

Generation of the Highland Park ERI



Highland Park Environmental Commission
Allan Williams, Vice Chair

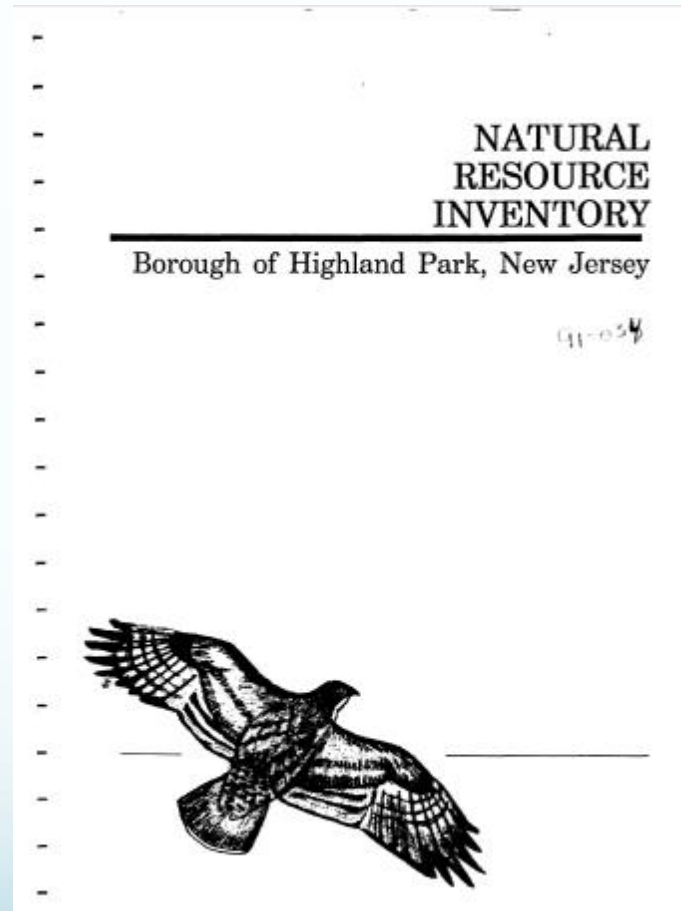
Highland Park, Middlesex County, NJ



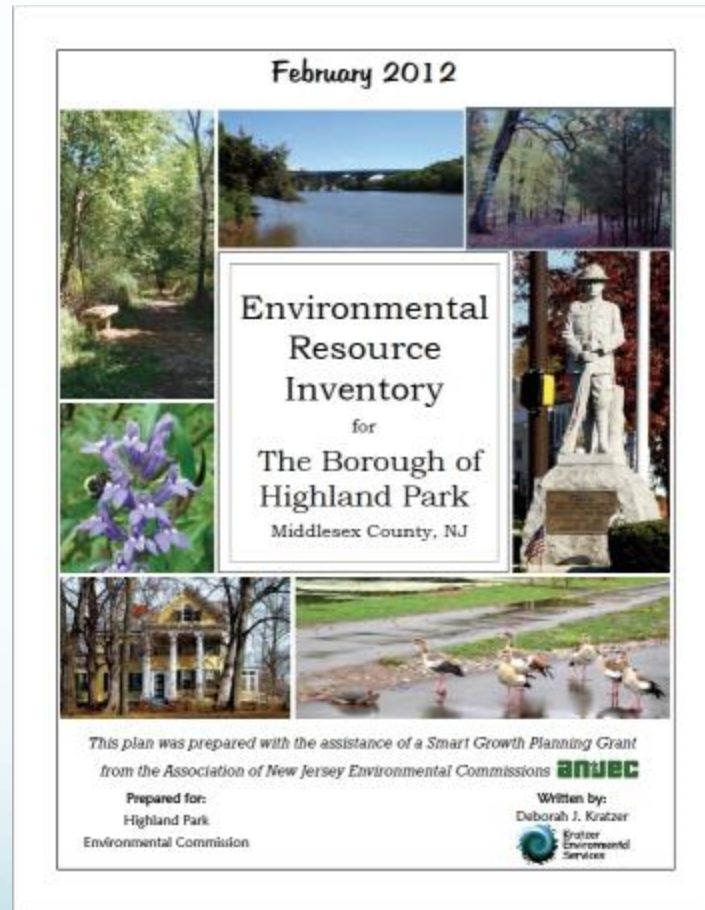
Highland Park, NJ

- **1.8 Square Miles**
- **Urban Community**
- **~15,500 People**
- **Raritan River**

