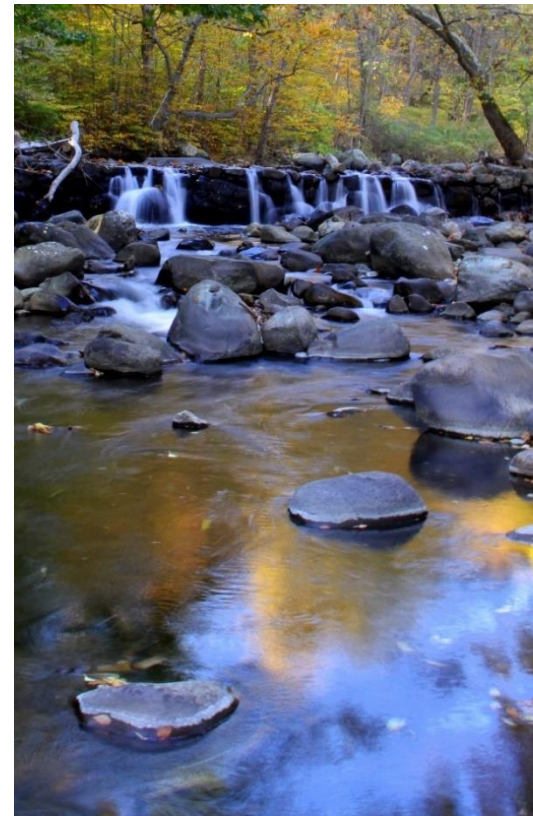




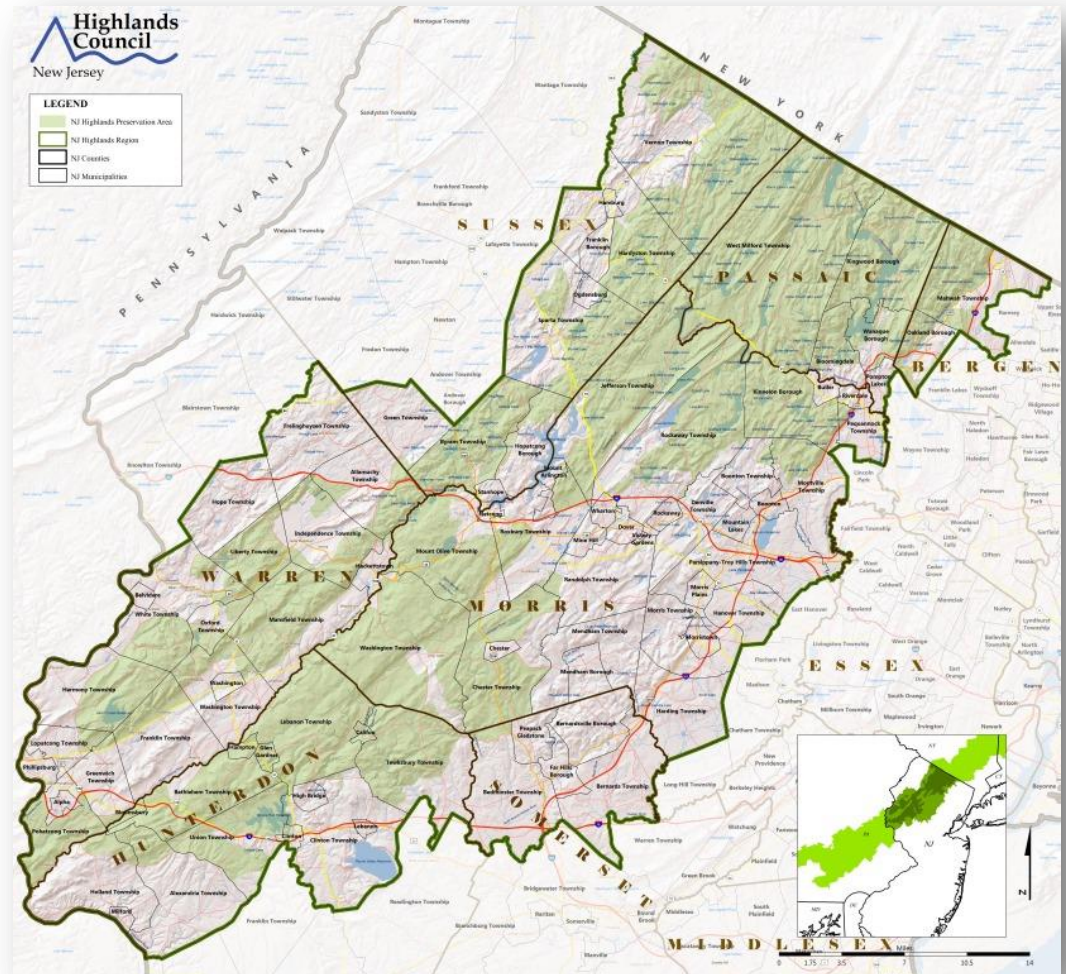
Tools for NJ Highlands Region Environmental Commissioners: **Interactive Mapping and Grant Funding in Northwest New Jersey**

