

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

The Bergen County Master Plan seeks to recognize and meet present day challenges and address the jurisdictional fragmentation that constitutes the county's landscape. It identifies ways to reinforce the county's strengths and mitigate its challenges and weaknesses through a critical examination and evaluation of current conditions, and develops a common vision that transcends individual municipal boundaries and empowers small local governments to collaborate on shared initiatives, key to a smarter, more efficient future.

The master plan provides a snapshot of existing conditions, a vision for the future (including built and natural environments, as well as programming for future programs, projects, and improvements), aspirational goals for future projects and implementation, and a compendium of current "best practices". As such, it also serves as a strategic tool for which agencies can tie future budgeting and priorities.

The master plan also provides direction and a "big picture" to help guide municipalities in their planning, development, and environmental efforts. In this manner, the county provides a regional perspective related to inter-jurisdictional and broad-sweeping matters, and promotes a number of best practices and innovative tools.

Going forward, Bergen County and each of its 70 municipalities will face different opportunities and challenges. To evaluate and respond to these, this plan examines the following factors:

- Land availability for new development and redevelopment;
- Challenges and opportunities inherent in redevelopment and shifting economies;
- Population growth and demographic changes, including necessary services to address growth and change, trends in housing, settlement patterns, etc.;
- Mobility and accessibility, including matching transportation to shifting land use patterns, provision of public transit services, state of good repair, traffic congestion, and the like;
- Provision of open space and recreation;

- Fostering arts, culture, and historic resources;
- Preserving water quality and natural resources;
- Ensuring availability of public services; and
- Preparedness through resilient and sustainable practices.

It is important to note that a master plan should serve as a "living document", one which is as comprehensive as possible at the time of publication (which represents a present-day "slice in time"), but that is revisited periodically in order to ensure it remains as current as possible and responsive to new challenges, trends, and dynamics. Some examples of these include:

- New technology
- Demographic/economic trends
- Shifting development patterns
- New data releases (Census, etc.)
- New legislation/policy directives
- Response to emerging issues
- Changes to best practices, and corrective action for outdated processes/concepts
- Revisiting to stay as current as possible in our operations as a county (county departments, agencies, administrative guidelines, etc.)

Similarly, the master plan's currency will be addressed through various degrees of modifications over time. An annual "Year in Planning" review of recent trends and developments in the field, emerging issues and best practices, and the like will be prepared for the Administration in order to keep them current with the issues and be able to advise on upcoming edits and corrections to the master plan. Minor errors and corrections may be addressed through issuance of "Errata" sheets, to be compiled in an ongoing appendix to the current plan. Larger, more broad-sweeping changes should be addressed through Amendments that are addressed by the Planning Board.

ENDNOTES

Introduction and Overview

1. Master Plan of Bergen County, adopted December 10, 1962, and amended March 14, 1966.
2. Following the adoption of the County Master Plan in 1962, and amendments through 1966, the County prepared individual subject reports under the umbrella of this master planning effort, through 1973-1974, however there is no record that these documents were formally adopted as plan elements. These documents included inventories of existing features, but others included more detail. Other planning related efforts followed, however these were more tied to specific projects and initiatives than a comprehensive plan or subject-related elements.
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LAND USE & HOUSING

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ECONOMIC VITALITY

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ARTS, HISTORY & HISTORIC RESOURCES

No endnotes

OPEN SPACE, AGRICULTURE, PARKS & REC.

1. Bergen County Parks Master Plan, November 27, 2019, page 57. It should be noted that the calculation of open space was based on the NJDEP Green Acres ROSI (Recreation and Open Space Inventory). The authors provide a caveat that these numbers do not reflect privately owned golf courses, or any other properties not included in the ROSI database. This data was then

mapped using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software to identify and quantify additional municipal parcels that may not have been included in the ROSI database.

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PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

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ENDNOTES (cont.)

SUSTAINABILITY

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