

Relationship to Other Plans

Hudson County

Hudson County Urban Complex Strategic Revitalization Plan 1999

The Hudson County Urban Complex Strategic Revitalization Plan was endorsed by the State Planning Commission on January 27, 1999 and involved a planning effort that investigated and concluded that planning in Hudson County was best when the entire county was considered as an Urban Complex. An urban complex is defined in the State Plan as “an Urban Center and two or more municipalities within the surrounding Metropolitan Planning Area that exhibit a strong inter-municipal relationship, based on socioeconomic factors and public facilities and services, that is defined and coordinated through a Strategic Revitalization Plan.” Hudson County’s Urban Complex consists of the twelve municipalities that comprise Hudson County.

The Strategic Revitalization Plan provided for a coordinated approach for directing public and private investments. It “isolates the key issues affecting growth in Hudson County, assesses the capability of the County and its constituent municipalities to deal with these issues and establishes specific immediate, short-term, and long term action strategies to address these issues”.

The goals set out in this Plan were replicated in the 2002 Master Plan and are discussed below. Moreover, the Plan outlines the strengths and obstacles facing the County in relation to meeting the goals and established a County-Wide Action Plan

to address them. The following is a listing of those strategies relating to open space, parks and recreation, and cultural and historic amenities:

Strength: Cultural Amenities (e.g. Liberty Science Center, County Parks, Liberty State Park)

Action Strategies:

- Encourage the adaptive reuse of historically significant structures for cultural facilities
- Maximize access to historic and cultural facilities through public transportation and pedestrian walkway improvements

Strength: Waterfront Vistas

Action Strategies:

- Provide financial and technical support for the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway and the Hackensack River Urban Promenade which will provide public access to the County’s scenic views
- Support measure to protect scenic views, especially from public spaces such as parks and roads
- Provide development guidelines to municipalities for a coordinated waterfront walkway system
- Integrate waterfront development with adjacent neighborhoods by assuring strong physical linkages and appropriate infill development

Obstacle: Lack of sufficient amenities (e.g. hotels, recreational facilities, conference space)

Action Strategies:

- Create more parks and open space through the creation of vest-pocket neighborhood parks on properties acquired through tax foreclosure; requiring parks, plazas and open space as new development occurs; and direct acquisition of key parcels, particularly along proposed waterfront walkways
- Make the acquisition and construction of the “missing links” of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway a priority
- Create pedestrian access linkages to the waterfront
- Seek various funding mechanisms to provide additional recreational facilities
- Lobby the State to provide additional recreational facilities at Liberty State Park

Finally, the Plan set specific benchmarks or targets for Hudson County to meet in terms of Community Facilities, Parks and Recreation. These included:

1. Construct the major missing links in the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway by 2005 and complete the project by 2010.
2. Construct 25 percent of the Hackensack River Urban Promenade by year 2005 and complete the project by 2010.
3. Increase land dedicated to parks and open space by 5 percent by 2005 and 10 percent by 2010 using the baseline of 3,323 acres in 1998.
4. Protect 10 percent of the historic sites identified in the Historic Preservation Element of the Hudson County Master Plan through the use of façade easements by 2005 and 25 percent by 2010 using the baseline

of the 144 sites that were identified.

5. Create and market at least six special interest districts in the County by 2005.
6. Establish a network of tourist-information centers in the County by 2005.
7. Implement a coordinated signage theme identifying local and regional tourist attractions throughout the County by 2005.

Hudson County Master Plan 2002

In 2002, Hudson County adopted its newly developed Master Plan. The last Master Plan was completed in the mid 1970's and with the turn of the new millennium, the County wanted to assess where it has been and where it was going and develop implementation strategies to get there. Within the Master Plan, there were many goals, objectives, and implementation action strategies that related land conservation, recreation and open space. The following are the applicable goals and objectives outlined in the Master Plan:

General:

- To improve the overall quality of life in Hudson County

Land Use:

Goals

- To assist in the development and redevelopment of the waterfronts of the Hudson, Passaic and Hackensack Rivers

