

Community Facilities

Issues Summary

Moving forward, the county must consider these community facilities-related issues and problems:

- Missing greenway links
- Community facilities and storm events
- Age-friendly communities

Jersey City, NJ; Lincoln Park West

Introduction

Community Facilities Plan encompasses many aspects of the county government including administration, parks and open space, recreation, cultural resources, education and public safety. Well-maintained community facilities are important to being responsive to resident and business needs.

This element examines prior Community Facilities goals and objectives, issues identified in the 2002 Master Plan and the 2008 Re-examination Report, and how those issues have been reduced or increased. The Community Facilities Element also establishes a new set of goals and objectives issues designed to address ongoing and emerging issues that were identified. Finally, this element includes recommendations that will improve the quality of services provided by the County.

The purpose of the Community Facilities Element is to evaluate the quality of services provided by the County including administration, parks and open space, recreation, cultural resources, education and public safety. This element works in conjunction with the 2016 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which plans for capital

investments of county facilities and equipment to build community resiliency.

County Parks

This element also works in conjunction with the 2016 Hudson County Parks Master Plan, which outlines a 5-year plan for capital improvements in the nine County Parks. Hudson County's nine parks include:

- Columbus Park
- James J. Braddock Park
- Laurel Hill Park
- Lincoln Park
- Mercer Park
- Stephen R. Gregg Bayonne Park
- Washington Park
- West Hudson Park
- 14th Street Viaduct

Hudson County Buildings

Hudson County's administrative offices and service functions are located in the following buildings. The County has also approved bonding for new facilities.

Table 17: County Buildings Inventory

Facility	Facility Type	Address
Administration Annex	Freeholders' Chambers and other County offices	567 Pavonia Avenue, Jersey City
Hudson County Courthouse & Administration Building	Department of Corrections and Courthouse	595 Newark Avenue, Jersey City
Bergen Square Plaza	County office for various departments	830 Bergen Avenue, Jersey City
William J. Brennan Courthouse	Court House & County Offices	583 Newark Avenue, Jersey City
Hudson County Department of Corrections	Correctional Institution	595 County Avenue, Meadowview Campus, Secaucus
Hudson County Correctional Center	Correctional Institution	30 Hackensack Avenue, Kearny
Hudson County Plaza	County offices	257 Cornelison Avenue, Jersey City
Hudson County's Prosecutor's Office	County offices	555 Duncan Avenue, Jersey City (<i>proposed to move to Meadowview Campus in Secaucus</i>)
Meadowview Campus	County offices	595 County Avenue, Jersey City
Hudson County Juvenile Detention Center	Residential Facility	635 County Avenue, Secaucus
DPW Garage	Public Works (existing site)	Duncan Avenue, Jersey City
County Golf Course	Recreational Facility	Duncan Avenue, Jersey City
Site of County Justice Complex	<i>Proposed</i>	Bounded by Newark Avenue, Oakland Avenue, Cook Street and Route 139, Jersey City (land acquisitions in process)

Hudson County Sheriff Offices

Public safety services at the county level are provided by the County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department is responsible for the policing of the Hudson County Parks and County Roads, providing security in all court rooms, serving warrants, and transporting prisoners.

Hudson County Schools of Technology

The Hudson County Schools of Technology include: Explore Middle School, County Prep High School (Earl W. Byrd Center), High Tech High School (North Hudson Center), Academy of Technology and Design (Jersey City Center), KAS Prep, and two (2) adult programs: Adult High School and Hudson Technical. Construction began in May 2016 on a new High Tech High School, which replaces a



100-year old building located in North Bergen. The new building is located in Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus and will begin school in September 2018.

Community Facilities - 2002 & 2008 Plans



The 2008 Re-examination Report published the following goals and objectives for the Community Facilities Element.

2008 Goals and Objectives

2008 Goals

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

2008 Objectives

1. Encourage intergovernmental and inter-municipal agreements to eliminate redundancy and improve service efficiency in areas such as public safety, education, health services, public safety, recreation and social services.
2. Encourage coordination between municipal and county park departments and boards of education to maximize the potential for recreational programs that meet the needs of the population.
3. Provide additional after school programs, prekindergarten programs, child care and elderly care services through public, private and nonprofit organizations to accommodate the increasing numbers of women in the workforce.
4. Support the renovation, new construction or consolidation of police and fire stations to modernize facilities and expand services in areas of concentrated development activity.