ANJEC Congress | 10/4/19



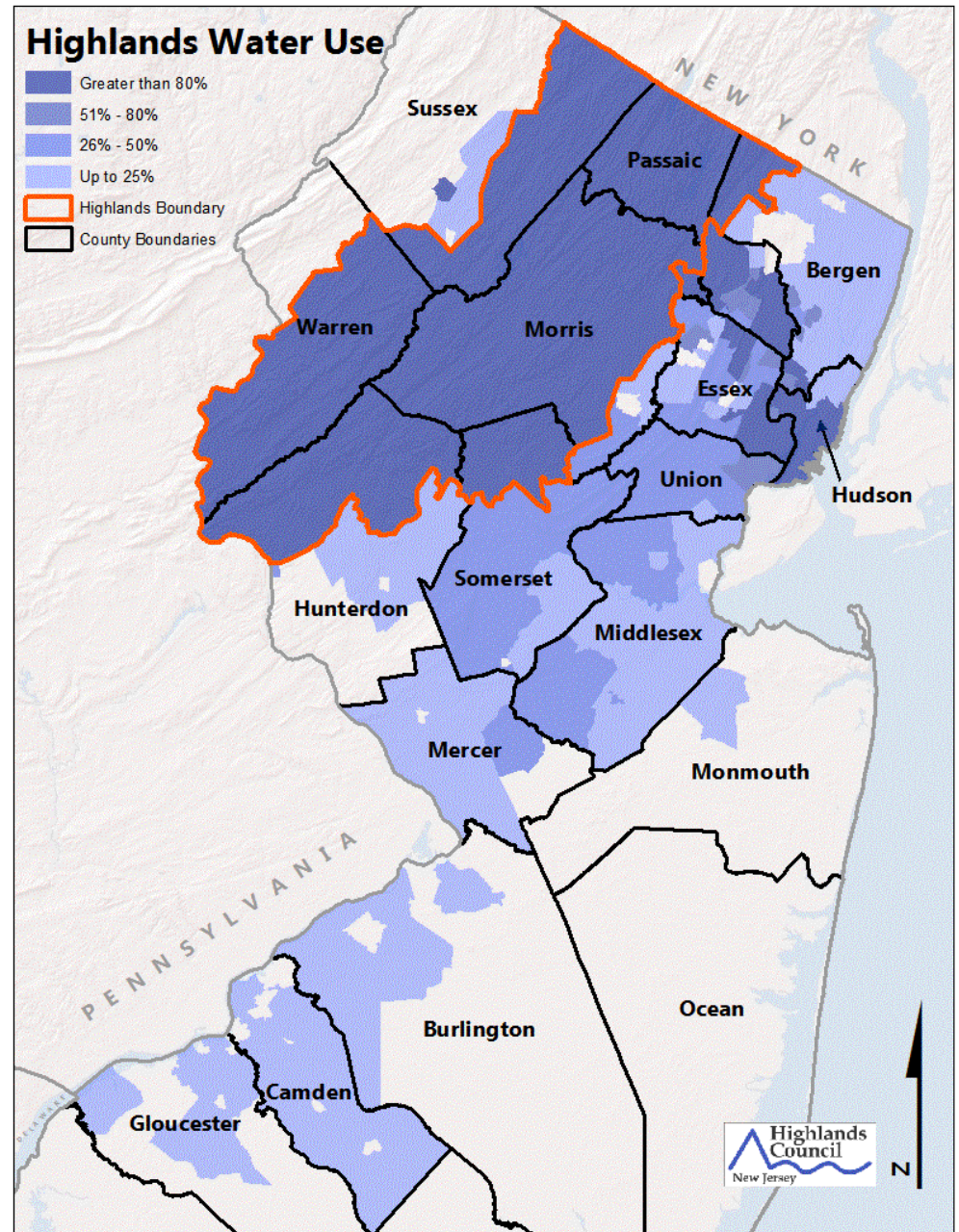
New Jersey Highlands Region

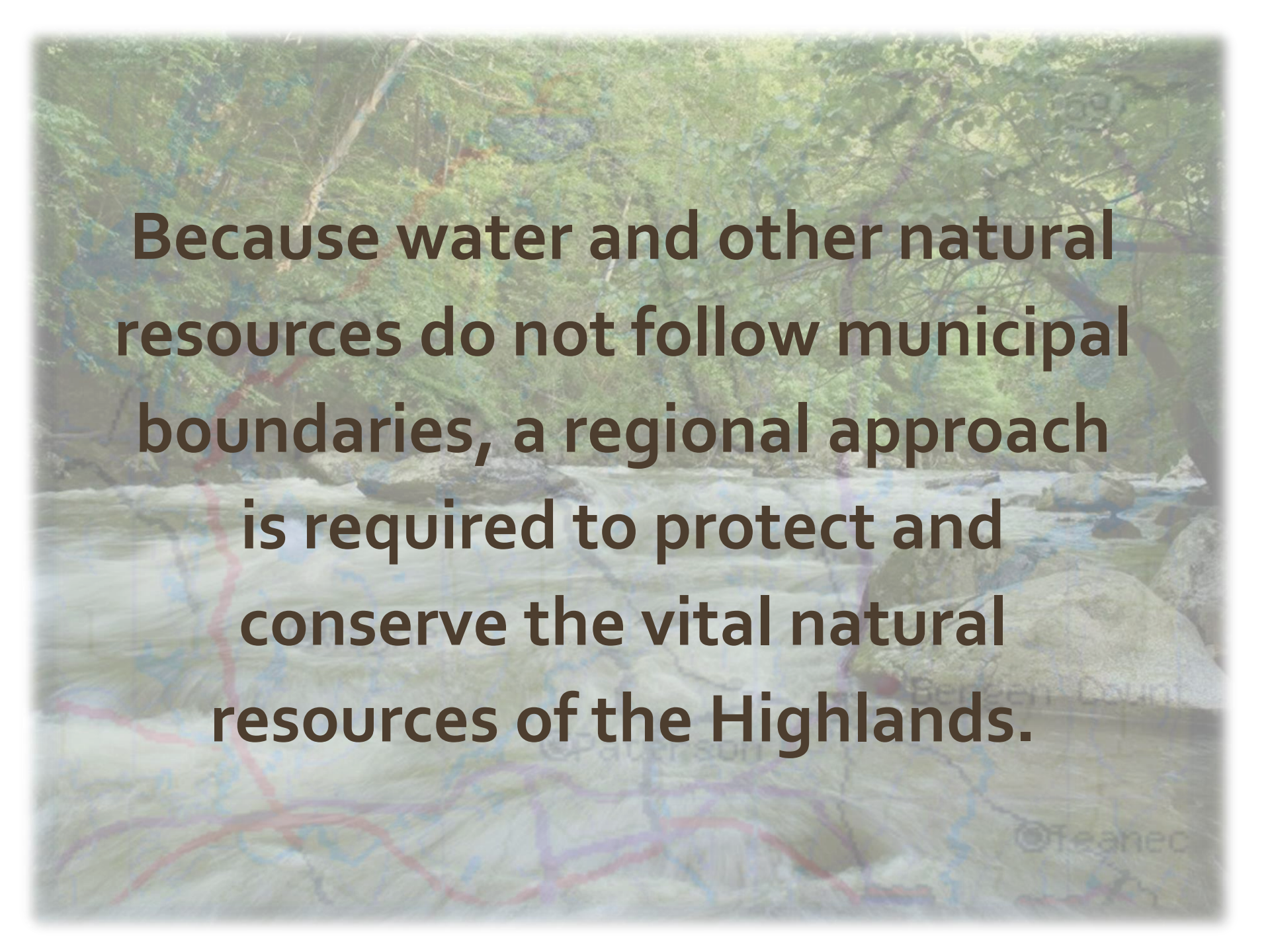
- The Highlands Region of New Jersey includes 88 municipalities and parts of 7 counties.
- The New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act of 2004 was created to protect the region.



