

# 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 70% of New Jersey residents.
- 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 Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) for Preservation Area lands.
- Conformance for Planning Area lands is voluntary.

### Municipal & County Plan Conformance Petitions and Approvals (As of December 2017)

- 61 of the 88 municipalities in the Region have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance, indicating their intent to conform with the RMP (69%). Of the 61 petitions, 50 have been approved by the Highlands Council (82%).
  - 31 petitions include only Preservation Area lands (26 approved)
  - 20 petitions include Preservation and Planning Area lands (18 approved)
  - 10 are from municipalities that have only Planning Area lands (6 approved)
- Of the 61 municipalities petitioning, 30 have chosen to voluntarily include planning area lands (49%).
- 5 of the 7 counties in the Region have submitted Petitions for Plan Conformance, all conforming for Preservation Area lands only. Of the 5 petitions, 2 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 (August) and the Federal Highlands Conservation Act is signed into law (November).
- 2008 – The New Jersey Highlands Regional Master Plan (RMP) is approved by the Highlands Council and becomes effective.
- 2014 – The Highlands Council commences its first-ever review of the RMP with launch of the RMP Monitoring Program.
- 2017 – The Highlands Council releases a Fiscal Impact Assessment and a Draft Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR).

# Highlands Municipalities — Plan Conformance Petition Status

as of December 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, Planning Area rescinded 2017*  
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*