5. Ensure that new development provides public access to waterfront areas, recreational facilities and open space.
6. Require developers to provide for coordinated public access in accordance with NJDEP's Hudson River Walkway and Hackensack Walkway plans.
7. Increase funding priority for the maintenance and upgrading of existing parks.
8. Expand existing parks and encourage development of new parks where feasible.
9. Encourage municipalities to prepare inventories of publicly-owned properties to consider the use of such properties for community facilities or to be sold for private investment.
10. Use development bonuses or similar mechanisms to require new development to provide plazas, public seating areas, mini-parks, pedestrian links and riverfront walkways.
11. Provide education, preventative programs and adequate clinical facilities to meet the health care needs of Hudson County's residents.
12. Provide assistance to local libraries and boards of education to coordinate resources and avoid duplication of services.
13. Increase the number of local playgrounds that are within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of existing residential neighborhoods.
14. Increase the number of local parks that are within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of existing residential neighborhoods.
15. Increase the number of regional ballfields or recreation facilities that are within 1 mile of existing neighborhoods.
16. Link existing residential neighborhoods with playgrounds, parks, recreation complexes and waterfront walkways via interconnected bicycle and pedestrian greenways.

2002 & 2008 Issues

The following community facilities issues were identified in both the 2002 Master Plan and 2008 Re-examination Report. This element examines what activities and changes have taken place where those issues have increased or decreased.

Insufficient Open Space

The Issue: Because Hudson County is so densely populated, creating quality open spaces and recreational opportunities for residents, workers, and visitors is highly important. The New Jersey Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan recommends 3% of developable land in each municipality be set aside for municipal open space and 7% of developable land in counties be used for county parkland. Based on this metric, in 2008, municipalities within Hudson County had a total deficit of 620 acres, and the county had a deficit of 1,902 acres. While the parkland deficit identified by the New Jersey guidelines is offset by the fact that the state owns over 2,258 acres of parks and open space in Hudson County, additional park and open space areas are needed to make Hudson County an attractive place to live and work. The 2007 Hudson County Park Master Plan recommended planting 10,000 new trees on county roads and within county parks over 10 years and to double the amount of open space in the county by 2017. The plan listed four areas for potential land acquisition – Lincoln Park expansion, Laurel Hill expansion, properties near West Side Avenue in North Bergen, and the Mori Tract in Secaucus. The 2008 re-examination report also recommended re-conceptualizing streets and sidewalks as public spaces.

What Has Changed: Hudson County has made great strides since the 2002 Master Plan, in large part due to the adoption of the Hudson County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Trust Fund in 2003. This fund, which awarded \$49 million in grants, helps offset the cost of acquisition and development of open space, historic preservation projects, and parkland improvements. The County, its departments, any of the twelve municipalities,

and other local entities, non-profits, and charitable conservancies located in the county are eligible to apply. Since the program's inception, more than \$28 million has been utilized to acquire and preserve about 23.6 acres in new open space in the county.

Missing Greenway Links

The Issue: Greenways are a linear open space system linking existing parks and neighborhoods through trails, scenic roads and bikeways. They may buffer rivers, streams and wetlands. In Hudson County, the purpose of the greenway is to provide a continuous linear park system linking the various waterfront parks along the Hudson and Hackensack Rivers, thus enabling walkers and bikers to get as close to the water's edge as possible. There were five greenway systems identified in the 2008 re-examination report; the Hudson Riverfront Walkway, Hackensack River Greenway, Passaic River Walkway, East Coast Greenway, and the Liberty-Watergap Trail. The greenway segments were not wholly connected, diminishing access to other natural resources throughout the county. In particular, there was no solution on how to get across Morris Canal Basin in Jersey City for the Hudson Riverfront Walkway. Goals mentioned in the 2008 re-examination included completing the entire Hudson River Waterfront and including New Jersey's largest cities (Newark and Jersey City) as key destinations along the East Coast Greenway.

What Has Changed: The 2008 Hudson County Master Plan Re-examination identified the potential of greenways and the need to complete missing links, and since that time, further progress has been made.

