



City of Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey Open Space & Recreation Plan Element



PREPARED FOR
THE CITY OF HACKENSACK PLANNING BOARD
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Cover Photos

Top L-R: Johnson Park, Union Park, Atlantic Street Park

Bottom L-R: 2nd Ward (Polifly) Park, Hackensack River Walk, Borg's Woods

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The original document, on file with the City of Hackensack, has been appropriately signed and sealed in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:14A-12 by Ramond Joseph, AICP, P.P. – the Local Planning Services team leader for the preparation of this Open Space and Recreation Plan Element of the Master Plan.

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Introduction

The New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:50D-1 et seq. (MLUL) authorizes municipal planning boards to “prepare and, after public hearing, adopt or amend a master plan or component parts thereof, to guide the use of lands within the municipality.” Pursuant to the MLUL at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28b (7), the City of Hackensack’s 2001 Master Plan and 2009 Master Plan Re-Examination Report specified the following objectives for open space and recreational opportunities:

Improve the quantity, quality and availability of parks and open space including active and passive recreational facilities, neighborhood parks and environmentally sensitive areas. Encourage open space within major new developments and redevelopment. Promote the establishment of a publicly accessible linear greenway (riverside) park along the Hackensack River.

Since the 2009 Master Plan Re-Examination, Hackensack has taken several steps to improve the quantity, quality, and availability of parks and open space (see **Table 1**).

In anticipation of its ten-year master plan update, the City of Hackensack submitted a Local Planning Services (LPS) Application dated August 29, 2018, requesting assistance with the preparation of an Open Space and Recreation Plan Element of their Master Plan. LPS met with City representatives on March 19, 2019, to discuss and agree on the project scope. Based on agreements at the project scope meeting, LPS prepared a project scope of services that the City Council approved and adopted by resolution on May 21, 2019. The resolution authorized the creation of a working committee for the project which LPS staff worked with Hackensack City staff to fill. The working committee included members from the Project Management Office, Recreation Department, Public Works Department, Redevelopment Authority, DMR Architects, the City’s Planning Consultant, Hackensack Public Schools, and the Bergen County Open Space Division. Based upon the approved Scope of Work, LPS and the Project Working Committee held a kick-off meeting on July 17, 2019, which officially set in motion the work plan for the Open Space and Recreation Plan Element.

The objective of this Open Space and Recreation Plan Element is to highlight the City’s cultural, historical, open space, and recreational assets and identify the gaps that need to be bridged based on the City’s goals, objectives, and policies. The adopted Open Space and Recreation Plan will include an inventory of open space, park, and recreation resources and opportunities, a public participation process, a level of service assessment of the City’s Park System, a recreational demand and needs analysis, a strategic action plan to implement the City’s vision, and supporting information such as system maps, user demand and park use surveys, cost estimates, funding and resource inventories, and other documents supporting goals, objectives and strategic actions identified within the Plan.

Table 1: List of Prior Improvements by the City of Hackensack

Name	Size (acres)	Completion	Improvement
2nd Ward Park	4.39	2012	Construction and installation of a new play gym and spray fountain
Esplanade Park	1.12	2019	Miscellaneous improvements per Ordinance 11-2009
Johnson Park	21.4	2019	Lighting of athletic fields and Ordinance 11-2009 improvements
Union Street Park	0.77	2019	Ordinance 11-2009 & 25-2010 improvements
Foschini Park	33.76	2017	Purchase of playground equipment. Improvements to drainage system, fences, etc. for 2 baseball fields and river path improvements.
Pulaski Park	2.28	2014	basketball court, lighting, electrical improvements, sidewalk, and walking path, etc.
Carver Park	2.42	2013	Resurfacing of Carver Park Basketball Court
		2016	Carver Park Splash Pad and bathroom improvements
Main Street Park	0.23	2013	Acquisition from the Sanzari Family
Columbus Park	5.78	2015	New playground equipment
Atlantic Street Park	0.40	2015	Acquisition and installation of GFI Receptacles, Urbana Pavers, and Pergolas
Hackensack Performing Arts Center	0.27	2017	Converted Masonic Temple into Cultural Arts Center (1 st Fl) and Performing Arts Center (2 nd Fl)
Mellone-Mariniello Recreation Center	0.27	2019	Renovations that added a full-sized basketball court, new space dedicated for seniors, and a game room for teens.
Staib Park	5.37	2018	Renovations to restrooms.
Carver Park	2.42	2020	Demolition and reconstruction of the existing tennis court, removal and replacement of the existing fence surrounding the tennis court, new concrete curb, and sidewalk with new ADA accessible ramps.

Relationship to State, County and Local Plans

State Plans

2001 New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP)

The New Jersey State Planning Commission adopted the State Development and Redevelopment Plan (SDRP) on March 1, 2001. In adopting the SDRP, the State seeks to promote development and redevelopment that uses less land and utilizes the State's infrastructure more efficiently. Through implementation of the SDRP, the State's goals are to revitalize cities and towns, conserve the state's natural resources, promote economic development, protect the environment, provide adequate facilities and housing, and preserve historic, recreation, and open space resources. The SDRP identifies five Planning Areas where different sets of goals and guidelines determine appropriate guidelines to regulate development activities: Metropolitan (PA1), Suburban (PA2), Fringe (PA3), Rural (PA4), and Environmentally Sensitive (PA5) lands. The SDRP also identifies Designated Centers for targeted development and redevelopment activities.

Per the SRDP, Hackensack is a PA1 (Metropolitan) Planning Area. PA1 communities typically have little or no vacant land because they have established settlement patterns and longstanding infrastructure. The relevant goals and objectives of PA1 for the Hackensack Open Space and Recreation Plan are:

- Land use;
- Natural resource conservation;
- Recreation;
- Redevelopment; and
- Historic preservation.

2018-2022 New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) requires each state to prepare and revise their Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years. The SCORP outlines the functions of a variety of programs within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). These include the New Jersey Natural Land Trust, the Division of Parks and Forestry, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Historic Preservation Office, the Natural Heritage Program, and the Green Acres Program, which provide funding, planning assistance, protection, and management of open space and recreation facilities. NJDEP's Green Acres program maintains the state's eligibility for funding from the LWCF and is responsible for maintaining the SCORP. The SCORP was most recently updated in April 2018. The goals of the SCORP are as follows:

- Assess the amount of open space available for current and future public recreational use and for the conservation of natural resources important to protecting New Jersey's biodiversity and quality of life;
- Provide close to home park and recreation opportunities for residents statewide;

- Present current information on the supply and demand for recreation and open space in New Jersey;
- Implement open space and recreation planning policies and projects consistent with the State's environmental missions and goals;
- Encourage open space and recreation planning by local governments and conservation organizations; and
- Effectively use funds from the Preserve New Jersey Act, LWCF, Forest Legacy Program, and other sources of funding which may become available.

The SCORP Action Plan is organized based on previous issues and policies and identifies five crucial issues to address current and future needs for open space and recreation in New Jersey: Land Preservation; Recreation; State Resource Areas; Greenways and Trails; and Stewardship.

The Plan provides a framework for future strategies and action for these issues.

2009 New Jersey Trails Plan Update

The 2009 Update of the 1996 New Jersey Trails Plan encourages new goals and strategies for trail planning, construction, and maintenance in New Jersey. It helps those making decisions to understand funding and development at the state and local levels. The key issues are funding, facility needs, sharing trails, motorized trail use, urban trails, special needs trails, guidelines and standards, trail rights-of-way, and information and promotion. The priority areas are community pathways, trails and health, comprehensive trail inventory, volunteer programs, trail events, and conferences.

2017 New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) prepared the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan in 2005 to subsidize preventative measures undertaken by the states for the protection of endangered species and to prevent species from endangerment. New Jersey revised and submitted its Wildlife Action Plan in July 2017, with the assistance of several stakeholder organizations. The New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan identifies species that are the highest conservation priority. New Jersey has over 100 high priority species.

Recommended actions from this Plan include:

- Full recovery of rare species populations through habitat restoration, land acquisition, and landowner incentives;
- Public education and outreach programs regarding wildlife, critical habitats, and the deleterious effects of invasive species and other threats;
- Development of effective conservation partnerships among organizations representing diverse interests in wildlife conservation; and
- Continued research and monitoring of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) to inform biological databases and New Jersey's landscape critical habitat mapping, and direct local and statewide conservation efforts.

There are seven considerations resulting from this Plan:

- Habitat loss is the greatest threat to New Jersey's wildlife;

- Stewardship and restoration are critical actions. Key actions include research, monitoring, refining best management practices, maintaining properties with critical habitats, and restoring riparian buffers;
- Wildlife management must control overabundant species;
- Restoring endangered bog turtles;
- Restoring fish habitats, including conservation, stream restoration, dam removal, and land use projects;
- Managing complex wildlife habitats including grassland, early successional, wetland, and riparian habitats with periodic mowing, prescribed burning, and other techniques to benefit grassland birds and other wildlife; and
- Focusing on species of greatest conservation need in New Jersey, which is home to more than 3,700 wildlife species, from monarch butterflies to blue whales.

State of New Jersey 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan

The 2014 New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) categorizes the risks and vulnerabilities associated with fire, flood, natural and other disasters, and develops strategies to protect the state from future hazard events.

Goals of this plan are to:

- Protect life;
- Protect property;
- Increase public preparedness and awareness;
- Develop and maintain an understanding of risks from hazards;
- Enhance state and local mitigation capabilities to reduce hazard vulnerabilities; and
- Support continuity of operations pre-, during, and post-hazard events.

Garden State Greenways

Garden State Greenways, an open space planning tool, assists municipalities in identifying natural areas to preserve. Garden State Greenways seeks to create a statewide network of interconnected natural lands, or greenways. To achieve this lofty vision, Garden State Greenways offers goals, exhaustive maps, and robust geographic information systems (GIS) data to assist municipal open space planning efforts. Greenways are defined as “hubs” and “connectors.”

- *Hubs* are non-fragmented, undeveloped, natural areas in the state’s landscape. These clusters of natural resources provide New Jersey residents with clean water and air, scenic views, and recreation opportunities.
- *Connectors* link hubs together, creating a continuous network of green space with endless opportunities for recreation.

Garden State Greenways sets forth these broad goals:

- Establish parks, trails, or other protected lands within walking distance of every resident.
- Permanently protect New Jersey’s critical natural resource lands.
- Permanently protect large, contiguous tracts of natural land.

- Permanently protect large, contiguous tracts of farmland.
- Permanently protect parks, natural lands, and farmland surrounding historic sites.
- Link together New Jersey’s protected natural, agricultural, historic, and recreation lands.
- Grant public access and trail rights-of-way to allow the public to benefit from the scenic, recreational, and interpretive opportunities provided therein.

Hackensack is working on creating a linear park along the Hackensack River to mirror the one already created in neighboring Teaneck Township. When fully completed, the Hackensack Greenway, which links open space areas along the Hackensack River will connect the Oradell Reservoir to the Meadowlands.

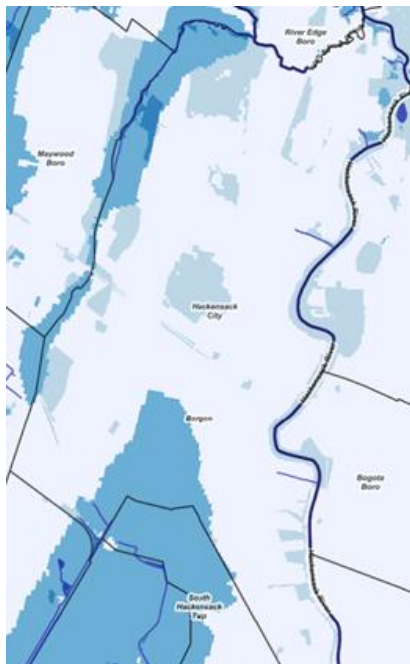
Conservation Blueprint

The Nature Conservancy and the New Jersey Conservation Foundation collaborated with Rowan University to develop a mapping tool to assist local decision makers and non-profit organizations in selecting properties for protection. Known as the Conservation Blueprint, this online, interactive mapping site was developed as part of a collaborative effort with a 22-member Steering Committee to identify priority land rankings based on four themes:

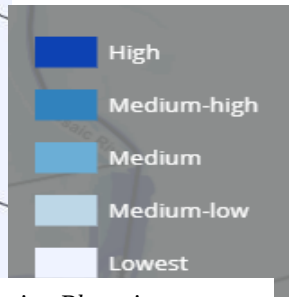
- Water quality – to protect surface water and groundwater;
- Ecological – to support ecosystem health;
- Community Green Space – lands important for recreation and connecting people to nature;
- Agricultural – to support farming (there is no agricultural land in Hackensack).

With funding support from the William Penn Foundation and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the purpose of the project is “to develop a shared, living blueprint of lands to be protected in the next few decades” and provide a “blueprint of conservation priorities to ensure a healthy New Jersey for future generations.”

Water Quality



In the City of Hackensack, the water quality map identifies lands for protection of clean water, healthy and resilient watersheds, aquatic habitats, and wildlife species over time. Featured in the map are wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, headwaters, and floodplains. The City of Hackensack has a mix of high, medium-high, medium, and locally important lands. As seen on the map, Borg Woods County Park is a major area of high importance for maintaining water quality in Hackensack.



Map courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Ecological

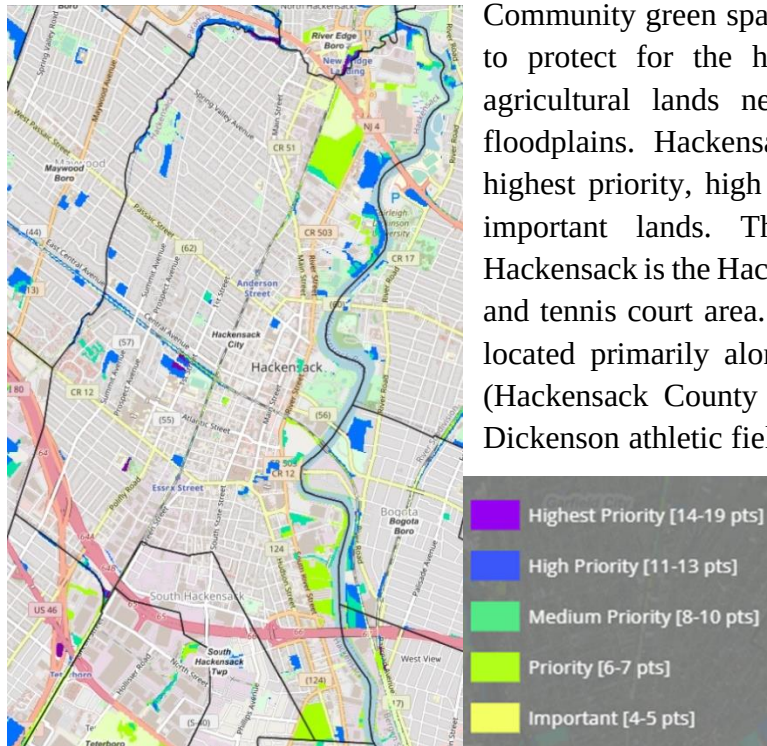


Ecological priorities are lands that are important to protect for their significance to providing clean water, diverse habitats, and healthy ecosystems. The City of Hackensack includes lands that are of medium high, medium, medium-low, and lowest priority. Portions of Borg's Woods County Park and Hackensack River County Park are considered medium high and priority ecological land. Most of the two County parks, however, are medium-low priority, as is Staib Park and the majority of the Hackensack Riverbank.



Map courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Community Greenspace



Map courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Community green space priorities are lands that are important to protect for the health of people, such as natural and agricultural lands near homes and undeveloped lands in floodplains. Hackensack is highly developed and includes highest priority, high priority, medium priority, priority, and important lands. The highest priority green space in Hackensack is the Hackensack High School multipurpose fields and tennis court area. High priority community greenspace is located primarily along the banks of the Hackensack River (Hackensack County Park, Bergen Academies and Farleigh Dickenson athletic fields, Johnson Park, etc.) and Cole Brooks (Borg's Woods, Staib Park, etc.). In addition to the NJ Transit rail track right of way, all local school fields and non-profit open space are high priority community green space.

County Plans

2004 Bergen County Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Bergen County Department of Planning and Engineering adopted an Open Space and Recreation Plan (BCOSRP) in 2004. This Plan describes in detail several goals related to open space. The goals in the BCOSRP are as follows:

- To provide facilities regional in nature and capable of serving residents of the entire county;
- To protect and preserve natural and scenic values in the county;
- To present current information on the supply, demand, and need for recreation and open space in Bergen County;
- To implement open space and recreation planning policies and projects that are consistent with New Jersey's Development and Redevelopment Plan;
- To encourage coordinated open space and recreation planning, acquisition and development initiatives of state and local governments, and conservation organizations; and
- To effectively use funds from the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund (the "Bergen County Trust Fund"), New Jersey Green Acres funding, and other sources of funding which may become available.

In addition, the BCOSRP also identifies the following objectives to guide the plan:

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

The plan provides additional goals and policies that support the County's open space program:

- Conserve major ridgelines, significant treed areas, and areas designated as natural areas;
- Improve the quantity, quality, and availability of parks and open space, including active and passive recreational facilities, parks, and environmentally sensitive areas;
- Preserve the environment, including wetland areas, streams, and wetland corridors;
- Promote the establishment of a linear greenway park system along the Hackensack, Passaic, and Ramapo Rivers; and
- Protect the quality and purity of rivers and streams.

The report breaks down these goals into "people goals" and "plant/animal goals." "People goals" include maximizing the amount of green, permeable, open space located within developed areas; maintaining, protecting, and improving the quality of life of Bergen County residents; enhancing the urban and suburban environments by protecting local property values; and using recreation and open space resources as a catalyst for economic development. "Plant/animals goals" include providing habitat for wildlife, protecting flora and fauna from suburban encroachment and habitat destruction, and preserving environmentally sensitive areas in a natural, undeveloped state. The County trust fund was initially established in 1998 and reauthorized in 2003. The fund is divided between the County Program (70%) and the Municipal Park Improvement Program (30%):

- County Program
 1. Land Acquisition Program
 2. Bergen County Park Improvement Program
 3. Farmland Preservation Program
 4. Historic Preservation Program
 5. Floodplain Protection Program
- Municipal Park Improvement Program for the development and/or the rehabilitation of municipal outdoor recreation facilities.

The BCOSRP identifies the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund as the primary funding mechanism for land acquisition and emphasizes the potential of using state and federal funding sources, such as Green Acres, or purchasing of conservation easements or Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs to supplement County Open Space funding.

2014 Bergen County Floodplain Protection Program

In 2013, residents voted to approve the use of the County Trust Fund for flood protection and mitigation. The program helps communities acquire flood prone homes and land. Any structures on the property are removed and the land will be maintained as open space to conserve natural floodplain

areas. Bergen County will match up to 25 percent of project costs for federally funded projects and 75 percent of locally funded projects. The goals of the program are as follows:

- Move Bergen County residents out of harm's way from flooding events;
- Reduce the risk to first responders who conduct search and rescue operations;
- Reduce the risk of future property loss;
- Lower municipal costs for post-flood clean-up and repair of buildings and infrastructure;
- Lessen the ancillary impacts to local businesses;
- Add open space in neighborhoods; and
- Create a permanent, self-sustaining solution to repeat flooding.

2014 Bergen County Farmland Preservation Plan

Farmland has declined in Bergen County. The Bergen County Farmland Preservation Plan has the goal to obtain one to two farms per year, with each farm averaging 15 acres for a total of 300 acres over ten years. If the County goal is met, 618 acres of farmland will be preserved which represents two-thirds of remaining farmland in the County.

2017 Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund Grant Program Guidelines

The goals of the County historic preservation program are to:

- Assist in the preservation and restoration of Bergen County's historic resources, including improving protection from fire, vandalism, and natural disasters;
- Preserve the historic character of Bergen County for future generations;
- Assist municipalities, the County, and non-profit organizations in the acquisition of historic resources;
- Encourage quality preliminary planning for capital preservation projects;
- Assist municipalities, non-profit organizations, and the County in the restoration of historic sites;
- Increase awareness and appreciation of historic sites; and
- Encourage the placement of historic sites on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places.

2015 Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

The 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies potential hazards to develop a mitigation strategy that will reduce and/or eliminate risks from natural hazards. The plan helps citizens and government agencies respond to disasters and allows Bergen County to be eligible for funding for mitigation project funding. The updated goals and objectives remain consistent with the 2008 Plan but are amended to align with the 2014 New Jersey State Hazard Mitigation Plan as follows:

- Protect and promote public health and safety;
- Safeguard critical public facilities and infrastructure;
- Protect public and private property;
- Promote economic vitality in Bergen County and its 70 constituent municipalities; and

- Preserve the natural environment and promote human health.

Open space acquisition and preservation are effective strategies for promoting public health and safety, safeguarding critical facilities and infrastructure, protecting public and private property, and preserving the natural environment. The Hackensack River and tributaries are subject to frequent flooding, and the City may consider County, State, and Federal funding related to hazard mitigation with the intent to preserve land.

Bergen County Parks Master Plan

***Prepared by Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CEUS) at Rutgers University
(Adopted December 18, 2019)***

Bergen County has more than 9,000 acres of land across 38 county parks, including nature preserves, recreation areas, and historic sites. The Bergen County Parks Department has prepared a master plan for the County Park System, which was led by Rutgers CEUS as the project manager for the project. Rutgers CEUS, along with an interdisciplinary team, has analyzed specific parks in the context of Bergen County's open space and recreation needs, considering demographic and economic trends within the County. The stated goal of the project is "to identify the characteristics of the Bergen County recreation and open space system, accommodate the needs of current residents, and respond to projected future growth of the County." The three Park Master Plan Elements are Park Emphasis, Anchor Parks, and Connectivity.

In May 2017, CEUS hosted a community meeting to outline the project goals and gain public input. The goals for the Master Plan are as follows:

- Meet current and future County and local community needs.
- Encourage public park usage.
- Develop a long-range plan to sustainably protect, manage, and enhance the County park system.
- Utilize the County's financial and work force assets in the most efficient manner possible.

The plan noted that, during public outreach, the amenity most often requested by park visitors was a well-maintained, accessible working bathroom. In addition to improved and functional restrooms, the report noted most survey respondents recommended additional food and beverage options in county parks. Other top-rated park user needs included more walking and hiking trails, bike trails, improved playground maintenance and dog amenities. Recommendations for the two County parks in Hackensack were as follows:

- Borg's Woods: maintain the character of the naturalized woods and address the need for improved access (e.g., paths), signage at entrances, and waste management.
- Hackensack River County Park: install a bridge entrance from the eastern bank of the Hackensack River to re-orient the park, thereby placing the shopping center and its parking deck at the back of the park, rather than at the entrance. The bridge could become a significant future entrance to the linear park and part of a future expansion of the Hackensack River Park

with the entrance to the east bank of the river. This would create the potential for development as a Blueway Trail to access the reaches of the Hackensack River below the Oradell Dam.

The parks plan outlines an implementation strategy, including developing individual plans with goals and objectives for each park, historic site, and nature area. The implementation strategy is structured around five critical elements as follows:

- Enhance and develop the four existing regional anchor parks: Campgaw Mountain, Overpeck Park, Ramapo Valley Reservation and Van Saun Park, while exploring options to add linear parks.
- Develop countywide connectors and greenways to safely link every county resident to a county park.
- Develop a modern digital platform to support communications with residents and facilitate daily operations of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Organize the Parks Department to support the operations, maintenance and capital improvements required by a premier county park system.
- Study “visionary, aspirational concepts” proposed in the Master Plan for future feasibility.

The plan recommends increasing public access to parks’ information, including an easy-to-use website, regular emails/texts on park features and programming, improved park signage, a one-stop, up-to-date events calendar, and awareness of park benefits and values via a countywide parks marketing effort. In addition, the plan recommends that the County dedicate current park revenues for parks upgrades/amenities. The plan further recommends that the County implements a sustainable parks business model that includes reimagining park offerings and uses and exploring opportunities for advertising and sponsorships such as outdoor umbrella and table advertising, and food and beverage sponsorships, where appropriate. Finally, the plan recommends hiring dedicated full-time employees, including personnel with expertise in finance, business, marketing, digital technology, and environmental stewardship, to maintain the parks system and implement the Master Plan recommendations.

