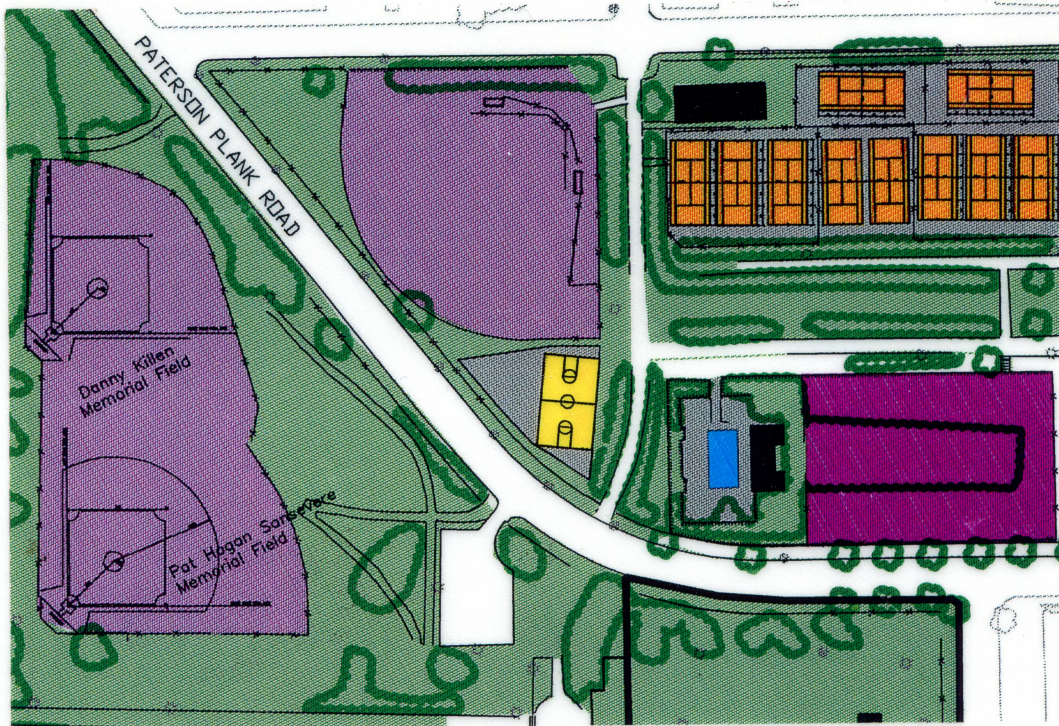


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# ***HUDSON COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN***



***Prepared for:***

***Hudson County Department of Public Resources  
Division of Parks and  
Office of the County Engineer***

**November 1998**

**TM**  
ASSOCIATES

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**BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
COUNTY OF HUDSON**

**R E S O L U T I O N**

No. 592-11-1998

On Motion of Freeholder Board as a Whole  
Seconded by Freeholder \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING THE  
HUDSON COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN  
(AS AMENDED BY THIS ACT)**

WHEREAS, the 650 acres of Hudson County's park land provide a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities for our half-million residents; and

WHEREAS, as the County stands on the threshold of the new century, it continues to look forward to working with our member municipalities to insure that the recreational and open space needs of our residents are satisfied; and

WHEREAS, inasmuch as Hudson County is the most densely populated area in the State of New Jersey and one of the most urbanized areas in the world, the County, with municipal input, must continue to be creative and forward thinking in the management and care of our 8 County parks so that open space remains available to everyone in the most cost effective and efficient fashion; and

WHEREAS, the "Hudson County Parks Master Plan" dated July 29, 1998, and now on file with the Clerk of this Board, and so, available for public inspection was initially presented to this Board by County Executive, Robert C. Janiszewski on August 13, 1998; and

WHEREAS, since that time the Parks, Roads and Bridges Committee of this Board of Chosen Freeholders has had a opportunity to deliberate and study the document, and it has arrived at the following amendments and additions which are now recommended for inclusion in the document:

1. STATEMENT:

"The County of Hudson and the local governments within the County have always enjoyed a partnership to promote the greatest use of the Parks by all the residents of Hudson County. The County will continue to work with each municipality in order to continue this partnership".

2. LINCOLN PARK EAST:

The recommended improvements for Lincoln Park East should be supplemented to includes the following:

- a. Item 29, Tennis Courts, is expended to include the reconstruction of tennis courts.

The estimated cost for Item 29 is increased to \$342,000.00.

- b. A new item for interpretive signage for the history of Lincoln Park East is added.

The estimated cost for this item is \$20,000.

The improvement shall be programmed for the year 2002.



- c. A new item for the expansion of the Duncan Avenue playground is added.

The estimated cost for this item is \$30,000.

The improvements should be programmed for the year 2000.

- d. A new item for the repair and replacement of drinking fountains is added.

The estimated cost for this item is \$2,000.

The improvement should be programmed for the year 2000.

- e. A new item for the repair and reconstruction of gazebo #2 and #3 is added.

The estimated cost for this item is \$150,000.

The improvement should be programmed for the year 1999.

## 2. LINCOLN PARK WEST

The recommended improvement for Lincoln Park West should be modified as follows:

- a. The description of the proposed riverfront pathway is modified to recommend that it include a canoe/kayak launch area.
- b. Due to wetlands conflicts, the plan of improvements is modified to remove the great lawn.
- c. A new item is added to identify the pending improvement of the pond immediately south of the car link to Lincoln Park East.

The estimated cost of improvement to the pond is \$1,000,000.

The improvement should be programmed for the year 1999.

## 4. MERCER PARK

The recommended improvement for Mercer Park should be supplemented to include the following:

A new item for the construction of restrooms is added.

The estimated cost for this item is \$125,000.

The improvement should be programmed for the year 1999.

## 5. NORTH HUDSON PARK

The pathway around Woodcliff Lake is to be included as a special design area which requires particular care in its enhancement and improvement. The pathway should be landscaped and improved to include decorative paving, incorporating elements such as brick, paver block or paving stone and ornamental park furnishings that replicate traditional metal work

design motifs, such as lampposts and benches. The intent is to enhance the amenities and appearance of the pathway and to recognize and celebrate the historic roots of North Hudson Park by including turn-of-the century design elements around the lake.

The estimated improvement cost is \$250,000.

The improvements to the pathway should be programmed for the year 2001.

6. WEST HUDSON PARK

The recommended improvements for West Hudson Park should be supplemented to include the following:

A new item for pond improvements is added.

The estimate cost for the item is \$1,000,000.

The improvement should be programmed for the year 1999.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hudson, that:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Board hereby authorizes the County Executive, or his lawfully appointed designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all necessary actions to complete and realize the intent of this resolution.
3. The "Hudson County Parks Master Plan" dated July 29, 1998 as it is amended and supplemented by this Resolution is hereby approved and adopted for all purposes.
4. The Clerk of this Board shall affix a certified copy of this Resolution to the filed copy of the July 29, 1998 document. At such time when the County Engineer creates a document reflecting the subject amendments and additions, the Clerk shall file such new document along with the original filing, upon its delivery by the County Engineer to the Clerk's Office.



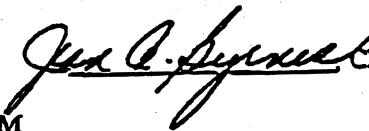
5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Freeholder	Aye	Nay	Abst	N.P.	Freeholder	Aye	Nay	Abst	N.P.
Ascolese	X				Calon	X			
Braker	X				Fingibone	X			
Carroll	X				ODon	X			
Cifelli	X				Vega	X			
Chairman Cruz	X								

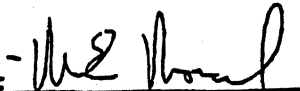
Source:  
Borivoj Jasek, P.E.,  
P.E., County Engineer

MEH/iam

It is hereby certified that at a regular meeting of the Board of Freeholders of the County of Hudson held on the 12 day of November A.D. 1998, the foregoing resolution was adopted with 9 members voting in the affirmative and 0 in the negative.

 Clerk

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM

BY:   
FRANCIS De LEONARDIS  
HUDSON COUNTY COUNSEL

# **HUDSON COUNTY PARK MASTER PLAN**

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**HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**PREPARED FOR**

**THE HUDSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ENGINEER**

Approved: November 12, 1998





**HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

Neftali Cruz, Chairperson  
William Braker, Vice-Chairperson  
Silverio Vega, Chairperson Pro-Temp

Vincent Ascolese	Nidia Davila-Colon
Neil Carroll	Maurice Fitzgibbons
Albert Cifelli	William O'Dea

**HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Robert C. Janiszewski

**HUDSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Abraham Antun

**HUDSON COUNTY ENGINEER**

Borivoj Jasek, P.E., P.P

**HUDSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RESOURCES**

Kenneth Blane, Director

**DIVISION OF PARKS**

Thomas W. McCann, Division Chief  
Kenneth Jennings, Assistant Division Chief

Prepared by:



Eleven Tindall Road  
Middletown, New Jersey 07748

**PRINCIPAL - IN - CHARGE**

Edward G. Broberg, P.E.

**PROJECT STAFF**

Richard S. Cramer, Jr., P.P., A.I.C.P.  
T. Andrew Thomas, P.P., A.I.C.P.  
Jeffrey H. Bottger, C.L.A., A.S.L.A.

Roger J. Gardella  
Laura McCabe

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **HUDSON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

The public parks operated by Hudson County are among the oldest and most intensively used parks in New Jersey. As a new century approaches, the County has embarked on a program to rehabilitate each park by upgrading, replacing, repairing, or providing new facilities to meet the recreation needs of the residents in the most urbanized and densely populated area of the State. The County has also expanded its park system and added an eighth park to its inventory of public open space.

Over the next seven years, further efforts will be needed to complete the major rehabilitation and improvement work. The estimated total cost of the future improvement work is \$39,413,212. In the past, the County has successfully obtained low interest loans and grants from the State Green Acres program to fund much of its rehabilitation effort. In addition to rehabilitation and improvement work, the park system should be expanded to include an additional 100 acres of parkland at a cost of \$5,000,000. Because the County has a great need for recreation and open space, and because of its past success in using Green Acres funds to improve the parks, the County anticipates continued State support in funding the park improvement and expansion program.