- **Hudson River Waterfront Walkway** – Between Fort Lee, Bergen County to Weehawken, Hudson County, the route is generally complete, under construction, or being planned. In planned locations, there are at least alternate routes currently available. The walkway is more segmented between Hoboken and Bayonne, particularly in the industrial areas around Global Container Terminal and the Kill Van Kull.

Table 18: County Greenways

Greenways	Description
Hudson River Waterfront Walkway	Planned to extend 18 miles along the west shore of the Hudson River from the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee to the Bayonne Bridge in Bayonne
Hackensack River Waterfront Greenway	Potential 8-mile greenway from North Bergen to Bayonne along the Hackensack River
Passaic River Water front Walkway	Waterfront walkway along banks of Passaic River in Harrison
East Coast Greenway	Long-distance, city-to-city, multi-modal transportation corridor for cyclists, walkers and other non-motorized users; 2,600-mile path linking cities from Maine to Florida with 92 miles through New Jersey
Liberty-Watergap Trail	Connects five counties in New Jersey through six interlinked trails over 130 miles from the Statue of Liberty to the Delaware Watergap. Portions of the East Coast Greenway and the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway make up this trail.

- Hackensack River Waterfront Walkway** – Segments of the walkway have recently opened. In April 2016, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held for a new 500-foot promenade along the river at Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus. Other segments at Stephen R. Gregg Park and Richard A. Rutkowski Park in Bayonne have also opened. The wetlands restoration at Lincoln Park West in Jersey City have provided several new walkways along and near the Hackensack River. However, sections through Jersey City remain a challenge as the waterfront switches between industrial land, parks, and former landfill sites. There are plans to undergo a study to review the gaps and commit money to complete the trail.
- Passaic River Waterfront Walkway** – While redevelopment along the Passaic River waterfront in Harrison has been taking place and Kearny has secured money for the walkway’s design within its municipal boundaries, a good deal of progress has yet to occur. There are isolated sections of the walkway at River Bank Park and behind the Hampton Inn and Suites in Harrison that are not currently connected to additional walkway sections. The 2013 County Open Space Re-



examination Report also recommends the development of a Waterfront Walkway Plan.

- East Coast Greenway** – Large segments of the East Coast Greenway (ECG) have been completed. The greenway, which runs from Maine to Florida, includes shared segments of the Hudson River Riverfront Walkway and the Liberty-Watergap Trail. From the waterfront, the greenway heads west through Jersey City’s Lincoln Park, which also includes an ECG kiosk, and then crosses through Kearny and into Essex County along US 1&9T; this section was funded via \$940,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.



- Liberty-Watergap Trail** – The trail, which runs across New Jersey from Liberty State Park to the Delaware Water Gap in Warren County, is made up of other trail segments, including alignments of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway and East Coast Greenway. As a result, some of the gaps in those trails also represent similar gaps for this one. Additionally, improvements to signage and maintenance were noted as needs from a news article in 2014.⁵⁴

Since the 2008 re-examination, a series of opportunities for new greenways have been initiated. The Morris Canal Greenway, which generally follows the route of the former Morris Canal from Phillipsburg, NJ in Warren County to the canal’s eastern terminus in Jersey City at the Morris Canal Park, has become a regional initiative. Jersey City developed a Morris Canal Greenway Plan which identified a long-term greenway alignment through the city, and connected various parks, including Berry Lane Park. This park/greenway was a former brownfield site that was just recently opened to the public, and funded in part through money acquired from the County’s open space trust fund. The study was paid for by the NJTPA, who is also leading efforts to preserve the former Morris Canal right of way for conversion into a public greenway through north Jersey.

Parks & Recreation Maintenance

The Issue: Due to a deficit of open space and parkland in the county, parks endure a high level of use. Existing parks must constantly be maintained and should be upgraded to provide

for the changing recreational demand of the county. However, there are higher maintenance and operational costs associated with maintaining these recreational facilities. An assessment of county parks in the 2007 park master plan listed most county parks and its associated facilities as being in fair to good condition, but identified \$65 million in potential renovations and new facilities over a 6-year period.