Municipal Plans

Downtown Rehabilitation Plan – 2012/2018

The City of Hackensack adopted the Downtown Rehabilitation Plan for the Main Street Area in 2012 and amended it in January 2019. The Main Street Area encompasses 163 acres on 39 city blocks. The Rehabilitation Plan provides a vision for renovating the existing downtown so that it is more walkable, livable, and sustainable. The Plan’s main purpose is to shore up the City’s assets and tax base through new, mixed-use, and high-density development. The Plan further encourages a diverse range of land uses and housing types that promote a compact, pedestrian friendly downtown. Implementation of the Rehabilitation Plan has already resulted in the creation of neighborhoods that are connected with improved parks, plazas, open spaces, and infrastructure, including NJ Transit’s two rail transit stations and bus terminal. The Downtown Rehabilitation Plan is enhanced by twenty-six (26) redevelopment plans for properties within and surrounding the Rehabilitation area. Upon full implementation of these

plans, the City of Hackensack will have over 4,000 new residential units and over 135,000 square-feet of new commercial space.

Flood Acquisition Plan 2018

The City of Hackensack prepared a Flood Acquisition Plan in January 2018. One major purpose for preparing the Plan is to document local impacts from flood events stemming from the Hackensack River and its tributaries. The other major purpose is to identify future project areas for acquisition based upon repetitive, ongoing flooding. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), there are 63 properties in Hackensack that are currently categorized as Repetitive Loss (RL) or Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL). Most of these properties are located along the Johnson Avenue area, which encompasses 14 acres bordering the Coles Brook and Van Sun Mill Brook. The Flood Acquisition Plan will allow Hackensack to convert these flood-prone properties into public open space using funding from NJDEP's Blue Acres program and the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

2020 Master Plan Re-Examination Report (Adopted December 9, 2020)

According to the 2020 Master Plan Re-Examination Report, which was prepared by DMR Architects, existing recreational facilities are insufficient. More community, recreation and school facilities are needed to support the residents and students of Hackensack. The City's Parks and Open Space objectives have been consistent over the past three to four decades. First, the City wants to ensure that existing parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities remain well maintained. Secondly, the City wishes to continue to address community parks and recreation space needs resulting from new and future population growth. Thirdly, the City aims to increase the quantity, quality, variety, and availability of parks and open spaces. Finally, the City wishes to connect its southern and northern borders via a riverside greenway along the Hackensack River.

The Re-Examination Report includes five recommendations for Parks and Open Space. The first is that the City completes a Parks and Open Space Master Plan that identify future goals and objectives for the next ten years. The second is that the City utilize the following strategies to improve existing parks:

- Leverage funds from the City Open Space Tax to obtain matching funds from the County and State to improve existing parks;
- Implement an annual park improvement schedule that commits City to funding improvements for one park per year. Employ resiliency techniques to create recreational facilities that can also serve as drainage and flood protection infrastructure. These resiliency techniques should be used to address flooding issues at Foschini Park as well as other parks and open space with recurring flooding problem;
- Construct an indoor sports recreation facility at Johnson Park to address the need for additional facilities; and
- Implement completion of the Hackensack Waterfront Walkway by continuing the requirement for developers to dedicate easement to the City along the Hackensack River. Where applicable

require larger dedication from larger properties for the construction of resiliency parks/green infrastructure that mitigate against flooding and climate change impacts.

History of Recreation in Hackensack



Photo Courtesy of www.hackensacknow.org

The City of Hackensack has historically enjoyed a wide range of parks, athletic facilities, and open spaces. As early as 1877, the Oritani Field Club was founded by the merger of two tennis clubs (Pastime Lawn Club and the Hackensack Lawn Tennis Club). The Oritani Field Club built several recreational facilities in Hackensack. These include ice skating ponds, toboggan slides, baseball field, bowling alleys, tennis courts, billiard rooms, and a boathouse on the Hackensack River. The Oritani Field Club baseball field noted in the figure above is now Foschini Park. The historic clubhouse which included a bowling alley, billiard rooms, swimming pool, and tennis courts has been demolished and is now being redeveloped as multifamily apartments.

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Hackensack, is another membership based recreational club with a long history in Hackensack. Having been established there in 1890, the YMCA

of Hackensack reorganized as the YMCA of Greater Bergen County at its current location on Main and Passaic Streets in the early 1960s. The YMCA facility has a wellness center with cardio/weight equipment; pool; basketball courts; wellness classes and swimming lessons for all ages; and other youth and adult programming. The facility can serve up to 5,000 members.

The Hackensack Yacht Club, formerly Hackensack Field and Boat Club, is another recreation centric club with a long history in Hackensack. Founded in the mid-1800s, the Yacht Club has its headquarters at 50 Shafer Place on the Hackensack River. Up to fifty 25-foot-long boats can be stored at the facility. The Club members participate in year-round social programming and pilot their vessels on the Hackensack River, the Alpine Boat Basin in Palisades Interstate Park, the Hudson River, the Long Island Sound and along the Jersey Shore.

Hackensack use to have a golf club, the Hackensack Golf Club, as early as 1899. The Hackensack Golf Club established an 18-hole golf course on land currently occupied by the Esplanade Park and Nellie K. Parker School. The Hackensack Golf Club has since moved to Emerson, due to more favorable tax incentives.

Community Context

Geography

The City of Hackensack is located in the south-central section of Bergen County. Hackensack serves as the county seat of Bergen County. Located 12 miles west of New York City, Hackensack is bordered by Teaneck Township, Bogota Borough, and Ridgefield Park Village to the east, Little Ferry Borough, South Hackensack Township, Teterboro Borough, and Hasbrouck Heights Borough to the south, Lodi Borough and Maywood Borough to the west and Paramus Borough and River Edge Borough to the north (see Map 1). The Hackensack River flows north to south along the eastern border of the City's border with Teaneck Township and Bogota Borough.

The City, which is approximately 4.35 square miles (4.18 sq. mi. land, 0.17 sq. mi. water) in size, lies predominantly within the Hackensack River watershed. The Hackensack River watershed covers an area 197 square miles in size and consists of several smaller sub-watersheds. The City of Hackensack is located in the following four:

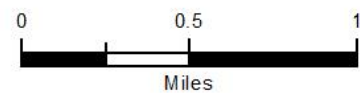
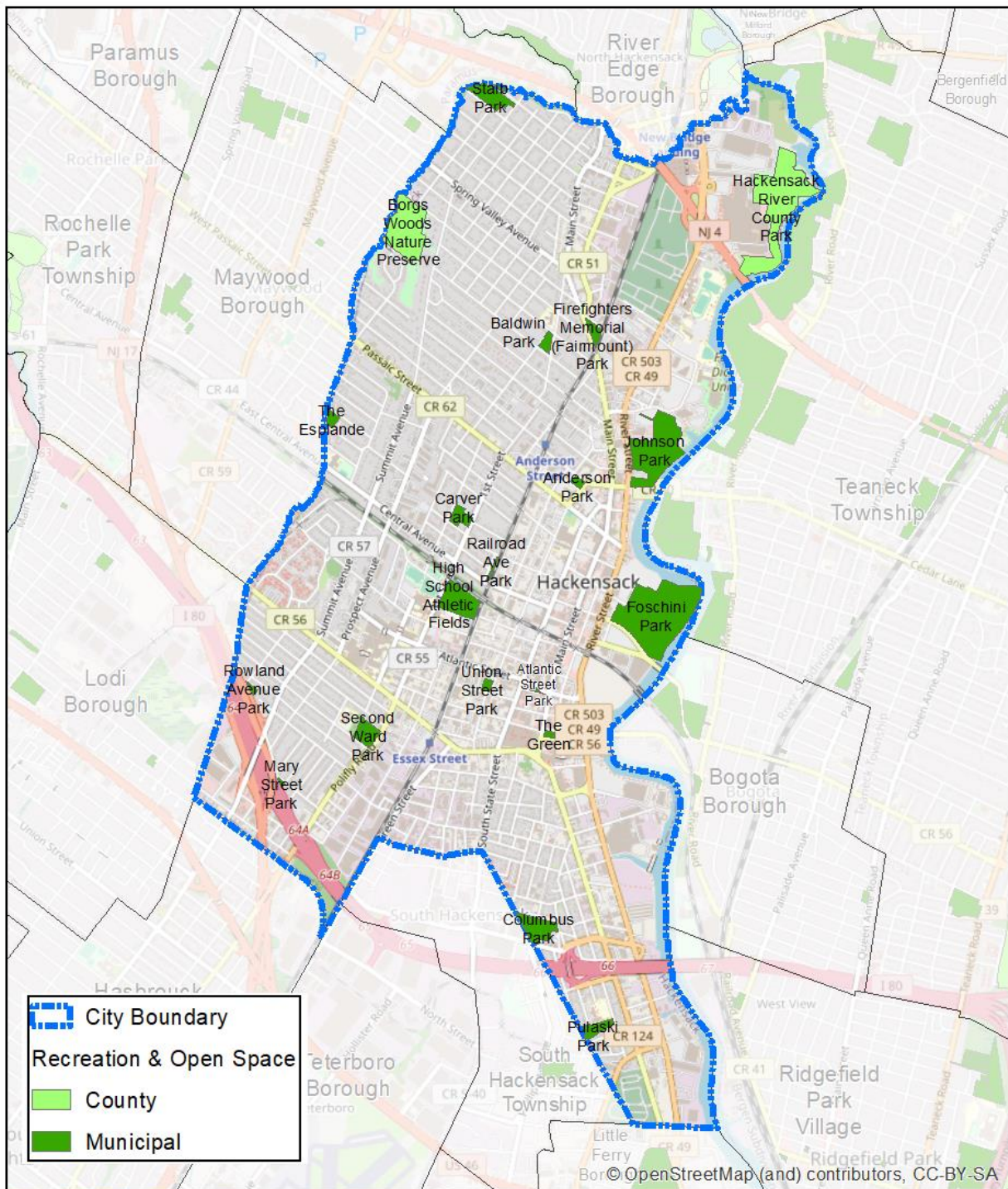
- Coles Brook/Van Saun Mill Brook;
- Hackensack River (Fort Lee Road to Oradell gage);
- Hackensack River (Bellmans Creek to Fort Lee Road); and
- Berrys Creek (above Paterson Avenue).

The other sub-watershed within which the City is located is the Saddle River (below Lodi gage), which is part of the Saddle River watershed.

Hackensack is well served by transportation infrastructure. Interstate Route 80, an east-west highway, crosses the southern portion of the City with three exits (64, 64A, 64B). NJ Route 17, a north-south state highway along the western edge of the City, and NJ Route 4, an east-west state highway along the City's northeastern section, are the other two major roadways that cross the City. The New Jersey

Transit (NJ Transit) Pascack Valley Line has two commuter stations in Hackensack: Essex Street and Anderson Street stations. In addition, NJ Transit operates the Hackensack Bus Terminal. All three transit stations and the east-west highways connect Hackensack to cultural, historic, open space, and recreational assets eastward towards New York City and westward towards Pennsylvania.

Map 1. Open Space and Recreation Areas in Hackensack and Vicinity.



Date Prepared: 12/2/2021

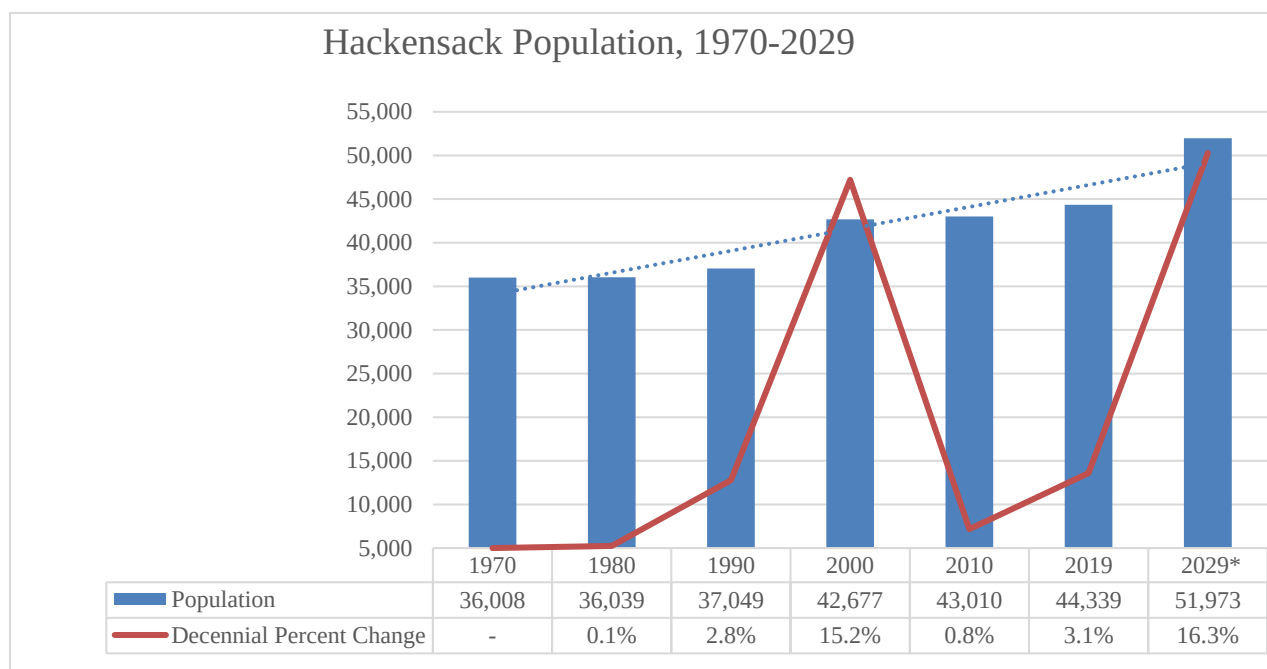
Data Sources: NJGIS, NJDCA, NJDEP, City of Hackensack

Demographics

According to the United States Census Bureau, the City of Hackensack has experience steady population growth over the past 40 years. Having had a population of 36,039 in 1980, the City's population grew 19.3 percent to 43,010 in 2010. Since then, the City's population has grown approximately 3.9 percent to 44,673 persons per the Census Bureau's 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS). Table 2 below details the decade-by-decade population growth in the City.

Within its 2020 Master Plan Re-Examination Report, the City of Hackensack has incorporated long-term growth projections from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), and short-term growth projects based on planned and approved residential and commercial development projects. Based on NJTPA's 30-year growth projections, Hackensack will have 7,003 more residents above its 2010 base population (50,013). Due to the City's downtown revitalization efforts, however, that number is likely to double. The Re-Examination Report identifies 4,034 new dwelling units and 136,729 square feet of new commercial space that are planned and/or under construction. Using demographic multipliers published by David Listokin, *et al.* of Rutgers University in 2006, the City anticipates an additional 7,300 new residents, just from currently planned projects and/or projects that are under construction.

Table 2: City of Hackensack Population Trends



*Note: 2029 projections are from the 2020 Master Plan Re-Examination Report.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau & American Community Survey, 2015-2019

Hackensack is an urban high-density municipality. According to the 2019 Five-Year Community Survey, there are 10,607 persons per square mile of the City’s 4.18 square mile land mass. Hackensack is almost three times denser than Bergen County and nearly nine times denser than the State of New Jersey. Approximately one-quarter of Hackensack’s population are school age children or younger (17.7%). This is three percent lower than the rest of the County (21.3%) and four percent lower than the rest of the State (22.1%). On the opposite side of the age spectrum, the City has a slightly lower percentage of seniors age 65 years and older (14.3%) than the rest of the County (17.0%) and State (15.9%). According to the 2020 Master Plan Re-Examination Report, the City has experienced strong growth in children younger than 5 years old (16.1%) and significant growth in adults age 55 and over (69.6%) between 2010 and 2017. In addition, approximately six percent (6.3%) of the City’s non-senior (65+) residents have a disability. This percentage is similar to the rest of the State (6.5%), but higher than the rest of the County (4.2%). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that public facilities, such as parks and recreational centers provide ADA compliant access to persons with a disability. ADA accessible parks and recreational facilities are also beneficial to children younger than 5 years old and to their families. Table 3 below details the age characteristics of residents in the City of Hackensack.

Table 3: City of Hackensack Demographic Comparison

	New Jersey	Bergen County	Hackensack
Total Population	8,878,503	930,390	44,339
Persons under 5	5.9	5.3%	6.7%
Persons under 18	22.1%	21.3%	17.7%
Persons 65 and over	15.9%	17.0%	14.3%
Persons with a disability, under age 65 (percent)	6.5%	4.2%	6.3%
Persons per household	2.69	2.71	2.26
Persons per sq. mile	1,207.3	3,992.9	10,607

Source: American Community Survey, 2015-2019

Hackensack is a minority majority City. Approximately 75.1 percent of Hackensack’s residents identify as a racial or ethnic minority. Hackensack’s resident diversity stands out when compared to the County overall (43.4 percent racial/ethnic minority) and the State (44.6 percent racial/ethnic minority). Hackensack also has a high concentration of Hispanic or Latino residents. Almost 40 percent (39.7%) of the City’s residents identify as ethnically Hispanic or Latino. This is nearly twice the percentage of County (19.9%) and State (20.2%) residents who identify as ethnically Hispanic or Latino. Table 4 below details the racial and ethnic composition of Hackensack’s residents.

Table 4: City of Hackensack Race and Ethnicity

	Hackensack Population	Hackensack Percent	Bergen Percent	New Jersey Percent
White	22,104	49.9%	71.6	67.8%
Black/African American	11,280	25.1%	6.0	13.5%
Asian	4,675	10.5%	16.3	9.5%
American Indian or Pacific Islander	131	0.3%	0.2	0.2%
Some other race	4,456	10.0%	3.2	6.3%
Two or more races	1,487	3.4%	2.7	2.7%
Hispanic or Latino	17,600	39.7%	19.9	20.2%
Non-Hispanic White	11,108	24.9%	56.6	55.4%

Source: American Community Survey, 2015-2019

Hackensack has ten census tracts, four of which have a population greater than 5,000. The project team reviewed census tract data for the purpose of determining geographic distribution of public spaces (See Map 2). At 0.5 square miles, Census tract 232 is the most populous with 6,489 persons and 3,231 households (U.S. Census Bureau (2019)). Located south of NJ Route 4 and north of Passaic Street between Louis Street and the NJ Transit rail line, it is also very dense (12,835.3 persons per square mile)¹. The majority of residents (70%) are between the ages 18 and 64. Of the remainder, 14% are under the age of 18 and 15% are aged 65 or older. Sixty-two percent of children between 5 years and 17 years and 31 percent of adults 18 and over speak Spanish at home (U.S. Census Bureau (2019)). Baldwin Park and Firefighters Memorial are both located in Census tract 232. Census tract 232 has a total of 2.79 acres of preserved open space.

With 5,899 persons, 2,429 households, and measuring 0.6 square miles, census tract 234.02 is the City's second most populous tract. It is located mostly south of Essex Street and north of West Pleasant View/I-80 between the NJ Transit rail line and the border with Lodi. Most residents (69%) are between the ages of 18 and 64. Of the remainder, 16% are under the age of 18 and 15% are aged 65 or older. Twenty-one percent of children between 5 and 17 years and 31 percent of adults 18 years and over speak Spanish at home. Mary Street Park, Rowland Avenue Park, and Second Ward Park are all located in census tract 234.02. Census tract 234.02 has a total of 4.77 acres of preserved open space.

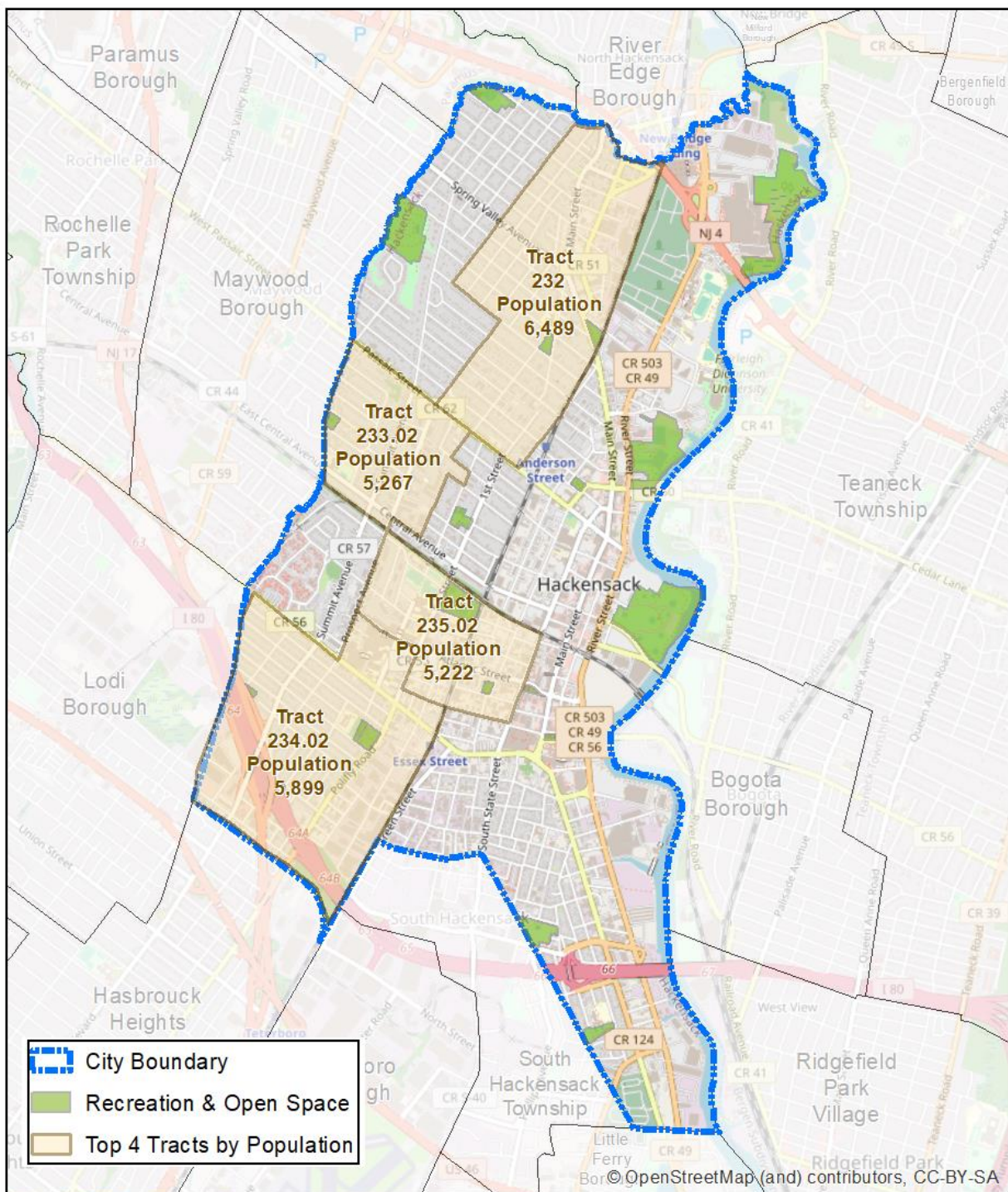
Measuring 0.2 square miles with a population of 5,267, census tract 233.02 is the City's third most populous tract. At 23,306.9 persons per square mile, it is almost twice as dense as census tract 232. It is located south of Passaic Street and north of Central Avenue between the 3rd Avenue and the City's

¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2019). *American Community Survey 5-year estimates*. Retrieved from *Census Reporter Profile page for Census Tract 232, Bergen, NJ* <<https://censusreporter.org/profiles/14000US34003023200-census-tract-232-bergen-nj/>>

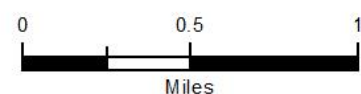
border with Maywood. Most residents (70%) are between the ages of 18 and 64. Of the remainder, 12% are under the age of 18 and 18% are seniors aged 65 and older. Thirteen percent of children between 5 and 17 years and 12 percent of adults 18 years and over speak Spanish at home. There are no preserved open space/parks located in this census tract. The closest park is Carver Park.