The eight County parks have a total area of 716.52 acres. County parks provide a variety of recreation activities to well over a half-million County residents. The facilities in the County parks include playing fields and courts for baseball, softball, football, tennis, bocce, and soccer; running tracks; spray pools and boat launches; trails; playgrounds; picnic areas; natural areas; ornamental gardens, landscaping and open space; senior and community centers; and other opportunities for passive and active recreation.

The County has planned a program of improvements in each park to enhance public recreation and ensure that the County park system continues to meet the needs of County residents. Additional facilities proposed in the parks include soccer and ball fields, bocce courts, a roller rink, picnic areas, a fitness station, paths and walkways, basketball courts, playgrounds and more.

#### **Bayonne Park**

Bayonne Park, located on the Newark Bay in Bayonne, is 97.9 acres in area. The park facilities include nearly a half mile of waterfront on the bay. Bayonne Park features tennis, basketball, baseball, softball, football, picnic areas, playgrounds, trails, a running track, water features, bulb garden, waterfront promenade, and a senior center. Substantial improvements to the park have been completed to the athletic fields and entranceway, and more improvements are pending.



### **Columbus Park**

Columbus Park, located in Hoboken, contains 2.6 acres and is the smallest County park. Its facilities include a spray pool and playgrounds. Substantial improvements to the park have been completed and the park has been fully rehabilitated.

### **Laurel Hill Park**

Laurel Hill Park, located in Secaucus on the eastern bank of the Hackensack River, is 104.5 acres in area and is the most recent addition to the County park system. A public boat launch has been recently completed within the park. Other improvements whose construction within the park was completed in 1997 include soccer/softball fields, playgrounds, paths, and shelters. A 4.5 acre expansion area in the southwestern portion of the park was also acquired in 1997. An additional 100 acre expansion area to enlarge the park is proposed. Because of the unique geologic features and outcrops in the park, interpretive paths to the freshwater pond and controlled access to scenic overlooks from Snake Hill are proposed.

### **Lincoln Park**

Lincoln Park consists of two sections located east and west of Route 1-9.

#### ***Lincoln Park East***

Lincoln Park East, located in Jersey City, is 150.4 acres in area, and is the oldest County park. Lincoln Park East features tennis, basketball, baseball, softball, football, handball, bocce, picnic areas, playgrounds, trails, a running track, and water features. Substantial improvements to the tennis courts, running track pond, gazebos, tot lots, and road have been completed. More improvements to the playgrounds, paths, athletic fields, courts, picnic areas, passive areas, and other features are proposed. Also proposed are a new fitness station, additional playground equipment, and a picnic area.

#### ***Lincoln Park West***

Lincoln Park West, also located in Jersey City, is 123.0 acres in area and is connected to Lincoln Park East by two pedestrian foot bridges that cross over Route 1-9. Lincoln Park West features an extensive area of wetlands as well as a driving range, pitch and putt, baseball and softball fields, and water features. The golfing facilities and baseball complex are recently completed improvements to the park. Additional improvements are planned to restore the wetlands, improve the ponds, provide nature trails and interpretive paths within the park, and provide access and a walkway along the Hackensack River.

### **Mercer Park**

Mercer Park, located in Bayonne, contains 6.4 acres. Its facilities include volleyball, a little league/football field, playground, trails, basketball courts, and picnic areas. Substantial work on the park was completed in 1997. These improvements have fully rehabilitated Mercer Park.

### **North Hudson Park (James J. Braddock Park)**

North Hudson Park, located in North Bergen, contains 167.3 acres on lands with the highest elevations in Hudson County. It provides excellent views of the New Jersey and New York City waterfronts. The park contains a variety of facilities and amenities including tennis, basketball, baseball, softball, football, track, soccer, picnic areas, water features, trails, and passive open space.

Substantial improvements to the park have been completed and more are planned. Additional work is proposed to improve the fields, parking lot, tennis courts, pathways, overlook area, drainage system, lighting, and other features. Also proposed is a new roller rink.

### **Washington Park**

Washington Park, located in Jersey City and Union City, contains 21.0 acres and overlooks the Hudson River. Its facilities include tennis, basketball, baseball, a spray pool, a playground, trails, and passive open space. Substantial improvements to the park have been completed. Additional work to improve the walkways, picnic area, baseball fields, lighting, drainage, and other features is needed.

### **West Hudson Park**

West Hudson Park, located in Harrison and Kearny, is 43.4 acres in area. The park facilities include tennis, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, picnic areas, playgrounds, trails, water features, and a senior center. Substantial improvements to the park have been completed and more are planned. Additional work is needed to improve the gazebos, playgrounds, path system, pond, picnic areas and other features.

Other work planned for the park includes restoration of the bulb garden, improvements to the walkways, road resurfacing, picnic areas, gazebo restoration, shore protection, and other repairs and improvements.



### **Cost Summary of Improvements**

The cost, by the year, of the improvements proposed in each County Park for the period 1999 to 2005 is shown below:

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
<b>Bayonne Park</b>	\$1,936,000	\$305,000	\$4,000	\$718,000	\$263,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$3,234,000
<b>Columbus Park</b>	\$77,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$77,000
<b>Laurel Hill Park</b>	\$280,400	\$560,000	\$0	\$420,000	\$1,400,000	\$0	\$420,000	\$3,088,400
<b>Lincoln Park East</b>	\$2,913,000	\$1,364,600	\$505,000	\$453,200	\$596,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,833,800
<b>Lincoln Park West</b>	\$11,900,000	\$1,029,000	\$1,633,334	\$1,633,334	\$1,633,334	\$0	\$0	\$17,829,001
<b>Mercer Park</b>	\$175,000	\$56,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$231,000
<b>North Hudson Park</b>	\$561,000	\$855,000	\$1,214,800	\$1,268,000	\$99,000	\$134,000	\$1,000	\$4,132,797
<b>Washington Park</b>	\$396,640	\$297,800	\$204,280	\$358,000	\$211,000	\$155,000	\$1,000	\$1,623,717
<b>West Hudson Park</b>	\$1,717,100	\$448,000	\$112,000	\$525,000	\$367,500	\$0	\$193,900	\$3,363,500
<b>Total</b>	\$19,964,139	\$4,915,399	\$3,673,412	\$5,375,532	\$4,569,832	\$293,999	\$620,900	\$39,413,212

### **Cost Summary of Acquisitions**

To meet the need for additional public open space, the County park system should be expanded in appropriate locations and where the opportunity presents itself. Two specific locations to expand Laurel Hill Park have been identified. To the south, an acquisition of 4.45 acres has been completed at a cost of \$400,000 by Green Acres. To the north, an expansion of approximately 100 acres is proposed at a cost of \$5,000,000.

In the future, if other expansion opportunities arise for existing or new parks, the County should pursue those acquisitions that best meet the needs of the County and its residents.

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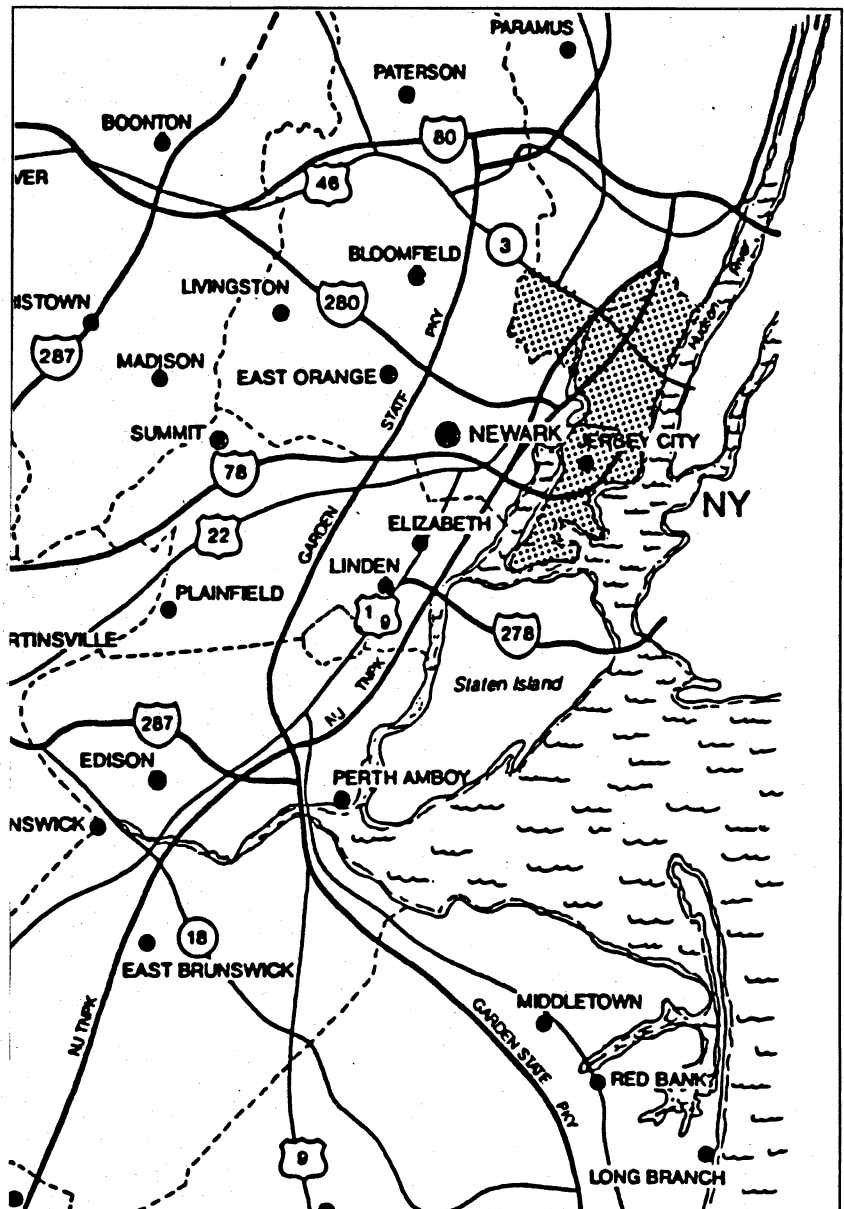
## OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION IN HUDSON COUNTY

FIGURE 1 - REGIONAL LOCATION

### COUNTY SETTING

Hudson County is located in the northeastern portion of New Jersey and is bordered by Essex, Union and Bergen counties and by Passaic County on the north and west, Staten Island to the south and Manhattan to the east. The Passaic River separates Hudson County from Essex County, while the Hudson River separates it from Manhattan, and the Kill Van Kull separates it from Staten Island (see Figure 1, Regional Location Map). There are 12 municipalities comprising Hudson County: Union City, Guttenberg, West New York, North Bergen, Secaucus, Weehawken, East Newark, Harrison, Kearny, Jersey City, Hoboken and Bayonne (see Figure 2, Hudson County).