Objectives: Waterfront Areas

- ♦ Encourage the construction of a coordinated waterfront walkway along the County's waterfronts
- ♦ Integrate waterfront development with adjacent

neighborhoods by assuring strong physical linkages and appropriate infill development

Community Facilities

Goals

- To provide recreational and park facilities that are accessible to all residents and provide a variety of amenities

Objectives: Recreation

- ♦ Ensure the new development provides public access to waterfront areas, recreational facilities and open space
- ♦ Require developers to provide for coordinated public access in accordance with NJDEP's Hudson River Walkway and Hackensack Walkway Plans
- ♦ Expand existing parks and encourage development of new parks where feasible
- ♦ Use development bonuses or similar mechanisms to require new development to provide plazas, public seating areas, mini-parks, pedestrian links and riverfront walkways

Conservation

Goals

- To encourage the clean-up and reuse of contaminated sites
- To preserve existing scenic vistas, particularly skyline views of Manhattan
- To protect environmentally sensitive areas, such as rare and endangered species habitats and surface water quality
- To reduce pollution and maintain a healthy environment

Objectives

- ♦ Protect visual resources of the "Palisades" and long range harbor viewsheds
- ♦ Provide technical assistance to local environmental communities to protect environmentally sensitive areas

Historic Preservation

Goals

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

Circulation

Goals

- To promote transit and use of alternate transportation modes
- Coordinate land use activities with the transportation network
- Protect and improve quality of life

Objectives

- ♦ Encourage pedestrian/bike traffic by providing appropriate, safe and attractive facilities between population and employment
- ♦ Provide scenic walkways and bikeways along the waterfront
- ♦ Complete missing links in the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway and between major attractions
- ♦ Coordinate the development and design of comprehensive and continuous walkway and bikeway facilities among communities
- ♦ Promote public access to the Hudson River Waterfront

Hudson County Cross Acceptance 1998

As part of adopting the first State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan) in 1992, a process that ensured participation of all levels of government and public called cross acceptance, was executed in Hudson County. The 1986 State Planning Act created the cross acceptance to have a “process of comparisons of planning among government levels with the purpose of attaining compatibility between local, county and State Plans”.

Hudson County submitted a notice of participation and designated the County Planning Board as the negotiating entity during cross acceptance. The process included a review of the County plans and regulations and those of its twelve constituent municipalities for comparison, holding of regional public meetings, and the development of the report. The report included the identification of major planning issues in the County one of which is parks, open space, and recreation.

The report identified that even though the County does have a well-developed system of parks, open space and recreational facilities, the New Jersey Open Space and Recreation Plan shows that it has a parks and open space deficit because of its large population and the lack of available land for additional facilities. Moreover, the need for additional parks, open space and recreational facilities continually was raised as an issue during the cross acceptance process.

Hudson County Park and Recreation Master Plan 1998

Through this Plan, Hudson County embarked on a program to assess and

upgrade all of its parks through rehabilitation of current facilities and providing for new recreational opportunities. The Plan created an updated inventory of parks and open space and established an improvement program for each that could be completed over a seven-year period. The end goal was to have guide for improvements to “enhance public recreation and ensure that the County park system continues to meet the needs of County residents”. The parks that were addressed by the Plan include:

- Bayonne Park, City of Bayonne
- Columbus Park, City of Hoboken
- Laurel Hill Park, Town of Secaucus
- Lincoln Park East and West, City of Jersey City
- Mercer Park, City of Bayonne
- North Hudson Park (James J. Braddock Park), North Bergen Township
- Washington Park, City of Jersey City
- West Hudson Park, Towns of Harrison and Kearney

Performance Partnership Agreement between the NJDEP and Hudson County “Urban Complex”

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed in June of 2000 between the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the County of Hudson “Urban Complex” to “enhance the capacity of Hudson County and its constituent municipalities to protect the environment and manage environmental issues, accelerate environmental improvements in and around Hudson County, and link environmental improvements with local development opportunities.”

It was the intent of the agreement to take new approaches to environmental management and allow NJDEP to focus its technical, scientific and managerial knowledge and expertise, and GIS and computer capabilities in one single geographic boundary in an integrated, multi-program and multi-media manner. The partnership commenced on July 1, 2000 and is to run for a five-year period ending June 30, 2005.