Rounding out the City's list of most populated census tracts is census tract 235.02 with 5,222 persons and 2,225 households. At 0.2 square miles and a population density of 22,461.3 per square mile, the tract is almost twice as dense as tract 232, the most populous tract in the City. The tract is located south of the New York, Susquehanna and Western rail line between State Street on the east and Prospect Avenue to the west. Sussex Street and Atlantic Street form its southern edges. Most residents (68%) are between the ages of 18 and 64. Of the remaining, 20 percent are under 18 years old, and 12 percent are senior citizens aged 65 and over. Fifty-seven percent of children between 5 and 17 years and 43 percent of adults 18 years and over speak Spanish at home. Open space and recreation areas in this tract are limited to Union Street Park and the high school recreation fields. Tables 5 and 6 describe the household and age characteristics of the remaining census tracts.

Map 2. Hackensack City – Most Populous Census Tracts and Proximity to Open Space



Date Prepared: 12/2/2021



Data Sources: NJGIS, NJDCA, NJDEP, City of Hackensack

Table 5: Household Characteristics by Census Tract

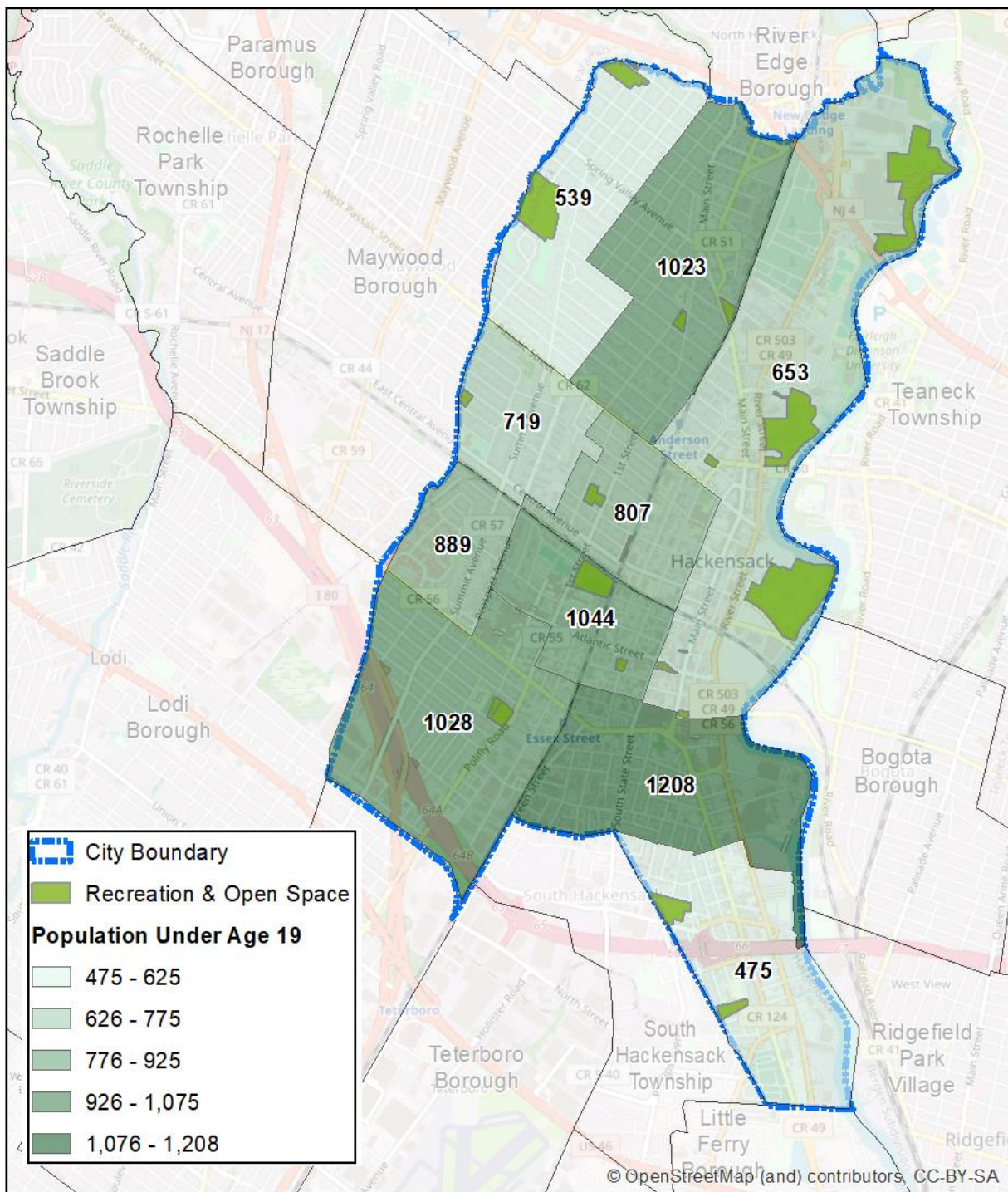
Census Tract (area in square miles (sq. mi))	Total households	Family households	Nonfamily households	Households w/individuals under 18 years	Households w/individuals 65 years and over	Average household size	Average family size
231 (1 sq. mi)	1,575	699	876	341	268	2.13	3.06
232 (0.5 sq. mi)	3,231	1,706	1,525	632	756	2.00	2.66
233.01 (0.4 sq. mi)	1,004	718	286	301	351	2.73	3.18
233.02 (0.2 sq. mi)	2,821	1,072	1,749	453	778	1.86	2.81
234.01 (0.2 sq. mi)	1,753	951	802	518	458	2.17	2.93
234.02 (0.6 sq. mi)	2,429	1,242	1,187	613	669	2.37	3.24
235.01 (0.2 sq. mi)	1,344	766	578	356	350	2.60	3.32
235.02 (0.2 sq. mi)	2,225	1,212	1,013	779	552	2.35	3.18
236.01 (0.4 sq. mi)	1,278	751	527	297	334	2.24	2.87
236.02 (0.4 sq. mi)	1,420	862	558	579	383	2.94	3.76
Hackensack City	19,080	9,979	9,101	4,869	4,899	2.26	3.06

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019

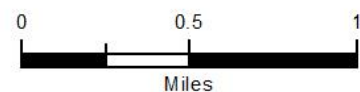
Age Characteristics by Census Tract

As previously noted approximately 18 percent of Hackensack's population is composed of school age children. When looking across census tracts, only four have a population greater than 1,000 (See Map 3). Census tract 236.02 has the highest youth population with 1,208 individuals age 19 and under. There are no preserved open space/parks located in this census tract. The closest park is the Green, which is a passive park. Census tracts 235.02 and 234.02, both of which are adjacent to tract 236.02, have the second highest (1,044) and third highest (1,028) youth population. Census tract 232 has the fourth largest youth population at 1,023. Although the high school athletic fields are located in census tract 235.02, only one municipally owned park, Union Street Park, is located there. There is no preserved open space and there are no parks located in census tract 234.01, which has 889 people aged 19 and under and is adjacent to the census tracts with the second and third largest youth population in the City. Census tract 233.02 has one municipally owned park, the Esplanade, which is a passive park. Areas with large youth populations require park spaces with active recreation uses and amenities that correspond with the size of the population. Accordingly, there is a shortage of neighborhood parks in census tract 236.02, census tract 234.01, and Census tract 233.02. Table 6 provides additional details on the age characteristics of the remaining census tracts.

Map 3. Hackensack City – Youth Population by Tract and Proximity to Open Space



Date Prepared: 12/2/2021



Data Sources: NJGIS, NJDCA, NJDEP, City of Hackensack

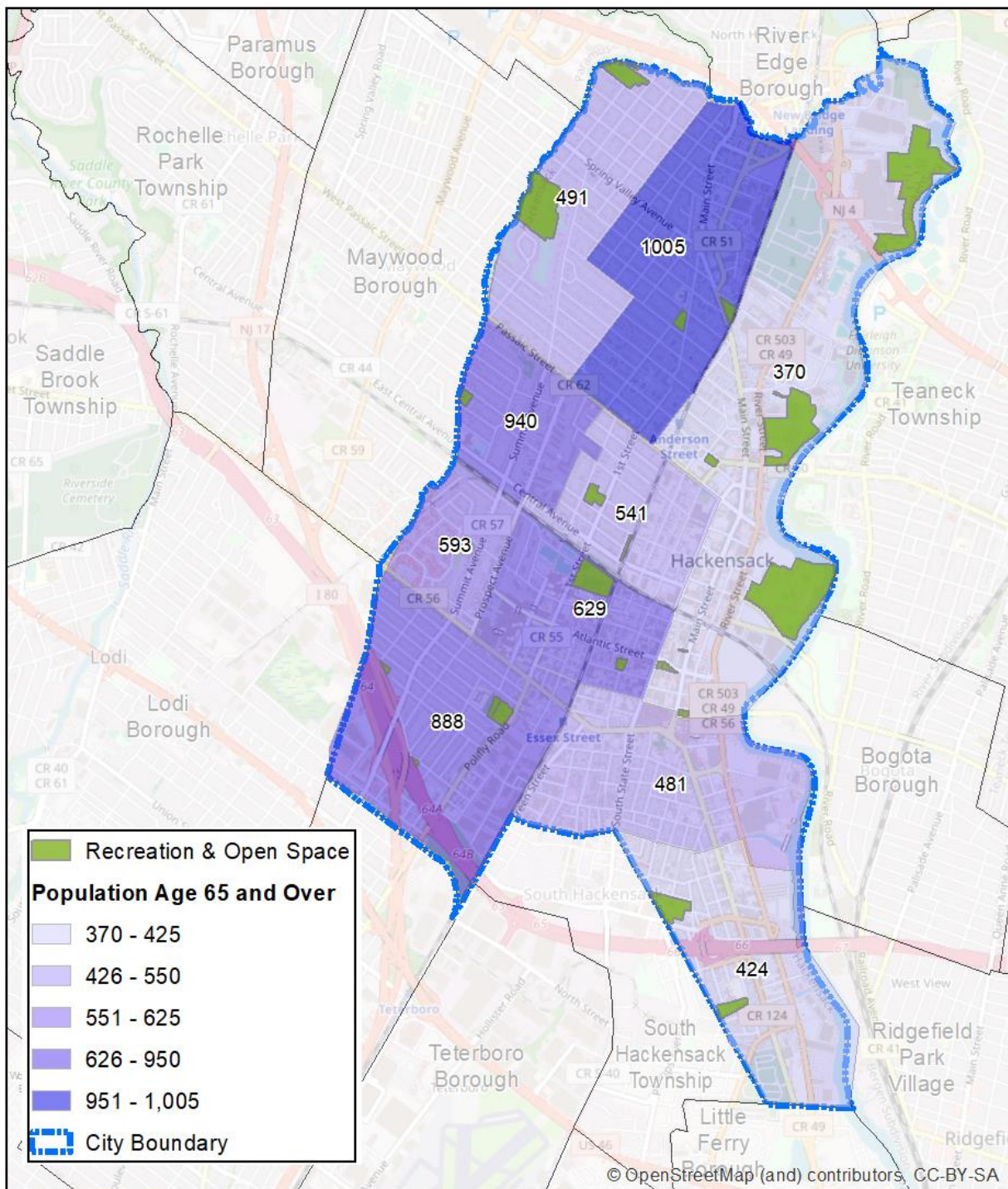
Table 6: Age Characteristics by Census Tract

Census Tract	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 19 years	20 to 34 years	35 to 49 years	50 to 64 years	65 and over	Total Persons	Median Age
231	178	120	355	1,383	593	454	370	3,453	33.2
232	394	268	361	1,692	1,183	1,586	1,005	6,489	40.7
233.01	252	102	185	436	642	642	491	2,750	45.2
233.02	216	304	199	1,357	1,111	1,140	940	5,267	42.1
234.01	349	315	225	831	757	726	593	3,796	35.9
234.02	280	236	512	1,726	1,014	1,243	888	5,899	39.2
235.01	131	293	383	736	798	828	541	3,710	40.7
235.02	639	179	226	1,484	1,380	685	629	5,222	35.4
236.01	226	52	197	803	593	573	424	2,868	38.4
236.02	324	373	511	1,276	1,288	632	481	4,885	34.6
Hackensack City	2,989	2,242	3,154	11,724	9,359	8,509	6,362	44,339	38.1

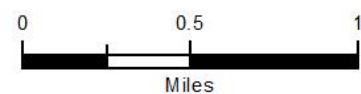
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019

Approximately 14.3 percent of Hackensack's population is composed of residents 65 years old and older. With a senior population of 1,005, Census tract 232 has the highest 65 and over population and is the only tract with a senior population greater than 1,000 (See Map 4). As previously noted, Baldwin Park and Firefighters Memorial Park are the only two parks located in this census tract. Firefighters Memorial Park is a passive park, while Baldwin Park provides active features. Census tracts 233.02 and 234.02, have the second highest (940) and third highest (888) senior population. Census tract 235.02 has the fourth largest senior population at 629. Areas with large senior populations require park spaces with passive recreation uses and amenities that correspond with the size of the population.

Map 4. Hackensack City – Senior Population and Proximity to Open Space



Date Prepared: 12/2/2021



Data Sources: NJGIS, NJDCA, NJDEP, City of Hackensack

Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

City-owned and County-owned Parks

According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Green Acres Program's website, municipalities are required to prepare a Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) as a condition of applying for and receiving Green Acres funding. Lands listed on a ROSI include those controlled by the municipality or County and may include land owned fee-simple, land leased by the municipality for recreation purposes, land owned by a private entity upon which the municipality holds a conservation easement, or any land in which the municipality holds a specific recreation and/or conservation interest. As of June 2021, a total of 25 Hackensack City-owned and five Bergen County-owned parcels were listed or pending on the NJDEP Green Acres Program's ROSI. These parcels represent a total of 21 parks, including one regional park, two community parks, eight neighborhood parks, seven mini/pocket parks, one school park, one special use park, and one natural resource area consisting of a combined total of approximately 138.7 acres of land within Hackensack. In addition to the 21 parks listed or pending on the ROSI, the City owns four special use indoor recreation facilities, one tot lot, and one special use park that are not part of the ROSI. Including the 0.34 miles of trails completed on the Hackensack River Walk, the City has close to 142 acres of land preserved and/or dedicated to open space, parks, and recreation facilities. Table 7 provides a description of park classifications found in Hackensack.

Table 7: Classification of Open Space, Parks, and Recreation Facilities in Hackensack.²

Park Type	Classification Description	Service Area	Typical Size
Mini/Pocket Park	Serve limited recreation needs of a service area within walking distance of park. Benefits include the ability to provide small recreation facilities to concentrated/limited populations, to isolated areas, to neighborhoods with limited vacant land, as a complement to shopping district /commercial area, etc. Primarily used for active recreation, but can also serve passive recreational opportunities, e.g. picnic areas and gazebos.	¼ mile	< 1 acre
Neighborhood Park (small)	Serves as the recreational, active and passive, and social focus of the neighborhood. Primarily designed to serve households with school age children.	½ mile unobstructed by barriers	1-5 acres
Neighborhood Park (traditional)	Provide active and passive recreation activities at the service of residential neighborhoods within a half mile radius of park site. The traditional neighborhood park has additional features of interest for teenagers and adults due to its larger size.	½ mile unobstructed by barriers	5-10 acres

² (Mertes 1996)

Park Type	Classification Description	Service Area	Typical Size
School-Park	Provides municipalities an efficient and cost-effective way to expand recreational opportunities to the public. School parks can serve the needs of a residential neighborhood or an entire community depending on whether it is located at an elementary/middle school (neighborhood) or high school (community). School parks rely on shared services/joint use agreements between school districts and municipal park departments for managed public access to school recreation facilities.	½ mile to 3 miles depending on school/park type	Varies depending on school type and park type
Community Park	The purpose of a community park is to meet community-based, active, structured recreation needs and to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. They are designed for organized activities and sports, although individual and group activities are also encouraged. These parks require more support facilities such as parking and restrooms.	1 to 2 miles	10-50 acres depending on community
Regional Park	Regional Parks serve the needs of a community and the region beyond the community. Regional parks are the largest park type. They are primarily used for passive recreation to protect natural features and/or environmentally sensitive lands.	County	Greater than 50 acres*
Natural Resource Area	This category includes areas intended to provide aesthetic relief and physical buffers from the impacts of urban development, and to offer access to natural areas for urban residents. These areas may also preserve significant natural resources, native landscapes, and open spaces. Furthermore, natural areas may serve one or several specific purposes such as trails and waterfront access.	County	Varies
Greenways	Greenways serve several important functions. They tie park components together to form a cohesive park, recreation, and open space system. They emphasize harmony with the natural environment. Greenways allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community. They provide people with a resource-based outdoor recreational opportunity and experience.	County	Minimum 50 feet Width
Special Use	Facilities serving one or more specific purposes, such as: Cultural Facilities – unique resources offering historical, educational, visual/performance art (i.e. museums, theaters, etc.); Indoor Facilities – geared toward indoor uses (recreation /community centers, teen/senior centers, aquatic centers, etc.); Unique Sites – Typically single use parks that are smaller than a regional park and do not have park amenities (i.e., arboretums, cemeteries, plazas).	Citywide	Varies
*This is subject to municipal conditions. In Hackensack, the largest park, Hackensack River County Park, is 34.05 acres.			

Tables 8 and 9 include the name, location, type, size, usage and major amenities of the outdoor parks and indoor recreational facilities presently located in Hackensack.

Table 8: City/County Parks and Open Space Facilities List

Rank (size)	Park Name	Location		Park Type	Usage/Amenities	Size (Acres)
		Block	Lot			
County Parks						
1	Hackensack River County Park	390 Hackensack Ave		Regional Park	Passive Hiking Trails, Fishing Dock, Canoe & Kayak Launch	34.05
		504.02	8			
		504.02	17			
2	Borg’s Woods Nature Preserve	Allen Street & Fairmount Ave		Natural Resource Area	Passive Natural Area, Hiking Trails	15.03
		604	10.02			
		604	14.01			
		604	14.04			
County ROSI Subtotal						49.07
City Parks						
1	Foschini Park	55 Camden St		Community Park	Active & Passive Baseball & Softball Fields, Fieldhouse/Concession Stand, Playgrounds, Picnic Tables & Grills, Trail, Canoe & Kayak Launch, Storage House, Restrooms, Parking Lots.	33.76
		308.02	38			
		402.01	24			
2	Johnson Park	490 River St		Community Park	Active & Passive Tennis Courts, Volleyball Courts, Fieldhouse/Concession Stand, Turf & Grass Soccer Fields, Playground, Community Garden & Greenhouse, Walking Trail, Restrooms, Parking Lot	21.4
		404	1			
		500	98			
3	Hackensack High School Athletic Field	200 Beech St		School Park	Active Multipurpose Baseball/Football/Track Field	7.57
		231	1			
4	Columbus Park	71 W Franklin St		Neighborhood Park (traditional)	Active Softball/Cricket Field, Basketball Court, Tennis Courts, Bocce Courts, Street Hockey /Roller- Skating Rink, Gazebo Shelter, Playground, Public Art, Walking Trail, Restrooms, Bike Racks, Parking Lot	5.78
		36.01	13			

Rank (size)	Park Name	Location		Park Type	Usage/Amenities	Size (Acres)
		Block	Lot			
5	Staib Park	177 Coles Ave		Neighborhood Park (traditional)	Active Playground, Basketball Court, Softball Field, Restroom, Parking Lot	5.6
		612	5			
		620	2			
6	Second Ward Park (Polifly Road Park)	59 Polifly Rd		Neighborhood Park (small)	Active Splash Pad, Playground, Gazebo Shelter, Picnic Tables, Fire Pit, Tennis Courts, Basketball Court, Outdoor Gym, Walking Trail, Restrooms, Bike Racks	4.39
		125	16			
		125	17.01			
		130	15			
7	Carver Park	294 Second St		Neighborhood Park (small)	Active Playground, Splash Pad, Community Center, Walking Trail, Basketball Courts, Handball Court, Picnic Tables, Restrooms, Parking Lot	2.42
		334	4			
8	Pulaski Park	439 Washington Ave		Neighborhood Park (small)	Active Basketball Court, Playground, Walking Trail, Open Lawn	2.28
		18	33			
9	Firefighters Memorial Park (Fairmount Park)	660 Main St		Neighborhood Park (small)	Passive Open Lawn, Public Art, Concession Stand, Picnic Tables	1.46
		520	1			
10	Baldwin Park	85 Grand Ave		Neighborhood Park (small)	Active Playground, Basketball /Futsal Court, Baseball/Softball Field, Picnic Tables, Walking Trail, Porter Potties	1.36
		545.01	1			
		545	60			
11	The Esplanade Park	320 Esplanade		Neighborhood Park (small)	Passive Open Lawn, Walking Trail, Gazebo Shelter	1.12
		352	86			
12	Anderson Street Park	47 Anderson St		Mini/Pocket Park	Passive Water Fountain, Walking Trail, Bike Racks	0.79
		400	1			
13	Union Street Park	97 Union St		Mini/Pocket Park	Active Playground, Basketball Court, Picnic Tables, Public Art, Bike Racks	0.77
		220	3			
14	Railroad Avenue Park*	251 West Railroad Ave		Mini/Pocket Park	Active Tot Lot	0.60
		356	1			
15	The Green	40 Main St		Mini/Pocket Park	Passive Public Art, Historic Feature, Landscape Garden, Open Lawn, Walking Trail, Porter Potty	0.51
		200	1			

Rank (size)	Park Name	Location		Park Type	Usage/Amenities	Size (Acres)
		Block	Lot			
16	Atlantic Street Park	35 Atlantic St		Mini/Pocket Park	Passive Outdoor Performance Stage, Open Lawn Walking Trail, Bike Racks	0.40
		210.02	2			
17	Hackensack River Walkway*	Hackensack Riverbank		Greenway	Passive Walking Trail, Scenic View	0.34
18	Veterans Park*	188 Hudson St		Special Use	Passive Historic Feature, Open Lawn, Landscape Garden	0.30
		39.03	17			
19	Rowland Ave Park	90 Rowland Avenue		Mini/Pocket Park	Active Basketball Court, Playground, Walking Trail, Picnic Table	0.24
		144	2.02			
20	Main Street Park	15 Main St		Mini/Pocket Park	Passive Water Fountain, Display Garden	0.23
		207	1			
21	Downtown Walkway (Demarest Place)	On or around 131 Main St		Special Use	Passive Performance Space, Public Art, Walking Trail	0.20
		210.01	1			
22	Mary Street Park	295 Mary St		Mini/Pocket Park	Active Tot Lot, Picnic Table, Parking Lot	0.14
		113.04	31			
City ROSI Subtotal						89.64
ROSI Total						138.71
Non-ROSI Total						3.26
Total						141.97

*Property not included on the ROSI

Source: NJDEP, Division of Taxation MOD IV data

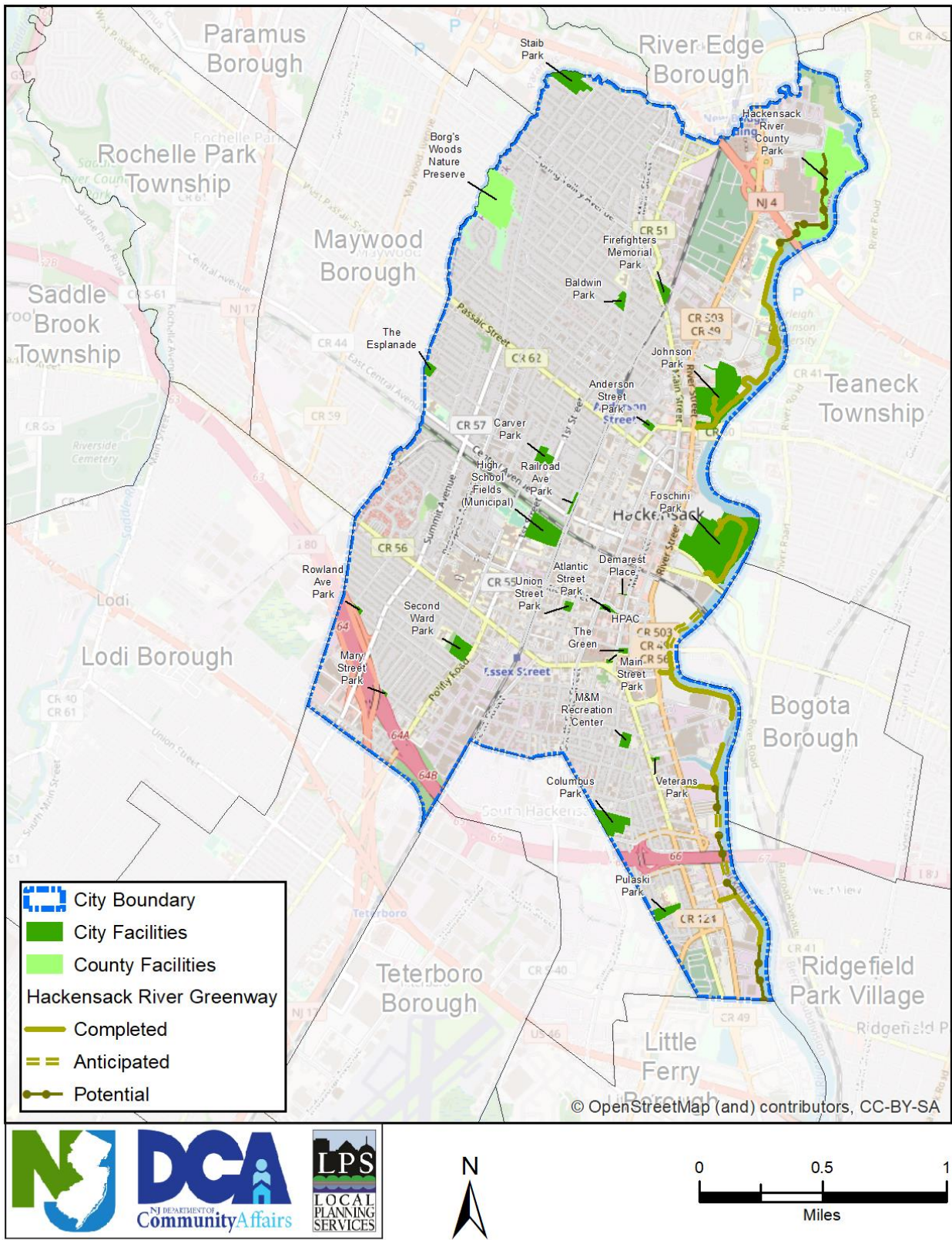
Table 9: City Indoor Recreation Facilities List

Rank (size)	Facility	Location	Park Type	Major Amenities	Size (Square Feet)
1	Mellone-Mariniello Recreation Center*	116 Holt St	Special Use	400-Seat Basketball Arena, Basketball Court, Senior Center, Game Room, Multipurpose Rooms, Kitchen, offices, Parking Lot	67,082
2	Hackensack Performing Arts Center*	104 State St	Special Use	224-Seat Theater, 47-Foot Performance Stage, Art Gallery, Parking Garage	11,761
3	Cultural Art Center*	39 Broadway	Special Use	115-Seat Theater, Multipurpose Rooms	5,619
4	Hackensack Civic Center*	215 State St	Special Use	Conference/Meeting Rooms, Multipurpose Rooms, Parking Lot	3,485
Total					87,947

*Property not included on the ROSI

The LPS project team conducted an open space and parks audit of all 21 (two county-owned and 19 municipally owned) parks that are listed on Hackensack's ROSI, as well as the remaining parks, open space and recreational facilities not currently listed (26 total). During three separate site visits in the summer and fall, the LPS project team observed the characteristics of each park such as type of activities, condition, access, amenities, location, landscaping, and number of users. The information collected during these site visits was compiled and used as the basis for identifying existing recreational facilities and amenities (See Map 5) and the Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Challenges (SWOC) analysis found in the Needs Analysis section of this document.