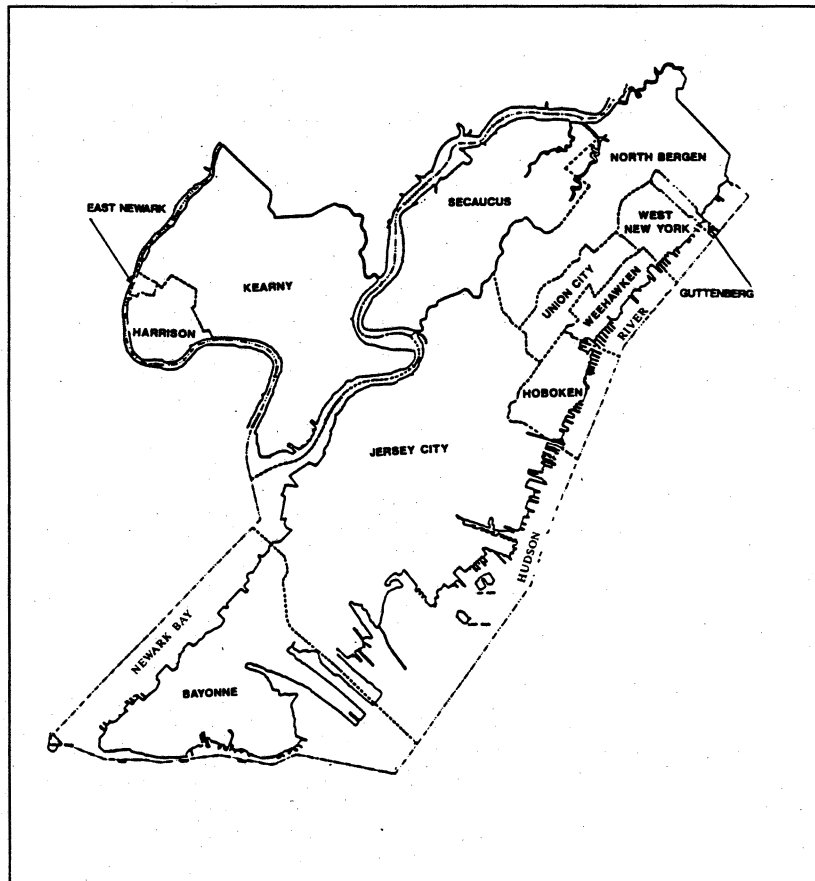
Hudson County's historical development has been greatly influenced by its location adjacent to the Hudson and Passaic Rivers. In addition to providing water and food to the populace in the early years of development, these rivers have been an important means of transportation. As in other industrialized areas of the state, the rivers were used to transport goods into and out of the County, overseas and to other points within the region. Development, which began in the 1600's, was centered around these rivers. However, as roadways were constructed and access improved, development extended toward the inner portions of the County.



**FIGURE 2 - HUDSON COUNTY**

Further impetus for growth and development was provided by the construction of the railroad system. The New Jersey Railroad began operating between Newark and New York in 1835 with the Morris and Essex and the Delaware and Lackawanna Railroads constructing routes in the 1850's. When coupled with the existing road network, these systems provided for the extensive delivery of goods, people and mail.

Given that this area was settled so early in the nation's history, and improved continuously over the past three centuries, Hudson County has developed in a very dense pattern. Today there exist several major centers, often making it impossible to distinguish where one town ends and another begins. In effect, the County exists as one large urban center.



## **POPULATION TRENDS**

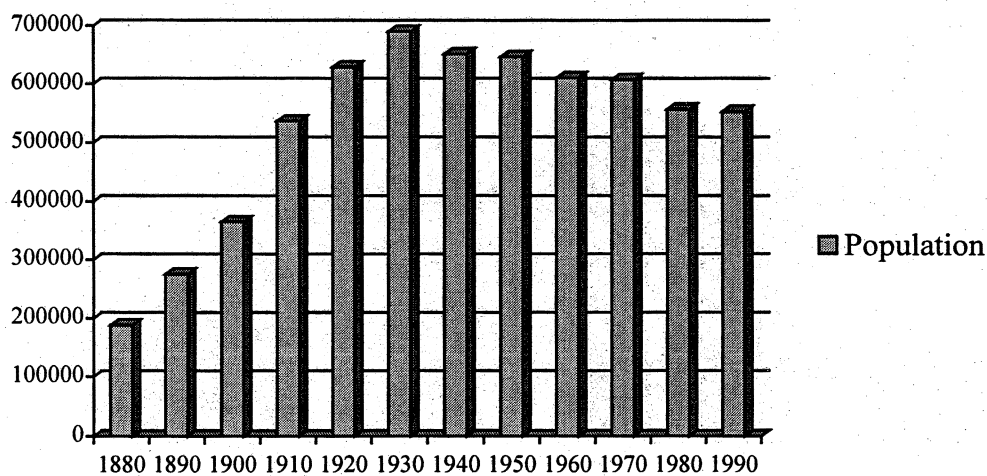
Growth rates and changing population characteristics are important considerations in long-term planning to meet future County needs for recreation facilities and programs. The total population of Hudson County experienced a steady increase through 1930 when its population peaked at 690,730. However, since 1930, there has been a steady decline in population. The population characteristics have also been changing. Despite these population declines and changing characteristics, some future population growth is nonetheless expected. Presented below is a summary of Hudson County's key population characteristics. A detailed analysis of population is in Appendix C.

During the decade from 1970 to 1980, Hudson County experienced its most dramatic decline in population, decreasing by 8.4 percent to 556,972. In the same decade, the State population experienced its lowest population increase, slowing to a 2.7 percent growth rate. Out migration of population, a declining birth rate and decreasing household size are in part responsible for the changes in both the County and the State population.

**TABLE 1**  
**POPULATION TRENDS - HUDSON COUNTY**

Year	Resident Population	Percent Change
1880	187,944	---
1890	275,126	46.4
1900	366,048	33.0
1910	537,231	46.8
1920	629,154	17.1
1930	690,730	9.8
1940	652,040	-5.6
1950	647,437	-0.7
1960	610,734	-5.7
1970	607,839	-0.5
1980	556,972	-8.4
1990	553,099	-0.7

*SOURCE: U.S Census of Population 1930-1990*  
*COMPILED BY: T&M ASSOCIATES, October 1996*





The median age in 1990 was 33.0. Changes in the composition of the population by age can be drawn by comparing 1980 and 1990 census data by age group. As shown in Table 2, "Hudson County Age Distribution: 1980-1990," the County population under 25 years and over 45 years has decreased while the age groups of 25-44 have shown increases. The increases in these age cohorts is driven by the maturing "baby boom" generation which was born after World War II.

The 1990 Census recorded the 25-34 year age group as the largest, representing 20.4 percent of the total population. The second largest age group was the 35-44 age group which represented 14.3 percent of the total population. The smallest age groups were the 15-19 year group (high school age) and the under 5 group (preschool age) which represented 6.5 and 6.9 percent of the total population respectively. When the 15-19 and 20-24 year age groups are combined to form a comparable age group spanning a ten year age cohort, it represents 15.1 percent of the total 1990 population.

In comparison, the 1980 Census recorded the 25-34 year age group as the largest in the county, representing 15.6 percent of the total population. The second largest age group was the 5-14 group which represented 14.1 percent of the total population.

**TABLE 2**  
**POPULATION BY AGE: 1980-1990**  
**HUDSON COUNTY**

Age (Years)	1980		1990		Change 1980-1990
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Under 5	37,306	6.7%	38,152	6.9%	846
5-14	78,763	14.1%	64,905	11.7%	-13858
15-19	48,168	8.6%	35,957	6.5%	-12211
20-24	49,889	9.0%	47,354	8.6%	-2535
25-34	86,991	15.6%	112,561	20.4%	25570
35-44	61,908	11.1%	78,929	14.3%	17021
45-54	61,500	11.0%	55,475	10.0%	-6025
55-64	62,515	11.2%	50,202	9.1%	-12313
65+	69,932	12.6%	69,564	12.6%	-368
Total	556,972	100.0%	553,099	100.0%	-3873

*SOURCE: U.S Census of Population 1980 & 1990*  
*COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996*

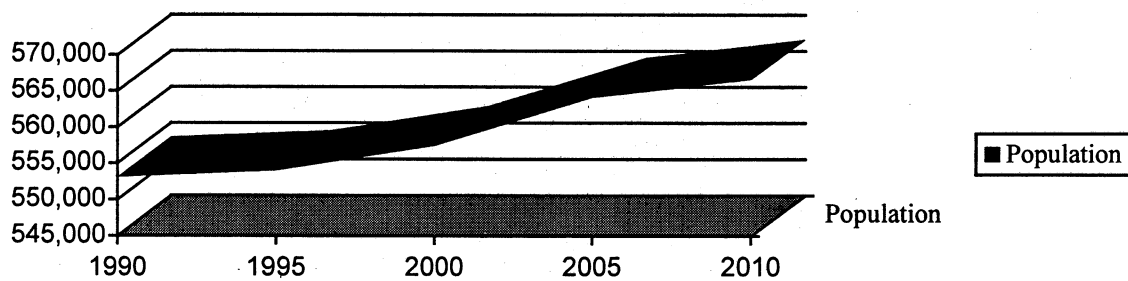
The New Jersey Department of Labor has prepared population projections for Hudson County for the years 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010.