Municipal

The following is a synopsis of Hudson County’s municipalities planning efforts in terms of open space, conservation, recreation and preservation.

Bayonne

City of Bayonne Master Plan 2000

Goals from the Bayonne Master Plan include:

- Maintain and preserve the existing system of parks, open space and recreation facilities
- Provide for additional parks and open space in underserved areas, especially the east side of the City
- Implement new plans for parks and open space including the “North 40” site on Newark Bay, the 16th Street boat launch, the waterfront park at MOTBY and the passive linear park between LeFante Highway/Route169 and Avenue F.
- Support and promote the completion of the Hudson River Walkway including planned segments of MOTBY, the South Cove Shopping Center and OENJ Cherokee Golf Course in Constable Hook
- Encourage the development of a

Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway connecting existing parks and open space along Newark Bay from the Texaco site in the south to Hudson County Park and planned “North 40” passive park in the north

Performance Partnership between NJDEP and the City of Bayonne

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed in October of 1999 between the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Bayonne to “enhance the capacity of the City to protect the environment and manage environmental issues, accelerate environmental alimprovements in and around the City, and link environmental improvements with local development opportunities.”

It was the intent of the agreement to take new approaches to environmental management and allow DEP to focus its technical, scientific and managerial knowledge and expertise, and GIS and computer capabilities in one single geographic boundary in an integrated, multi-program and multi-media manner. By focusing on the geographic boundaries of a particular jurisdiction, the partnership will facilitate a better understanding of the full range of environmental issues and problems affecting the community and the major sources or causes of each.

The partnership commenced on October 12, 1999 and is to run for a five-year period ending October 11, 2004. Goals and objectives were set for Open Space Preservation and Recreation that included a goal to increase parkland by 25 acres by 2005 with the emphasis initially focused on passive recreation.

East Newark

Borough of East Newark Master Plan
Reexamination Report 1992

The reexamination report of 1992 proposed several land use amendments to the original 1984 Master Plan; one of which included designating a specific parcel for municipal parkland. Proposed amendments were also made for the Community Facilities/ Recreation Plan that included:

- The designation for school and park use on a parcel that is zoned for industrial use
- The removal of a park designation on a specific parcel
- The addition of parcel to be designated for parkland

Guttenberg

*Town of Guttenberg Master Plan
Reexamination Report 1999*

The Town of Guttenberg adopted its last Master Plan in 1986. The Reexamination Report of 1999 identifies the goals and objectives which were established in the 1986 Plan, discusses changes that have happen in the Town since the plan was adopted and recommends actions to be addressed by the Town in the future. The 1986 Master Plan Goals include:

- To make play and recreation space available
- To improve environmental quality with the respect to air, noise, open space and greenery
- To provide up-to-date zoning and subdivision regulations in order to achieve a better balanced community

Harrison

*Town of Harrison Master Plan Reexamination
Report 1998*

When the Town completed its Master Plan in 1979 there were not specific open space goals outlined within however, recreation sites were identified, most of which were under one-half acre in size. The reexamination did recommend the need to complete a new Master Plan and, with that, a recreation plan for the town.

*Town of Harrison Waterfront Redevelopment
Plan 2000*

In September of 1997, a 250 acre old industrial site along the Passaic River was deemed an “area in need of redevelopment” and, in turn, a Plan was developed to guide the transformation of the area into a vibrant, engaging, mixed-use community. One of the integral elements of the area is a public waterfront and green area along the Passaic River that is envisioned to be “a place of public recreation, relaxation and gathering throughout the day and evening”. The walkway is designed to provide vistas of the river and the skyline of the City of Newark and be an attraction not only for the immediate community but also for all the residents of the Town.