What Has Changed: Parks and facilities maintenance is an ongoing objective for the County. As previously discussed, the advent of the Open Space Trust Fund has aided in not only creating and enhancing parks throughout the county, but keeping them in a state of good repair. Superstorm Sandy, however, created new issues for parks in Hudson County, as storm surges and winds caused severe damage to the parks infrastructure. The toll is well-documented in the 2013 Open Space Re-examination Report; more than \$20 million in damage was inflicted on Liberty State Park, approximately \$500,000 to County Parks, and substantial harm to municipal parks as well. The destruction to these parks reinforces the importance of resiliency planning to mitigate the vulnerability of community facilities to severe weather events. The Engaging and Strengthening Hudson County Planning Initiative includes a new Parks Plan with this need as the basis of the plan.

Regionalized Services

The Issue: The 2002 Community Facilities Element notes that the county provides regional services that save individual municipalities money and resources. There are a number of services, such as police, fire, and schools that municipalities provide on their own, resulting in administrative inefficiencies. As municipalities are unable to afford to maintain their existing facilities or upgrade technology to keep services up to date, regionalized services can be more cost efficient and effective. Mutual aid agreements, E911, and the criminal justice systems were cited as examples of regionalized services that were effective use of taxpayer money and created countywide efficiencies.

What Has Changed: The County continues to provide shared service opportunities to municipalities to reduce costs to the taxpayer while maintaining essential services. E911 continues to provide primary emergency response dispatching to nine of Hudson County's municipalities (Secaucus, Jersey City, and Bayonne have their own, and backup for all twelve.) Union City entered into a shared services agreement with the County for Public Work in 2015, which allows the municipal DPW to use two county facilities located in Jersey City for five years. Additionally, the County has entered into regional service agreements with other counties. Most notably, the county entered into an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) with Bergen, Union, Passaic, and Essex Counties, Newark, Jersey City, and NJ State Police to share training, resources, and intelligence in the prevention and response to terrorism and technological and natural disasters.

County Buildings

The Issue: The 2002 Master Plan provided an inventory and assessment of county administrative buildings. These were the County Administration Building, Administrative Annex Building, Old Brennan Courthouse, Public Safety Building, Murdoch Hall, and Meadowview campus in Secaucus. The buildings from this assessment were generally noted to be in good condition, but the plan states the County Administration Building has an antiquated design with ineffective work space and circulation layouts. To remedy this situation, the plan lays out two options: 1) complete renovation of the interior, or 2) construction of a new Court and Office building on the site of the old jail to reduce overcrowding in the administration building. The plan further recommended that County Public Safety and Administration Annex buildings be retained, but without substantial upgrades.

What Has Changed: Since the 2002 Master Plan, the County has continually examined the potential for a new County Courthouse on nearby vacant properties. Plans have included constructing a new building across Newark Avenue and acquiring properties to connect Central Avenue between

Hoboken Avenue and Newark Avenue. As of 2012, estimates for a new county courthouse exceeded \$350 million. In 2014, Hudson County Freeholders approved \$50.5 million in bonds for a new courthouse. The County acquired and rehabilitated the former Provident Bank at 830 Bergen Avenue in Jersey City.⁵⁵ In addition, the County continues to explore other sites to move the DPW garage from its location at the end of Duncan Avenue in Jersey City.

2008 Recommendations - Now

"Continue to increase accessibility to open space and recreational facilities by identifying and working towards the creation of new parks and open spaces that are within walking distance from residents' homes."

The County has leveraged the Hudson County Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to support more than 125 projects since 2003, increasing access to quality open space and recreation within walking distance of residents. These projects have included Berry Lane Park in Jersey City, the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway at Hoboken/Weehawken Cove, 1600 Park in Hoboken, the Hudson Culinary Arts Plaza, Veteran's Field in Kearny, Southwest Park in Hoboken, and the Guttenberg/North Bergen Waterfront Park, among many others.

"Re-conceptualize streets and sidewalks as public spaces."

In 2012, Hudson County adopted a Complete Streets policy to ensure that its streets are designed and developed to safely accommodate all people that use them. In an effort to implement the policy, the 2016 Hudson County Land Development Regulations (LDR) update included new Circulation and Roadway Design Standards to include provisions for all users, a license agreement for applicants wishing to use the County ROW, and most importantly, a classification of county roadways into Street Typologies.

