

Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council

Media Fact Sheet

Highlands Region

- Total area: 859,267 acres (approximately 1,343 square miles).
- Provides drinking water for over 5 million residents of New Jersey.
- Highlands Act, passed in 2004, divided region into Preservation Area and Planning area.
- Approximately 415,000 acres in the Preservation Area.
- Approximately 444,000 acres in the Planning Area.
- Development is more strictly regulated in the Preservation Area than the Planning Area.

Highlands Communities

- 88 municipalities (within 7 counties) have lands within the Highlands Region.
- 47 have lands in both Planning and Preservation Areas.
- 36 have lands only in the Planning Area.
- 5 have lands only within the Preservation Area.

Timeline of Highlands Act and Regional Master Plan

- 1992 – U.S. Forest Service issues a report on the New York and New Jersey Highlands, which serves as an impetus for efforts to protect the natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands.
- 2002 – U.S. Forest Service study is updated, finding an 11 percent increase in population in the New York and New Jersey Highlands Region from 1990 to 2000.
- 2004 – The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act is enacted by the State of New Jersey.
- 2006 – Draft Regional Master Plan released for public comment.
- 2007 – Final Draft of the Regional Master Plan released for public comment.
- 2008 – Regional Master Plan approved by Highlands Council and becomes effective.

Plan Conformance

- Highlands Act requires counties and municipalities to align local master plans and development regulations with the Regional Master Plan for Preservation Area lands.
- Conformance for Planning Area lands is voluntary.

Municipal Petitions and Approvals (As of August 2016)

- 59 municipalities (of 88 total in the Region) are engaged in the Plan Conformance Process (have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance)
 - 28 of the 59 Petitions submitted include only Preservation Area lands
 - 31 of the 59 Petitions submitted include Planning Area lands (8 of these municipalities have only Planning Area lands)
- 50 municipal Petitions for Plan Conformance have been approved by the Highlands Council.

County Petitions and Approvals (As of August 2016)

- 5 counties (of the 7 in the Region) have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance, all conforming for Preservation Area lands only.
- 2 county Petitions for Plan Conformance have been approved by the Highlands Council.

Highlands Municipalities — Plan Conformance Petition Status

as of August 2016

Blue = Petition includes whole municipality Green = Petition includes Preservation Area lands only

† Municipality has lands in the Planning Area only — Plan Conformance is voluntary * Municipality is authorized to make determinations regarding certain Highlands Act Exemptions

Bergen County - *pending*

Mahwah Township* - *approved 2010*

Oakland Borough - *approved 2014*

Hunterdon County - *no Petition filed*

Alexandria Township* - *approved 2012*

Bethlehem Township - *approved 2010*

Bloomsbury Borough - *approved 2011*

Califon Borough* - *approved 2010*

Clinton Town - *approved 2011*

Clinton Township* - *approved 2015*

Glen Gardner Borough - *approved 2010*

Hampton Borough - *approved 2010*

High Bridge Borough*† - *approved 2011*

Holland Township - *approved 2011*

Lebanon Borough † - *approved 2010*

Lebanon Township* - *approved 2011*

Milford Borough †

Tewksbury Township - *approved 2011*

Union Township - *pending*

Morris County - *pending*

Boonton Town †

Boonton Township - *approved 2015*

Butler Borough †

Chester Borough † - *approved 2016*

Chester Township* - *approved 2010*

Denville Township - *approved 2011*

Dover †

Hanover Township †

Harding Township †

Jefferson Township* - *approved 2014*

Kinnelon Borough - *approved 2011*

Mendham Borough †

Mendham Township †

Mine Hill Township †

Montville Township* - *approved 2012*

Morris Plains Borough † - *pending*

Morris Township †

Morristown †

Mountain Lakes Borough †

Mount Arlington Borough* - *approved 2011*

Mount Olive Township* - *approved 2011*

Netcong Borough †

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township † - *withdrawn*

Pequannock Township - *pending*

Randolph Township - *approved*

Riverdale Borough †

Rockaway Borough †

Rockaway Township - *approved 2011*

Roxbury Township - *approved 2013*

Victory Gardens Borough †

Washington Township* - *approved 2011*

Wharton Borough † - *approved 2011*

Passaic County - *approved 2010*

Bloomington Borough - *approved 2011*

Pompton Lakes Borough †

Ringwood Borough* - *approved 2011*

Wanaque Borough - *pending*

West Milford Township* - *approved 2011*

Somerset County - *approved 2011*

Bedminster Township - *approved 2011*

Bernards Township †

Bernardsville Borough †

Far Hills Borough † - *pending*

Peapack Gladstone Borough †

Sussex County - *pending*

Byram Township* - *approved 2010*

Franklin Borough †

Green Township - *approved 2011*

Hamburg Borough †

Hardyston Township* - *approved 2011*

Hopatcong Borough* - *approved 2012*

Ogdensburg Borough - *approved 2012*

Sparta Township* - *approved 2011*

Stanhope Borough † - *pending*

Vernon Township* - *approved 2012*

Warren County - *no Petition filed*

Allamuchy Township* - *approved 2011*

Alpha Borough † - *approved 2011*

Belvidere †

Franklin Township* - *approved 2011*

Frelinghuysen Township †

Greenwich Township - *pending*

Hackettstown - *approved 2011*

Harmony Township* - *approved 2012*

Hope Township †

Independence Township - *pending*

Liberty Township - *pending*

Lopatcong Township - *approved 2012*

Mansfield Township - *no Petition filed*

Oxford Township* - *approved 2011*

Phillipsburg † - *approved 2011*

Pohatcong Township* - *approved 2011*

Washington Borough †

Washington Township* - *approved 2011*

White Township - *pending*