Hoboken

*City of Hoboken Master Plan Reexamination
Report 1998*

Hoboken is currently in the process of completing a new Master Plan and is draft form. There have been several reexamination reports that have addressed the need for more open space within the city. The 1998 report states the following:

- The only zoning districts of the city in which private developers are required to create open space accessible to the public is in the I-1 (W) district
- Along the Hudson River, the state requires that a waterfront walkway be created as a permanently accessible open space
- The City should continue to seek out funding to create public recreation areas such as North Park

The new Hoboken Master Plan has been developed through an extensive process and is currently in draft form. The new plan includes an open space, recreation and conservation element as well as a historic preservation element. Several encompassing recommendations were made for both planning elements and include the following:

Open Space, Recreation, and Conservation: General Concepts

- Maximize park and recreation opportunities for residents
- Provide full range of active recreation uses in new parks
- Involve the private sector in creating open space
- Create park corridors or “green streets”
- Provide more recreation and parks through better utilization of land
- Protect existing open spaces and environmental features
- Prohibit development on steep slopes

Waterfront/Green Circuit

- Create a green circuit to link recreational and other amenities
- Promote public acquisition of undeveloped parcels on the circuit
- Locate active waterfront uses at Weehawken Cove

- Locate open, unprogrammed space on Piers A and C

Historic Preservation

- Safeguard the heritage of Hoboken by preserving buildings and other features within the City that reflect elements of its cultural, social, economic and architectural history
- Expand locally regulated historic districts to the maximum
- Maximize National register listings for individual properties and/or districts
- Designate Hoboken’s historic public and institutional buildings as local landmarks
- Encourage the continued use of historic and/or noteworthy buildings, structures, objects, and sites and facilitate their appropriate reuse
- Encourage proper maintenance of and reinvestment in buildings and structures within the City
- Increase public awareness of Hoboken’s architectural heritage

Jersey City

City of Jersey City Master Plan 2000

Goals from the Jersey City Master Plan include:

- Preserve and maintain existing parks and recreation facilities
- Address the City’s parks and open space deficit and promote construction of new parks
- Promote the full utilization and upgrade of existing parks and recreation facilities
- Support the development of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway and the Hackensack River Walks
- Create a separate zone for public open space and parks
- Consider pocket parks with dog runs

- in all neighborhoods
- Encourage the development of greenways
- Consider alternatives to supplement funding for park rehabilitation and construction including the creation of a parks conservancy

City of Jersey City Redevelopment

There are several areas throughout the City that are covered by Redevelopment Plans including all of the areas along the Hudson River waterfront. Each of the Plans work to ensure that publicly accessible open space is provided for along the waterfront and that the NJDEP waterfront walkway is part of any new development that occurs there.

Kearny

Town of Kearny Master Plan Reexamination Report 2004

Kearny completed and adopted their Master Plan in 1991. The goals were then reaffirmed in the 2004 Report and include:

- To ensure the retention of Town owned parkland for public use
- To provide additional active and passive recreation areas in the Town and expand existing site where feasible
- To improve existing recreation areas to serve community residents efficiently and adequately
- To preserve the environmental resources of the Town by limiting development in environmentally sensitive areas and encouraging general landscaping and preservation of the Town’s natural elements

Town of Kearny Redevelopment Plans

The Town of Kearny has completed two Redevelopment Plans since 2001; the first being the Passaic Avenue Redevelopment Plan and the other Schuyler Avenue Redevelopment Plan. Although both are distinctly different areas with different needs, both Plans address the issue of open space and recreation.

The Schuyler Avenue Redevelopment Plan recognized that recreation facilities contribute to the quality of life and enhance the attractiveness of an area. The Plan proposed to create an open space, parks and recreation district that consolidate and expands two existing recreational facilities and provides for a needed community center, commercial recreation facilities, and conserves large pockets of wetlands as an area for passive recreation.

The Passaic Avenue Redevelopment area is located on the Passaic River and one of the goals of the Plan is to “reclaim” the riverfront for the use and enjoyment of the residents. To that end, the plan outlines a whole waterfront “system” that includes a waterfront walkway, park, conservation area, plaza and promenade. The plan also proposes greenspace throughout the whole area to enhance the inland areas.