- Residential Boulevard
- Mixed Urban Boulevard
- Scenic Boulevard
- Downtown Avenue
- Mixed Use Avenue
- Industrial Avenue
- Main Street
- Neighborhood Street

Street Typologies provide design guidelines based on a roadway's varying functions; the Residential Boulevard, for instance, creates a neighborhood center and activity hub for socializing, exercising, and accessing transit. Also introduced into the 2016 LDR update was the concept of four zones that make up a sidewalk to include the Edge Zone, the Amenity Zone, the Through Zone and the Frontage Zone. For example, the Amenity Zone is the area of the streetside and sidewalk that provides a buffer between pedestrians and vehicles and includes landscaping, public street furniture, transit stops, public signage, utilities, etc. The consideration of Hudson County roadways through the LDR as more than just rights of ways for vehicular travel, rather as public spaces for all users, will guide future development applications and capital improvements.

"Applications to Hudson County requesting Site Plan or Subdivision approval should be required to incorporate pocket parks, plazas, and open space into their development. A site plan checklist should be established that requires the creation of these amenities."

Pocket parks and plazas are not required in applications to the County for site plan or subdivision approval. However, depending on the area of disturbance, at least one Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) technique or non-structural Best Management Practice (BMP) technique is required in each application for development in the County. GSI techniques create additional open space by providing greenways, wetlands, vegetated swales, parks, etc. The Suggested Green Stormwater Management Practices portion of the 2016 Hudson County LDR provides a starting point for meeting the stormwater management requirements and includes opportunities for expanding open space including rain gardens, swales, flow-through planters, and green roofs.

"Develop higher countywide standards for the Palisades that protect steep slopes from inappropriate development."

NJDEP adopted a Steep Slope regulation in 2008 which the County also adopted in October 2008. There have been numerous battles over the preservation of the Palisades in which development has prevailed, including a 2009 approval of a strip mall in North Bergen. The 2013 Open Space Re-examination Report includes the protection of the visual resources of the Palisades as an objective. The 2016 Hudson County LDR incorporates the prohibition of development and disturbance of slopes equal to or greater than 20 percent as measured at a minimum run of 10 feet.

"Collaborate with school districts and conversion of schoolyards to playgrounds."

The use of schoolyards as community playgrounds for use by the general public after school hours, on the weekend and during school breaks has not been formalized, however, the 2013 Open Space Re-examination Report carries this recommendation forward as an objective. The 2013 plan addresses access to playgrounds as shared community recreational recourses as a key opportunity, particularly for minority and low-income neighborhoods which have higher risks for obesity and lower access to other recreational facilities. Potential issues related to liability concerns, insurance, costs, maintenance, and safety will need to be addressed.

"Amend the Hudson County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Plan to include priority sites for acquisition."

Several of the locations identified in the 2008 Master Plan Re-examination Report for inclusion into the Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Plan were added to the 2013 Open Space Re-examination Report. In particular, new goals and objectives related to greenways were included in Chapter 3's 2013 Goals and Objectives. Also, priority sites such as the Weehawken Reservoir, Berry Lane, and Hoboken's Southwest Park have been acquired and preserved for quality open space.

Community Facilities - 2016 Update



2016 Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been established to guide new and current initiatives to improve the county's community facilities.

Goal 1: To provide recreational, park, and waterfront facilities that are accessible to all residents of all ages and abilities and provide a variety of activities and amenities.

- Objective a: Link existing residential neighborhoods with playgrounds, parks, recreation complexes and waterfront walkways via interconnected bicycle and pedestrian greenways.
- Objective b: Encourage the expansion and linkage of greenways that traverse the county.
- Objective c: Ensure that new development provides public access to waterfront areas (i.e. Hackensack and Passaic Rivers), recreational facilities and open space.

Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for Hudson County residents and visitors by providing a system of high quality parks.

- Objective a: Provide opportunities for residents and visitors to provide constructive feedback on county parks.
- Objective b: Establish community programming and management practices to create active plazas and recreational areas that are prioritized in the county and municipal budgets.
- Objective c: Meet the park and recreation needs of the county by utilizing both NJDEP's Balanced Land Use Concept, identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the National Recreation and Park Association CAPRA Standards.

Objective d: Encourage municipalities to adopt greenways and trails as part of their master plans.

Objective e: Develop funding and educational opportunities for arts and culture in the parks.

Goal 3: Improve stewardship and protection of public parks, open space and natural lands.

Objective a: Protect the park systems' vegetative nurseries and greenhouses.

