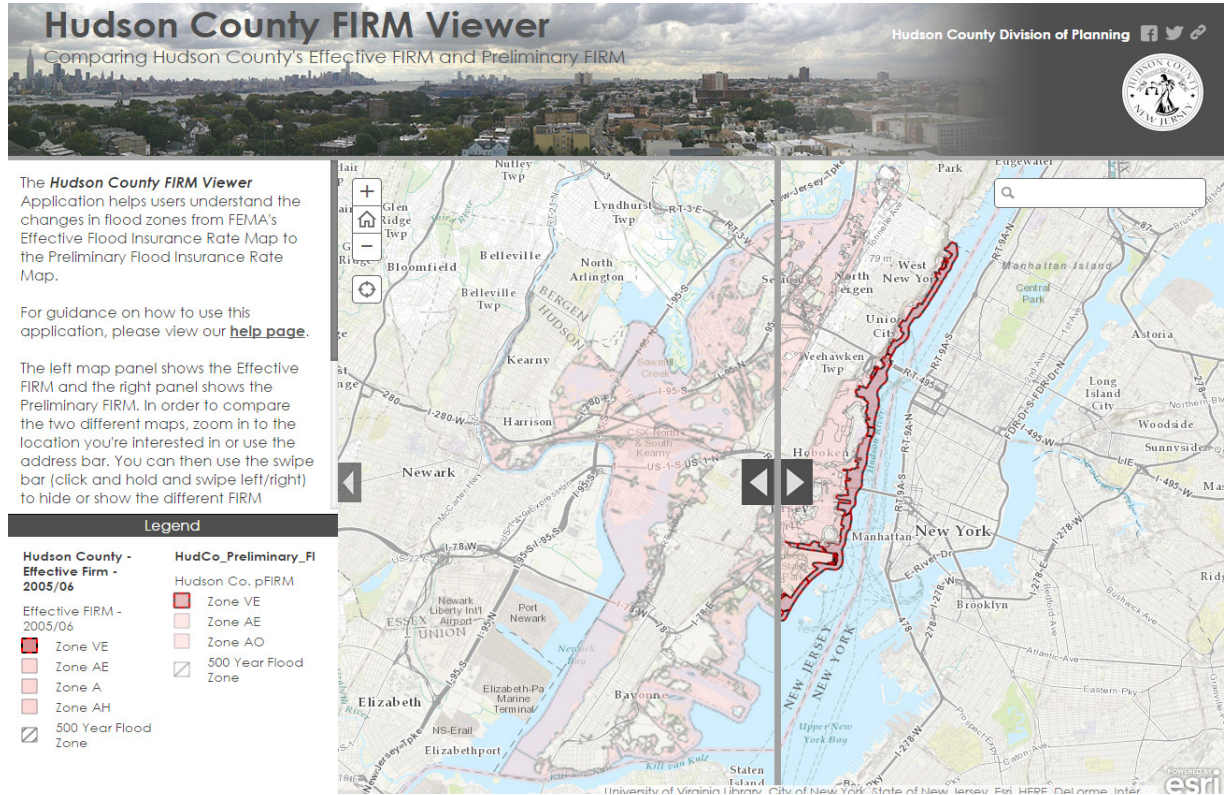
The first, Estimating Flood Depths, shows the new coverage and the estimated depth of a 100-year flooding event.

Online map showing new coverage and estimated depth of a 100-year flooding event. Courtesy Hudson County Division of Planning.



The second, Comparing Hudson County's Effective FIRM and Preliminary FIRM, details the exact changes from the official 2006 map to the preliminary 2015 map. Residents may search for their own address and see how nearby flood zones may have changed.