North Bergen

Township of North Bergen Master Plan Update 1994

The Master Plan Update listed the following issues:

- Rehabilitation of parks is recommended
- Maintenance of the parks is a concern

- Need to provide visual and physical access to the waterfront and to the Palisades Cliff.
- Downtown area needs more recreation areas

Secaucus

Town of Secaucus Master Plan Reexamination Report 1993

The 1993 Master Plan Reexamination reported the following:

- A lack of open space and leisure time amenities was identified as a problem
- Slated recreation amenities would be improved through the completion of Buchmuller Park and sport field improvements

Union City

City of Union City Master Plan Reexamination Report 1997

The 1997 Reexamination Report recognized that there was a deficit in existing parks and open space and made a recommendation to acquire additional sites for parks.

Weehawken

Township of Weehawken Master Plan Reexamination 1991

The last Master Plan was completed in 1976. The 1991 Reexamination report updated the changes within the municipality and outlined the following:

There is a lack of adequate park and recreation space but the following projects will increase or have increased the recreation sites in the Township:

- Charlie's Park
- Lincoln Harbor Phase I waterfront

project

- Redevelopment of the stadium site as part of the Lincoln Harbor Phase I
- Public walkway and viewing area on Pier H.
- Public walkway on River Vista and Shanghai Red's piers
- Installation of the Riverfront Walkway for Phase I of Lincoln Harbor
- Lincoln Harbor Phase II and III, complete reconstruction of Pier B, Boulevard East Promenade, Soldiers and Sailors Park, Louisa Park, Gregory Park, Chestnut Park and Highwood Park, Atir Site.

The policies for waterfront development were adopted by Planning Board in 1984 and include the following:

- Preserve face of Palisades and create a "no build zone"
- Provide for mixed use development
- Provide for open space
- Integrate Weehawken's planning with neighboring communities.

West New York

Town of West New York Master Plan Reexamination 2000

The following goals were outlined in the 2000 Reexamination Report:

- Township lacks adequate amount of acreage designated for recreation uses.
- Additional sites for public use should be provided from the large acreages of the waterfront area.

State/Regional/Federal

State

The State Development and Redevelopment Plan

In 2001, the State adopted the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP). The Plan, including its State Plan Policy Map (Policy Map) was developed to guide municipal, county and regional planning, state planning and infrastructure investment decisions. The development of the Plan included an extensive public participation process called cross-acceptance.

The SDRP developed various statewide policies and organized them into nineteen categories. The policies were established to provide guidance for all levels of government in planning initiatives and are to be applied to all areas of the state. The following categories and individual policies should be considered when completing local open space planning:

- **Historic, Cultural and Scenic Resources:** Protect, enhance and where appropriate rehabilitate historic, cultural and scenic resources by identifying, evaluating and registering significant historic, cultural and scenic landscapes, districts, structures, buildings, objects and sites and ensuring that new growth and development is compatible with historic, cultural and scenic values.
- **Water Resources:** Protect and enhance water resources through coordinated planning efforts aimed at reducing sources of pollution and other adverse effects of development, encouraging designs

in hazard-free areas that will protect the natural function of stream and wetlands system, and optimizing sustainable resource use.

- **Open Lands and Natural Systems:** Protect biological diversity through preservation and restoration of contiguous open spaces and connecting corridors; manage public land and provide incentives for private land management to protect scenic qualities, forests and water resources; and manage the character and nature of development for the protection of wildlife habitat, critical slope areas, water resources, and for the provision of adequate public access to a variety of recreational opportunities.

The SDRP also outline specific policies that localities and regional entities should consider as they engaged in any Open Space planning process, these include:

1. **Integration of Goals:** Plan and design the preservation of recreational and other open space land to maximize implementation of other statewide policies
2. **Open Space and Redevelopment:** Provide in redevelopment programs, for the acquisition, development and maintenance of recreational and public open space that will assist in the creation of an attractive and desirable quality of life in the redevelopment area
3. **Trails, Greenways and Blueways as Public Open Space Linkages:** Implement the NJ Trails Plan for a statewide network of open space (greenways) and waterway corridors (Blueways) that link recreational and open space land

4. Coastal and Waterfront Access: Maintain and improve public access to coastal and waterfront areas of recreational, aesthetic, cultural or ecological value
5. Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites: Plan, locate and market redevelopment to capitalize on opportunities presented by Brownfield sites