The projections in Table 3 show that the County's population is expected to increase from 553,099 as reported in the 1990 Census to 566,600 persons by the year 2010.

**TABLE 3  
HUDSON COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS  
1995 - 2010**

	1990 Census	1995	2000	2005	2010
N.J. DEPT. OF LABOR	553,099	554,000	557,400	564,100	566,600

*Source: New Jersey Department of Labor – Population & Labor Force Projections for New Jersey; 1995-2030; January 1994  
COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996*



## COUNTY LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

A review of the land uses within Hudson County provides a context for the need for park and recreation facilities. This section will review the existing land uses in Hudson County based upon the latest (1974) land use survey conducted by the Hudson County Planning Board.

Within Hudson County, 20.2 percent of the total land area is residential. This is similar to the figure for Passaic County (20.9 percent) but is half that for Bergen, Essex and Union counties as indicated in Table 4, Hudson County Land Uses. The character of residential development varies widely across the County. Guttenberg has the highest percentage of 1 and 2 family dwellings, Hoboken the highest percentage of high rise multi-family, and West New York, the highest percentage of high-rise apartments. The highest percentage of developed land utilized for residential uses is found in Union City, with 44.6 percent, the lowest in Harrison with 16.0 percent. Overall, Hudson County is a closely compacted, high density residential area dominated by a high percentage of older multi-family dwellings.

A majority of the commercial development occurring in Hudson County has been that of the neighborhood strip commercial area type seen along major streets, or the corner grocer variety. This is the characteristic of the older urban areas which experienced commercial development along the transportation routes connecting neighboring towns. However, while these types of commercial uses may have met the needs of past populations, they are facing a decline due to the competition of regional shopping centers which have been established within the County. Commercial uses in Hudson County accounted for 5.1 percent of the total land area. As indicated in Table 4, this is the highest percentage of the five surrounding counties. With a limited amount of vacant land available for a sprawling suburban type shopping center, it is unlikely that the commercial land use percentage will increase substantially.

At the time of the land use survey, industrial development in Hudson County comprised 38.2 percent of the total land area in the County, the highest percentage of all uses in the County as indicated in Table 4. Also, Table 4 shows that of the five counties, Hudson County had the highest percentage of industrial land uses, three times greater than the nearest ranking county, Union.

Public/quasi-public and recreation land uses cover 10.4 percent of Hudson County's land area. Public and quasi-public uses include such uses as local, County, State and Federal-owned buildings, schools, and cultural facilities. While these uses have not been broken out in the Hudson County land use survey, the public and quasi-public uses cover 6.4 percent of the County's land area and are mostly public schools. The remaining 4 percent is devoted to public recreation and open space lands.

**TABLE 4**  
**HUDSON COUNTY LAND USES**

County	Acres	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Public & Quasi- Public	Recreation	Vacant
Bergen	149,760	41.4%	5.1%	3.8%	7.9%	8.0%	33.8%
Essex	83,200	50.0%	2.6%	8.4%	10.8%	12.2%	16.0%
Hudson*	29,660	20.2%	5.1%	38.2%	6.4%	4.0%	26.1%
Passaic	122,880	20.9%	2.8%	4.3%	4.3%	27.3%	40.4%
Union	65,920	48.8%	4.5%	11.3%	9.9%	10.3%	15.2%

\* Hudson County street acreage was divided proportionately in order to conform to state figures

*SOURCE: Hudson County Department of Planning, Land Use Study, 1974.*

*COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996*

## **STATE PLANNING POLICY AREA DESIGNATION**

The State has two plans that identify its policies toward public recreation and open space in Hudson County.

The State Development and Redevelopment Plan (State Plan), adopted in 1992 by the State Planning Commission, is the overall plan for coordinating development activities and capital investment among the various levels and agencies of government. Hudson County is part of the Metropolitan Planning Area (PA-1) of the State. Within PA-1, the State Plan objective is to provide maximum recreational opportunities by concentrating on the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing parks and open space while expanding the system through redevelopment and reclamation projects.

The New Jersey Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan 1994-1999, also known as SCORP, is prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection and identifies issues and policies for open space and recreation. The issue/policy applicable to Hudson County is urban open space and recreation. The issue is to provide expanded public open space and recreation opportunities for New Jersey's urban residents. The policy is to continue to provide State funding and support for urban public open space and recreation areas and facilities.

## **COUNTY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION NEEDS**

SCORP (The New Jersey State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) provides guidance to the various levels of government in acquiring, developing, maintaining and protecting outdoor recreation resources throughout the state. The supply, demand and need of dedicated public recreation open space is detailed in the plan and indicates a deficit of 271,561 acres of land dedicated for public recreation and open space in New Jersey. In particular, Hudson County was shown to have 956 acres of municipal & County lands dedicated solely to recreation and open space use. To meet SCORP standards, Hudson County would need a total of 2,548 acres dedicated to public open space and recreation use. The County has a deficit of 1,592 acres of municipal and County public open space and recreation lands (See Table 5). SCORP used the Balanced Land Use Guideline to arrive at the goals. The Balanced Land Use Guideline is a means of estimating the amount of recreation land that should be set aside by the various levels of government in New Jersey to provide recreation opportunities for the existing and future residents of the state. The Balanced Land Use Guideline is as follows:

Municipal Level	3% of the developed and developable area of the municipality
County Level	7% of the developed and developable area of the county.
State Level	10% of the area of the state.
Federal Level	4% of the area of the state.

(Developable Areas excludes acreage of slopes over 12%, wetlands, low density areas of the Pinelands, and federal and state-owned open space.)

**TABLE 5**  
**BALANCED LAND USE GUIDELINE**  
**HUDSON COUNTY**

Municipal			County			Total (Municipal & County)		
Supply	Goal	Deficit	Supply	Goal	Deficit	Supply	Goal	Deficit
240	764	524	716	1784	1068	956	2548	1592

*SOURCE: New Jersey Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan 1994-1999.*  
*COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996*

The need figures obtained through the Balanced Land Use guidelines are long term goals for public recreation land acquisition based on the extent of New Jersey's developed, developable and undeveloped land resources and the need to accommodate other land uses. Since Hudson County is already intensively developed and has a high population density, it is improbable that it will achieve the state goal. This makes it even more vital that the County maintain and improve its existing park facilities to meet residential needs and take advantage of available opportunities to expand County open space and recreation facilities in appropriate locations.

#### **MUNICIPAL PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Municipal park and recreational facilities include those owned and maintained by municipal government agencies including Boards of Education. Approximately 463 acres of land are devoted to municipal parks and recreation areas within Hudson County with the majority of lands found within Jersey City (193.4 acres), Kearny (90.5 acres) and Bayonne (66.5 acres). Of this total approximately 56.8 acres are devoted to public school facilities with Jersey City, Kearny and Hoboken having the largest portion of the total. The locations and acreage estimates for municipal park and recreation areas found within each of the county's 12 communities are listed below:

**TABLE 6**  
**MUNICIPAL PARKS, SCHOOLS AND RECREATION AREAS**  
**HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Location	School Facilities (acres)	Municipal Parks (acres)	Total (acres)
Jersey City	24.8	168.6	193.4
Kearny	11.0	79.5	90.5
Bayonne	4.1	62.2	66.3
Secaucus	3.9	22.2	26.1
North Bergen	4.8	20.8	25.6
West New York	0.0	21.0	21.0
Union City	1.7	10.9	12.6
Weehawken	0.5	5.1	5.6

TABLE 6 (CONTINUED)			
Location	School Facilities (acres)	Municipal Parks (acres)	Total (acres)
Hoboken	5.7	10.7	16.4
Harrison	0.0	4.5	4.5
East Newark	0.0	0.5	0.5
Guttenberg	0.3	0.0	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>406.2</b>	<b>462.8</b>

*Source: Hudson County Planning Board, 1990*

The following chart lists the type and number of recreation facilities:

**TABLE 7  
MUNICIPAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

Type of Recreation Areas and Facilities	Total
Play lot/Playground	109
Playfield	22
Neighborhood Park	18
Community Park	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>161</b>

*Source: Hudson County Planning Board, 1990.*

## **STATE PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Two State park/recreation facilities are located within Hudson County; Liberty State Park and the partially completed Hudson River Waterfront Walkway. In 1966 the City of Jersey City transferred waterfront property to the State of New Jersey as part of the establishment of Liberty State Park. At the present time the State maintains approximately 1,100 acres at Liberty State Park, which faces Liberty and Ellis Islands and the New York skyline. While much of the park remains undeveloped, it nonetheless attracts more visitors annually than any other State park. Facilities include playground and picnic areas, walkways, as well as ferry facilities for visiting the Statue of Liberty. The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway is planned to extend 18 miles along the west shore of the Hudson River from the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee to the Bayonne Bridge in Bayonne with access paths from neighborhoods and roadways, where appropriate. There are approximately 4 miles of walkway completed, with over one mile of the distance being in Liberty State Park and its promenade along the seawall on the Hudson River. Once completed, the

walkway would offer spectacular views of the Manhattan skyline and open the waterfront to residents and visitors.

Liberty State Park provides much needed open space and recreation opportunities to residents of Hudson County. The County should monitor plans for the future use and development of the park to ensure that Liberty Park continues to accommodate the needs of County residents by providing opportunities for close-to-home recreation.

## **COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

Hudson County operates a park system consisting of eight (8) parks totaling 716.52 acres. These parks include:

**TABLE 8  
HUDSON COUNTY PARKS**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Acres</b>
1	Bayonne Park	Bayonne	97.90
2	Columbus Park	Hoboken	2.60
3	Laurel Hill Park	Secaucus	104.50
4	Lincoln Park: <i>East</i>	Jersey City	150.40
	Lincoln Park: <i>West</i>	Jersey City	123.00
5	Mercer Park	Bayonne	6.40
6	North Hudson Park	North Bergen	167.32
7	Washington Park	Jersey City	21.00
8	West Hudson Park	Harrison & Kearny	43.40
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>716.52</b>

The County parks offer a wide variety of much needed and heavily utilized active and passive recreation facilities for nearby community residents and County residents. A general summary of the parks and the facilities offered at each of the County parks is presented in Table 9.