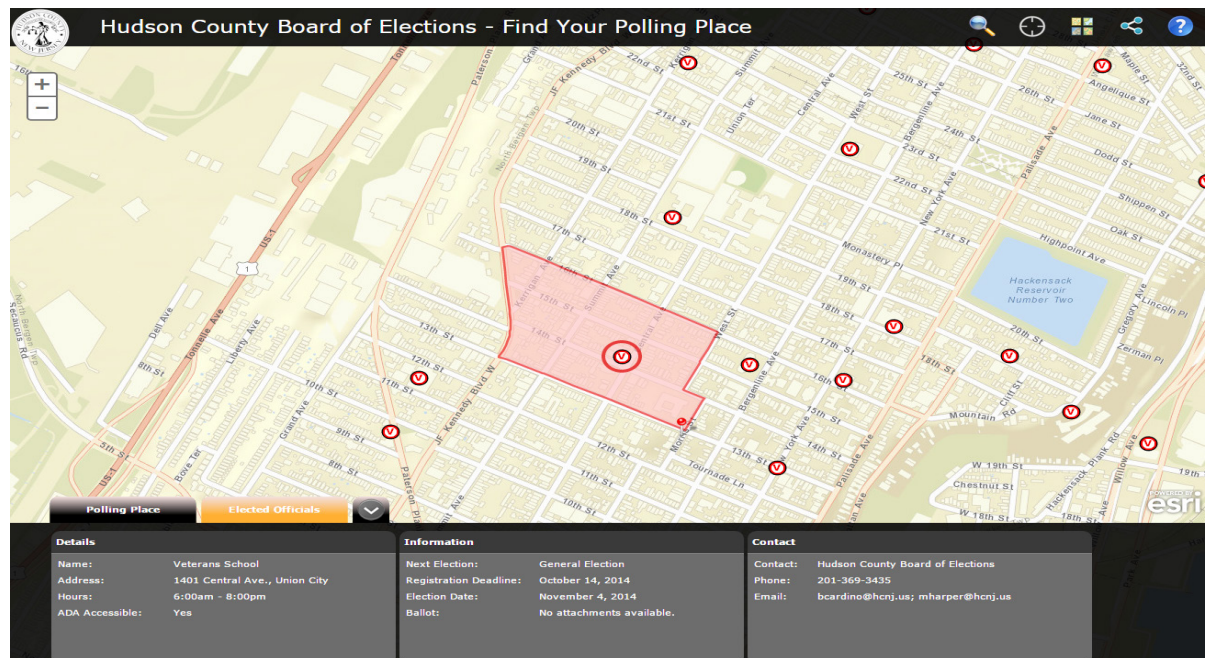
Online map showing flood zone changes since 2006. Courtesy Hudson County Division of Planning.



elections

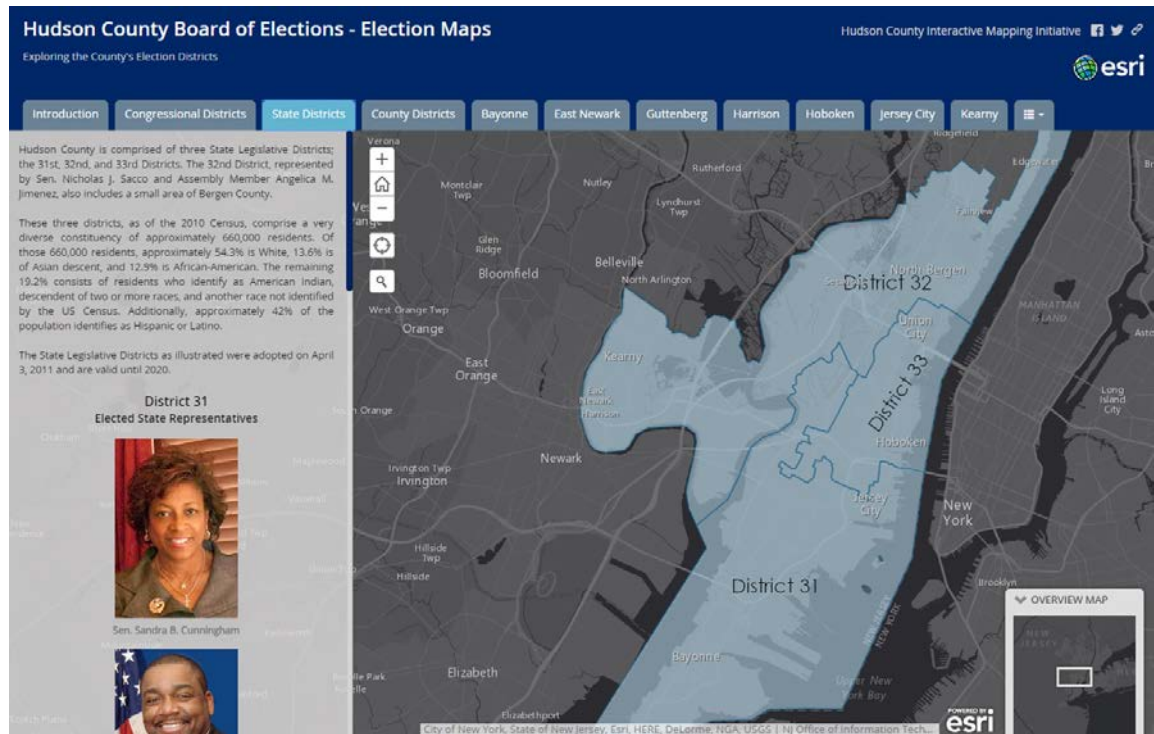
To assist the County Board of Elections in public outreach for the November 2014 elections, the Division of Planning published Find Your Polling Place. The application helps citizens locate their election polling place, comment on the conditions at the polling place, and obtain information about current elected officials. The application is typically used by citizens during an election season, but can be used throughout the year to determine which elected officials represent the jurisdiction in which they reside.