70% of the state's residents get their drinking water from the Highlands.

The Highlands Region covers less than 15% of the state's land area, but provides drinking water to more than 300 municipalities that are home to 70% of New Jersey's population.





Because water and other natural resources do not follow municipal boundaries, a regional approach is required to protect and conserve the vital natural resources of the Highlands.

New Jersey Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP)

- The New Jersey Highlands Council was established in the Act as the agency responsible for implementation of the Act through a Regional Planning approach.
- A Regional Master Plan (RMP) was developed and published in 2008.
- The Highlands Council works with municipalities and counties to implement the Act and the RMP through local land use regulations and resource management planning.



RMP Structure & Content

- The RMP is structured around the following planning considerations:
 - Natural Resources
 - Water Resources
 - Agricultural Resources
 - Historic, Cultural, Archaeological, and Scenic Resources
 - Transportation
 - Landowner Equity
 - Sustainable Economic Development
 - Air Quality
- For each of these areas, the RMP provides a regional **Analysis**, identifies **Goals, Policies, and Objectives** (GPOs) and defines **Programs** to implement the GPOs.

Grant Funding & Planning Expertise Available

Water Quality
Monitoring

Historic Preservation
Planning and Cultural
Resource Inventory

Green Building and Environmental
Sustainability Planning

Highlands Center Planning

Lake Management
Planning

Alternative Wastewater
Planning

Land Preservation &
Stewardship Plan

Water Use and Conservation
Management Planning

Trails and Recreation
Planning

Habitat Conservation &
Management Planning

Municipal Master Plan
Reexamination and Updates

Stormwater
Management
Planning

Scenic Resource
Management Planning

Forest Stewardship
Planning

Sustainable Economic
Development Planning

Stream Corridor
Protection/Restoration Planning

Examples of funded projects

**Wellhead Protection
Planning & Ordinance**

\$17,000

*Mahwah Township
Bergen County*

**Stream Corridor
Restoration Plan**

\$38,000

*Washington Township
Morris County*

**Alternative Energy
Model Ordinance and
Facilities Plan**

\$7,000

*Bethlehem Township
Hunterdon County*

**Historic Preservation
Plan**

\$37,850

*High Bridge
Hunterdon County*

\$13,500

*Phillipsburg
Warren County*

**Watershed-Based
Assessment of Lakes**

\$91,000

*Ringwood Borough
Passaic County*

**Groundwater Recharge
Enhancement Project**

\$85,000

Montville Township Morris County

**Open Space and
Recreation Plan**

\$21,000

*Glen Gardner
Hunterdon County*

Highlands Council Tools for Environmental Commissioners


- All 88 municipalities, regardless of conformance status or regional location can access a variety of tools accessible from the Highlands Council Website www.nj.gov/njhighlands/
- Council Information, Meeting Schedule, Sign up for Email Announcements
- Regional Master Plan and Technical Reports, Highlands Act and links to NJDEP
- Guidance Documents: stormwater, green infrastructure, stream corridor restoration, lake management
- Grants Program, Annual Reports, News and Public Notices, and MORE