Furthermore, the Plan divides the State into planning areas that “reflect distinct geographic and economic units within the state and serves as an organizing framework for application of Statewide Policies and the State Plan.” Hudson County, with the exception of areas the fall under the auspices of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission which are addressed below, is considered a Metropolitan Planning Area or PA1. These areas are targeted to “provide much of the state’s future redevelopment; revitalize cities and towns; promote growth in compact forms; stabilize older suburbs; redesign areas of sprawl; and protect the character of existing stable communities.” The Plan further sets up policy objectives for each of the planning areas, many that relate to natural resources, recreation and preservation. Those that apply to PA1 and are related here include:

- **Natural Resource Conservation:** Reclaim environmentally damaged sites and mitigate future negative impacts, particularly to waterfront, scenic vistas, wildlife habitats, and to Critical Environment Sites, and Historic and Cultural Sites. Give special emphasis to improving air quality. Use open space to reinforce neighborhood and community identity, and protect natural linear systems, including regional systems that link to other Planning Areas.

- **Recreation:** Provide maximum active and passive recreational opportunities and facilities at the neighborhood, local, and regional levels by concentrating on the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing parks and open space while expanding and linking the system through redevelopment and reclamation projects.
- **Historic Preservation:** Encourage the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic or significant buildings, Historic and Cultural Sites, neighborhood and districts in ways that will not compromise either the historic resource or the area’s ability to redevelop. Coordinate historic preservation efforts with tourism efforts.

New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2003-2007

The New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor recreation Plan (SCORP) is prepared every five years by the Department of Environmental Protection’s Green Acres Program. The SCORP serves as a status report, strategic plan and guide for natural and recreational protection and planning. Relevant goals from the 2003 SCORP include:

- To preserve sufficient amounts of open space for current and future public use and to utilize the environmental protection amenities of open space to protect important natural resources for the enhancement of the quality of life in New Jersey
- To promote development of parks in New Jersey’s urban and suburban centers to support revitalization efforts and to provide close to home

recreation opportunities for residents statewide

- To encourage coordinated open space and recreation planning, acquisition and development initiatives of local governments and conservation organizations

Regional

New Jersey Meadowland Commission (NJMC) Master Plan

In the beginning of 2004, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission released its new Master Plan. As stated in the Plan, “the NJMC is charged with environmental protection and stewardship, promoting orderly development, and providing for the solid waste needs of the region.” The 30.4 square-mile District is located approximately five miles west of New York City in northern New Jersey. The District encompasses portions of fourteen municipalities in two counties including Hudson County. Those municipalities that fall under the district in Hudson County are Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen, and Secaucus.

The Plan creates an overall vision of a “re-greened” Meadowlands and a revitalized urban landscape and has set goals as a general framework for the Master Plan. The Commission was often perceived as, and often considered itself to be primarily a redevelopment agency. For the first 30 years of its work in the Meadowlands, the Commission focused almost exclusively on site remediation for commercial use. Now, the Commission has changed its name and its philosophy. The new vision is one of a greener Meadowlands that functions as well ecologically as it functions economically.

Relevant goals include:

- To preserve and enhance wetlands and other valuable natural resources, open space, energy resources, and the historical heritage of the Meadowlands District;
- To promote a suitable array of land uses which encourage economic vitality with job creation and support the public health, safety, and general welfare;
- To prevent urban sprawl and degradation of the environment through improper use of land;
- To cultivate a strong sense of place in a desirable visual environment through creative development and design techniques;
- To strengthen communication and coordination among the various public and private stakeholders shaping land use.

Bergen County Open Space and Recreation Plan

The County of Bergen has an Open Space and Recreation Plan that was adopted June of 2000 and is working to release a new Plan in the spring of 2004. The 2000 Plan established the overall objective of providing facilities that are regional in nature and that are capable of serving all the residents of Bergen County. A significant element of the 2000 plan was the renewed and continuing emphasis on protection and preservation of natural and scenic values in the County.