Online map showing polling location and residents' elected officials. Courtesy Hudson County Division of Planning.



Additionally, the Division of Planning has also published Election Maps. This application can be used to explore the County's election districts, including Congressional districts, State Legislative districts, Board of Chosen Freeholder districts, as well as municipal election wards and districts. The map also includes information on elected officials and estimates of select demographic data including population totals from the 2010 Census. The information presented is meant to provide an easy-to-use resource for the public and local officials to promote civic awareness, education, and participation.

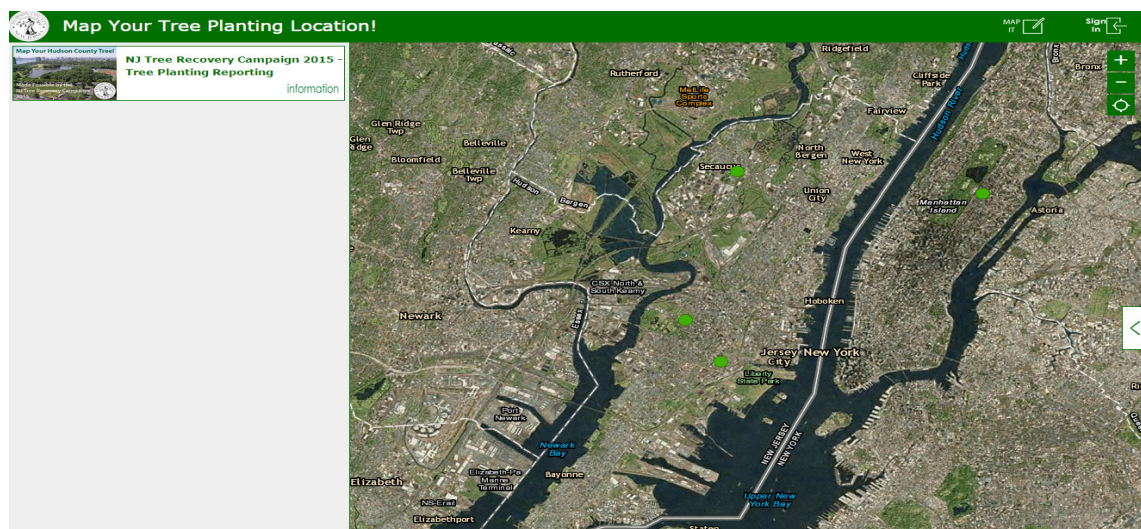
Online map showing polling location and residents' elected officials. Courtesy Hudson County Division of Planning.



map your tree

The Division of Planning, through the 2015 NJ Tree Recovery Campaign, was provided with 1500 tree saplings. On April 25th, Planning distributed these trees to residents attending Earth Day celebrations at Liberty State Park. Through the Tree Planting Reporting application, users are able to map the location of any trees they have planted with details that are important to monitoring trees' health and growth.