Objective b: Expand upon existing protection measures and construct new strategies for flood mitigation (i.e. a system of maintenance guidelines) to help mitigate against potential storm damage, while maintaining aesthetically pleasing landscapes.

Objective c: Increase funding priority for the maintenance and upgrading of existing parks.

Goal 4: To encourage greater utilization of community services through coordination and shared services.

Objective a: Encourage intergovernmental and inter-municipal cooperation and agreements to eliminate redundancy and improve service efficiency in areas such as public safety, education, health, public safety, recreation and social services.

Objective b: Encourage coordination between municipal and county park departments and boards of education to maximize the potential for recreational programs that meet the needs of the population.

Objective c: Support the renovation, new construction or consolidation of police and fire stations to modernize facilities and expand services in areas of concentrated development activity.

Objective d: Provide assistance to local libraries and boards of education to coordinate resources and avoid duplication of services.

Objective e: Encourage municipalities to prepare inventories of publicly-owned properties to consider the use of such properties for community facilities or to be sold for private investment.

Goal 5: To provide community services, such as elderly and child care services, that meet the needs of the population.

Objective a: Provide additional after school programs, pre-kindergarten programs, child care and elderly care services through public, private and nonprofit organizations.

Objective b: Provide education, preventative programs and adequate clinical facilities to meet the health care needs of Hudson County's residents.

Objective c: Continue to provide accessible community facilities which meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



2016 - New Issues

In addition to the above issues that were included in the previous plans, the following issues have been identified based on current trends and feedback from the community participation.

Community Facilities and Storm Events

The county provides essential services to residents, businesses, and other local governments throughout the year, so ensuring that the county can stay operational even during storm events is imperative. Hurricane Sandy tested the County's ability and exposed vulnerabilities that the county has been addressing. Millions of dollars of damage to parks in Hudson County took place and several other facilities were affected through loss of power and other damages. In Kearny, the Hudson County Correctional Center was flooded up to two feet, where inmates had to be moved to higher floors and the water damaged electronics and disrupted the jail's computer system. More than \$1 million of damages were incurred. Additionally, the USS Juneau Memorial Center, the county's Emergency Operations Center, was under construction at the time of Sandy and received nearly \$3.6 million in damages. The County Administration Building, the Annex, and the Brennan Courthouse were also damaged by flood waters and wind. Equipment at the county DPW garage on Duncan Avenue in Jersey City also had to be replaced. In all, nearly \$6 million of total damages took place to county facilities and infrastructure.

Currently, the county is exploring other options for the DPW facilities. In addition, county buildings have been retrofitted to withstand and recover from wind and water, including auxiliary power units at critical facilities. Future improvements to existing facilities and new facilities will need to take into account the potential impacts of future storms, and have contingencies in place for operations that take place in storm vulnerable locations. The county has a Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) in place, which provides a guide to assess the impact of a variety of disasters on the county government, and that essential services and facilities remain

operational or are recovered as soon as possible. These resiliency actions help ensure the county continues to support the community.

Resiliency can especially be incorporated at parks. In particular, green infrastructure provides a dual purpose to improve stormwater management and enhance open space. Elements such as rain gardens, ponds, and wetlands can all be incorporated into the natural landscape and hard surfaces can utilize permeable pavement materials to mitigate runoff. One example of where this is taking place is at Hoboken's Southwest Resiliency Park between Observer Highway and Paterson Avenue. The park includes rain gardens, bioswale tree pits, rain gardens, and permeable paving, among other elements to be aesthetically pleasing and protective of the city's infrastructure at the same time. Unseen elements of the park include a detention basin, which will slowly release water to the municipal stormwater system, working to relieve the impact of a storm event on the city's stormwater infrastructure. This project was partially funded through the County's Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund and demonstrates the county's support for resiliency planning and implementation.

Age-friendly Communities

According to the 2016 CEDS, the greatest percentage of population growth in Hudson County is expected among older age cohorts (ages 55 and up). This trend will present significant challenges to the county through an increased demand for responsive transportation, social services, and access to affordable healthcare. Therefore, creating age-friendly communities and healthy aging within Hudson County is a priority. County facilities that are responsive to aging adults will need to take into account the facility location, exterior and interior accessibility, signage/wayfinding, and amenities/comfort. Additionally, the growing percentage of aging adults and multi-generational households require additional programs and improvements at County Parks that cater to their activities and abilities.