Natural Resources Inventory (1992)



Environmental Resource Inventory (2012)



ERI Process

- Municipal Rules
- ERI Committee
- Your Vision of the ERI
- Consultant
- NJDEP Data and Your Data
- Ground Proofing All The Data and Text
- Distribution of the ERI

Municipal Rules I

- Most Environmental Commissions get a Grant to Fund Their ERI.
- Need a Resolution From Municipal Council to Submit a Grant Application.
- Need a Resolution to Accept Grant Funding.
- Need a “Request for Proposal” (RFP) to Hire a Consultant. Need to Define Content of RFP.
- Evaluate Proposal and Select Consultant.

Municipal Rules II

- Need a Contract for Consultant.
- Need a Resolution to Hire Consultant.
- **Get Started on the ERI**
- Purchase Orders to Pay Consultant.

Your Vision of the ERI

- There are Standard Components to ERI (10).
- What is Unique About Your Town. What Do You Wish To Emphasize.
- Who Should Be On Your ERI Committee? Select Carefully for Knowledge and Willingness to Work.
- The Committee Is Equally Responsible for the Accuracy of the ERI as the Consultant.

ERI Committee

- Committee Should Include Members of the Environmental Commission; Select a Chair.
- Include a Council Member if Possible.
- Members of the Community.
- Diversity of Talent is Important.
- Willingness to Work.
- Much of Work Will Be Review of ERI as Consultant Releases Elements.

Our Vision of the ERI

- Tidal Raritan River
- 2 County Parks along the Raritan River
- Lack of Open Space –Two Municipal Areas – The Meadows, Native Plant Sanctuary – 20 acres
- Historical Areas
- Historical Homes
- History of Area

Data for the ERI I

- NJ DEP Data – Layers, Tables, Maps,
- Municipal Tax Map
- Data Collected by Our Committee
 - Municipal Trees
 - Location of Historical Homes
 - Streams not on DEP Layers
 - Open Space Areas

Data for the ERI II

- Ground Proofing
 - DEP Layers Sometimes Have Incorrect Street Names
 - Some Layers Are Incomplete (e.g. Streams).
 - Some Streams Have Been Culverted.
 - Some DEP Website Data Not Updated – Baby Care Center Listed as Contaminated.
 - Some Contamination Data Needs to be Updated to Reflect Current Name of Locations.
- Handheld GPS Data vs Google Earth - Check on Accuracy

Consultants

- Read the ERI Proposal Carefully
- Is the Consultant Willing to Work with the Committee and Have the Committed Develop Some of the Local Data. Write Parts of the ERI or Do They Want to Just Deliver an ERI? Leave the Work to the Professionals. Discuss the Process.
- Costs.
- Choose Consultant.
- Contract/Develop a Plan and Time Schedule.

Writing and Reviewing the ERI

- Get the Local Data to the Consultant Early in the Process.
- As Elements of the ERI are Completed, Have Committee Review and Forward Written Comments to Consultant.
- When All Elements Complete, There Should be One Final Global Review by at Least One Member of the Committee.

Distribution of ERI's

- Borough Clerk
- Borough Engineer
- Borough Planner
- Planning Board
- Zoning Board
- Municipal Library/School Library
- Environmental Commission
- Municipal Website

Incorporate ERI into the Master Plan

- Requires a Public Notice Meetings.
- Requires a Vote by Planning Board to Incorporate Into Master Plan.
- Value – Developers Can Not Dismiss Data in the ERI.
- Site Application Memos Have More Weight with References in the ERI.

Certification of Municipalities with Sustainable Jersey

- ERI Has a Value of 20 Points and Points Expire After 9 Years

Transparency

- Our ERI was Funded by ANJEC and the Borough.
- Kerry Miller was a Valuable Resource in the Process.
- Cost was \$10,500.
- Consultant was Kratzer Environmental Services.
- Our ERI Available at
<http://www.hpboro.com/documentcenter/view/921>