Online map letting Hudson County residents map their free tree from Earth Day 2015. Courtesy Hudson County Division of Planning.



Open Space

Planning Board

Economic Development

Planning Assistance Grants

Transportation

GIS

coming in 2015...

open space map

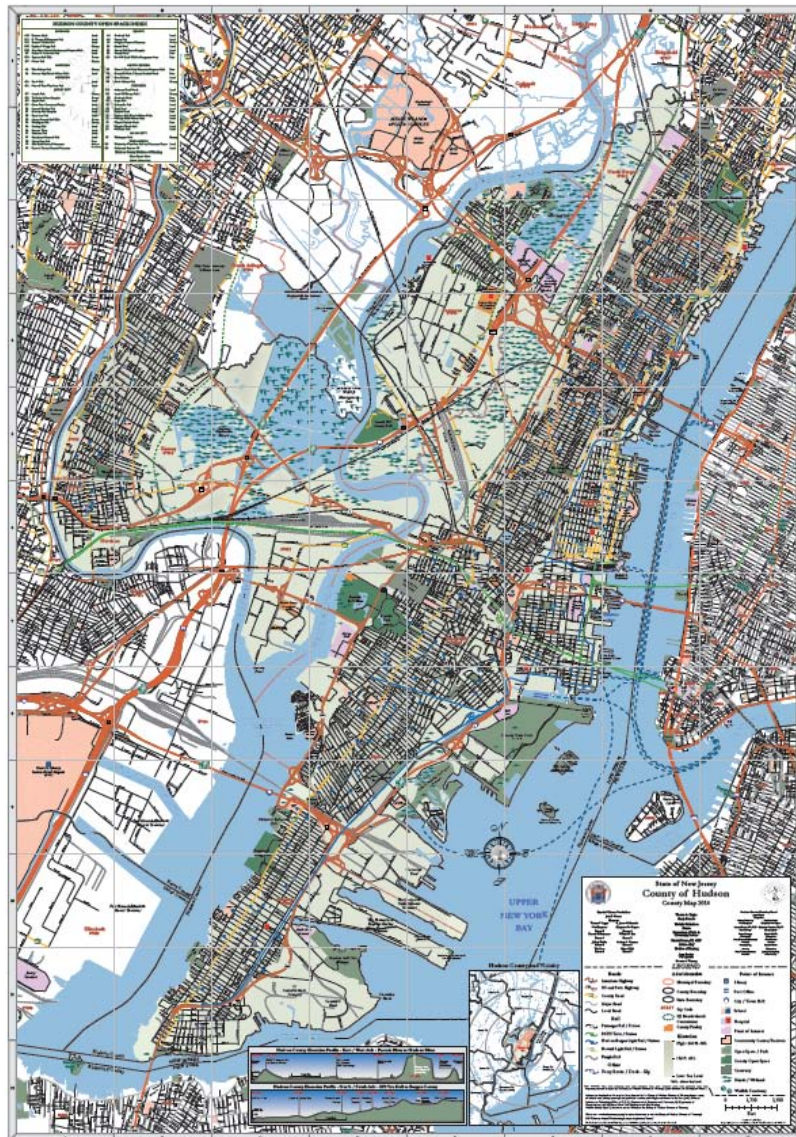
Since 2005, the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund (HCOSTF) has provided over \$40 million in funding to over 100 projects, such as the North Bergen/Guttenberg Waterfront Park, Ellis Island restoration, and Veteran's Field in Kearny.

Later this year, the Division of Planning will publish the online Open Space Map: users can click on any HCOSTF site in Hudson County and see the projects funding various improvements there.

2015 county map update

Hudson County's streets, parks, and facilities change over the years, and so does the official County Map. Last updated in 2010, the soon-to-be-published 2015 County Map incorporates changes in the County's street network, uses a new design and layout, and offers new features such as elevation profiles to show changes in the County's terrain. After the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders approves the map this summer, the 2015 County Map will be available to the public later this year.

Preview of the 2015 County Map, for publication later this year. Courtesy Hudson County Division of Planning.