**TABLE 9**  
**HUDSON COUNTY PARKS**  
**Existing Facilities**

Bayonne Park	Columbus Park	Laurel Hill Park	Lincoln Park East	Lincoln Park West	Mercer Park	North Hudson Park	Washington Park	West Hudson Park
-----------------	------------------	------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	----------------	-------------------------	--------------------	------------------------

**Playing Fields & Courts**

Basketball Courts	•	•		•		•	•	•	•
Baseball/Softball Fields	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Football Fields	•		•	•		•	•		
Soccer Fields	•		•	•	•	•			•
Tennis Courts	•	•		•		•	•	•	•
Bocce/Shuffleboard	•	•				•			
Handball/Paddleball				•		•			
Exercise/Cross-country	•					•			
Volleyball				•		•			•
Running Track	•			•					

**Water-Oriented Facilities**

Spray Pools	•	•		•			•	•	•
Lakes, Ponds & Rivers		•	•	•	•		•		•
Boat Launch			•						

**Playgrounds**

Playgrounds/tot lots	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
----------------------	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---

**Other Facilities**

Picnic Areas	•		•	•		•	•		•
Running/Bicycle Trails	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Community Center	•								
Natural Areas/ Wildlife Refuges			•		•		•		
Arboretum							•		
Senior Center									•
Restroom facilities	•	•		•			•	•	•

Source: T&M Associates July 1998

## **COUNTY PARK POLICY STATEMENT**

The County of Hudson and the local governments within the County have always enjoyed a partnership to promote the greatest use of the Parks by all the citizens of Hudson County. The County will continue to work with each municipality in order to continue this partnership.

## **POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS AND PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION USE**

National studies have shown that age and household characteristics influence individual and family recreation activity and the use of local parks and recreation. As individuals and households age, the types of recreation that they engage in will change. Most people, at some point in their life-cycle, will use a local public park or participate in a publicly sponsored recreation activity.

Seventy-five percent of all the respondents to a national survey conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association on the use of public parks indicated that they used local parks and playgrounds. Fifty-one percent indicated occasional use and twenty-four percent indicated frequent use. Park use was found to be significant in all age brackets. While individuals over age 55 were less likely to use parks, a significant minority of older respondents did report either occasional or frequent park use. Household size was also found to influence park use. Households with 3 to 4 members were more likely to use parks than single person households. Those households with children age 12 and under were more likely to use parks frequently. Households with no children were most likely not to use parks at all.

The national survey found that eighty percent of the respondents had participated in local recreation and park programs during the last twelve months. (The survey was conducted in 1992). Forty-nine percent reported that they had only used the parks, while twenty-six percent indicated that they used parks and participated in other activities sponsored by local government recreation and park services. Four percent reported that they had participated in activities without using the parks. In addition, when respondents were asked if any member of their household had used either the parks and/or local parks and recreation services during the last twelve months, eighty-eight percent reported a member's use. Of those who reported never having participated, over half reported that non-participation was due to a lack of time. Non-participants were more likely to be older and to be in the lower income range. Even among non-users of local parks, the public perception is that the community benefits a great deal from having parks.

The benefits of public parks, perceived in order of importance, were categorized as personal, social, facility/activity, environmental, or economic. The specific personal benefits included exercise-fitness conditioning, fun and entertainment, learning and education, relaxation, and health. The social benefits consisted of getting to know people, group participation, interaction of adults and children, community awareness, and team spirit. The benefits associated with recreation facilities were: instructional classes, the joy of playing, having a place to go, having a place to recreate, exposure to arts, crafts, and watching organized sports. The environmental benefits cited were fresh air, nature, and a place to be outdoors. The economic benefit cited was the affordability of local park and recreation services.

The survey also found that the older an individual is, the less likely it becomes that the individual will begin a new recreation activity. A national survey has shown that in the age group 15 to 20, thirty-nine percent take

up a new recreation activity compared to twenty-six percent of the respondents in the 21 to 35 bracket. Nineteen percent in the 36 to 55 age bracket are likely to begin a new activity. The likelihood of initiating a new activity decreased through age 75. Beyond the age 75, there is some increase in the likelihood of a person beginning a new recreation activity.

The New Jersey Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan 1994-1999 identifies the most popular recreation activities in New Jersey. These activities in order of popularity are listed in Table 10.

**TABLE 10**  
**NEW JERSEY POPULAR OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES**

Activity	Rank
Swimming	1
Walking for Pleasure	2
Tennis	3
Softball/baseball	4
Bicycling	5
Golf	6
Fishing	7
Day Hiking	8
Camping	9
Picnicking	10
Running/Jogging	11
Snow Skiing	12
Motorboating	13
Basketball	14
Volleyball	15
Visiting a Park	16
Horseback Riding	17
Football	18
Soccer	19
Sailing	20
Hunting	21
Ice Skating	22
Canoeing	23
Off-road vehicles	24

*SOURCE: NEW JERSEY OPEN SPACE AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 1994-1999.*



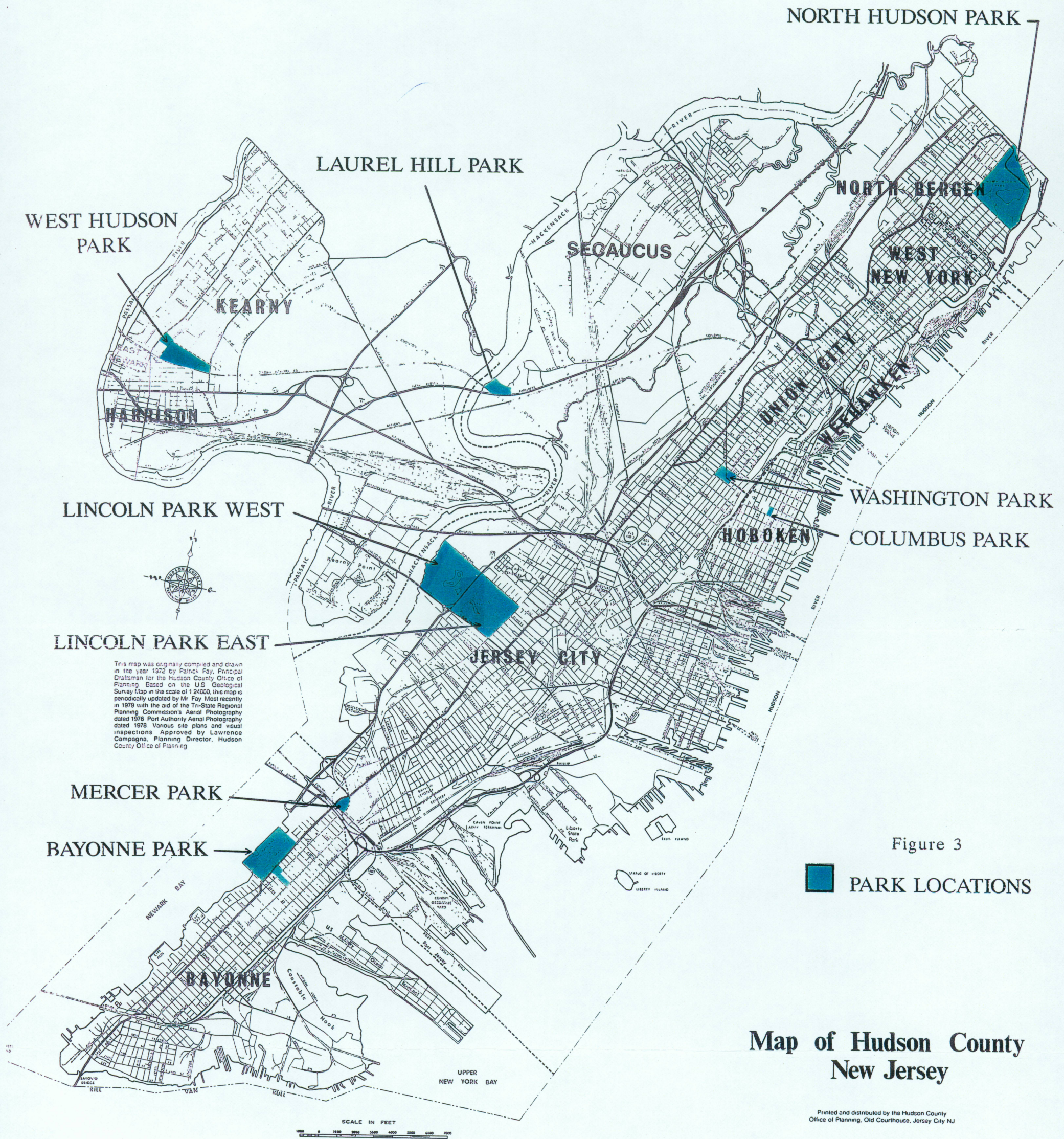


Figure 3



## **HUDSON COUNTY PARKS THE PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT 1999-2005**

The Hudson County Parks Plan for Improvement, 1999-2005 provides a comprehensive description, assessment and recommended improvements of each of the nine Hudson County Parks. The description includes an inventory of the existing facilities which were surveyed in September 1996 and updated in July 1998 and also includes the improvements made in each park between 1990 and 1998 with their approximate costs. An assessment was made of each park's condition based on the park survey results. The terms poor, fair and good are used to describe conditions of particular elements of the park. Poor is defined as needing substantial work, fair is defined as needing some work but is currently adequate, and good is defined as needing no immediate improvements. The assessment is followed by specific improvement recommendations with an estimated cost. A schematic plan of each park is provided which includes a graphic representation of the park, the improvements now under construction or contract, and recommended improvements between 1999-2005.

On each park plan, the improvements are numbered and graphically coded to distinguish the improvements which have been completed, or are under contract or construction, from those improvements which are recommended to be undertaken in the future. The plans use the following symbols:



Improvement completed (1990 - 1998)



Improvement currently under construction or contract (1998)



Improvement recommended to be completed (1999 - 2005)



Improvement which is not maintained by the Hudson County Department of Public Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation.