Map 5. Hackensack Open Space and Recreation Facilities



Date Prepared: 12/3/2021

Data Sources: NJGIS, NJDCA, NJDEP, ParkServe, City of Hackensack

Other Parks and Recreation Facilities

Board of Education Facilities

The Board of Education of Hackensack governs the Hackensack school district and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of six public schools serving pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) through 12th grade. Of the six schools four of them are elementary schools (Pre-K to grades 4): Fairmount Elementary School, Fanny Meyer Hillers Elementary School, Jackson Avenue Elementary School, and Nellie K. Parker Elementary School. The other two schools are the Hackensack Middle School (grades 5-8) and the Hackensack High School (grades 9-12). The school district also maintains an Early Childhood Developmental Center that provides tuition free preschool education to about 200 four-year-old residents of Hackensack. As described below, all six district schools have outdoor open space and/or recreational facilities. Table 10 list the total number of students enrolled at each school along with the acreage of open space available at each school.

Table 10: Open Space Facilities at Hackensack Board of Education Schools

Name	Grades	Total Students (2019-2020)	Open Space (acres)
Fairmount Elementary School	PreK-04	621	0.25
Fanny Meyer Hillers Elementary School*	PreK-04	576	1.83
Jackson Avenue Elementary School	PreK-04	441	2.33
Nellie K Parker Elementary School	PreK-04	529	2.17
Hackensack Middle School	05-08	1,560	0.623
Hackensack High School*	09-12	1,882	12.93
School District Total		5,609	20.13

*Open space facilities at both the Fanny Meyer Hillers Elementary School (1.83 acres) and the Hackensack High School (7.57 acres) are listed on the NJDEP ROSI.

Source: New Jersey Department of Education, NJ Map

Fairmount Elementary School

The Fairmount Elementary School is located on 1.86 acres at 105 Grand Avenue between Poplar Avenue and Fairmount Avenue. Although it was originally built in 1909, it has an ADA accessible school playground that is open to the larger community after school hours. Features of the field include, castle cubby house, rock wall, slides, swings, and an open hard surface area for free/creative play. The City does not currently have a joint use lease agreement with the Board of Education for community access to the school's outdoor recreational facilities.



Fanny Meyer Hillers Elementary School



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

The Fanny Meyer Hillers Elementary School is located at 56 Longview Avenue between Sutton Avenue and Park Avenue. Built in 1927, the school sits on 3.6 acres and is adjacent to 2nd Ward Park. As such, it does not have its own separate playground, although it has an enclosed hard surface play area that is fenced in from the park. 1.83 acres of the school property makes up a section of 2nd Ward Park. That section is mostly hilly, and tree covered. There is a pedestrian trail that connects the school to the park. The City does not currently have a joint use lease agreement with the

Board of Education for community access to this school's open space/outdoor recreational facilities and is in the process of so doing in order to add the combined school parcels to the ROSI

Jackson Avenue Elementary School

Built in 1923, the Jackson Avenue Elementary School is located on a 2.6-acre parcel at 421 Jackson Avenue. The field fronts on Washington Avenue and is backed by the school building and employee parking on Williams Avenue. The field is surrounded by fencing and the school building itself. Features of the field include a playground, a gazebo, a walking path, and an open field for free/creative play. Pulaski Park is adjacent to the Jackson School field on its southern border. The school field and Pulaski Park appear to be one park, but they are actually two separate properties separated by fencing. Even though the Jackson Avenue School field is open to the larger community during off-school hours, the City does not currently have a joint use lease agreement with the Board of Education for community access to the school's outdoor recreational facilities.



Nellie K Parker Elementary School

Built in 1974, the Nellie K Parker Elementary School is located on 3.83 acres at 261 Maple Hill Drive between Central Avenue and Club Way. Features of the field include a playground, a basketball court, a walking path, and an open lawn for passive recreation and/or creative play. There is on-site parking in front of the school building. The school is two blocks south of Esplanade Park and is accessible by foot via the City's sidewalk network. However, there are no bike racks or other bicycle facilities. The school field is currently designated for school use only. Possible joint use facility with lease agreement with the City

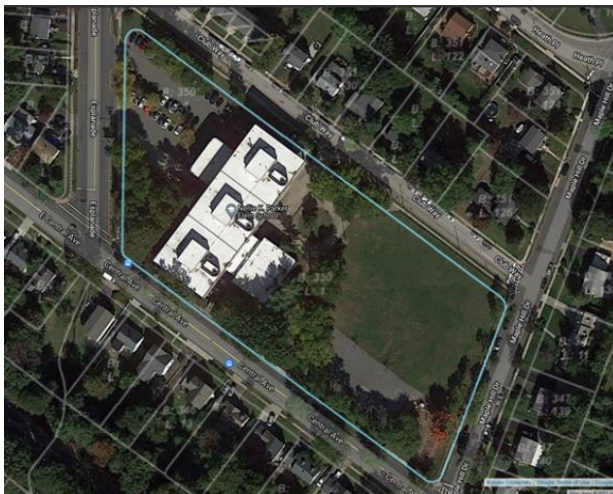


Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Hackensack Middle School

Built in 1912, the Hackensack Middle School is located on 4.97 acres at 360 Union Street. The school has a 27,135-square foot multipurpose turf field that is used for physical education classes and team practices during school hours. Features include a soccer field with soccer barrier netting, fencing, and on-site parking. During off hours, the field is available for the larger community to use the rest of the week. However, the City does not have a joint use lease agreement with the Board of Education for use of this field by City residents.



Photo courtesy of DMR Architects.

Hackensack High School



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Built in 1918, the Hackensack High School is located on approximately 22.62 acres at 200 Beech Street. The school fronts on both sides of 1st Avenue between Beech Street and Central Avenue. The City has a joint use lease agreement for public usage of the school's 7.57-acre athletic field. Features of the athletic field include, a multipurpose football/baseball field with bleachers, and a running track, two multipurpose baseball/soccer fields, and five tennis courts. The Fields are fenced off and are restricted for use by high school students only when school is in session.

Bergen County Technical School District

The Board of Education of the Vocational Schools in Bergen County governs the Bergen County Technical School District, which has a campus located in Hackensack, i.e. Bergen County Academies. The other campus locations are in Bergenfield, Paramus and Teterboro. Bergen County Academies enrolls students entering grades 9 through 12. As of the 2019-2020 school year, Bergen Academies had a total of 1,086 students enrolled in all four grade levels. As described further below, Bergen County Academies have an estimated 11 acres of outdoor open space and/or recreational facilities.

Bergen County Academies Athletic Facilities

The Bergen County Academies campus is located at 200 Hackensack Avenue. The athletic fields comprise 11 acres of the larger 24-acre Campus. Features include a multipurpose baseball/soccer field, a football/track and field/soccer field, climbing tower, and on-site parking. Indoor facilities include a full-size gymnasium and fitness center. The Fields are fenced off and are restricted for use by Bergen County Academies school students only. A segment of the Hackensack River Walk runs along the eastern border of the school.



Private Recreational Facilities

Ice House

The Ice House, a 75,000 square feet recreational facility, located at 111 Midtown Bridge Approach across from Foschini Park. The facility has four regulation size hockey rinks each with viewing areas. It is one of the largest skating and training facility on the East Coast, and its main arena has seating for over 1,200 spectators. In addition to figure skating, ice hockey, and public sessions, patrons of the Ice House will find the following services and/or amenities available: a fitness center, a full-service hockey and skating professional shop, a full-service food court, party rooms, and meeting rooms. Recreational offerings include children and adult hockey leagues, figure skating lessons and tournaments, and public skating.



Photo courtesy of the Ice House.

Bowler City Lanes

Bowler City Lanes is located adjacent to the Ice House on the Midtown Bridge Approach across from Foschini Park. Bowler City Lanes contains 50 lanes with automatic scoring and bumpers. Patrons will find the following services and/or amenities available: birthday party room, sports bar, meeting rooms, billiard tables, arcade games, full-service



Photo courtesy of Bowler City Lanes.

pro shop, vending machines, and off-street parking among others.

YMCA of Greater Bergen County



Photo courtesy of YMCA of Greater Bergen County.

The YMCA of Greater Bergen County is a 29,002 square feet (1.7 acres) recreation facility located on 360 Main Street between Passaic Street and Ward Street. Patrons will find the following services and/or amenities available: childcare; after-school care; summer day camps and resident camp; wellness center with cardio/weight equipment; pool; basketball courts; wellness classes for all ages; swimming lessons for all ages; sports programs; art & dance classes; teen programs; family time programs; and swim team.

Boys and Girls Club of Lodi and Hackensack



Photo courtesy of Michael Walker, 2019 Google Image.

The Boys and Girls Club of Lodi and Hackensack is headquartered in Lodi and has a Hackensack location at 170B Sussex Street between Railroad Avenue and Newman Street. Patrons will find the following services and/or amenities available: after-school care; summer day camps; indoor basketball courts; aquatics and swimming lessons for all ages; outdoor playground; and youth development/teen programs.

Farleigh Dickinson University Athletic Fields



Farleigh Dickinson athletic field is located at Kotte Place along the Hackensack River. The field and adjoining parking lot consist of 4.8 acres and is part of the larger Farleigh Dickinson University campus, located across the river in Teaneck. Features include baseball field, seating, public art, walking trail with pedestrian bridge, and parking. A basketball arena, the Rothman Center, is located adjacent to the fields.

Potential Open Space

In addition to the existing parks and open space facilities, this report identifies potential parcels of land that the City may consider acquiring and/or preserving for open space. This list includes vacant private land, undeveloped public properties, board of education properties, and religious and/or charitable properties (see Table 11).

Table 11: Potential Open Space Inventory

Owner	Block	Lot	Location	Property Class	Acres	Assessed Value	Taxes
Board of Education	234.03	19	First Street & Second St	1	0.46	\$224,000	\$0.00
City of Hackensack	ROW	ROW	Prospect Ave, Hamilton Pl, Franklin Pl Triangle	1	0.07	N/A	N/A
City of Hackensack	207	1	15 Main St	15C	0.23	\$379,100	\$0.00
City of Hackensack	621.A	1	1000 Main St	15C	0.15	\$54,900	\$0.00
52 Madison Street LLC	534	8	52-56 Madison St	4C	0.26	\$1,116,400	\$36,744.36
236 Johnson Ave LLC	532.01	12	236 Johnson Ave	2	0.18	\$276,500	\$8,953.07

Owner	Block	Lot	Location	Property Class	Acres	Assessed Value	Taxes
Bergen Passaic LTACH C/O BRACH	344	14	329 Prospect Ave	1	0.46	\$205,700	\$6,905.35
Bergen Passaic LTACH C/O BRACH	344	3	316 Summit Avenue	1	0.23	\$181,900	\$6,106.38
Bergen Passaic LTACH C/O BRACH	344	4	320 Summit Avenue	1	0.23	\$191,500	\$6,428.66
Bergen Passaic LTACH C/O BRACH	344	5	324 Summit Avenue	1	0.23	\$181,900	\$6,106.38
Gabbay Realty, LLC*	241	1.01	128 Summit Avenue	4A	0.38	\$453,900	\$15,237.42
Hekemian Group	248	13	84 Cambridge Terr	1	0.24	\$195,800	\$6,479.02
Hekemian Group	248	14	90 Cambridge Terr	1	0.23	\$194,600	\$6,439.31
Hekemian Group	248	15	100 Cambridge Terr	1	0.33	\$205,400	\$6,796.69
Hekemian Group	248	16	Beech St	1	0.35	\$208,000	\$6,882.72
Hekemian Group	248	17	Summit Ave & Beech St	1	0.27	\$191,400	\$6,333.43
Hekemian Group	248	18	107 Summit Ave	1	0.22	\$191,400	\$6,333.43
K-Land No. 67, LLC	30.02	8.01	240 So River St	1	2.9	\$1,624,500	\$53,754.71
K-Land No. 67, LLC	30.02	8.02	236-64 So River St	1	1.05	\$630,000	20,846.00
LukOil ** (rear)	504.01	5.03	27 E NJ Route 4	4A	1.5	\$1,500,000	\$50,355
Milpau Family, LLC	580	1	So. Lake Dr	1	2.3	\$61,700	\$2,088.76

Owner	Block	Lot	Location	Property Class	Acres	Assessed Value	Taxes
Ridge Bergen Properties LLC.	531.02	10	216 Johnson Avenue	2	0.12	216,000	\$7,651.95
Several	532	10	228 Johnson Avenue	2	0.08	\$270,700	\$8,765
C. D. Land Corp.	39.04	2	22 E Lafayette St	1	0.44	\$300,000	\$9,927
Property Observer LLC	442	23	308 Anderson St	1	0.3	\$193,500	\$6,402
Selman Properties, LP	2.02	2.02	558 So. River St	1	1.5	\$787,300	\$26,429
Rosemary S Truchelut, & Est J. Scugoza	519	53	7 Fairmount Ave	1	0.3	\$342,000	\$11,317
Alfred Sanzari	66	26 to 30, 38, 41 & 43	18-24 Fair St	1	1.8	\$2,528,200	\$60,644
Industrialand Assoc NAI Hanson	504.02	14.13	Commerce Way	1	2.2	\$100,900	\$3,339
Boomarez, LLC	2.01	5.08	514 Hudson St	1	0.5	\$255,000	\$8,703
Stony Edge LLC	113.03	25	220 Hopper St.	1	0.3	\$167,900	\$5,556
Sears, Roebuck & Co.	404	2	450-460 River St	4A	1.0	\$305,900	\$10,122

Sources: NJDEP, Division of Taxation MOD IV data

*0.21 acres of property is a vacant yard.

**Easement needed in rear of property to connect the River Walk Trail.

Existing Recreation Programs

The Hackensack Recreation Department provides a range of programs and activities that contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of all ages. Because of the diverse recreation programming provided by the City's Recreation Department, the community has opportunities to move, learn, create, and connect. The Department's programs serve preschoolers, youth, adults, active-adults, and seniors. Department programs are designed to meet varied community interests, including health and fitness, the arts such as painting and dance, athletics, camps, gardening, and other special interest classes. Most classes are offered by the City and partner organizations primarily at the Civic Center and M&M Recreation Center. However, numerous programs, classes and activities are offered in multiple locations annually. Throughout the year special events are scheduled including magic shows, parties, and other recreational activities. The Recreation Department prepares a flyer for each season, which includes the fees and times of the programs. The following lists the programs offered through Hackensack's Recreation Department.

Jr. Sport Programs

The following Jr. Sport programs are offered to children who live in Hackensack. Costs for each sport vary.

Table 12: Pre-K to 12 Grade Youth Programs

Program	Seasons Offered	Age Group Targeted	Location
Baseball/Softball	Spring	7-14	Foschini Park
Basketball (Indoor)	Winter/Spring	5-14	Hackensack Middle & High School Gyms
Basketball (outdoor)	Spring	9-14	Carver Park
Cheerleading	Fall/Winter	6-14	M&M Recreation Center
Flag Football	Summer	5-14	Foschini Park
Football	Summer	7-14	Foschini Park
Girls Soccer	Summer	7-14	Johnson Park
Field Hockey (Indoor)	Winter	5-8	M&M Recreation Center
Karate	Fall, Winter, Spring	7-13	Shotokan Karate
Open Gym	Summer	10-17	M&M Recreation Center
Open Swim	Winter/Spring	All	Hackensack High School
Soccer	Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall	5-18	Johnson Park
Summer Camp: Adventure	Summer	10-15	Columbus Park
Summer Camp: Extended Day	Summer	5-10	Foschini Park
Summer Camp: Playground	Summer	5-11	Baldwin, Polifly, & Staib Parks
Summer Camp: Theater Arts	Summer	12-15	Hackensack High School
Tee Ball	Spring	5-6	Foschini Park
Tennis	Spring	8-17	Johnson Park
Track & Field (Indoor)	Winter	8-14	Hackensack High School
Track & Field (outdoor)	Spring	8-14	Hackensack High School
Volleyball	Spring	9-14	Hackensack Middle School
Wrestling	Winter	7-14	Hackensack High School Gym

Special Events and Programs

The following events and programs are offered throughout the year by the Recreational Department.

Program	When Offered	Targeted Population	Location
Hackensack Day at FDU	January	All	Rothman Center
Easter Egg Hunt	March/April	Families with children ages 1-10	Staib Park
Arbor Day Celebration	April	All	Firefighters Memorial Park

Program	When Offered	Targeted Population	Location
Kids Dance/Zumba Kids	May/June	Children ages 5-8	M&M Recreation Center
Memorial Day Wreath Laying Ceremony	May	All	Veterans Park
Juneteenth Festival	June	All	Carver Park
4 th of July Fireworks	July	All	Foschini Park
Hackensack Community Bike Run	September	All	Union Street Park & The Green
Children's Halloween Party	October	Families with children ages 3-11	M&M Recreation Center
Hackensack Youth Basketball Clinic	October - November	Age 5-14	Carver Park
Children's Holiday Party	December	Families with children ages 0-14	Hackensack Performance Arts Center
Tree Lighting	December	all	The Green
Senior Bus Trips	December	Age 55+	Hunterdon Hills Playhouse
Seniors in Motion Fitness Program	Fall, Winter Spring	Age 55+	M&M Recreation Center
Senior Citizen's Novemberfest Luncheon	November	Age 55+	M&M Recreation Center
Senior Steps Dance Class	Fall	Age 55+	M&M Recreation Center

Cultural Arts Programming

Cultural arts programming is provided by the Department of Cultural Arts. In addition to coordinating programming with the Recreation Department, the Cultural Arts Department operates and curates programming for the Hackensack Performance Arts Center and Atlantic Street Park. Table 13 includes a list of annual arts and recreation programs provided through the Cultural Arts Department.

Table 13: Cultural Arts and Recreation Programs

Program	When Offered	Age Group Targeted	Location
Movies Under the Stars	June - August	all	Atlantic Street Park
Shakespeare in the Park	June - August	all	Atlantic Street Park
Mini Concert Series	July	all	Atlantic Street Park
Free Yoga Classes	July & August	all	Atlantic Street Park
Free Zumba Classes	July & August	all	Atlantic Street Park
Slam Dunk the Junk (Clean Communities Event)	April & October	all	Atlantic Street Park
Artist Receptions at the Gallery	January-December	all	Hackensack Performance Arts Center
Plays, Music, Dance, Comedy Performances	January-December	all	Hackensack Performance Arts Center

Partner Organizations

The Instituto de Cultura y Arte Latinoamericano (ICAL) is a non-profit organization established in Hackensack in June 2005 to promote and preserve the various art and cultural traditions of Latin American countries. Every year they offer art education programming at the Hackensack Civic Center. A list of the classes that they offer are provided below.

Program	Seasons Offered	Age Group Targeted	Location
Painting	Fall/Winter	7 and up	Hackensack Civic Center
ICAL Folklore	Fall/Winter	5-18	Hackensack Civic Center
Zumba Kids	All	4-11	Hackensack Civic Center
Zumba	All	18 and up	Hackensack Civic Center
Zumba Toning	All	18 and up	Hackensack Civic Center
Youth Guitar	Fall/Winter	6 and up	Hackensack Civic Center

Youth Recreation Leagues

The following programs are run by their respective sports league boards but are facilitated by the Recreation Department in terms of help with taking registrations, securing space for practices and games, the granting of permits and financial aid for equipment or equipment maintenance.

The Hackensack Junior Wrestling league offers four team groupings for children ages 7 to 14 years old. League practices and home meets take place at the Hackensack High School gymnasium.

The Hackensack Junior Comets track & field club offers competitive outdoor and indoor athletic meets for children ages 8 to 14 years old. The club is an affiliate of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and a member of USA Track and Field (USATF) organizations. Club practices take place at the Hackensack High School multipurpose field. The club travels and competes in multiple meets across the state and region.

The Hackensack Junior Soccer Association offers two divisions, a Recreational (home) team and a Travel division (Royals Football Club), for children ages 5 to 18 years old. Club practice and home games take place at Johnson Park.

The Baseball and Softball of Hackensack club offers five baseball and softball team groupings for children ages 7 to 14 years old. The club is part of District 6 Little League, which follows national Little League rules. Team practices and games take place at Foschini Park. The New Jersey Youth Baseball league offers six baseball team groupings for children ages 7 to 18 and one team grouping for young adults ages 19 to 22. Teams practice and play their home games at Foschini Park.

The Hackensack Youth Football Team, also known as the Hackensack Junior Comets Football program, prepares children ages 5-14 to play football for the Hackensack High School football team. The teams practice and play their home games at Foschini Park.

The Hackensack Comets is an Adult (25 years old and up) team that plays in the East Division of the Double AA Sports Softball League. Team practices and home games take place at the High School multipurpose field.