Highlands Council Website

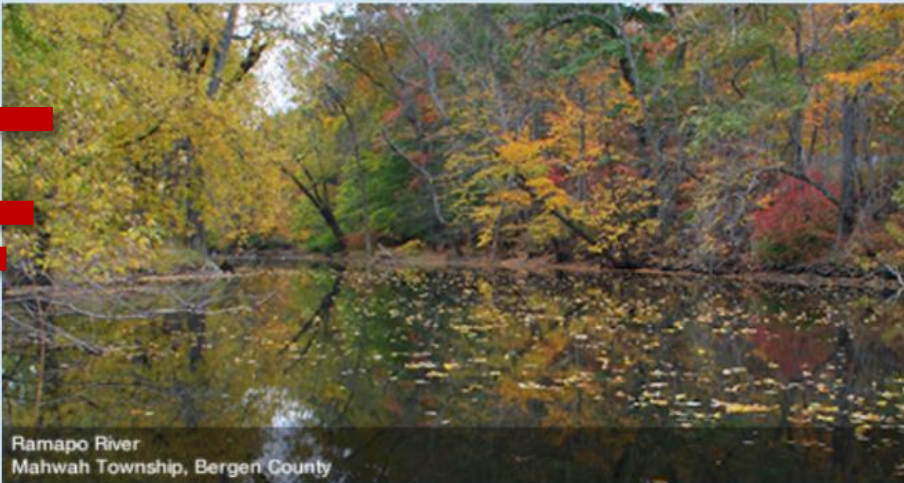
www.nj.gov/njhighlands/


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[Interactive Maps & GIS Data](#)


Ramapo River
Mahwah Township, Bergen County


2018
Annual Report

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News & Public Notices

Meeting Materials Available for Highlands Council September Meeting - (9/13/2019) An agenda and related materials have been posted for the September 19 Highlands Council meeting. ([read](#))

Highlands Council seeks proposals to develop a region-wide Economic Sustainability Plan for the Highlands - (9/10/2019) The Highlands Council is currently soliciting proposals to

Quick Reference

- [Calendar: Meeting dates, agendas, and materials](#)
- [Plan Conformance Status/Highlands Municipal Pages](#)
- [Plan Conformance Status Sheet \(pdf\)](#)

Highlands Council Interactive Map

1. [Interactive Maps & GIS Data](#)

New Jersey Highlands Council

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Bedminster, Somerset County

News & Public Notices

Meeting Materials Available for Highlands Council September Meeting - (9/10/2019) The agenda and related materials have been posted for the September 19 Highlands Council Meeting. (read)

Highlands Council seeks proposals to develop a region-wide Economic Sustainability Plan for the Highlands - (9/10/2019) The Highlands Council is currently soliciting proposals to develop an Economic Sustainability Plan for the Highlands Region. The plan will include an economic profile, identification of key industries and sectors, strategies and policies to promote future economic growth, and an implementation action plan for the ensuing 10 year period. Proposals must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. Monday, November 4, 2019. (read)

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Interactive Maps & GIS Data

The Highlands Council GIS staff provides access to its GIS data in a web-based format for professionals.

Interactive Map and HDC Estimator

The Highlands Interactive Map is an online tool designed to allow users to view and analyze Highlands-specific as well as state-wide data sources. The Highlands Development Credits a particular parcel may be eligible to receive.

2. [Go to Interactive Map](#)
[Go to HDC Estimator Tool](#)

Please be advised: The HDC Estimator is provided for information only and does not constitute a formal Highlands Development Credit Allocation from the Highlands Council.