### **BAYONNE PARK**

Bayonne Park, located within the western portion of the City of Bayonne, is fourth in total land area among the County parks. Bayonne Park was established in 1916. Due to its location along the Newark Bay waterfront, the number and variety of recreational facilities, and its level of use, Bayonne Park is an important recreational resource for the residents of southern Hudson County.

Bayonne Park consists of a total of 97.9 acres with both active and passive areas. The Park functions primarily as a regional (County-wide) park for informal use by County residents, as a community park for Bayonne residents, and for organized (programmed) use of the various athletic fields.

## *Hudson County Park Master Plan*

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### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

Bayonne Park contains the following facilities:

Playing Field and Courts	Number
Baseball/Softball fields	8
Exercise/Cross country courses	1
Soccer fields	8
Tennis courts	10
Running tracks/field	1
Football fields	1
Bocce	1
Horseshoe	1

Water-Oriented Facilities	
Boat/Lagoon	1
Spray Pools	1
Pond	0.9 acres
Waterfront access	2,500 linear feet

Other Facilities	
Picnic Areas	1
Running/bicycle trails	4.2 miles
Playgrounds/tot lots	2
Community Center	1

*Source: T&M Associates July 1998.*

### **Improvements 1990 - 1998**

Several improvements were made at Bayonne Park between 1990 and 1998. A list of improvements, and the approximate total cost, is shown below:

<b>BAYONNE PARK COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS 1990 - 1998</b>		
<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
1	Lighting - promenade	----
2	Children's playground - renovate; new spray pool	-----
3	Tree maintenance	-----
4	Seniors building – construct	-----
5	Maintenance yard – upgrade	-----
6	Landscaping - repair hedges	-----
7	Tennis courts – renovate	-----
8	Lighting – roadway	-----
9	Flagpoles - construct & consolidate	-----
10	Running track – reconstruct	-----
11	Football field – reconstruct	-----
12	Park amenities – improve with new/additional seating benches, bicycle racks, trash receptacles etc.	-----
13	Fencing	-----
14	Athletic Fields- soccer/softball/bocce/horseshoe	-----
15	Athletic fields-soccer/softball	-----
16	Bocce	-----
17	<b>Special Design Area – Entrance promenade – resurface fountain, reflection, boat ponds, landscaping</b>	-----
18	Horseshoe pit	-----
19	Gazebo/restrooms	-----
20	Tot lot/active play area	-----
21	Picnic area	-----
22	Boat/Lagoon	-----
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$4,000,000</b>
<i>* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed (1990 – 1998)</i>		



### Pending Construction

Rehabilitation of a portion of Bayonne Park is currently pending. Facilities to be rehabilitated include the parking area and basketball courts.

BAYONNE PARK – PENDING IMPROVEMENTS		
Item Number*	Improvement	Approximate Cost
1	Parking Area	----
2	Basketball courts	-----
TOTAL COST		\$300,000
* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed (1990 - 1998)		

### Assessment of Current Conditions

A visual survey/inspection of the park was performed on September 21, 1996 and July 1998 to assess the condition of the park facilities. A summary of the survey results is presented below. The complete survey results are included in Appendix B.

#### Playing Fields and Courts

Bayonne Park contains 10 tennis courts which were found to be in varying condition. Courts 1 through 4 were in good condition with asphalt in fair condition. Courts 5 through 8 were in fair to poor condition with cracking asphalt in each court. Courts 9 and 10 were in good condition, however the net on court 10 needs replacement. The entry gates on courts 5-8 and 9-10 are cutting into the asphalt and should be repaired.

The 8 baseball/softball fields at Bayonne Park were constructed in 1997.

The football field, located within the southern portion of the park, was recently reconstructed and is in good condition.

The running track was recently reconstructed and is in good condition.

The bocce and horseshoe courts were constructed in 1997.

#### Playgrounds

The park includes a large children's playground located near J.F. Kennedy Boulevard. This playground incorporates 11 swing sets, 6 large play structures, 4 spring toys, 1 merry-go-round, benches, picnic tables and a restroom. Each item of equipment was found to be in good condition.

## Hudson County Park Master Plan

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### Water Oriented Facilities

Adjacent to the playground area is found a small spray pool. The pool was recently constructed along with a water park featuring spray toys.

A focal point of Bayonne Park is the waterfront along Newark Bay. The waterfront consists of approximately 2,500 feet of bulkheaded shoreline as well as a small tidal pool and adjacent pond areas. There are some areas which are in need of repair which include holes along the railing, asphalt walkway sinking, etc. The shoreline is in need of cleaning of debris, additional landscaping and improvements to the revetment and bulkheading along the shoreline.

### Other Park Facilities

Much of the system of footpaths and roadways within the park was found to be in fair to poor condition. The roadway drainage is poor. All bridges and overpasses need restoration including stone, railings and drainage. It is recommended that a structural inspection of the bridges be undertaken. Erosion control and drainage improvements are needed in certain areas of the park.

The picnic area at the park was recently constructed and additional picnic areas are needed. The passive area within the park's eastern-most section offers seating benches, walkways, landscaped gardens and monuments. This location should receive special design treatment to restore and improve unique park features which include the entrance promenade and fountain, the reflection ponds, and to provide a coherent landscape design.

The entry area is in fair to poor condition. The walls, columns are in need of renovation.

The swimming bathhouse is in need of repair, as are all the gazebos. The senior building is in fair condition; the sidewalks around the building are settled, gutters need replacement.

### **Recommended Improvements 1999 - 2005**

Based on survey results and the current conditions of the park, the following improvements are recommended for completion between 1999 and 2005. The improvements are prioritized by year with an approximate cost for each improvement.

<b>BAYONNE PARK – RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 –2005</b>			
<b>Priority By Year</b>	<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
1999	2	Bulb garden – restore	\$50,000
1999	12	Tree maintenance	\$5,000
1999	14	Landscaping - additional	\$25,000
1999	19	Park roadway - resurface	\$300,000
1999	3	Revetment & walkways - improve	\$370,000

<b>BAYONNE PARK – RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 –2005 (CONTINUED)</b>			
<b>Priority By Year</b>	<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost**</b>
1999	5	Promenade & parking lot - improve	\$85,000
1999	25	Reconstruct Bulkhead	\$450,000
1999	26	Fence – repair	\$50,000
1999	27	Parking areas - resurface	\$45,000
2000	1	Drainage – improvement	\$100,000
2000	7	Gazebos #1 - restore	\$25,000
2000	10	Entrance #1 - improve	\$25,000
2000	20	Entrance #2 - improve	\$25,000
2000	24	Gazebos #2 - restore	\$40,000
2002	8	Passive area	\$30,000
2002	9	Picnic Area - add	\$30,000
2002	18	Passive area - improve	\$70,000
2002	21	Drainage / resurface walkways	\$150,000
2002	23	Picnic area - add	\$30,000
2002	28	Restroom – renovate #1	\$200,000
2003	6	Bridges – repair underpass	\$30,000
2003	13	Drainage – improvement	\$100,000
2003	15	Tennis court - color coat	\$45,000
2003	22	Underpass - maintain	\$10,000
Annual	29	Amenities - additional seating benches, bicycle racks, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, etc.	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$2,310,000</b>
<b>CONTINGENCIES (20%)</b>			<b>\$462,000</b>
<b>DESIGN, INSPECTION &amp; CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION (20%)</b>			<b>\$462,000</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,234,000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item No. corresponds to number on schematic map for pending improvements 1999-2005.</li> </ul>			







## **COLUMBUS PARK**

Columbus Park, consisting of approximately 2.6 acres, is located within the city of Hoboken. Columbus Park was established in 1910 and is the smallest of all the county parks (in total land area). Columbus Park does not offer the broad array of recreational facilities found at larger Hudson County parks, but it does contribute toward meeting the recreational needs of County residents. Columbus Park functions primarily as a neighborhood park for Hoboken residents.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

Columbus Park contains the following facilities:

Playing Fields and Courts	Number
Tennis courts	2
Playgrounds:	
Children's tot lot	2
Water-Oriented facilities:	
Spray pool	1
Other Park Facilities:	
Restroom building	1
Maintenance building	1
All purpose building	1
Pathways	Yes
Park Amenities	Yes

*Source: T&M Associates October 1996.*

### **Improvements 1990 - 1998**

Several improvements were made at Columbus Park between 1990 and 1998. A list of the completed improvements and the approximate total cost is shown below:

<b>COLUMBUS PARK - COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS 1990 -1998</b>			
<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Completed Improvement</b>	<b>Year Completed</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
1	Tennis Court – renovation	-----	-----
2	Restrooms – renovation	-----	-----
3	Flagpole – add (1) additional	-----	-----
4	Park administration building - Renovation	-----	-----

COLUMBUS PARK (CONTINUED) - COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS 1990 –1998			
Item Number*	Completed Improvement	Year Completed	Approximate Cost
5	Landscaping – add additional	-----	-----
6	Park amenities - install new/additional seating, benches, bicycle racks, water fountains, etc.	-----	-----
7	Walkway system - reconstruct	-----	-----
8	Tree maintenance	-----	-----
9	Flagpole – add (1) additional	-----	-----
10	Children's playground - renovate	-----	-----
11	Children's spray pool - renovation	-----	-----
12	Maintenance building - upgrade	-----	-----
13	Bocce Courts	-----	-----
TOTAL COST			\$ 761,000
* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed (1990 – 1998)			

### Assessment of Current Conditions

A visual survey/inspection of the park was performed on September 14, 1996, and updated in July 1998, to assess the current condition of the park. A summary of the survey results is presented below. The complete survey results are included in Appendix B.

#### Playing Fields and Courts

Columbus Park contains two tennis courts.

Tennis courts #1 and #2 were reported to be in fair condition. The asphalt surface was good but utility trenches were dug and patched. The tennis court area lighting was fair and was recommended to be upgraded along with the fences surrounding the courts which included the gates and hardware.

#### Playgrounds

The park includes two children's playgrounds. The smaller of the two incorporates four swing sets, one monkey bars, one timber climber and a second smaller climber, one slide, and an area devoted to hopscotch. The larger playground includes a see-saw, merry-go-round, five spring rides and one climber. The playground equipment was reported to be in structurally good condition with adequate safety surface. Minor graffiti was found on some of the equipment and the spring rides had been removed from the smaller playground.