Hudson County Open Space Resources and Catchment Area

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



- County Park
- Park
- 1/4 Mile Buffer
- Greenway/Trail/Walkway

Table 19: Community Facilities Recommendation Checklist

#	Recommendation	Status
CF-1	Expand facilities at county parks and explore opportunities for new parks, where feasible.	
CF-2	Explore new program opportunities at county parks that engage residents and visitors. For example, the City of Detroit established "Midnight Golf", which provides golf lessons and activities for disadvantaged youth; this can be duplicated at the county's Skyway Golf Course.	
CF-3	Require developers to provide for coordinated public access in accordance with NJDEP's walkway standards for the Hudson River, Hackensack River and Passaic River Walkway and develop walkway plans.	
CF-4	Continue to inventory trees in the County Parks and incorporate into GIS mapping.	
CF-5	Continue to maintain county parks and facilities in a state of good repair.	
CF-6	Develop green infrastructure demonstration projects at county parks and facilities.	
CF-7	Continue to train and retain park personnel to manage park facilities.	
CF-8	Create a system to electronically track park use (i.e. permits and events) to be linked to future planning and maintenance practices.	
CF-9	Implement the recommendations from the 2016 Hudson County Parks Plan.	
CF-10	Examine the potential to develop a restaurant/eatery at Lincoln Park similar to Liberty State Park in Jersey City or Bryant Park in New York City.	
CF-11	Continue to prioritize and fund greenway projects through the county's Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.	
CF-12	Develop activities and facilities at County Parks to support Aging in Place objectives.	
CF-13	Apply Universal Design ⁵⁶ principles to playgrounds planning and equipment at County Parks.	
CF-14	Implement the requirements of the LDR to include at least one GSI or non-structural BMP technique as a way to increase the levels of open space.	
CF-15	Perform a gap analysis and develop an implementation strategy to work toward the completion of the Hackensack River Waterfront.	
CF-16	Partner with Harrison, East Newark, and Kearny to develop a Passaic River Waterfront Walkway plan.	
CF-17	Continue to advance recommendations to construct a new courthouse complex across from the Hudson County Administration Building.	
CF-18	Conduct an energy audit of Hudson County facilities and pursue funding to consider renewable and sustainable practices, such as solar panels and green roofs.	

#	Recommendation	Status
CF-19	Identify opportunities to support and expand creative placemaking at all county parks similar to the Braddock Park Art Festival. This may include other “art in the park” and performance theater events and could be done in partnership with local schools and colleges with art programs.	
CF-20	Study the potential for a “Transit to the Parks” program that could highlight transit accessibility to county parks and run shuttles from neighborhoods to regional parks without transit service or close proximity to parks.	
CF-21	Advocate for further investment by the state to enhance Liberty State Park to protect its natural and historic features.	
CF-22	Develop a Heritage Tourism Strategic Plan that identifies marketing and tourism opportunities to capitalize on Hudson County’s historic and cultural strengths as the international doorstep to America.	
CF-23	Implement recommendations from the Hudson County Community Forestry Plan and continue to work towards the goal of planting 10,000 new trees throughout Hudson County.	
CF-24	Conduct a security analysis of Hudson County Parks and make safety improvements consistent with CPTED principles.	
CF-25	Explore corporate sponsorship opportunities for facilities, events, and programming at County Parks.	
CF-26	Explore the potential to fund schoolyard playground improvements as a way to open them up to the community after school hours.	
CF-27	Partner with local health organizations and institutions to develop a countywide “Park Rx” ⁵⁷ program to promote healthy recreational activity by residents.	
CF-28	Develop a junior ranger program for County Parks that promotes stewardship of open space at a young age.	
CF-29	Continue to promote shared service opportunities with other counties and municipalities as a way to provide increased services and save taxpayer money.	
CF-30	Assess opportunities to relocate critical county facilities outside of flood hazard areas where there is opportunity and develop resiliency strategies for these facilities in the interim.	
CF-31	Complete an Age-friendly Facilities Audit, similar to the one conducted by St. Louis County in Missouri, to evaluate the usability, safety, and accessibility of county facilities by older adults.	
CF-32	Incorporate green infrastructure projects into county facilities.	
CF-33	Encourage applicants to incorporate resiliency strategies into their grant requests to the Hudson County Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.	