Needs Analysis

Knowing the existing conditions of current open space, parks, and recreation facilities, though valuable, does not by itself provide the data needed to fully understand how residents use, value and envision their open space, parks, and recreation facilities/programs. Because there are no nationally accepted standards or criteria to evaluate the adequacy of a community's parks and recreation system, this section documents the open space, parks and recreation needs analysis methods used in Hackensack City. The methods include public feedback through public participation, community surveys and inventory analyses. Alone, each technique provides only a snapshot of information about the City's open space, parks, and recreation needs. When combined, however, these three analysis methodologies form a triangulated approach, which can demonstrate overall trends in needs and priorities. Seven methods of input or data collection were utilized as part of this triangulated approach:

- SWOC Analysis
- Online Survey
- Public Visioning Session
- NJDEP Balanced Land Use Standard
- NRPA Peer Population Per Acreage Benchmarks
- NRPA Peer Population Per Facility Benchmarks
- TPL Access to Parks Tool

The purpose for using a broad set of techniques is to validate the results and improve accuracy in determining the City's needs and priorities. Findings from these different techniques were combined to determine top priority parks and recreation needs in the City. The following are the findings of each technique according to the conditions at the time of the assessment.

Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Challenges (SWOC) Analysis

The SWOC analysis is typically used in strategic planning for businesses. However, this analysis can be used by any organization to identify and analyze internal strengths and weaknesses and external opportunities and challenges of its operations and/or systems. In the case of the Hackensack park system, the project team has modified the SWOC analysis somewhat to provide a description of each park and to identify the assets of each park, in lieu of specifying strengths and weaknesses. Based on site visits and public space audits conducted of each park, the project team identified the opportunities and challenges of each park. In addition to observations from the site visits, the project team obtained secondary information from related plans and feedback from the working committee and focus group that assisted with identifying the opportunities and challenges of each park.

The following pages provide a summary description of each park along with specific assets, challenges and opportunities:

Hackensack River County Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

At 34.05 acres, the Hackensack River County Park is the largest park in Hackensack. The Park stretches for one half mile along the western banks of the Hackensack River. The Park shares its western border with a shopping mall, the Shops at Riverside, a parking deck, and the Avalon Hackensack at Riverside residential community. At its southern border, Route 4 cuts off access to the park from the Hackensack River Walk. The Park landscape is primarily woodland and marshes. A 1.1-mile hiking trail, in the form of boardwalk, cobblestone, dirt, and gravel meander through the park. The Park can be accessed from Hackensack Avenue via motorized transport, but is difficult to access on foot, by bicycle, and other non-motorized transport. This Park is currently being redeveloped by the County.

- Assets:** The park's woodlands and marshes, its 1.1-mile hiking trail, observation deck, and location along the river, near residential community and major shopping destination are its major assets. The Park is a great location for bird watching, fishing, canoeing or kayaking, nature meditation, and camping.
- Challenges:** Route 4 blocks pedestrian, bicycle, and other modal connection to park. Wetlands are hard to find. Park facilities, including trails, are not well maintained and/or used. Stone dust are used on trails. Two annual cleanups are not enough. Park facilities, including trails, are not well monitored and/or policed. Consequently, unsavory business takes place there.
- Opportunities:** Connect River Walk under Route 4. Luke Oil and Bergen Academies have easement on the either site. Provide better maintenance and management. Provide directional Signage. Provide natural space management plan. Address invasive species. Opportunity for an open and lush forested area. Potential exist for a Blueway Trail that could connect Hackensack to points beyond the Oradell Dam. Opportunity exists to install a Bridge entrance from the eastern Bank of the river that would lessen the prominence of the shopping center and allow for expansion of the park. There is potential for a Hackensack River Linear Park, which would combine Hackensack River Park with the Hackensack River Pathway, Historic New Bridge Landing, the Hackensack Waterworks, and Van Buskirk Island to form one massive regional park.

Borg's Woods Nature Preserve (County Park)

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Borg's Woods Nature Preserve is one of two County parks located in Hackensack. All 15.5 acres of the park is surrounded by residential development. The park is shaped like a rectangle with Fairmount Avenue to its north, Summit Avenue to its east, West Lookout Avenue to its south, and the Coles Brooks to its west. The park consists of a deciduous forest made up of trees that are as old as 200 years. Several hiking trails meander through the park. Aside from hiking, bird and wildlife watching are the other activities allowed at the park. The park is accessible by non-motorized users only. On street parking is available at the park entrances at Fairmount Avenue and Allen Street and at Byrne Street

Assets:

200-year-old deciduous forest, hiking trails, and wildlife are all assets of this park.

Challenges:

Wetlands, low maintenance, limited permitted activities are all challenges of this park.

Opportunities:

Opportunities exist to improve maintenance, waste management, mosquito control, access, paths and signage. Value added updates could include converting a portion the park into an arboretum and adding educational programming.

Foschini Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Foschini Park, named after Paul J. Foschini, former mayor of Hackensack, is the City's largest municipal park (33.76 acres) and second largest park. Foschini Park is a riverside community park that stretches from Salem Street to East Camden Street and the Hackensack River to the north. The park features 10 softball and baseball fields, one of which has lighting, a fieldhouse with a kitchen, two playground areas, lighted pedestrian trails, boat ramp and fishing pier, picnic areas, and restroom facilities. The City hosts its Little League baseball and softball programs at this park. The park has onsite plaques honoring soldiers from World War I and other City dignitaries dating back to the 1800s. The park also play host to the City's annual Fourth of July celebration. The park has onsite parking and is

separated by an offsite parking lot across Salem Street from the Ice House skating rinks and Bowler City bowling alley. Foschini Park can be accessed by motorized and non-motorized transport from the River Street intersection with East Camden Street Although the pedestrian trail is accessible from Salem Street, that access point is dangerous for pedestrians as there are no sidewalks.

- Assets:** Active and passive recreation options, including: 10 softball and baseball fields, a fieldhouse with a kitchen, two playground areas, lighted pedestrian trails, boat ramp and fishing pier, picnic areas, and restroom facilities. Location along the river, near Bowler City, Ice House, Johnson Library, Eastwick College, and shopping district. Parking lot across Salem Street side (Parking Lot C) to be developed with 380 units and retail shop.
- Challenges:** Frequent flooding; no sidewalk; Salem street is a county road, not controlled by the City. Not enough lighting. Existing lights need to be upgraded. Football and volleyball players use ball fields.
- Opportunities:** Extend walking path around perimeter of park. Elevate the park. Convert the field that is already being used by the junior football league into multipurpose football/baseball field. Likewise, convert the field that is already being used by the junior volleyball league into multipurpose volleyball/baseball field. Light field seven. Add lighting to fields 8, 9 and 10. Add lighting to field 5 trail. Install a lightning detector system. Extend cultural and artistic programming in the park to include amphitheater or band shell, appropriately scaled art installations and cultural monuments. Install exercise stations. Provide additional passive recreational opportunities for several thousand new residents moving into the area based on future feedback.

Johnson Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Johnson Park is Hackensack's second largest municipal park (21.3 acres) and third largest overall. Similar to Foschini Park, Johnson Park is a community park located alongside the Hackensack River. The borders of the park are East Anderson Street to the south, River Street to the west and the All-American Ford dealership and University Plaza to the north. The park features five lighted tennis courts, a fieldhouse and concession stand, lighted turf soccer field, a grass soccer field, a playground, a community garden, and a greenhouse. A Public Works Department building, and pistol range are also located on park premises, but are not open to the public. A multi-purpose trail meanders through the park. The park can be accessed on foot via East Anderson Street or River Street and by car or bus via River Street only. Sidewalks exist on both the River Street and East Anderson Street sides of the park.

- Assets:** Park amenities such as onsite parking, benches, picnic tables, and restroom facilities. Active and passive recreation options, including: five lighted tennis courts, a fieldhouse and concession stand, lighted turf soccer field, a grass soccer field, a playground, lighted pedestrian trails, a community garden, and a greenhouse. The park's pedestrian trail connects to the Hackensack River Walk, which continues northward to Farleigh Dickinson University (FDU) and Bergen County Academies, the County's technical school.
- Challenges:** Greenhouse is not yet operational. Non-public use amenities-pistol range & DPW building. There is no shelter from inclement weather. There is no bicycle parking. Noise from flying planes from/to Teterboro Airport. The park's onsite parking lot is owned by Sears company.
- Opportunities:** Greenhouse being revitalized, community gardening being expanded. Segments under consideration for a dog park. Planned park improvements include a 110-spot parking lot and multi-purpose Sports Dome Facility. Improve pedestrian connection to Johnson Park from across River Street to Sears parking lot. Add biographical plaque to commemorate park's namesake. Add bilingual English/Spanish signage. Install a lightning detector system. Acquire Sears parking lot and convert to green space/picnic pavilion. Convert one of the tennis courts into a pickleball court. Per Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study, add rain garden next to parking lot to capture, treat and filter parking lot runoff.

Hackensack High School Athletic Field

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

The Hackensack High School Athletic Field is the 7.57-acre multipurpose athletic field located on 1st Avenue between Beech Street and Central Avenue. Features of the field include a football field with bleachers, a running track, and a baseball/softball field. Fields are fenced off and are restricted for use by high school students only when school is in session.

Assets:

The multipurpose athletic field is heavily used by both school and community members. The site has excellent connectivity due to its location near several bus stops, Essex train station, and sidewalk infrastructure.

Challenges:

The joint use lease agreement does not cover the two multipurpose soccer and baseball fields across the street, nor does it cover the five tennis courts adjacent to them.

Opportunities:

Per the Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study, add stormwater planters into the sidewalks to capture, treat and filter stormwater from the roadway and sidewalk. Install a lightning detector system.

Columbus Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Columbus Park is an approximately six-acre neighborhood park located on West Franklin Street in the southern section of the city just north of interstate 80. The park is surrounded by a mix of residential, commercial, and light industrial uses. The park has access from West Franklin Street and Ise Street on the north, Old Hoboken Road on the east, and East Wesley Street on the south. The park is buffered from South Main Street on the west by three light industrial and office buildings.

- Assets:** Park features include a ballfield used for softball and cricket, a tennis court, a futsal court, a basketball court, a gazebo, a playground, a walking trail, and two bocce ball courts. Park amenities include a 42-spot parking lot, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, restroom facilities, public art, outdoor chess tables and chairs, benches, tables, and tree shade. Park users can be found walking dogs, riding bikes, playing chess, playing tennis, playing basketball, sitting and people watching, using the playground equipment, and playing softball, cricket, or soccer.
- Challenges:** Much of the park's equipment need upgrades and/or better maintenance, e.g. the tennis and futsal courts. Nearby businesses using park's parking space. Some perceive the park as unsafe and unclean.
- Opportunities:** Upgrade basketball court and fix cracks in walkways. Resurface the futsal and tennis courts. Convert the baseball field to a multipurpose baseball, softball, football and soccer field. Upgrade the playground equipment. Install more benches near the tennis and futsal courts. Regrade and reseed existing lawn areas. Improve drainage up against the existing building by adding a rain garden to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the building and basketball court. Add Spanish language signage. Add security cameras at park and/or increase community and police surveillance of park. Increase frequency of park maintenance schedule. Due to the parks popularity with dog owners for walking their dogs, add Plastic Pet Waste Eliminator Station at appropriate points. Install exercise stations and a lightning detector system.

Staib Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Staib Park is an approximately 5.5-acre neighborhood park in the northwest corner of Hackensack. The park is tucked away in a residential neighborhood just south of NJ Route 4. Access to the park is available via Coles Street to the north, and from Davis and Allen Street to the south. Residential homes buffer the park from Summit Avenue to the east.

- Assets:** The park features two playgrounds, a full-sized basketball court, and a large ball field used for softball. Park amenities include water fountains, benches, and onsite parking.
- Challenges:** Too much pavement. Poor layout.
- Opportunities:** The opportunity exists to install a lightning detector system and to replace a section of pavement with rain garden to capture, treat and infiltrate parking lot runoff. The City plans to add a picnic pavilion, improve playground surfaces, and replace the restroom structure. Furthermore, the City plans a realignment of the playgrounds to accommodate the pavilion and restroom facilities. A flexible design would be conducive for multiple purposes, such as a splash park, trail, exercise stations and bicycle parking.

Second Ward Park (Polifly Road Park)

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Second Ward Park (Polifly Road Park) is a 4.39-acre neighborhood park located at 59 Polifly Road, in census tract 234.02; the southwestern corner of the City. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized transport users can access the park from Polifly Road to the east and Sutton Avenue to south. The park is buffered from Longview Avenue to the west by the Fanny Meyer Hillers Elementary School and from Parker Avenue to the north by residential dwellings.

- Assets:** Park features include a splash pad, a playground, a gazebo with picnic tables and chairs, a fire pit, two lit tennis courts, a basketball court, outdoor gym, and a multi-use trail. Other park amenities include drinking fountains, onsite restrooms and storage space, benches, refuse bins, and bicycle parking.
- Challenges:** The park is well-maintained except for where it slopes toward the Fanny Meyer Hillers School. That segment is wooded and has evidence of littering and use of alcohol and other paraphernalia.
- Opportunities:** It is possible to better connect the park to the elementary school and convert the slope into a school garden. Link the park and school to the River Walk through a citywide Greenway network. Allow picnicking as a permitted use. Add Spanish language signage. Install a lightning detector system.

Carver Park

Description:



Carver park is an approximately two-and-a-half-acre neighborhood park located at the intersection of Clay and 2nd Streets. Pedestrian, bicyclists, and other non-motorized transport users can access the park via 2nd Street, Clay Street, and 1st Street. On-street parking is available on all three roads and onsite parking is available from 1st Street for motorist access.

Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

- Assets:** Park features include a playground, community center, walking path, a splash pad, three basketball courts, one of which has lighting and bleachers for league games, a handball court, shade trees, and picnic tables and chairs. Park amenities include onsite parking, restrooms, drinking water fountain, shelter, and trash/recycle containers.
- Challenges:** There is no bicycle parking. The condition of the surfaces of two of the basketball courts are poor.
- Opportunities:** Resurface basketball courts. Add bicycle racks. Link the park to nearby schools and to the Hackensack River Walk through a citywide Greenway network. Add picnicking as a permitted use. Add biographical plaque to commemorate the park's namesake. Add Spanish language signage. Convert one of the basketball courts into a skateboard park. Per Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study, add rain garden from the basketball court and in the island of the parking lot to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the basketball court and parking lot. Install a lightning detector system.

Pulaski Park

Description:



Pulaski Park is a 2.28-acre neighborhood park located at 439 Washington Avenue, just south of NJ Route 80. Pedestrian, bicyclists, and other non-motorized transport users can access the park via Jackson Avenue to the south, Williams Avenue to the west, Jackson Avenue to North, and Washington Avenue to the east. On-street parking is available on all three roads for motorist access. The park forms the southern border of the Jackson Avenue Elementary School. The park consists of only the southern lot adjacent to the school building and is maintained by the City's DPW staff.

Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

- Assets:** Park features include a basketball court, a playground, a walking path, and green space/open lawn for free/creative play. Additional park amenities include a water fountain, benches, tables, and refuse bins.
- Challenges:** The Jackson Avenue Elementary School field parcel appear to be one with Pulaski park, but they are actually two properties separated by fencing and maintenance standards. Inconsistent maintenance standards between the two parcels. There are no bicycle racks, and the drinking water fountains don't work.
- Opportunities:** Similar to 2nd Ward Park, integrate the Jackson Avenue Elementary School field with Pulaski Park to form a larger 4.6-acre park. Expand walking path to the Jackson Avenue Elementary School field/parcel. Add outdoor classroom/school garden area, more shade structures, and tot lot/pre-school play equipment. Install bicycle racks. Improve bicyclists' access to park and school via off-road trail and/or appropriate on-road bike lanes. Allow park access to school restrooms or install outdoor restroom facilities. Fix or replace broken drinking water fountains. Per Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study, replace parking spaces near the back of the school building with pervious pavement and rain garden to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the building and parking lot. Install a lightning detector system.

Firefighters Memorial Park (Fairmount Park)

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Firefighters Memorial Park (Fairmount Park) is an approximately one-and-a-half-acre triangle-shaped plaza located at the intersections of Main Street and Temple Avenue. Memorial Way separates the park from a former train station that has been converted into an ice cream shop (Cranberry Junction Café). The park is an open green dedicated to the City's firefighters and includes five memorial stone monuments dedicated to fallen firefighters from the 1988 Ford dealership fire on River Street.

Assets:

Features include green space/open lawn for active or passive play, shade trees, and landscape gardens. Park amenities include picnic benches and tables (owned by Cranberry Junction Café), trash receptacles, limited onsite parking (owned by Cranberry Junction Café), and concession stand (Cranberry Junction Café).

Challenges:

Active rail line in the back of the concession stand/café.

Opportunities:

Better integrate park with Cranberry Junction Café, by activating the park with more events. Add Spanish language signage. Add park benches near cafe. Plant evergreen privacy trees or hedges to screen off the railroad tracks. Per Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study, add rain garden from the paved driveway area and railroad tracks and install a tree box along the road to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the street. Install a lightning detector system.

Baldwin Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Baldwin Park is an approximately one and a third acre neighborhood park located on Grand Avenue between Ross Avenue and Poplar Avenue. The park is surrounded by residential and civic uses. Fairmount Elementary School is located across the street from the park at the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Grand Avenue.

Assets:

Park features include a playground, a basketball court that is being currently being used for futsal and street hockey/roller-skating court, a small baseball/softball field with bleachers, picnic benches and tables, shade trees, and a walking path. Amenities include benches, trash receptacles, and porter potties.

Challenges:

No bicycle parking. Futsal/hockey/roller-skating court is missing equipment. Not integrated with Fairmount Elementary School across the street.

Opportunities:

Greenway connecting parks to schools, transit stations, and to River Walk. Add Spanish language signage. Add biographical plaque to commemorate the park's namesake. Convert futsal/hockey/roller-skating court to a formal futsal court. Add a gazebo. Create a more defined trail. Provide better tree maintenance and/or replant trees. Add netting to softball field along tree area. Install a lightning detector system.

The Esplanade Park

Description:

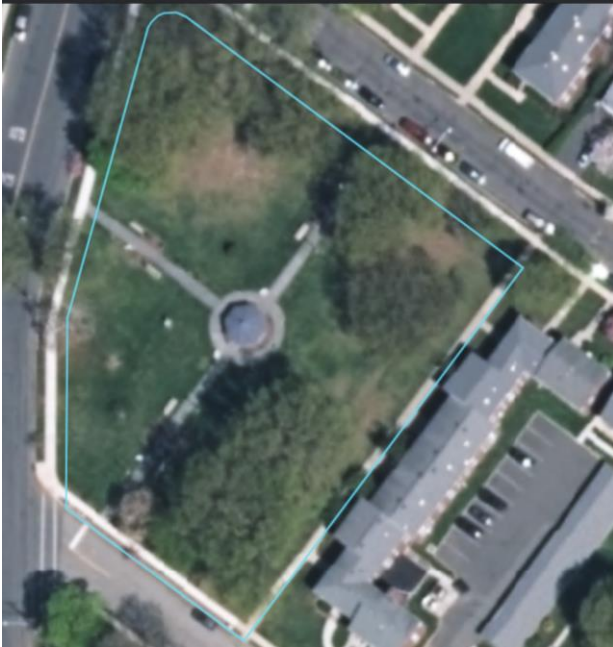


Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Esplanade Park is an approximately one-acre plaza located on Esplanade Avenue between Blanchard Terrace and Heath Place. The park is surrounded by residential developments and is immediately adjacent to the Esplanade apartment complex.

Assets:

Features of the park include green space/open lawn, walking paths, a gazebo, benches, shade trees, and open access from all four sides. Amenities include lighting and trash/recycle receptacles.

Challenges:

Perception as belonging to the adjacent garden apartment complex. No bicycle parking. No play area for kids.

Opportunities:

Better integration with Nellie K Parker Elementary School. Greenway connecting parks to schools, transit stations, and to River Walk. Add tot lot and bicycle parking. Add Spanish language signage. Add to the list of parks under consideration as potential City and Board of Education shared services agreement project. Install a lightning detector system.

Union Street Park

Description:

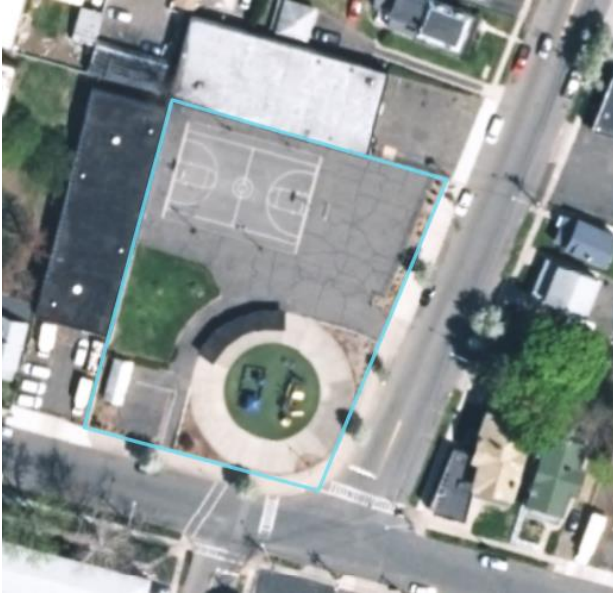


Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Union Street Park is an approximately 0.90-acre neighborhood park located at the intersection of Meyer Street and Union Street.

Assets:

The park features a playground, a basketball court with lighting, shaded seating, picnic benches and tables, landscape garden, and a curated mural wall. Amenities include bicycle parking, trash receptacles, and restroom.

Challenges:

Too much impervious coverage.

Opportunities:

Add more green space. Add Spanish language signage. Add a flower garden. Add a pergola misting feature near the basketball court. Install a lightning detector system.

Anderson Street Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Anderson Street Park is an approximately 0.80-acre square plaza located on Anderson Street between Union Street (east) and Pangborn Place (west). Conklin Place buffers the southern frontage of the park from the Bergen County Academy. The square is surrounded by multifamily dwellings and civic uses.

Assets:

Features of the park include a large fountain in the center, walking paths, shade trees, and benches for resting and people watching. Amenities include bicycle parking, lighting, trash receptacles.

Challenges:

No dedicated parking for park users.

Opportunities:

Mark designated on street parking spaces for park users. Install a lightning detector system.

Railroad Avenue Park

Description:



*Photo courtesy of New Jersey
Conservation Blueprint.*

Railroad Avenue Park is a 0.60-acre linear pocket park, of which only a small segment at the Railroad Avenue intersection with Clay Street is useable. This park includes a tot lot and is located at a park and ride station for NJ Transit that is owned by the City.

- Assets:** Features of the park include shade trees, and two small swing sets for toddlers. Amenities include onsite parking.
- Challenges:** The lot is too shallow and is surrounded by roadways on all four sides. The lot is 77.5 percent impervious coverage (not enough greenspace). The location is not ideal as it used as a park and ride and is across from a rail line.
- Opportunities:** The empty fenced off lot across the street from the Clay Street intersection (291-293 Railroad Ave) would be a better location to install a pocket park and tot lot. That lot, which is vacant, is owned by the Universal Hagars Church.

The Green

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

The Green is a half-acre mini park or town square located on Washington Place between Main Street and Moore Street. The Bergen County Justice Center forms its southern border on Court Street. The square is surrounded by a mix of uses, including retail, office, and civic uses. The Green has served as the location for various food truck events.

Assets:

Features of the park include walking paths, landscape garden, benches for resting, lighting, shade trees, and the Hackensack War Memorial, a bronze statue of a young sailor standing on top of a stone monument depicting scenes from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, and World War I. Amenities include a portable toilet, trash receptacles, and historic markers.

Challenges:

No dedicated area for food truck events, vehicular parking or bicycle parking.

Opportunities:

Investigate shared parking with the Bergen County Complex for both cars and bicycles. Install a lightning detector system.

Atlantic Street Park

Description:

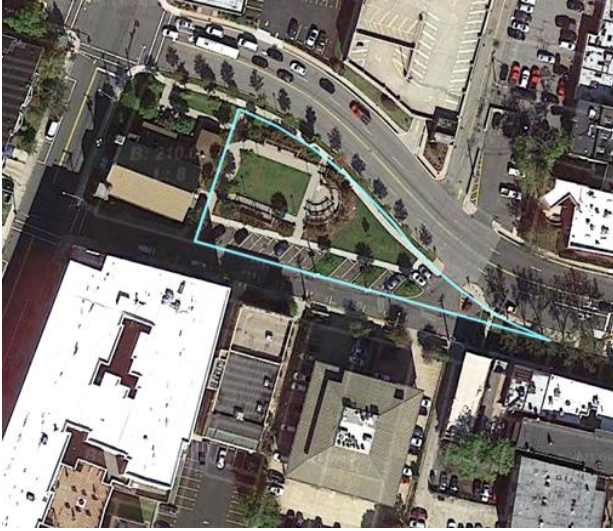


Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

The Atlantic Street Park is an approximately half acre plaza located on Atlantic Street between State Street and Warren Street. The park is buffered from State Street by the Hackensack Performance Arts Center, has onsite metered parking and is across the street from the municipal parking garage.