Strategies in the plan aimed at reaching these conservation goals were outlined in basic planning concepts that include:

- The preservation of the major waterways in the County
- The expansion of existing County Park areas where applicable
- The acquisition of major tracts of undeveloped land where suitable for County Park purposes

One of the 2000 plan objectives, “to promote the establishment of a linear greenway park system along the Hackensack River” is also a priority in Hudson County as well. Hudson County, through its Hackensack River Walk Plan has created an opportunity for open space partnerships between counties.

Essex County Park, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Essex County developed an open space plan that was adopted in April of 2003. The plan outlined goals, objectives and implementation strategies for the next decade. These strategies included the improvement, protection and expansion of its existing open space and park system. The aspects of the 2003 plan most relevant to Hudson County are the planned protection of waterways, including the Passaic River and Newark Bay. The plan highlighted that water and land resources go well beyond the boundary of just Essex County, and are part of a broader, regional landscape.

Federal

Comprehensive Port Improvement Plan

The Comprehensive Port Improvement Plan evolved from a US Army Corps of Engineers’ Harbor Navigation Study and sets forth a cooperative effort for implementing economic development and environmental improvement for the Port of New York and New Jersey which effects Hudson County.

The following are the primary goals outlined within the plan:

- Identify the port improvements necessary to maintain the status of the Port of New York and New Jersey as the preeminent port on the US Atlantic Coast
- Link CPIP to existing regional planning efforts
- Develop CPIP consistent with the enhancement of the environmental quality of the estuary
- Link development with efforts to improve environmental quality
- Adopt “Green Port” planning criteria to guide development options
- Create more certainty in federal, state, and local permit review process to create needed port expansion capability
- Maximize public participation to promote a regional consensus for the support of port improvement projects

New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program - Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan 1996

The purpose of the National Estuary Program is to promote the development of comprehensive management plans for estuaries of national significance threatened by pollution, development, or overuse. The New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary encompasses the waters of New York Harbor and the tidally influenced portions of all rivers and streams that empty into the Harbor. The core area in relation to Hudson County includes the bi-state waters of the Hudson River, Upper and Lower Bay, Arthur Kill, Kill Van Kull, and Raritan Bay. As part of the plan, the CCMP established the following goals:

- Restore and maintain an ecosystem that supports an optimum diversity of living resources on a sustained basis.
- Preserve and restore ecologically important habitat and open space.
- Attain water quality that fully supports bathing and other recreational uses of the Estuary.
- Ensure that fish and shellfish in the Estuary are safe for unrestricted human consumption.
- Restore and enhance the aesthetic quality of the Estuary.
- Actively address emerging issues that impact the Estuary.
- Manage and balance the competing uses of the Estuary to improve environmental quality.
 1. In particular, ensure the continued economic viability of the Port to support safe and efficient waterborne commerce without adversely impacting the ecosystem; and
 2. Increase public access.
- Manage pollutants within the Estuary so that they do not contribute to use impairments outside the Estuary.

The National Park Service General Management Plan

The National Park Service (NPS) is currently in the process of completing a new General Management Plan (GMP) for the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island. Each national park creates a GMP every twenty years, or when there are major changes in the park development or direction. The last GMP was completed in 1982.

The Plan will focus on four areas:

- Resource Preservation
- Visitor Use and Enjoyment
- Park Operations and Administration

- Partnerships and Outreach

In conjunction with those four (4) areas the Plan also will:

- Help the park set priorities for the various NPS and other funding sources
- Consider existing concession operations and look at what commercial activities are needed to support visitor services in the park
- Describe the desired relationships with the park neighbors, partners, and other national parks in and around New York Harbor

A draft GMP is expected to be released in the spring of 2005 with the final version recorded by the beginning of 2006.

The NPS is currently working with its partner, The Statute of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation to re-open the Statute of Liberty. On September 11, 2001, the Statute of Liberty was closed that morning and had remained closed until just recently. Liberty Island has re-opened, but before the Statute of Liberty can be re-opened to visitors several improvements need to be made including:

- Upgrading fire and emergency notification systems
- Creating additional exits from the Statute's base
- Enhancing visitor safety measures throughout the Statute

The foundation is currently raising the necessary funds to meet the immediate needs in order to re-open.