Hamilton Park Historical District, Jersey City, NJ. Courtesy of HC Division of Planning.

municipalities

Guttenberg:

Guttenberg recently announced a major community development project: a shared usage facility that will serve as a recreation center for the public as well as an expansion for the Anna L. Klein School. The school expansion includes 12 classrooms, 2 science labs, and a STEM lab. Other amenities include a gym, performance stage, rooftop outdoor park, and ADA-accessible reading room. It is expected to open in January 2017.

**Guttenberg:**

The upgrades to the Harrison PATH station continue as a new section of the westbound platform opened recently. The full project, which will amount to \$256 million, will feature new glass-enclosed, weather-protected station entrances, modern elevators, widened stairs, and escalator access to both platforms.

Hoboken:

Hoboken received a grant for about \$800,000 from the NJ Economic Development Authority to complete the "Hoboken Post-Sandy Commercial Revitalization Project". This project is mainly focused on streetscape improvements, including new street trees, vegetation, and curb extensions, along First Street, one of Hoboken's busiest corridors. In addition, the plan calls for new branded way-finding signage around the city.

Bayonne:

The reconstruction of the NJ Turnpike's 14A Toll Plaza has finally begun, with several roads closing in recent weeks to accommodate rehabilitation and expansion of the toll plaza to 13 lanes and replacement of a two-lane bridge with a four-lane span. Expected to take until fall 2018 to complete, the project will cost roughly \$310 million overall and will improve traffic flow and provide better road access to the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor. Courtesy of The Jersey Journal, Bayonne city officials keeping tabs on NJ Turnpike Exit 14A rebuild.

East Newark:

The Clay Street Bridge, which spans the Passaic River between East Newark and Newark, is being redesigned through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority's Local Concept Development Program. The current bridge is over one hundred years old and has structural and functional limitations which do not meet modern standards. Both counties, NJTPA, the New Jersey Department of Transportation, and the municipalities are leading a collaborative effort to assess conditions and needs and design a new bridge, balancing transportation needs, the environment, community interests, and cost.

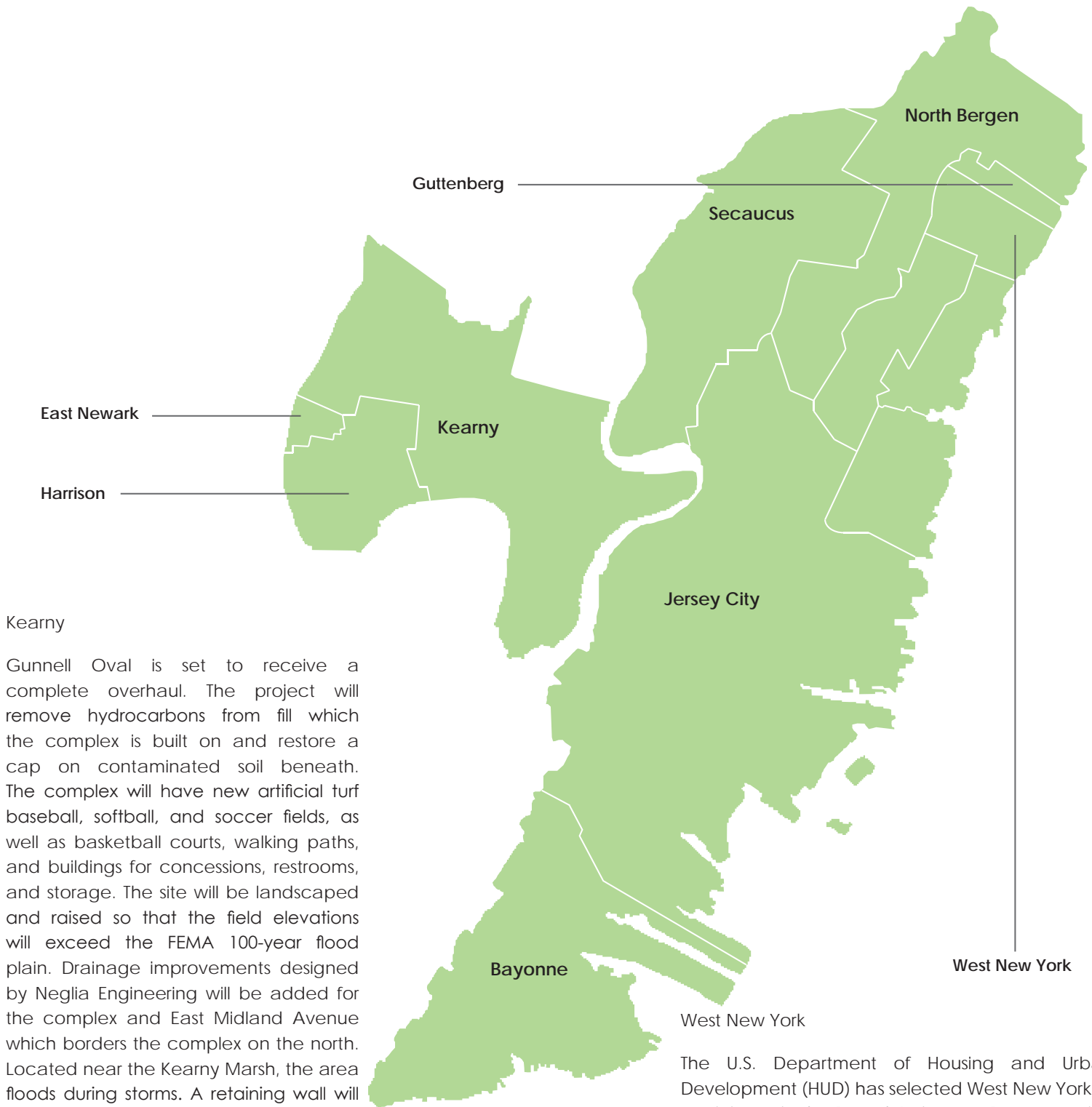
The project has included an extensive community outreach component, with several public meetings held to share project information and obtain input from local officials, community stakeholders, and the public. Final designs are being developed, and upon completion, the project will be prepared for Federal funding to replace the bridge.