Assets:

Features of the park include an outdoor stage, which provides a performance area for outdoor concerts, recitals, and movie nights, shaded seating, shade trees, landscape garden, open green, outdoor chess tables, and walking paths. Park amenities include lighting, trash receptacles, and bicycle parking.

Challenges:

No on-street or off-road bicycle infrastructure.

Opportunities:

Greenway connecting parks to schools, transit stations, and to River Walk. Install a lightning detector system.

Veterans Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Veterans Park is a 0.3-acre pocket park located on Hudson Street between Marion Street and East Lafayette Street.

Assets:

Features of the park include a tomb monument, landscape garden, benches for resting and observing, shade trees, and a decorative clock.

Challenges:

Narrow/limited special use. Narrow lot surrounded by buildings on three sides.

Opportunities:

Expand into a walkable sculpture and/or memorial garden. Install a lightning detector system.

Rowland Avenue Park

Description:

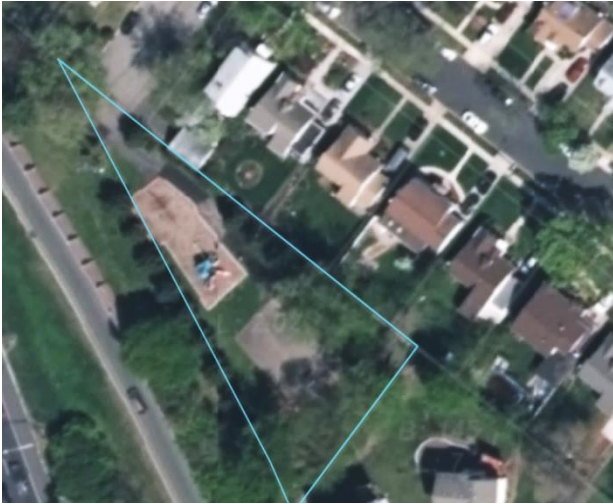


Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Rowland Avenue Park is an approximately 0.24 acre mini-park (pocket park) on Rowland Avenue's cul-de-sac with I-80. The pocket park is surrounded by residential developments on its northern, eastern, and southern edges. The I-80 noise barrier forms the western edge of the park.

Assets:

Features of the park include a half-court basketball court, a playground, a short walking path, a picnic table and bench, and shade trees. Park amenities include a drinking fountain, a bike rack, benches for resting, handicap parking and trash receptacles.

Challenges:

Paved walking path not well maintained and seems unnecessary. No play structures for kids four years and under.

Opportunities:

Replace one-car handicap parking spot with green space/open lawn or toddler play. Designate spot on-street for handicap parking. Repave walking path with porous pavement or other pervious material. Install a lightning detector system.

Main Street Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of Google Street View.

Main Street Park is a 0.23-acre mini/pocket park near the entrance of Court Plaza, located at the intersection of Main Street with Hudson Avenue. The park is also dedicated as the “Alfred and Mary Sanzari Garden.”

Assets

Features of this park include a horticultural display garden, water fountain, walking trail, and passive seating.

Challenges:

The location of the park at the entrance of Court Plaza gives the appearance that it's private property.

Opportunities:

Add signage in English and Spanish in front of the park to inform residents and visitors that it is a public park. Add small species identification signs in front of the flowers and plants in the horticultural garden. Install a lightning detector system.

Mary Street Park

Description:



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Conservation Blueprint.

Mary Street Park is a 0.14-acre pocket park located on Mary Street at its intersection with Kent Street. The Park is surrounded by residential development and the I-80 sound barrier.

Assets

Features of the park include a playground, shade trees, a picnic table and bench, and on-site parking. Amenities of the park include trash receptacles and a bench for resting or watching the kids play.

Challenges:

Two-car paved parking spots limit greenery and other play opportunities.

Opportunities:

Replace parking spots with greenery and additional play features. Designate on-street handicap parking as required by ADA. Install a lightning detector system.

Downtown Walkway (Demarest Place)

Description:



Photo courtesy of Google Street View.

The Demarest Place Walkway is a three-block pedestrian walkway that connects the Hackensack Performing Arts Center Main Street attractions and the Atlantic Street bus terminal. The walkway has been re-envisioned and remade into a cultural corridor that engages those who live, work, and visit the area through scheduled artistic/cultural performances, permanent and temporary public art installations, murals, landscaping, and pedestrian safety pavement treatments.

Assets

Year round programmed artistic and cultural performances, permanent and temporary public art installations, murals, and landscaping.

Challenges:

N/A

Opportunities:

N/A

Hackensack River Walkway

Description:



The Hackensack River Walkway is a planned linear shared use path or greenway that follows the Hackensack River from Hackensack's northern border with River Edge Borough to its southern border with Little Ferry. Segments of the River Walkway in Hackensack, such as from Johnson Park to the Bergen County Academies, have completed multi-modal paths. Per chapter 175-5.6 of the zoning ordinance, every development along the Hackensack River must provide a 30-foot easement area and minimum 16-foot travel lane for a shared use path.

Assets

Segments of the River Walkway with completed multi-modal paths, such as from Johnson Park to the Bergen County Academies, are well used.

Challenges:

Most buildings along the Hackensack River predate the requirement for an easement. Language in ordinance limits easement to a pedestrian walkway only. Bergen County signage on completed segments of the trail that refers to it as the Hackensack River "Pathway."

Opportunities:

City can seek grants to acquire easements on properties not being redeveloped to create riverfront path/greenway. Zoning ordinance language should be amended to specify a multi-modal river path, trail, or greenway. To prevent confusion, the name that the City uses should be consistent with County nomenclature. The Hackensack River Pathway reflects more of the true nature of the trail.

Mellone-Mariniello Recreation Center

Description:



Photo courtesy of Linda Lindner managing editor for NJBIZ.

The Mellone-Mariniello (M&M) Recreation Center is located at 116 Holt Street. This Recreation Center, which measures 67,082 square feet, was recently renovated. Features of the M&M Recreation Center include a 400-seat basketball arena, a full-sized basketball court that doubles as two half-sized courts, a senior programming center, game room for teens, three multipurpose rooms, kitchen, offices, and on-site parking.

Assets:

Newer facilities allow for more recreational capacity and are well used.

Challenges:

Located near a homeless shelter and a substance abuse treatment center (Buddies of NJ, Inc.). Residents of these two sites are known to loiter at the Recreation Center.

Opportunities:

Add security staff and better surveillance. Expand programming for seniors and improve marketing of existing programs. Explore part-time employment offerings to residents of the nearby shelter.

Hackensack Performing Arts Center

Description:



The Hackensack Performing Arts Center is located in an 11,761 square foot former Masonic temple at 104 State Street near the Atlantic Street intersection. Features of the newly renovated Performing Arts Center include a 224-seat main theater, 47-foot performance stage, theater support spaces, e.g. green room, dressing rooms, control room, etc., and year-round programming, including plays, musical and dance performances, visual art exhibits, and comedies.

Assets:	Newer facilities allow for more recreational capacity and are well used.
Challenges:	N/A
Opportunities:	N/A

Cultural Art Center

Description



Photo courtesy of hudsonshakespeare.org/

The Cultural Art Center is located at 39 Broadway half a block away from the M&M Recreation Center. The culture center is a located in a 5,619 square foot church building that has been converted into a 115-Seat Black Box Theater. In addition to the theater, features of the cultural center include multipurpose rooms and a kitchen.

Assets:

115-Seat Black Box Theater, multipurpose rooms, and kitchen among others.

Challenges:

Since the completion of the Hackensack Performing Arts Center, the cultural arts center is no longer the primary place for cultural events such as plays, comedy, and other cultural attractions.

Opportunities:

The opportunity exists to rebrand the cultural center into one that attracts the City's large contingent of Hispanic and Latinx population.

Hackensack Civic Center

Description:



Photo courtesy of Google Street View.

The Civic Center is located on State Street between Central Avenue and Trinity Place. The Civic Center houses offices for the City's Health Department and features ADA accessible multipurpose rooms, meeting rooms and restrooms.

Assets:

The meeting rooms are used by numerous Civic Organizations for fitness classes, dance lessons, music/voice lessons, art classes, theater classes, health screenings, etc.

Challenges:

N/A

Opportunities:

N/A

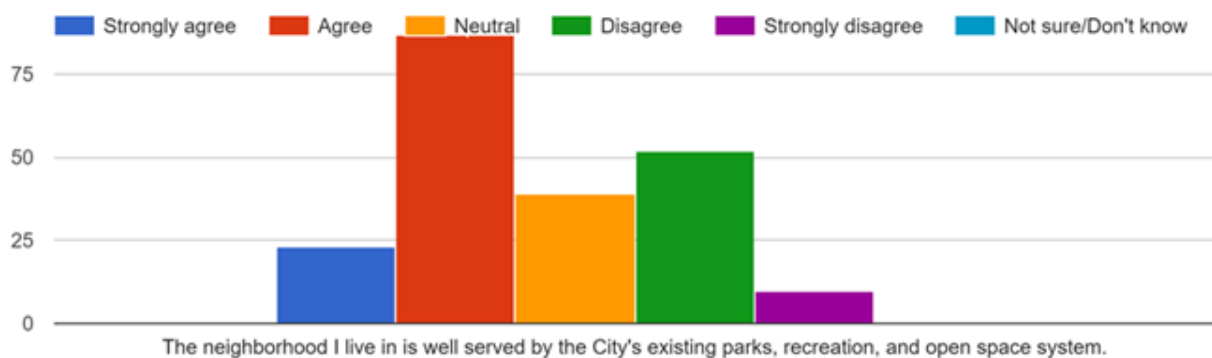
Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey Results

Methodology Overview

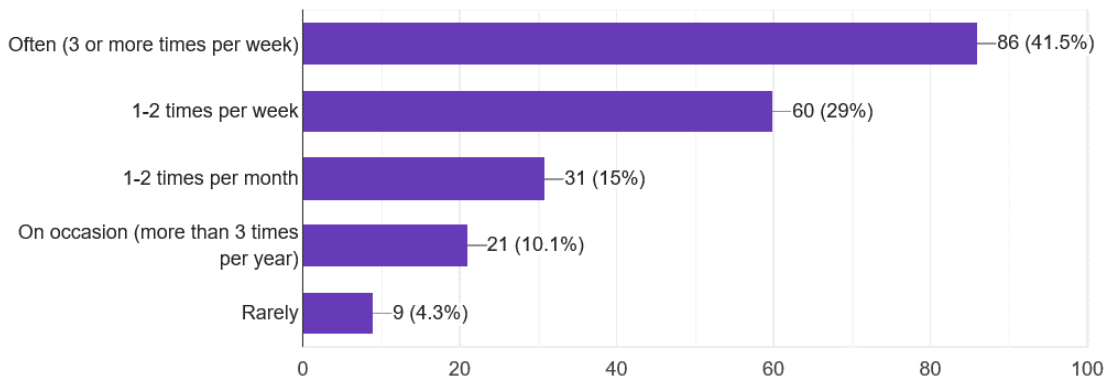
An invitation to complete a web-based survey was posted in English and Spanish on Hackensack’s website and sent via email blast to all website subscribers. A total of 209 completed surveys were received, 207 in English and two in Spanish. For questions in which respondents were asked to indicate rankings, data were cleaned to remove multiple identical responses per respondent on a single question.

Major Survey Findings

1. Perceived Green Space Within Walking Distance. 52 percent (110) of respondents feel that there are sufficient parks and green space within walking distance of their residence, while 29 percent (62) responded there is not sufficient green space within walking distance of their residence. In addition, 19 percent (39) responded they were neutral or unsure.

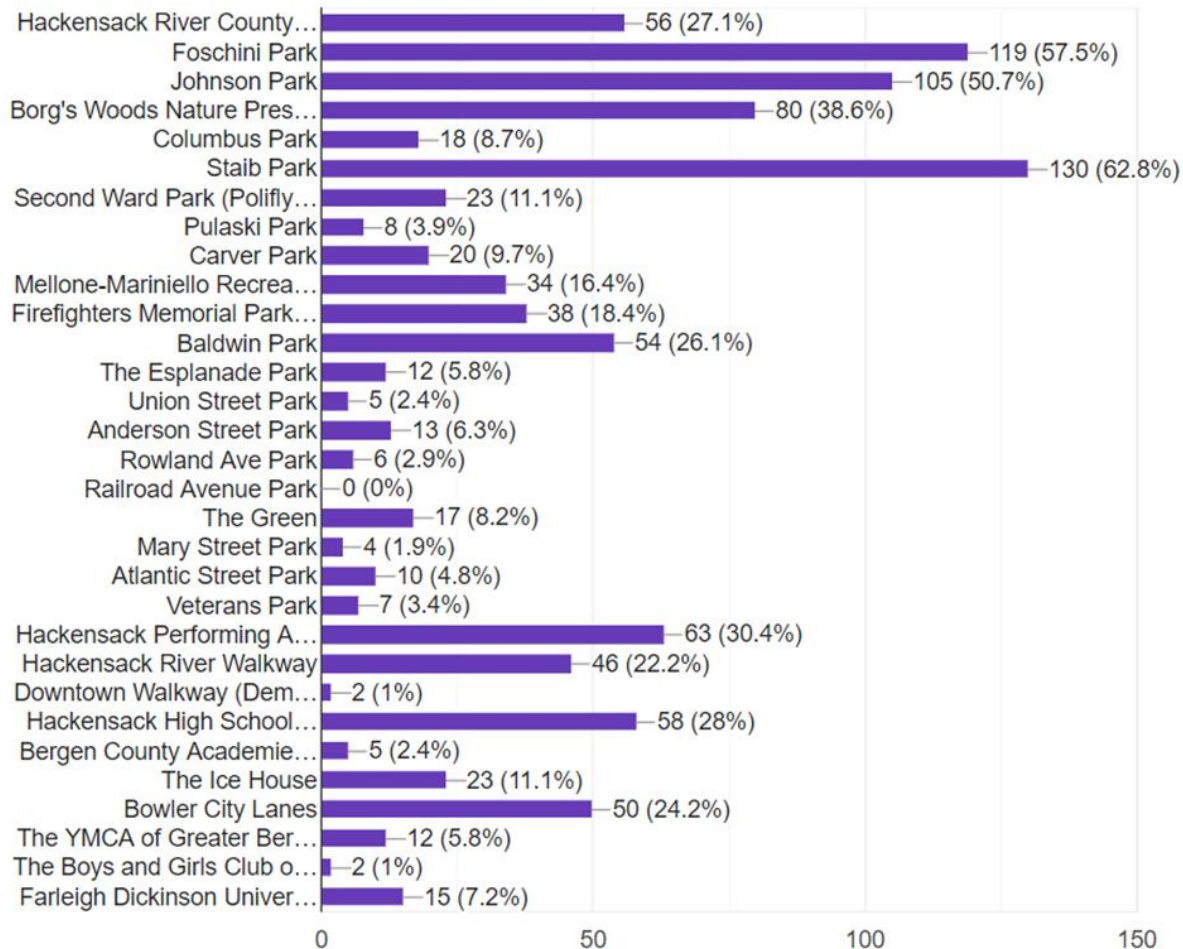


2. Visiting City Parks. Seventy-one percent (146) of respondents visit City of Hackensack parks one or more times per week.

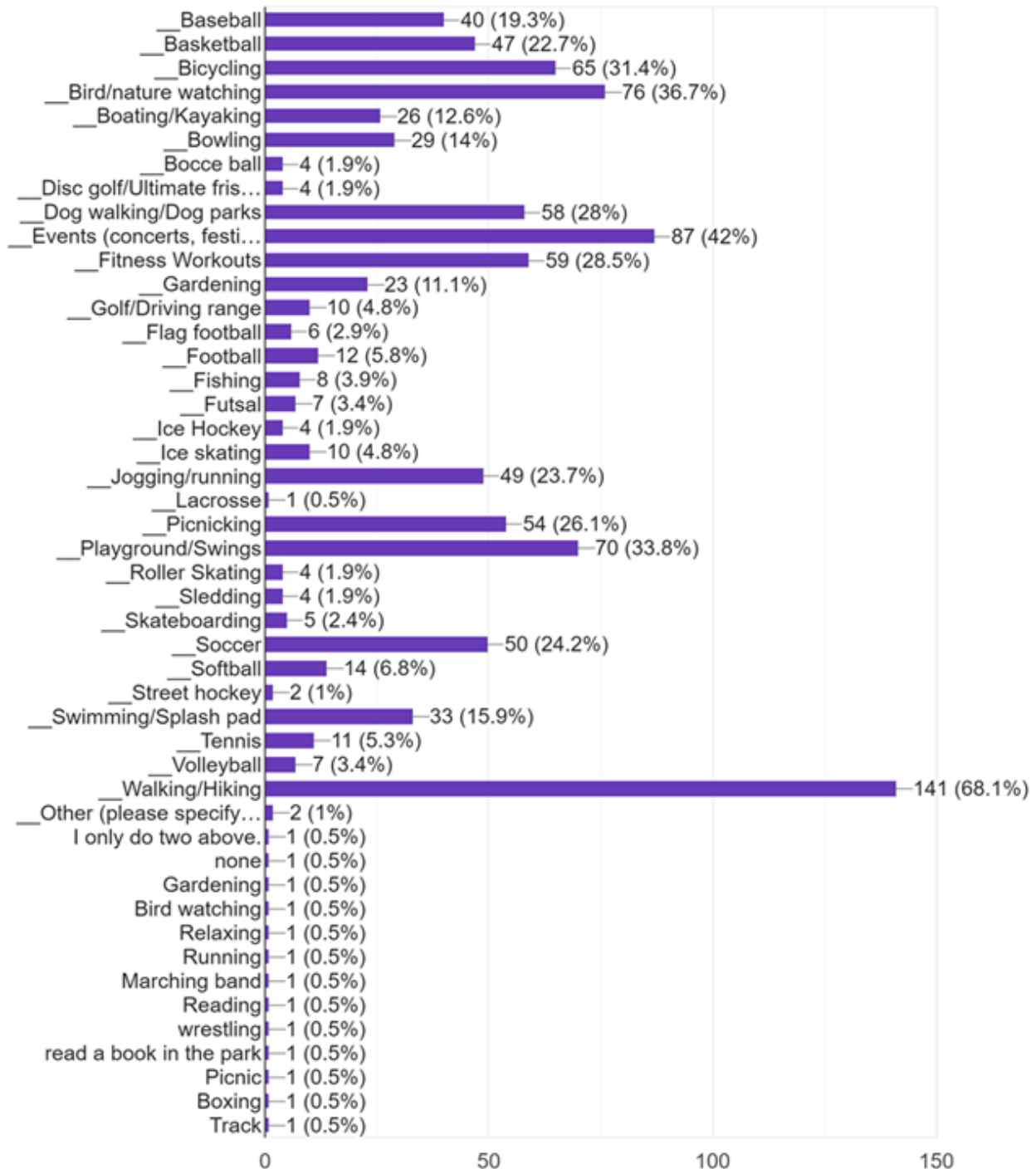


When considering the top five most often visited parks, the parks and recreation facilities that the highest percentage of respondents selected are as follows:

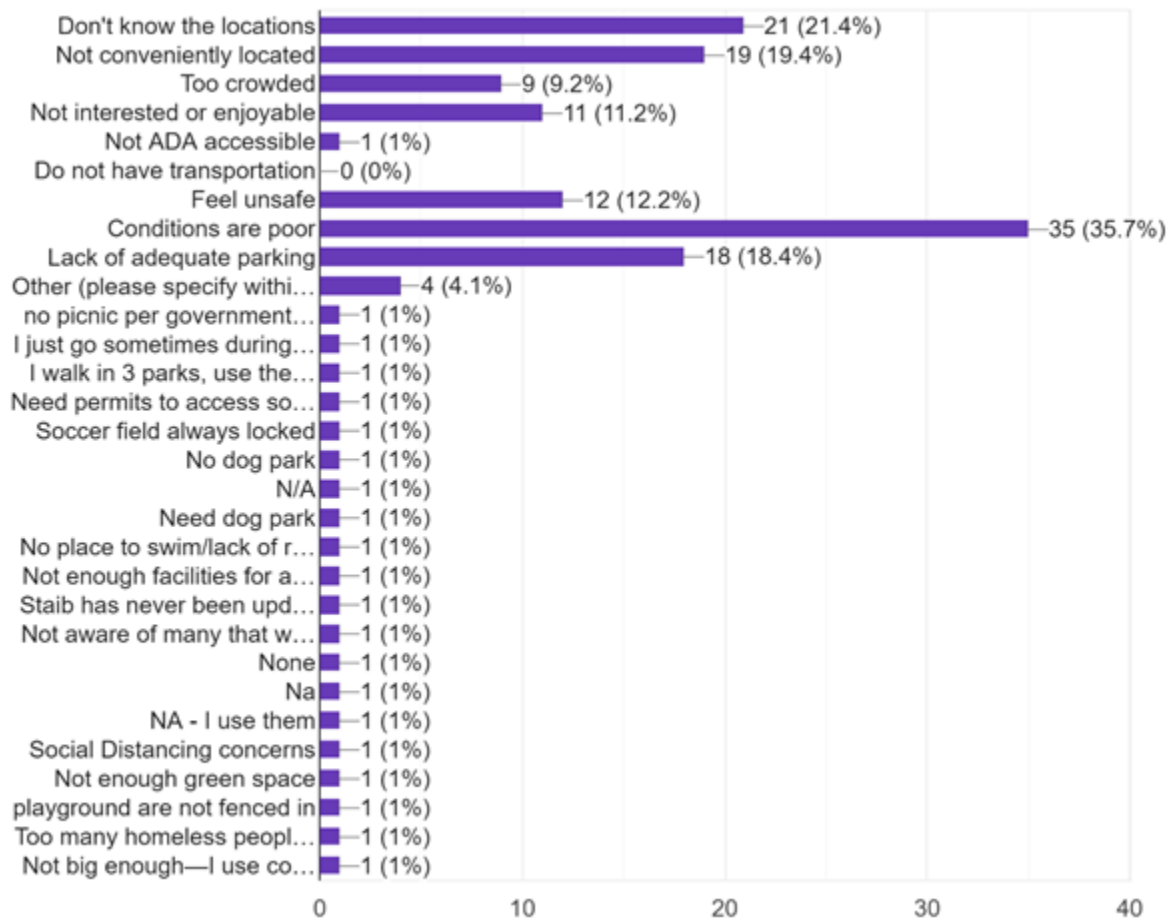
Staib Park, 63 percent (130); Foschini Park, 58 percent (119); Johnson Park, 51 percent (105); Borg's Woods Nature Preserve, 39 percent (80); Hackensack Performing Arts Center, 30 percent (63).