## *Hudson County Park Master Plan*

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### Water Oriented Facilities

The park contains a 1,500 sq. ft. spray pool which was reported to be in fair condition. The drainage and concrete within the structure are in good condition.

### Other Park Facilities

The largest portion of the park is dedicated to formal landscaping and seating areas. The park benches and fencing are in good condition. The landscaping is in generally good condition with the exception of some minor landscaping work.

The restroom building located adjacent to the spray pool and the all-purpose building in the center of the park have been recently renovated. The maintenance building located near the tennis courts is in fair condition.

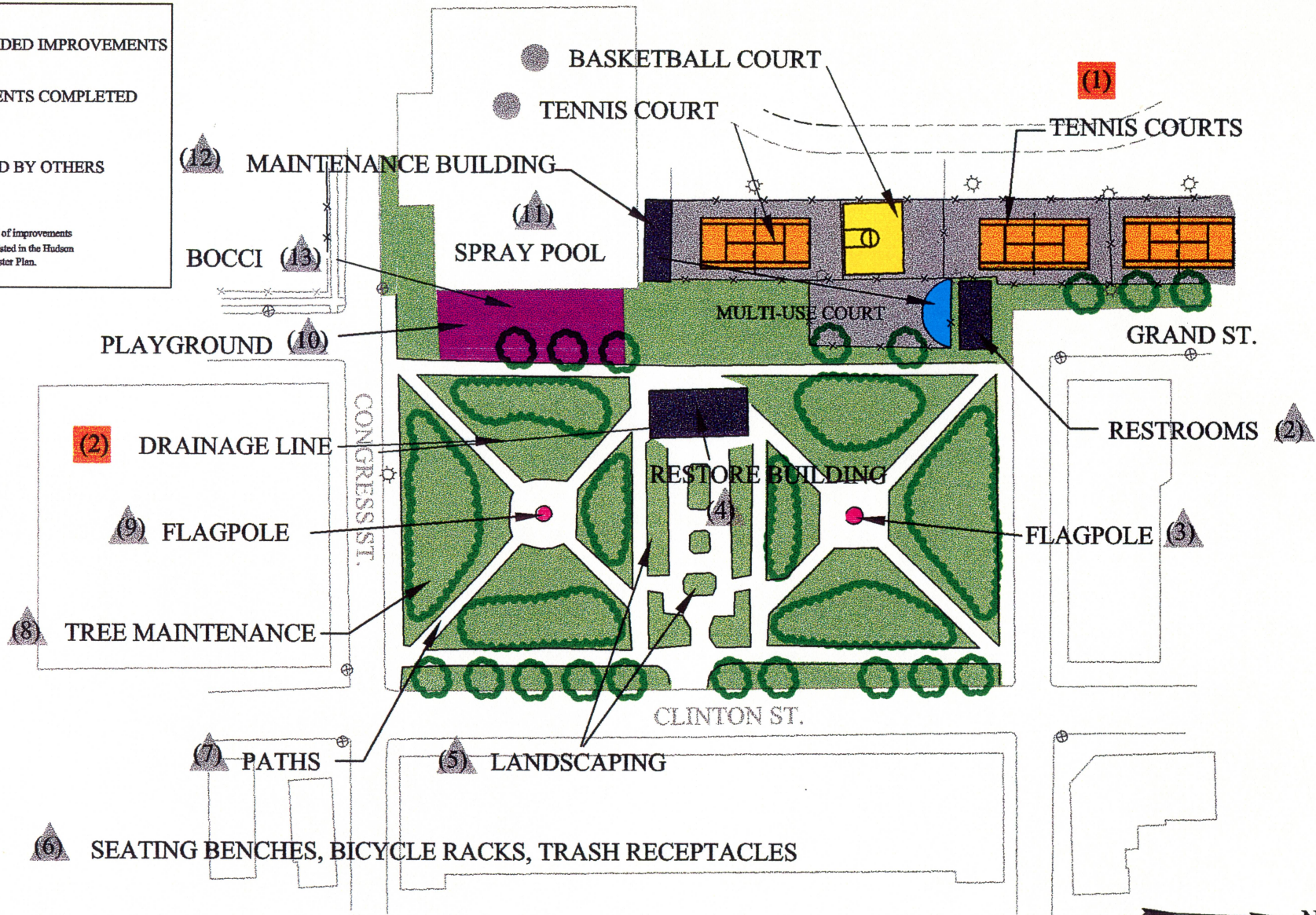
### **Recommended Improvements 1999 - 2005**

Based on survey results and the current conditions of the park, by the end of 2000, Columbus Park will be fully rehabilitated.

<b>COLUMBUS PARK</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1999	1	Tennis Court - Upgrade Lighting and Fence	\$50,000
1999	2	Reconstruct Drainage Line	\$5,000
<b>Construction Cost</b>			<b>\$55,000</b>
<b>Contingencies (20%)</b>			<b>\$11,000</b>
<b>Design, Inspection &amp; Contract Administration (20%)</b>			<b>\$11,000</b>
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$77,000</b>

- RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS  
(1999 - 2005)
- ▲ IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED  
(1990 - 1998)
- MAINTAINED BY OTHERS

(1) Number corresponds to list of improvements completed or recommended as listed in the Hudson County Park & Recreation Master Plan.



Plan of Improvements to  
**COLUMBUS PARK**  
Hoboken, Hudson County, New Jersey

0 25 50 100  
Scale in Feet

Prepared: December 1990; Updated: April 1997; July 1998

Figure 5

**TM**  
ASSOCIATES



## **LAUREL HILL PARK**

Laurel Hill Park, located along the eastern bank of the Hackensack River in Secaucus adjacent to the New Jersey Turnpike, is the most recent addition to the Hudson County Park system. The park contains 104.5 acres and faces the Saw Mill Creek Federal Wildlife Management Area on the opposite bank of the Hackensack River. The un-mined portion of Snake Hill which rises approximately 180 feet at its peak is located in the southern portion of the park along the New Jersey Turnpike. The park borders the Hackensack River to the east and is surrounded by the marshlands and mud flats in the immediate area.

Pending improvements to the park listed in detail below include two major elements: a riverfront park with playground, and a ballfield complex.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

Laurel Hill Park contains a recently constructed public boat launch facility.

### **Improvements Completed**

Completed improvements and their approximate total cost are listed below:

<b>LAUREL HILL PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED</b>		
<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
1	Washout/tie-down area	-----
2	Parking lot	-----
3	Landscaping	-----
4	Pathway	-----
5	Parking Lot "C"	-----
6	Parking Lot "A"	-----
7	Lighting	-----
8	Soccer/softball field #1	-----
9	Soccer/softball field #2	-----
10	Pathway	-----
11	Lighting	-----
12	Parking Lot "B"	-----
13	Pathway	-----
14	Playground	-----
15	Shelter	-----
16	Playground	-----
17	Scenic Overlook	-----
18	Pathway lighting	-----
19	Park Expansion Area	-----
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,772,000</b>
<i>* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed.</i>		

## Hudson County Park Master Plan

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### Assessment of Current Conditions

The improvements to Laurel Hill Park are currently being constructed. A Green Acres application to expand the park southward is also pending.

### Recommended Improvements 1999 - 2005

The park should be further developed to provide opportunities for wildlife observation, walking, and environmental education and additional active recreation. An interpretive path system through the park should be developed explaining the unique geology and history of the location and to control access to Snake Hill and its scenic overlook. The path system should also provide access to the freshwater pond for wildlife observation and enjoyment of the pond as a natural area. The park expansion area to the south should be improved to include additional active recreation for sports such as basketball and volleyball.

To meet the County need for additional open space, the park should be expanded northward to include an additional hundred acres of riverfront property.

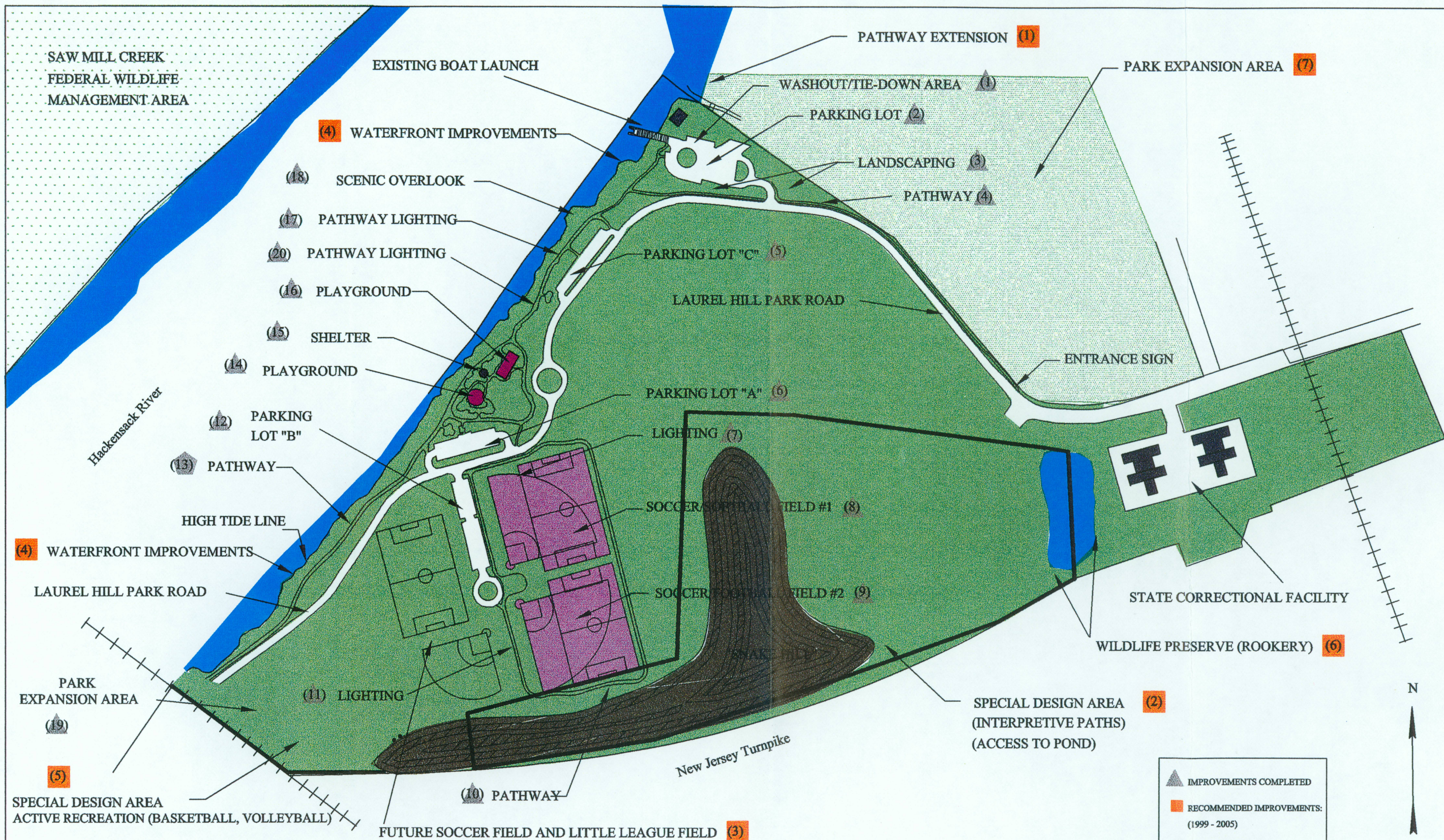
<b>LAUREL HILL PARK RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 – 2005</b>			
<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Priority By Year</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
1	1999	Pathway Extension	\$20,000
2	1999	Special Design Area – Interpretive paths	\$180,000
2A	1999	Flagpole	\$6,000
3	2000	Little League Field and Soccer Field	\$400,000
5	2002	Special Design Area - Active Recreation	\$300,000
4	2003	Waterfront Improvements – Full Length	\$1,000,000
6	2005	Wildlife Preserve (Rookery)	\$300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$2,206,000</b>
<b>Contingencies (20%)</b>			<b>\$441,200</b>
<b>Design, Inspection &amp; Contract Administration (20%)</b>			<b>\$441,200</b>
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$3,088,400</b>
<i>* Item No. corresponds to number on schematic map for pending improvements 1999-2005.</i>			

