

Agricultural Resources



In accordance with Regional Master Plan Policy 10A5, a Regional Master Plan Monitoring Program briefing document and report that develops indicators and milestones for the evaluation of regional conditions, identifies new or emerging issues, and recommends new or modified RMP priorities, must be created. This document, known as the RMP Monitoring Program Recommendation Report (MPRR), will provide baseline assessment of the effect of the 2008 RMP on the Highlands region.

The indicators listed below represent those with the greatest direct correlation to RMP goals and policies. These indicators are anticipated to reflect the implementation and monitoring of the RMP. They will be analyzed as part of the MPRR process and depending on the indicator trend, research and analysis of secondary indicators may be necessary. Indicators will be analyzed within the Highlands Region and Northern New Jersey to the greatest level of detail possible given data availability, and without compromising results.

Draft Indicators

Agricultural Economics Index

Measures change in farm gross income, expenses, and net income, the market value of major agricultural products (e.g., cropland, fruit, cattle, and equine) and direct sales to consumers, the number of farms and income from agritourism or recreational services, the number and percentage of agriculture producers engaging in value-added activities, and farm loan defaults.

Agricultural Property Values

Measures change in median per acre value of property sales for preserved and non-preserved farmland.

Farm Characteristics Index

Measures change in the number of farms, total and average acreage of farms, acreage of land used for various major agricultural activities, number, average age and primary occupation of farmers, farm tenure, number of farm labor workers, and agricultural retail and wholesale operation employment.

Agricultural Land Use & Preservation Index

Measures change in acreage of preserved farmland, share of total farmland that is preserved, acreage of preserved farmland by Land Use Capability Zone, and the change in land use or preservation of Moderate and High Priority Agriculture Resource Areas.

Economic Development



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Business Profile Index

An index that measures change in employment by industry, median wage by industry, non-residential vacancy rates, net absorption, rental rates, and construction completions and value, per-capita retail sales, as well as the number of business establishments and sole proprietorships.

Resident Profile Index

An index that measures change in median household income, median disposable income, wages earned as a percent of population, resident unemployment rate, acres of open space per capita, as well as general demographic information including population, age distribution, household formation, and county-to-county migration.

Tourism Profile Index

An index that measures change in the number of tourism related establishments, number of employees of tourism related establishments, median tourism-related wage, and seasonal employment by industry.

Housing Health Index

Determines the health of the residential housing market by analyzing construction data, equalized value, number of home sales, months of housing supply, foreclosures, and vacancy rates.

Future Land Use



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Broadband and Fiber Optic Infrastructure

Measures broadband internet and fiber optic service area.

Land Use Capability Zone (LUCZ) Index

Measures change in developed land, new residential development density, certificates of occupancy, employment, and population growth, distribution and density according to Land Use Capability Zone, Highlands Designated Centers, and Highlands Redevelopment Areas.

Land Consumption

Measures change in the ratio of developed to undeveloped land according to Highlands Land Use Capability Zone and Highlands Designated Centers.

Sewer Service Areas

Measures development patterns within approved Sewer Service Areas (SSAs) by analyzing change in developed land, population density, and certificates of occupancy.

Zoning Change

Identifies zoning changes in conforming municipalities.

Historic, Cultural, Archaeological & Scenic Resources



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Cultural Resource Inventory

Measures change in development or preservation of scenic resources and critical vistas, open space, trails, and historic resources.

Historic and Cultural Facilities

Identifies the number, location, and change in status of historic resources, as well as stewardship of public and non-profit owned historic resources.

Historic Resource Public Investment

Tracks public investment in the preservation and rehabilitation of historic resources.

Scenic Resource Inventory

Measures change in the extent of the Scenic Resource Inventory and change in development or preservation of critical vista areas.

Implementation



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Agriculture Conservation Plans

Measures number of adopted Farm Conservation and Resource System Management Plans, including the number of acres affected.

Fair Share Plans (Affordable Housing)

Fair Share Plans (Affordable Housing) Measures the number and status of Fair Share Plans and court petitions, as well as the number of planned and existing affordable housing units.

Highlands Educational Programs

Identifies educational programs developed or implemented by New Jersey Highlands Council.

Highlands Council Grants

The grant programs developed and in operation, and the amounts awarded, expended, and remaining for the various Highlands Council grant programs.