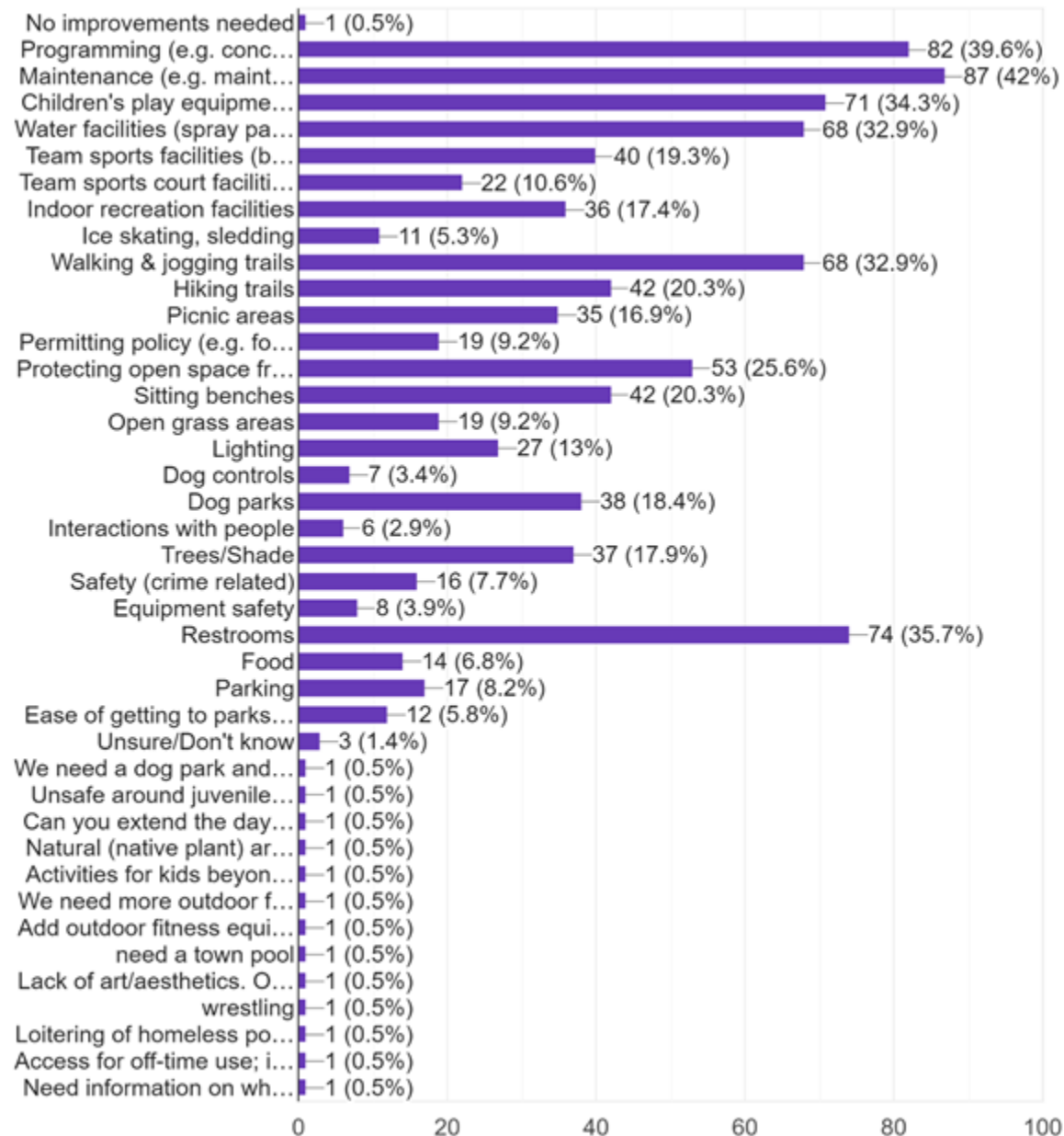
3. Top park/recreational amenities used and/or activities pursued. The City of Hackensack parks and recreation amenities and/or activities that the highest percentage of respondents consider as their top five most often used/pursued are as follow: walking and hiking, 68 percent (141); events (concerts, festivals, etc.), 42 percent (87); bird/nature watching, 37 percent (76); playgrounds, 34 percent (70); bicycling, 31 percent (65).



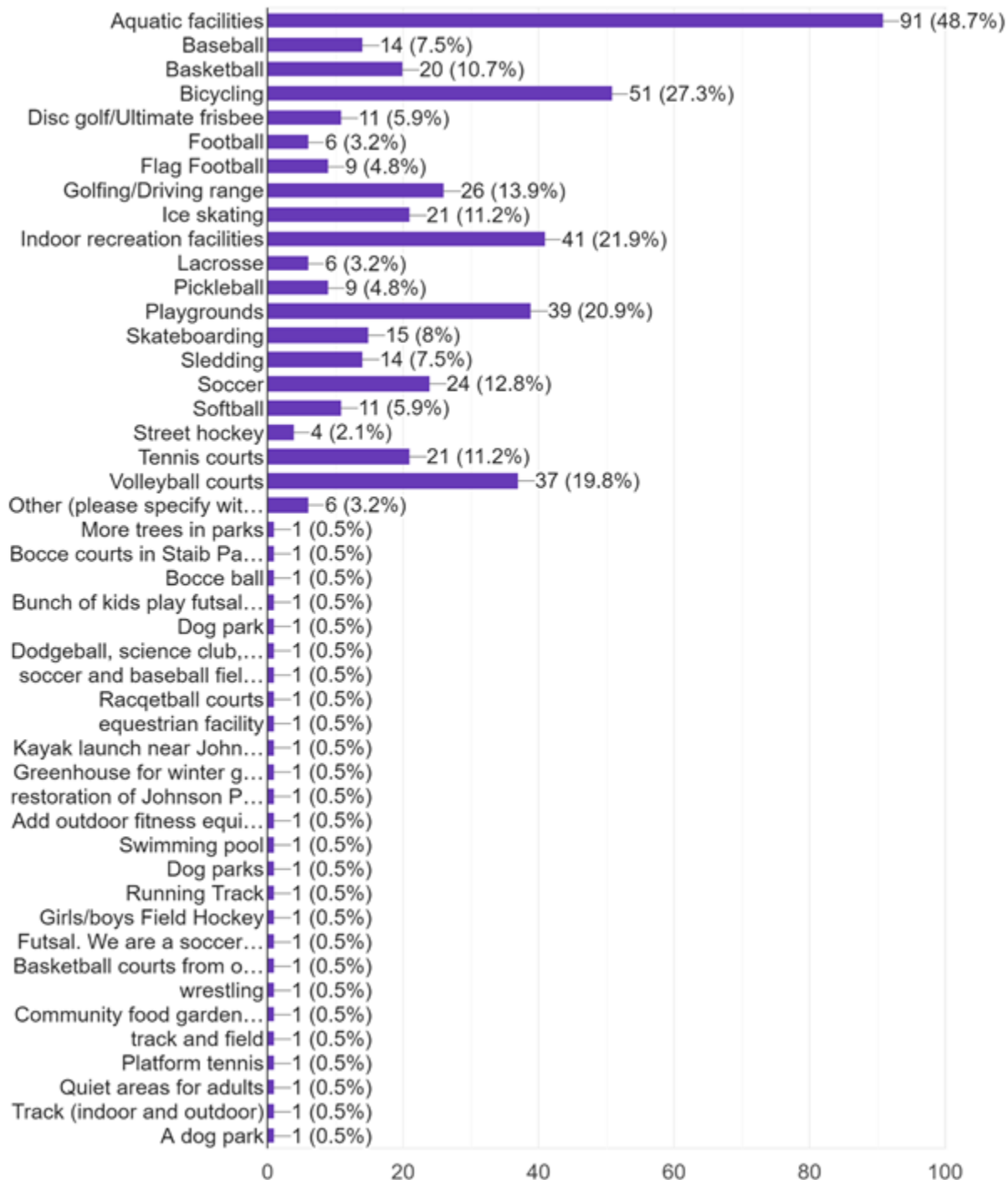
4. Reasons Preventing Respondents from Using City Parks and Recreation Facilities. The most frequently mentioned reasons preventing respondents from using City of Hackensack parks and recreation facilities are: “conditions are poor” (36%), “don’t know the locations” (21%), “City parks/facilities are not convenient” (19%), “lack of adequate parking” (18%), and “feel unsafe” (12%).



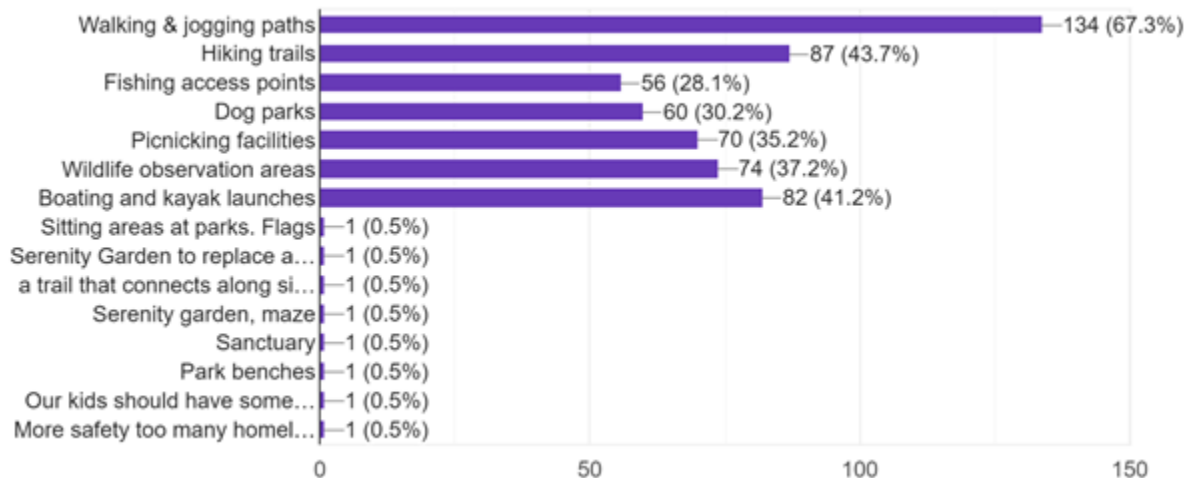
5. Top Park/Recreation Facility Improvements needed. Forty-two percent (87) of the respondents listed maintenance as the top improvement needed, followed by programming (40%), restrooms (36%), children's play equipment (34%), and water facilities and walking trails (33% each).



6. Need for Additional Active Use Park Amenities. The active park amenities that the highest percentage of respondents have an additional need for more of are aquatic facilities (49%), bicycling (27%), indoor recreation facilities (22%), playgrounds (21%), and volleyball courts (20%).



7. Need for Additional Passive Use Park Amenities. The passive park amenities that the highest percentage of respondents have an additional need for more of are walking and jogging paths (67%), hiking trails (44%), boating and kayak launches (41%), wildlife observation areas (37%), and picnic facilities (35%).



8. Recurrent Comments/Concerns. Pool facility needed, dog park needed, improved park maintenance, improve recreational programming and have hub on city website for all programs and events.

9. Ways Respondents Learn about Programs and Activities. The most frequently indicated ways respondents report learning about Hackensack Parks and Recreation Department programs and activities are email bulletins or E-newsletters (58.9%), social media (43%), via text (34.8%), City of Hackensack website (34.3%), traditional media (e.g. newspaper articles/advertisements) (12.6%).

Public Visioning Session

The LPS project team initially planned to hold a Public Input session at the September 2020 Council of the Whole (COW) meeting to discuss the draft plan, the draft survey results, and draft goals and objectives. However, due to an already packed agenda resulting from previous office closures and meeting cancellations stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was postponed. The project team and City staff rescheduled the meeting as a virtual public visioning session using the Zoom platform. The virtual public visioning session took place on October 13, 2020. The main elements of the public visioning session were as follows:

1. An introduction from the City's project manager.
2. A slide show presentation on the purpose and process of creating the draft Open Space & Recreation Plan, which included: an overview of the planning process, a description of the draft goals, a summary of the survey responses, the sections of the plan that have been completed to date and those that remain to be completed.
3. A group discussion of the following topics:
 - Plan Vision & Goals – recommendations for improving goal setting, including objectives and strategies to achieve current and future goals
 - Active recreation facilities & programs – overall strengths and weaknesses, future vision/goals, action plan/recommendations/strategies for improvement
 - Connectivity & passive recreation – overall strengths and weaknesses, future vision/goals, action plan/recommendations/strategies to improve and expand trails and connectivity.
 - Open Space Acquisitions for preservation, conservation and scenic areas – action plan, recommendations and strategies for determining what parcels of land should be protected.

During the discussion, the open space map was shown on the screen so that participants could reference the different open space and recreation facilities. For the open discussion, participants were encouraged to either speak up or type their questions and comments into the chat. The discussion lasted about 45 minutes. The entire event lasted about an hour and 15 minutes.

There were 15 attendees at the virtual public meeting. City staff publicized the virtual public visioning session at various public meetings. A flyer advertising the virtual public visioning session was posted on the City's website and emailed to City residents who subscribed to City government email blasts. It was also posted on the Recreation Department's social media pages. The participant comments were reviewed by the project team and incorporated into this plan.

Balanced Land Use Standard

New Jersey municipalities use the Balanced Land Use Standard established by the New Jersey Green Acres 2018-2022 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for open space, parks, and recreation areas. This standard specifies that a minimum of three (3) percent of a municipality's developed or developable land should be set aside for active recreation use. Lands classified as developable do not include slopes greater than 15 percent, wetlands, federal, state and county owned parklands, and other environmentally sensitive land that is not appropriate for development. Using the Balanced Land Use Standard analysis, Hackensack has a total of 2,410.3 acres of developed and developable land and needs approximately 72.3 acres of it dedicated to active recreation. Since the City currently manages approximately 89.6 acres of preserved parks and open space, it has exceeded this minimum requirement by about 17.3 acres. Taking into account the City's two non-preserved parks and four recreational facilities owned and managed by the City, the total recreational area increases to 92.9 acres. Table 14 below shows the calculation used in determining Hackensack's compliance with the Balanced Land Use Standard.

Table 14: City of Hackensack – NJDEP Balanced Land Use Standard

Category		Acres	Deficiency/ Surplus
Developable Land*		88.96	
Wetlands	-	22.24	
Steep Slopes (greater than 15%) in developable areas**	-	3	
Land Within County, State and Municipal Parks	-	138.71	
Board of Education Property	-	67.4	
Developed Land ***	+	2,553	
Total Developed and Developable	=	2,410.61	
3 percent of developed/ developable land area	=	72.32	+17.34
* NJDEP 2015 Land Use/Land Cover: cumulative sum of agricultural, forest and barren land			
**ESRI approximation of slopes greater than 15% excluding those located in preserved open space			
***NJDEP 2015 Land Use/land Cover: urban category			

The National Recreation & Parks Association's (NRPA) Peer Population Per Acreage Benchmarks

In regard to national metrics, the NRPA produces an annual report, the NRPA Agency Performance Review, that parks and recreation agencies across the country use as a benchmark to see how well they are performing compared to their peers. The latest report, the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review, provides NRPA's Park Metrics, a comprehensive data tool that uses the trends of the recreation agencies to help guide their management and planning of recreation facilities.

The 2021 report found that Park and Recreation Agencies in jurisdictions similar to Hackensack, i.e. population 20,000 to 50,000, have 9.8 acres of park/open space land per 1,000 residents, one park for every 1,900 residents, and 8.5 miles of trails. Although Hackensack falls short of meeting the acres of park/open space land per 1000 resident benchmark, it exceeds the parks per 1,000 residents metric. There are approximately 138.7 acres of City and County owned preserved open space and park land in Hackensack. In addition, there are two parks totaling 0.9 acres that are not on the ROSI. In relation to its population of 44,339, Hackensack has approximately 3.2 acres of open space, park, and recreation land per 1,000 residents; thereby missing the NRPA benchmark by a factor of about three. Hackensack's 139.6 acres of preserved and/or dedicated land for open space, park, and recreation spreads across 23 parks, 21 of which are on or are pending inclusion on the ROSI. Hackensack has one park for every 1,927.8 residents, which is similar to its peer jurisdictions per the NRPA metric. Hackensack has 2.8 miles of trails, which falls short of the 8.5 miles currently provided by peer jurisdictions by a factor of three.

The National Recreation & Parks Association's (NRPA) Peer Population Per Facility Benchmarks

In addition to the park metrics noted above, the 2021 NRPA report provided benchmarks for outdoor and indoor park and recreation facilities. The following table compares existing conditions in Hackensack to the NRPA benchmarks for jurisdictions with similar populations (20,000-50,000).

Table 15: Outdoor Park & Recreation Facilities - Population Per Facility

Facility Type	Median Number of Residents per Facility	Hackensack's Number of Residents Per Facility	Number of Facilities in Hackensack	Benchmark Number of Facilities Needed
Playgrounds	2,961	3,411	13	15
Basketball courts	7,000	5,760	8	6
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	4,819	3,291	14	9
Diamond fields: baseball	5,099	2,880	16	9
Rectangular fields: soccer	5,833	14,780	3	8
Rectangular fields: Football	16,584	44,339	1	3
Dog parks	27,528	-	0	2
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	25,402	-	0	2
Community gardens	25,480	44,339	1	2
Tot lots	8,974	22,169	2	6

When compared to its peer jurisdictions, Hackensack meets or surpass the benchmark for the provisions of basketball courts, tennis courts, and diamond fields for baseball/softball. However,

Hackensack does not currently have enough playground, soccer, football, community gardens, and/or tot lots facilities for its residents. Crucially, Hackensack doesn't have a single dog park or swimming pool for its 44,339 residents and could benefit from at least two of each. The City will need at least two more playgrounds, five more soccer fields, two more football fields, one more community garden, and four more tot lots to meet or surpass the NRPA benchmark for those facilities.

The NRPA report also provides metrics for indoor park and recreation facilities. Table 16 below compares Hackensack to its peer jurisdictions in the provision of the most commonly available and recreation facilities. Hackensack has one recreation center, which also houses its senior center. Hackensack also has a performance arts center and a cultural center that both have performance amphitheatres, and a civic/community center. Accordingly, Hackensack has at least one of each facility and is not far off from its peer jurisdictions in meeting each benchmark.

Table 16: Indoor Park & Recreation Facilities – Population Per Facility

Facility Type	Median Residents per Facility	Hackensack Residents Per Facility	Facilities in Hackensack	Benchmark Number of Facilities Needed
Recreation centers	24,545	44,339	1	2
Community centers	26,099	44,339	1	2
Senior centers	34,674	44,339	1	2
Performance amphitheatres	31,115	22,169	2	2

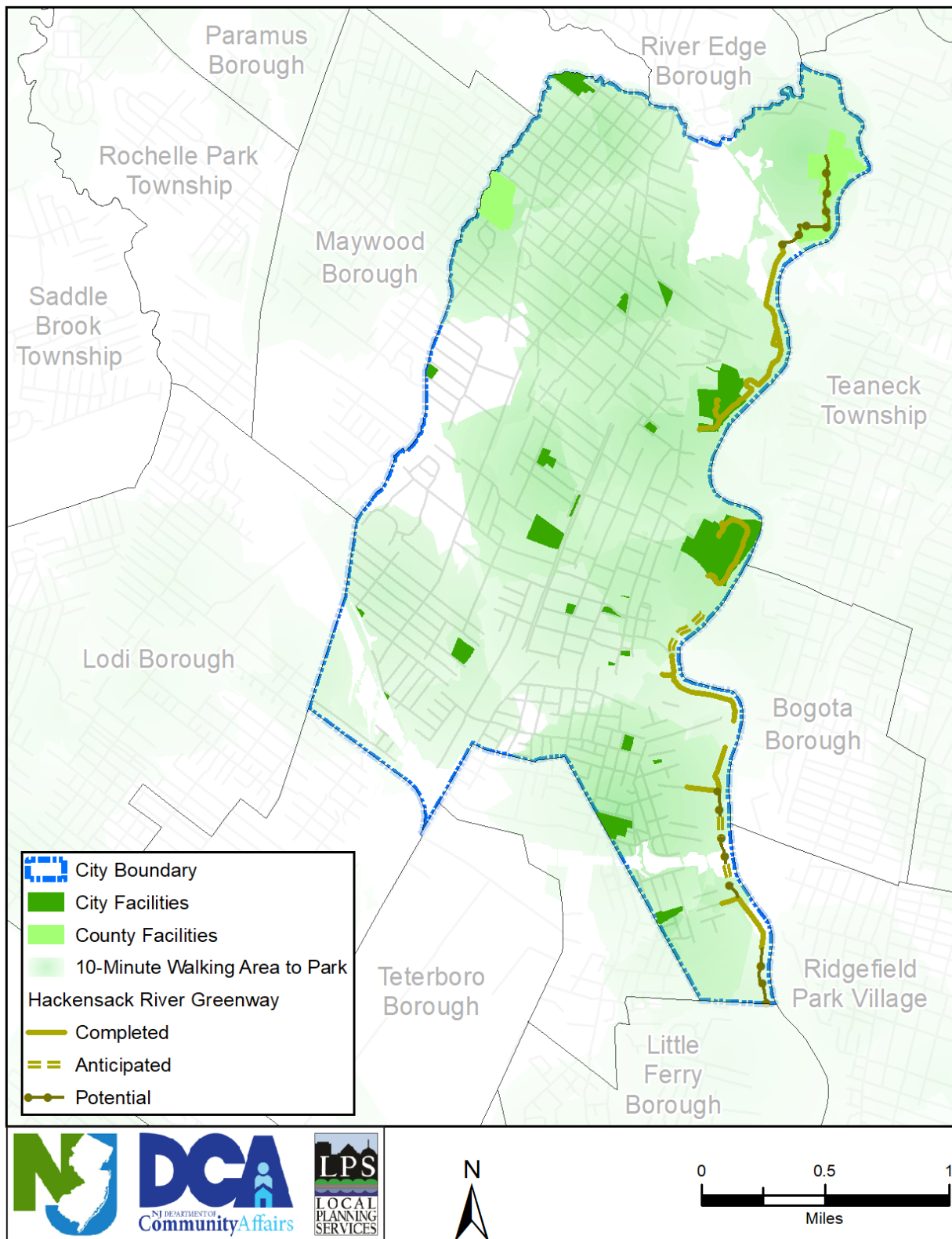
Trust for Public Land's (TPL) Access to Parks Tool

The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) is the second of the two national organizations that produces metrics that parks and recreation agencies across the country use as a benchmark to see how well they are performing compared to peer jurisdictions. In particular, the TPL measures access to parks using a tool called ParkServe. The ParkServe tool measures park access within a 10-minute walkable service area. The analysis identifies physical barriers such as highways, train tracks, and rivers without bridges and chooses routes without barriers. Using these 10-minute walk service areas, overall access statistics are generated for each park, place, and urban area included in TPL's database. Populated areas that fall outside of the 10-minute walk service area are assigned a park need score based on population density, density of children age 19 and younger, and density of households with income below 75 percent of the regional median household income. Based on the 21 parks listed/pending on the ROSI, approximately 94.1 percent (41,723 persons) of Hackensack residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

Consequently, 5.9 percent (2,616) of Hackensack residents are outside of a 10-minute walk to a City or County park. For those residents, accessing a park in Hackensack entails getting in a bus or vehicle. Those residents identified by TPL live primarily along Hackensack's western border with Maywood and Lodi Borough. Map 6 below shows five areas in Hackensack where additional parks are needed

to address the access needs of the residents outside of the 10-minute walk radius. As shown on the map, the priority area where park need is the highest are located along Hackensack's western border.

Map 6. Areas with Greatest Need for Park Access.



Date Prepared: 12/3/2021

Data Sources: NJGIS, NJDCA, NJDEP, ParkServe, City of Hackensack

Resource Assessment

The Hackensack open space and recreation resource assessment focuses on evaluating where open space and recreation opportunities can grow within the City's open space and parks system. This evaluation targets the City's goal of increasing the quantity, quality and availability of parks and open space, encouraging open space within major new developments and redevelopment, establishing a publicly accessible linear greenway park along the Hackensack River, and protecting the environment through the preservation of wetlands and wetland corridors.