Secaucus:

As a result of merging of the Meadowlands Commission with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, new regulations allow municipalities within the Meadowlands District to review and approve or deny applications for development if they adopt, and their decisions conform to, the Master Plan, zoning regulations, codes, and standards of the Commission. Secaucus plans to greatly expand its planning and zoning powers to review and decide on applications within the full jurisdiction of the town.

**Jersey City:**

Jersey City will receive a \$260,000 in Post- Sandy Planning Assistance Grant funding from the state Department of Community Affairs to help pay for six projects to support long-range planning. These 6 projects are: a resilience master plan; an adaptation master plan; design standards that ensure building designs allow for floodplain management compliance; a capital improvement plan that describes projects, budget, and funding sources; an urban environmental design plan that describes strategies that mitigate storm impacts; and amendments to the zoning and building code that require approaches to rehabilitation and new construction that are more resilient, but still maintain the character of existing neighborhoods.



Kearny

Gunnell Oval is set to receive a complete overhaul. The project will remove hydrocarbons from fill which the complex is built on and restore a cap on contaminated soil beneath. The complex will have new artificial turf baseball, softball, and soccer fields, as well as basketball courts, walking paths, and buildings for concessions, restrooms, and storage. The site will be landscaped and raised so that the field elevations will exceed the FEMA 100-year flood plain. Drainage improvements designed by Neglia Engineering will be added for the complex and East Midland Avenue which borders the complex on the north. Located near the Kearny Marsh, the area floods during storms. A retaining wall will be built between the Oval and properties on East Midland Ave, and a drainage and storage system will be installed under the turf, which will connect with a pump station that will slowly release water back into the marsh, and, a tide gate will be installed to control water flow.

West New York

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has selected West New York to participate in the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program (RAD). The voluntary program, overseen by HUD, seeks to preserve public housing by providing Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) with access to more stable funding to make needed improvements to properties. West New York will be the third and largest housing authority in New Jersey to buy into RAD. The RAD will address the maintenance and upgrades to existing housing and facilities for 715 units under Housing Authority jurisdiction for a 20-year period.

Planning for 2015

Hudson County's Division of Planning is continuously working hard to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. Please take a look at our website for updates to these projects and much more.



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