Local Participation

The number of meetings the Highlands Council has held for public outreach by municipality.

Low Impact Development Projects

Number of low impact projects implemented for new construction, redevelopment, or retrofit.

Plan Conformance - County

A matrix of county Plan Conformance components and the current status of municipal completion, including for example, adoption of Highlands master plan element and zoning amendments.

Plan Conformance - Municipal

A matrix of municipal Plan Conformance components and the current status of municipal completion, including for example, adoption of Highlands master plan element and zoning amendments.

Tourism Programs

Local, county, state or national initiatives that support tourism, including local ordinances, agritourism programs, and support from the National Park Service.

Transit-Oriented Development

Identifies transit-friendly and transit-oriented plans and projects, and Transit Village participation.

Wastewater Management Plans

The status of wastewater management plans for municipalities petitioning for plan conformance for the whole municipality.

Please note that the indicator list presented above is in draft format and provided for discussion purposes only. A final list of indicators along with a complete analysis including recommendations for ongoing monitoring and measurement will be presented in the Monitoring Program Recommendation Report, following formal adoption by the Highlands Council.

Land Owner Equity



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Agricultural Easement Values

Measures change in appraisal values of agricultural easements.

Exemptions

Identifies the number and location of Highlands exemptions.

Highlands Development Credit Transactions

Measures the number and status of applications for purchase of Highlands Development Credits (HDCs) to the Highlands Development Credit Bank, as well as HDC Bank and private HDC transactions.

HDC Allocations

Tracks HDC allocations, as well as number and minimum value of eligible HDCs.

HDC Receiving Areas

Tracks eligible and designated HDC receiving areas, as well as the location, expenditures and status of Highlands TDR Feasibility Grants.

HDC Funding Availability

Tracks sources and value of funding for HDC acquisition.

Natural Resources



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Critical Habitat

Measures change in extent, preservation, or development of habitat types in Critical Wildlife Habitat areas, Vernal Pools, and Significant Natural Areas.

Forest Impacts

Measures the change in total forest area, and development and preservation in core forest areas.

Riparian Integrity

Measures change in total forest area, as a surrogate for natural vegetation condition, in riparian areas.

Priority Conservation

Measures the change in development or preservation of the Special Environmental Zone, Conservation Priority Area, and Significant Natural Areas.

Watershed Resource Value

Measures change in watershed resource value score by HUC14 subwatershed.

Transportation & Air Quality



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Air Quality Index

Measures change in the number of days annually that the Air Quality Index (AQI) exceeds the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for sensitive groups, and change in adult and childhood asthma rates.

Commutation Patterns Index

Measures change in commuting behavior, including travel mode, commute time, vehicle miles traveled (VMT), annual average daily traffic (AADT), origin and destination of commuting trips, total transit ridership, and park and ride usage. Highlands Development Credit Transactions

Freight Index

Measures change in active freight rail miles, commercial and industrial land uses near freight rail lines and freight rail hubs, and jobs within freight rail hubs (and freight activity, if data available).

Transit Lands Areas Index

Measures change in land use, population density, jobs, and construction activity in transit lands areas.

Water & Wastewater Utilities



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Domestic Sewerage Facilities Capacity and Demand

Measures change in domestic sewerage facilities available capacity and demand by facility.

Public Community Water Systems Capacity and Demand

Measures change in public community water systems available capacity and demand by Public Water System Identification number (PWSID).

Water Supply Existing Areas Served

Measures change in extent of water supply existing areas served (EAS).

Wastewater Existing Areas Served

Measures change in extent of wastewater existing areas served (EAS).

Water Resources



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Critical Water Resource Areas

Measures the change in land use and preservation within Wellhead Protection Areas and Open Water Protection Areas regionally, as well as Prime Groundwater Recharge Areas by HUC14 subwatershed.

Ground Water Quality

Measures change in ground water median nitrate concentration by Land Use Capability Zone (LUCZ) and HUC14 subwatershed.

Impervious Surface Cover

Measures change in impervious surface coverage by HUC14 subwatershed.

Surface Water Quality

Measures change in designated use support status and impairment by HUC14 subwatershed.

Streamflow

Measures change in streamflow at flow gauging stations (where feasible).

Water Use

Measures change in water withdrawal by HUC14 subwatershed for major use types, including agricultural, commercial, industrial, irrigation, mining, potable supply, and power generation.