Properties Used for Open Space and Recreation Opportunity Assessment

Priority Vacant Land for Potential Acquisition

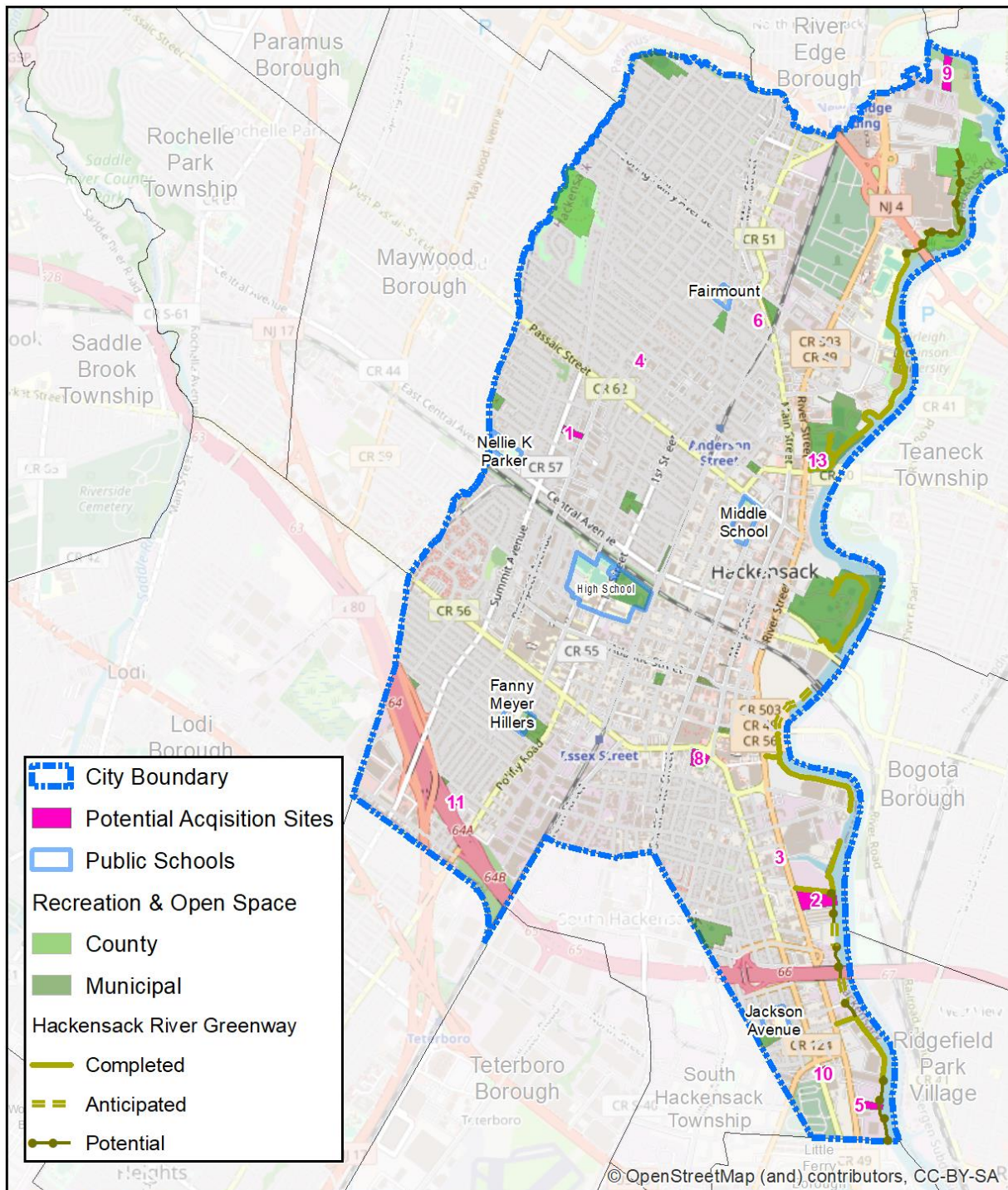
Using GIS analysis and MOD-IV data available from the State Division of Taxation, all vacant land (coded as property class 1) in Hackensack was identified. All properties with no assessed value assigned for improvements, regardless of property class, were also identified. From these lists, properties were filtered to focus only on those with a calculated area of at least one-quarter acre. The vast majority of remaining properties were owned by the City, the County or the Hackensack Board of Education. Most of these properties are already part of the open space and recreation infrastructure within the City and some are part of formally adopted redevelopment plans or anticipated development projects. To narrow the focus on potential opportunities, these properties were eliminated. Also eliminated from consideration were numerous properties that are no longer vacant and properties that are residential side yards or otherwise clearly integrated into an adjoining use. Only 13 properties remained after applying these various considerations.

Table 17: Properties Considered for Potential Acquisition

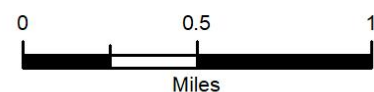
Map Reference	Block	Lot(s)	Acreage
1	344	3, 4, 5 & 14	1.1
2	30.02	8.01 & 8.02	4.2
3	39.04	2	0.4
4	442	23	0.3
5	2.02	2.02	1.5
6	519	53	0.3
8	66	26 to 30, 38, 41 & 43	1.8
9	504.02	14.13	2.2
10	2.01	5.08	0.5
11	113.03	25	0.3
13	404	2	1.0

Map 7 on the following page shows the location of these properties in relationship to existing recreation and open space facilities and Hackensack public schools.

Map 7 – Priority Vacant Land for Potential Acquisition

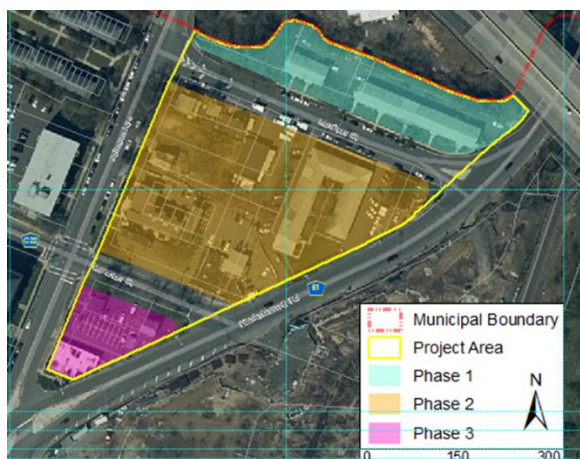


Date Prepared: 12/3/2021



Data Sources: NJGIS, NJDA, NJDEP, City of Hackensack

Priority Floodplain Area Land for Potential Acquisition



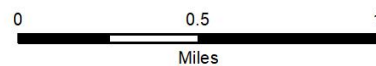
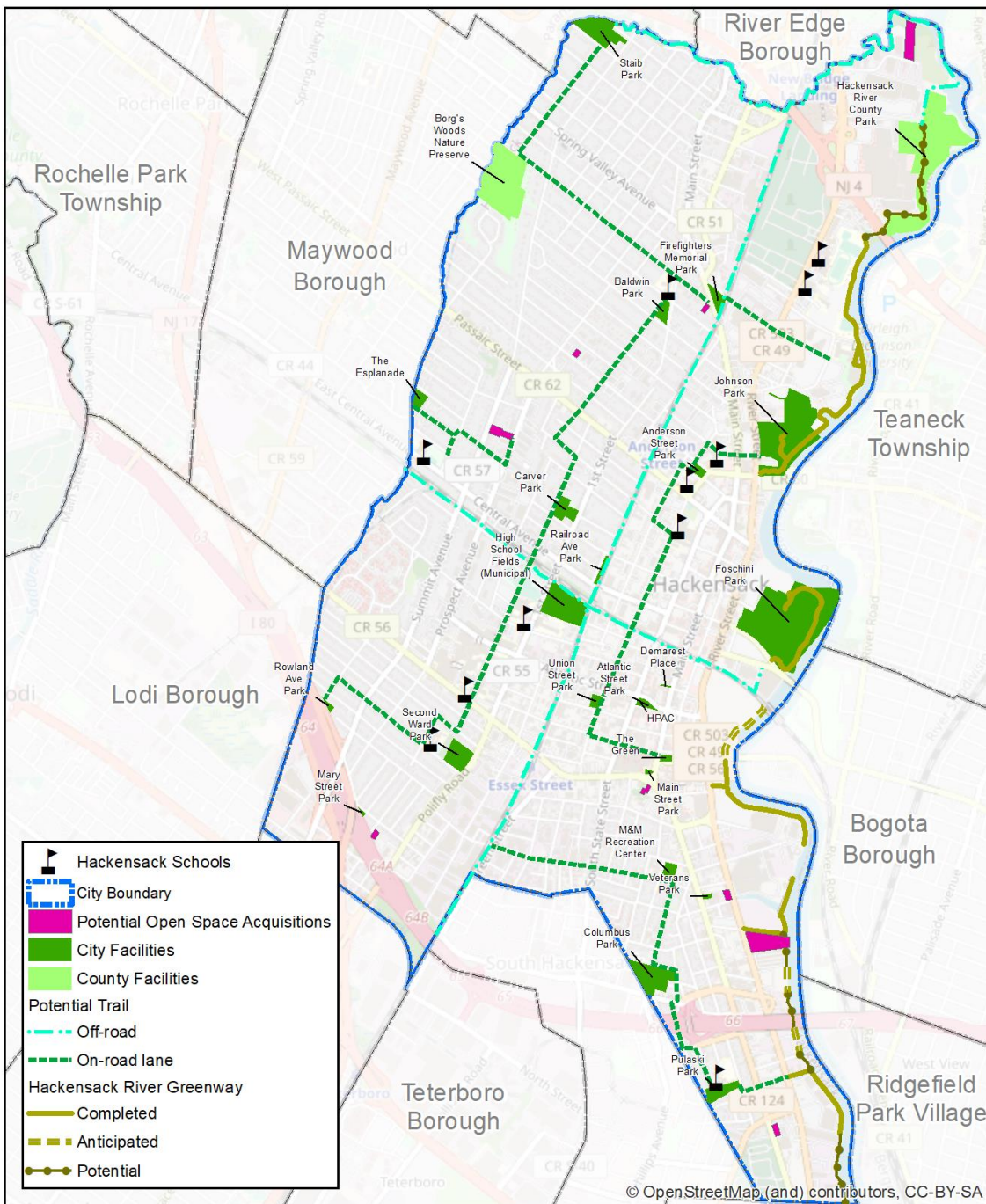
The City of Hackensack has partnered with the Bergen County Floodplain Protection Program, which provides grants to local municipalities to acquire flood-prone residential properties to restore floodplain areas, minimize property damage, and protect the public. As previously indicated, the City has a Floodplain Acquisition Plan in which 63 properties with repetitive and severe repetitive loss claims with FEMA have been identified for acquisition through the NJDEP Blue Acres program, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund, and the Bergen

County Hazard Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, and Severe Repetitive Loss programs. Per the City's Floodplain Acquisition Plan, overflow from Coles Brook and Van Saun Mill Brook during severe storm events causes the three-block area along Johnson Avenue between Madison Street, Kinderkamack Road, and Zabriskie Street to be the most flood-prone in Hackensack. Known as the Johnson Avenue Project Area, it contains approximately 14 acres and is located entirely in the 100-year floodplain. Buying out these vulnerable properties moves people out of the way of dangerous floodwaters and allows the land to be turned into a connected network of open space and riparian buffers, which provide flood storage and mitigate the impacts of future flood events. The map inset above shows the Johnson Avenue Project Area, which is targeted for buy out through the NJDEP's Blue Acres program, the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund, and Bergen County Hazard Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, and Severe Repetitive Loss programs.

Potential Greenway Opportunities

Through its zoning, the City requires an easement on parcels along the Hackensack River. As such, the entire length of the Hackensack River not already completed as publicly accessible linear greenway has potential to become one. In addition to parcels along the Hackensack River, wetland corridors along the Coles Brook and Van Saun Mill Brook are potential locations for expanding greenway opportunities in Hackensack. Rails with trails opportunities for greenways exist along the existing rail right of way going north to south and east to west. Other opportunities exist for shared or separate bicycle lanes along low traffic roads that connect the schools to each other and to existing and planned open space/parks. Map 8 on the following page shows the location of potential greenway opportunities in relationship to existing recreation and open space facilities and Hackensack public schools.

Map 8 –Potential Greenway Opportunities



Date Prepared: 12/3/2021

Data Sources: NJGIS, NJDCA, NJDEP, City of Hackensack

Goals and Objectives

In addition to providing a justification for the protection and preservation of open space and recreation opportunities, the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan seeks to articulate the City's vision, goals, and objectives for preserving and enhancing open space and parks. The goals and objectives noted in this section will serve as a guideline for the City of Hackensack's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The goals were primarily taken from the City's Master Plan, site visits, public input, and meetings with the working committee.

Goal 1: Improve the quantity, quality, variety, and availability of parks and open space including active and passive recreational facilities, neighborhood parks and environmentally sensitive areas:

- **Objective 1:** Preserve, protect, and enhance natural, cultural, and historical resources.
- **Objective 2:** Encourage restoration, education and stewardship of open space, parks, and recreation resources.
- **Objective 3:** Offer a variety of indoor and outdoor gathering places for recreational and cultural activities.
- **Objective 4:** Coordinate with State, County, and other City agencies to enhance and restore habitat and flood protection of Hackensack's watersheds.
- **Objective 5:** Maintain safe, attractive facilities using efficient and environmentally sustainable practices.
- **Objective 6:** Improve accessibility and usability of existing facilities.
- **Objective 7:** Leverage the potential of existing open space, parks, and recreation assets.
- **Objective 8:** Actively involve stakeholders and the community in the development and management of facilities and programs.

Goal 2: Encourage open space within major new developments and redevelopment:

- **Objective 1:** Engage and partner with developers and the broader business community to create public open space and/or recreational facilities in private development.
- **Objective 2:** Engage and partner with developers and the broader business community to enhance existing indoor and outdoor spaces that are near to and/or accessible via walking, biking, and public transit to new development.

Goal 3: Promote the establishment of a publicly accessible linear green-way (riverside) park along the Hackensack River:

- **Objective 1:** Enforce easements to prevent the expansion of impervious coverage on waterfront properties.

- **Objective 2:** Protect and enhance vegetation, wildlife habitat and water quality in and along the Hackensack River and its waterfront.
- **Objective 3:** Restore and preserve the natural character of the Hackensack River waterfront through land acquisition where necessary.
- **Objective 4:** Partner with the Hackensack Riverkeeper and other stakeholder organizations to educate citizens about the benefits of supporting stewardship efforts along the Hackensack River and its waterfront.
- **Objective 5:** Enhance and implement maintenance standards for completed sections of the Hackensack River Walk to ensure safe and comfortable travel by users and to achieve sustainable operations.

Goal 4: Protect and replenish wetlands along Hackensack’s waterfronts:

- **Objective 1:** Partner with FEMA, NJDEP’s Blue Acres Program and Bergen County’s Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund to acquire high priority ecologically important properties.
- **Objective 2:** Acquire 14 acres of flood prone properties along Johnson Avenue for conversion to parks and trails.
- **Objective 3:** Promote and implement green infrastructure improvements, such as green roofs, planter boxes and trays, permeable pavers, above or below grade stormwater management systems.
- **Objective 4:** Promote use of detention basins and/or wetlands to treat stormwater in larger parks and open spaces.
- **Objective 5:** Continue to implement separation of the combined stormwater and sewer system.

Goal 5: Increase public access to information about the City’s parks, recreation facilities, and the recreation and cultural departments’ programs and activities.

- **Objective 1:** Take advantage of opportunities to meet community recreational needs through partnerships and joint use facilities.
- **Objective 2:** Collaborate with the Hackensack Board of Education to determine future demand and supply for athletic facilities.
- **Objective 3:** Coordinate with Bergen County Technical Schools District, Bergen Community College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and public/private partnerships to expand available and publicly accessible parks and recreation facilities.
- **Objective 4:** Engage with business, civic, and religious organizations, as well as other recreation and social service providers to share information about available parks, recreation, and cultural services.

Goal 6: Maintain and Enhance the City's Parks and Recreational Facilities.

- **Objective 1:** Collaborate with other City departments and community stakeholders to increase federal, state, county, and foundational funding for parks and recreation improvements and programming.
- **Objective 2:** Work with other City departments and staff to increase or introduce bicycle infrastructure, access and accessibility to existing open space.
- **Objective 3:** Create efficiencies and reduce maintenance costs through technology adaption, joint use partnerships, contracted services, and volunteers, as appropriate.
- **Objective 4:** Improve the level of satisfaction with parks and recreation facilities to generally “satisfied” or “very satisfied” among all age groups within the next five years.
- **Objective 5:** Explore opportunities to connect all parks, recreation, and school facilities to each other and to the Hackensack River Walk via the sidewalk network, on- and off-road bicycle lanes/paths, and/or multi-purpose trails.
- **Objective 6:** Protect and enhance existing tree canopy.

Action Plan

The Open Space and Recreation Plan offers a set of strategies and a timetable to implement the goals and recommendations for the City of Hackensack. The action program suggests specific tasks that the City may take to implement the Open Space and Recreation Plan. These action steps were created per the goals and objectives outlined in this Plan and with a thorough review of the City's existing plans and public comment. The activities listed for the short-term (1-2 years) are the most urgent and will immediately further the City's open space program. The medium-term (3-5 years) recommendations are focused on longer-term objectives that will serve to accomplish the City's open space and recreation needs. The long-term (5+ years) projects will be achieved as the program continues to mature and as opportunities arise. Ongoing activities are items that will continue with regular review throughout the period. Annual updates on the action programs within the Open Space and Recreation Plan are to be included in the City Administrators' annual report to the City Council.

Short-Term Action Plan

- Adopt the Open Space and Recreation Plan as part of the Master Plan.
- Submit the Open Space and Recreation Plan to the Green Acres program at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- Implement an annual park improvement schedule that commits City to funding improvements for one park per year.
- Conduct a feasibility analysis for splash pad at Staib Park and pocket park at 1000 Main St.
- Construct an indoor sports recreation facility at Johnson Park to address the need for additional facilities.
- Continue to enforce the requirement for developers to dedicate easement to the City along the Hackensack River for completion of the Hackensack River Pathway.

- Hire security staff and/or improve surveillance at the Recreation Center.
- Expand programming for seniors at the Recreation Center.
- Update ROSI after executing joint use lease agreement with the Hackensack Board of Education for community access to the following school's outdoor recreational facilities: Fanny Meyer Hillers Elementary School (add 1.83 acres beyond school fence); Jackson Avenue Elementary School; Nellie K Parker Elementary School; and Hackensack High School (add multipurpose fields).
- Engage with County school district, County Community College, and Farleigh Dickenson University to discuss expanding and/or initiating shared use parks and recreation opportunities.
- Engage with business, civic and religious organizations, and other recreation and social service providers to organize and support Friends of the Park and Adopt-A-Park volunteer groups.
- Update City website to create an easy to use one-stop parks and recreation page that provides information about park availability and amenities, parking locations, recreational programming, an up-to-date events calendar, cultural programming, etc.
- Implement marketing to increase awareness of park benefits and values via regular emails/texts on park features and programming, improved park signage, etc.
- Explore feasibility of a parks' hotline and/or app for reporting maintenance concerns.
- Prepare bicycle and pedestrian master plan.
- Complete short-term Foschini Park improvements: convert the field that is already being used by the junior football league into multipurpose football/baseball field; convert the field that is already being used by the junior volleyball league into multipurpose volleyball/baseball field; add lighting to fields 7, 9, and 10; add lighting to field 5 trail.
- Complete short-term Johnson Park improvements: convert one of the tennis courts into a pickleball court, add bilingual English/Spanish signage and a biography plaque to commemorate the park's namesake.
- Complete short-term Columbus Park improvements: add Spanish language signage; regrade and reseed existing lawn areas; add security cameras at park and/or increase community and police surveillance of park; increase frequency of park maintenance schedule; add Plastic Pet Waste Eliminator Station at appropriate points.
- Complete short-term Staib Park improvements: install exercise stations; and add bicycle racks to encourage bicycling to park.
- Complete short-term Second Ward Park improvements: add picnicking as a permitted use; and add Spanish language signage.
- Complete short-term Carver Park improvements: allow picnicking as a permitted use; add plaque with a bio of the park's namesake; and add Spanish language signage; add bicycle racks; resurface remaining basketball courts.
- Complete short-term Pulaski Park improvements: install bicycle racks; improve bicyclists' access to park; allow park access to school restrooms or install outdoor restroom facilities; fix or replace broken drinking water fountains.

- Complete short-term Firefighters Memorial (Fairmount) Park improvements: add Spanish language signage. Add park benches near cafe. Plant evergreen privacy trees or hedges to screen off the railroad tracks.
- Complete short-term Baldwin Park improvements: add Spanish language signage; add plaque with bio of the park's namesake; provide better tree maintenance and/or replant trees; and add netting to softball field along tree area.
- Complete short-term Esplanade Park improvements: Improve integration with Nellie K Parker Elementary School; add pre-school play equipment and bicycle parking. Add Spanish language signage. Add to the list of parks under consideration as potential City and Board of Education shared services agreement project.
- Complete short-term Union Park improvements: add more green space; add Spanish language signage; add a flower garden; and add a pergola misting feature near the basketball court.
- Mark designated on street parking spaces for Anderson Park users.
- Investigate shared parking with the Bergen County Complex for both cars and bicycles for events at the Green.
- Complete short-term Main Street Avenue Park improvements: add signage in English and Spanish in front of Main Street Avenue Park to inform residents and visitors that it is a public park; and add labels in front of the flowers and plants in the horticultural garden.
- Amend zoning ordinance to specify that Hackensack River Walk is a multi-modal river path, trail, or greenway.
- Revise name of Hackensack River Walk to Hackensack River Pathway to be consistent with name used by Bergen County.
- Implement a street and yard tree planting program.

Medium-Term Action Plan

- Complete on-road bicycle lanes connecting parks to schools and to River Walk.
- Design and build a serenity park for seniors.
- Acquire open space, design, and build an off-leash dog park.
- Acquire adjacent open space to 1000 Main St.
- Install a lightning detector system for all active parks.
- Execute shared use agreements with existing aquatic center/swimming pool facilities to provide public swimming access to City residents.
- Complete medium-term Foschini Park improvements: elevate the park and extend the walking path around perimeter of the park. Extend cultural and artistic programming in the park to include amphitheater or band shell, appropriately scaled art installations and cultural monuments.
- Complete medium-term Johnson Park improvements: multi-purpose Sports Dome Facility; better pedestrian connection to Sears parking lot across River Street; rain garden next to parking lot to capture, treat and infiltrate parking lot runoff.

- Complete medium-term Columbus Park improvements: upgrade playground equipment and basketball court; fix cracks in walkways; resurface the futsal and tennis courts; convert the baseball field to a multipurpose baseball, softball, football and soccer field; install more benches near the tennis and futsal courts; improve drainage up against the existing building by adding a rain garden to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the building and basketball court.
- Complete medium-term Staib Park improvements: add a picnic pavilion, improve playground surfaces, and replace the restroom structure; realign the playgrounds to accommodate pavilion and restroom facilities; add splash park; add trail; replace a section of pavement with rain garden to capture, treat and infiltrate parking lot runoff.
- Complete medium-term Carver Park improvements: convert one of the basketball courts into a skateboard park; add rain garden from the basketball court and in the island of the parking lot to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the basketball court and parking lot.
- Complete medium-term Pulaski Park improvements: integrate the Jackson Avenue Elementary School field with Pulaski Park to form a larger 4.6-acre park. Expand walking path to the Jackson Avenue Elementary School field/parcel; add outdoor classroom/school garden area, more shade structures, and pre-school play equipment; replace parking spaces near the back of the school building with pervious pavement and rain garden to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the building and parking lot.
- Complete medium-term Firefighters Memorial (Fairmount) Park improvements: integrate park with Cranberry Junction Café, by activating the park with more events; add rain garden from the paved driveway area and railroad tracks and install a tree box along the road to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff from the street.
- Complete medium-term Baldwin Park improvements: convert futsal/hockey/roller-skating court to a formal futsal court; add a gazebo; and create a more defined trail.
- Expand Veterans Park into a walkable sculpture /memorial garden.
- City can seek grants to acquire easements on properties not being redeveloped to create riverfront path/greenway.
- Complete medium-term improvements at the Recreation Center: add security staff and better surveillance; expand programming for seniors; and improve marketing of existing programs.

Long-Term Action Plan

- Complete pocket park and off-road trail at 1000 Main St.
- Complete long-term Johnson Park improvements: acquire Sears parking lot and convert to green space/picnic pavilion.
- Complete the Hackensack River Walk/ River Pathway.
- Complete on-road and off-road trail connecting parks to schools and to River Walk.
- Complete acquisition of 14-acre Johnson Avenue Floodplain Project Area.
- Complete conversion of 14-acre Johnson Avenue Floodplain Project Area to park and trails.

- Replace one-car handicap parking spot at Rowland Park with green space/open lawn or toddler play. Designate spot on-street for handicap parking. Repave walking path with porous pavement or other pervious material.
- Replace parking spots at Mary Street Park with greenery and additional play features and designate on-street handicap parking as required by ADA.
- Rebrand the cultural center into the Hispanic Cultural Center to attract the City's large contingent of Hispanic and Latinx population.
- Acquire open space for neighborhood park in census tracts 236.02, 234.01, 233.02.
- Design and built neighborhood park in census tracts 236.02, 234.01 and 233.02.

Ongoing

- Ensure that all communication strategies are in English and Spanish.
- Continue to apply for and investigate grant opportunities to protect the City's open space areas, including the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund and the NJDEP Green Acres Program.
- Continue to apply for and investigate grant opportunities to acquire open space through the Bergen County Hazard Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, and Severe Repetitive Loss programs and the NJDEP Blue Acres program
- Replace, renovate, or repair park amenities (e.g., drinking fountains, restrooms, park benches, lamp posts, refuse/recycling bins, etc.)