GIS Data

The Highlands Council provides the following data and tools for use:

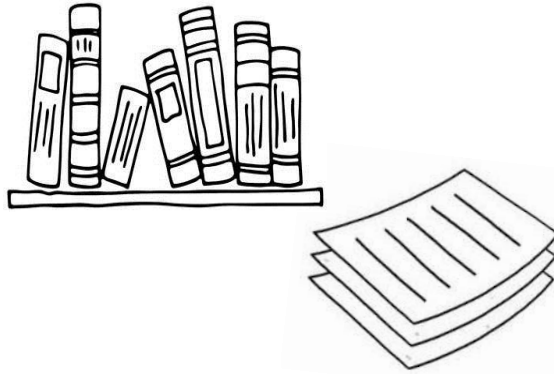
- [NJ Highlands Open Data](#)
- [NJ Highlands ArcGIS Online](#)
- [LiDAR Contour Data](#)

www.nj.gov/njhighlands/gis

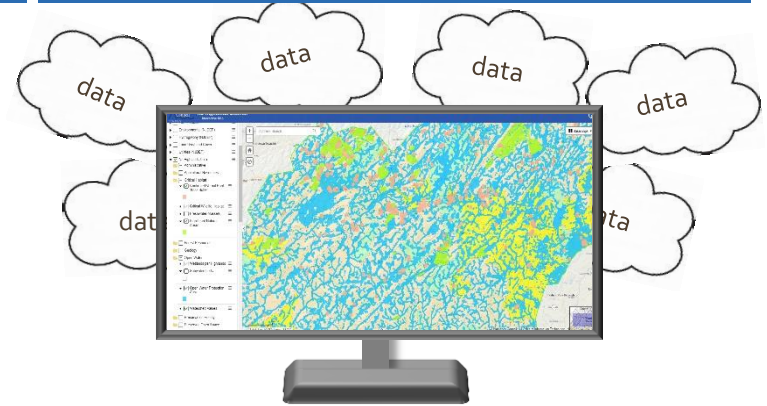
Interactive Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

- Contract approved at September Highlands Council Meeting.
- Work will begin in next 1-2 months. Project complete 12-18 mo.
- Stakeholder engagement during development – **any volunteers?**
- Entire Highlands Region.
- Mapping of all Highlands RMP resources + any other resources typically found in ERIs.
- Data available at the parcel, multiple parcel, municipal, county, and watershed level. Data updated regularly.
- Customized portal for each Highlands municipality.
- Available to the public.

Current Model



Interactive ERI



Data	Point-in-time data; static.	Real-time data; always current.
ERI Development	Labor Intensive. Author must pull data from multiple sources.	Streamlined. All data sources in one place.
ERI Format	Printed documents. Quickly outdated.	Interactive/dynamic or printed. Online, on-demand.
Applicability	Municipality only.	Scalable: region, county, municipality, parcel, project, etc.
Investment & Return on Investment	Significant investment every 10 years for new ERI that quickly becomes outdated.	One-time investment for application development. Dramatically lower cost over time vs. current model PLUS: <i>Provides users with a more accurate, useful product.</i>

Action items for Environmental Commissioners in the NJ Highlands

- ✓ Know your town's Highlands Liaison (handout)
- ✓ Understand where your town is in the RMP conformance process and what the next steps are.
- ✓ Understand how and where we can assist your town and encourage your officials to connect with us.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with our Interactive Map and how it can aid in your work.

Environmental Commissioners can provide critical connections between the Highlands Council and local officials.

Highlands Council Resources for Environmental Commissioners

- Access to expertise in planning, environmental science and GIS.
- Grant funding for your municipalities.
- Interactive mapping for:
 - Master Plan Review
 - ERI Review
 - Project Reviews
 - Open Space Planning
 - Property resource reporting and mapping functions
- Highlands Council staff liaisons.

www.nj.gov/njhighlands



Questions?

photo by J Case