

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.

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 July 2017)

- 59 municipalities (of 88 total in the Region) are engaged in the Plan Conformance Process (have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance)
 - 29 of the 59 petitions submitted include only Preservation Area lands
 - 22 of the 59 petitions include Preservation and Planning Area lands
 - 8 of the 59 petitions are from municipalities that have only Planning Area lands
- 50 municipal Petitions for Plan Conformance have been approved by the Highlands Council.

County Petitions and Approvals (As of July 2017)

- 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.

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.

Highlands Municipalities — Plan Conformance Petition Status

as of July 2017

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, Planning Area rescinded 2017*

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 2013*
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, Planning Area withdrawn 2017*
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*