*Hudson County Park Master Plan*

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RECOMMENDED ACQUISITIONS			
Item Number	Priority By Year	Improvement	Total Cost
7	2000	Park Expansion Area (north) - Approx. 100 Acres	\$5,000,000
TOTAL			\$5,000,000





# Plan of Improvements to LAUREL HILL PARK

Secaucus, Hudson County, New Jersey

0 100 250 500  
Approximate Scale in Feet

This map is conceptual only. See Hudson County Park at Laurel Hill plans prepared by Schoor Depalma Inc. dated May 15, 1996

Prepared: December 1990; Revised April 1997; Revised July 1998

Figure 6

**TM**  
ASSOCIATES



## **LINCOLN PARK EAST**

Lincoln Park East, located within the western portion of Jersey City, is the second largest of the nine parks comprising the Hudson County park system. Formerly known as Westside Park, Lincoln Park was established in 1905 and is the County's oldest park. The park is located within an area of densely developed residential neighborhoods and commercial uses. By virtue of its location, the number and variety of recreational facilities, and its level of use, Lincoln Park represents one of the region's most important recreational resources.

Lincoln Park East consists of a total of 150.4 acres. Lincoln Park functions primarily as a regional (County-wide) park for informal use by County residents, as a community park for Jersey City residents, and for organized (programmed) use of the various athletic fields.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

Lincoln Park East contains the following facilities:

Playing Field and Courts	Number
Baseball/Softball fields	7
Exercise/Crosscountry courses	1
Basketball courts	5
Bocce/Shuffleboard Courts	1
Soccer fields	2
Tennis courts	21
Running tracks	1
Football fields	2
Handball/Paddleball courts	4

Water-Oriented Facilities	
Lakes and Ponds	6.0 acres
Waterfront	1,900 linear feet

Other Facilities	
Picnic Areas	4
Running/bicycle trails	3.3 miles
Playgrounds/tot lots	3

*Source: T&M Associates October 1996.*

### **Improvements 1990 - 1998**

Several improvements were made at Lincoln Park East between 1990 and 1998. A list of improvements, and the approximate total cost, is shown below:

<b>LINCOLN PARK EAST – COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS 1990 – 1998</b>		
<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
1	Gazebo#1 - repair/restore	---
2	Athletic fields - repairs	---
3	Gazebo #4 - repair/restore	---
4	Tennis courts - reconstruct 4-9/16-21	---
5	Pond – clean and aerate	---
6	Running track - resurface	---
7	Park roadways - resurface	---
8	Parking lot - reconstruct	---
9	Park amenities - improve with new/additional seating benches, bicycle racks, trash receptacles etc.	---
10	Tot lot #1	---
11	Tot Lot #2	---
12	Basketball court #1	---
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$3,997,500</b>
<i>* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed (1990 - 1998)</i>		

### **Assessment of Current Conditions**

A visual survey/inspection of the park was performed on September 14, 1996 and updated July 1998 to assess the current conditions of the park facilities. A summary of the survey results is presented below. The complete survey results are included in Appendix B.

#### **Playing Fields and Courts**

Located within the park's eastern portion are found 21 regulation-size tennis courts. With the exception of courts 1 through 3 which were found to be in poor condition the tennis courts are in

good condition. The fence surrounding the tennis court area is in fair condition and in poor condition at courts 4 through 6.

Adjacent to the tennis courts are three full-court basketball courts. These courts were found to be in fair condition including surface, color coat, backboards and rims. There are also two other single-court basketball courts located within the park. These courts are in fair to poor condition. In addition to the tennis and basketball courts, the park includes four handball/paddleball courts. These courts, located in the park's northwest corner near Duncan Avenue, are in poor condition with cracking asphalt and settlement near the walls.

The park contains a total of 7 baseball fields. These fields are numbered 10 through 17. Field #10 has good infield, poor mix and fair bleachers and grade. Field #11 has poor infield good benches and backstop. Field #12, Farley Field, was reported to be in good condition. Field #13 has good mix, backstop and sideline fencing, and fair grade. Field #14 has good mix, bench, backstop/fence; fair outfield and bleachers. Field #15 has good infield, backstop and fence; fair bleachers. Field #16 contains a good backstop and benches; fair infield mix; poor grading especially beneath fence posts and bleachers.

Adjacent to the baseball fields is the football/soccer field to the east and a six-lane running track, and areas dedicated to field events (long jump, shot put, discus, pole vault) to the west. The turf on the soccer/football field was found to be in poor condition with a fair grade. The goals for the football field are in fair condition and poor condition for the soccer field. The running track surface was in good condition, grading at the edges was fair and gates were in need of minor adjustment. The turf for field events was in good condition.

#### Playgrounds

The park includes three children's playgrounds with two located within the northernmost area near Duncan Avenue and a third located in the park's southeast area. The two northernmost playgrounds were reconstructed in 1997.

#### Other Park Facilities

The park roadways are in good condition with some curb repair required. The sidewalks at the entry road are fair and pavers and sidewalks along Westside Drive and Kennedy Blvd. entrance are poor. The remainder of the asphalt walkways are in fair to good condition throughout the park. There is a need to provide continuous barrier free access around the pond. In addition the path system should be expanded through the athletic fields to provide a continuous loop for pedestrians and maintenance vehicles.

The walk bridges are in superficially poor condition. There should be a structural inspection of the bridges.

The monuments are in generally good condition. The statue of the civil war soldier is missing a rifle feature which should be restored.

## *Hudson County Park Master Plan*

The gazebos at the main entrance contain graffiti and are in fair condition. The pavilion for the shuffleboard courts is in good condition although the roof is poor.

### **Recommended Improvements 1999 - 2005**

Based on survey results and the current condition of the park, the following improvements are recommended for completion between 1999 and 2005. The improvements are prioritized by year with an estimated cost for each improvement.

<b>LINCOLN PARK EAST – RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 - 2005</b>			
<b>Priority By Year</b>	<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
1999	6	Entrance #2 – improve	\$75,000
1999	7	Asphalt pathway	\$75,000
1999	9	Athletic fields - #10 - grade, #11 - infield; #12 – repair fence #13 – grade	\$195,000
1999	15	Entrance promenade #3 - improve	\$100,000
1999	16	Fountain – repair	\$50,000
1999	17	Gazebo #2, #3 - repair/restore	\$150,000
1999	21	Park administration area - new building, parking lot, access road	\$1,300,000
1999	27	Improve entrance #4	\$75,000
1999	43	Ballfield lighting	\$60,000
2000	29	Tennis courts - reconstruct courts	\$342,000
2000	30	Maintenance area - pave yard, add building, renovate building	\$300,000
2000	31	Parking lot – construct new	\$50,000
2000	41	Playground expansion	\$30,000
2000	42	Drinking fountain replacement	\$2,000
2000	35	Track grandstand - construct new	\$250,000
2001	1	Handball courts - rehabilitate	\$48,000
2001	2	Improve Entrance #1	\$75,000
2001	3,5,11,26	Basketball courts - recolor coat/new backboard	\$40,000
2001	8	Lawn passive area	\$65,000
2001	9	Athletic fields - #10 - bleachers	\$16,000
2001	10	Soccer field – turf, grade, goal posts	\$51,000
2001	12	Lawn passive area	\$65,000
2001	22	Demolish restroom building	\$10,000
2001	25	Upgrade picnic area	\$30,000
2002	13	Landscaping, tree maintenance	\$50,000
2002	14	Lighting –add	\$60,000



<b>LINCOLN PARK EAST – RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 – 2005 (CONTINUED)</b>			
<b>Priority By Year</b>	<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost**</b>
2002	19	Picnic area – add	\$30,000
2002	24	Reconstruct parking lot	\$61,000
2002	36	Park roadways - repair 20% curbs	\$72,000
2002	39	Pavilion for shuffleboard courts - roof, sidewalks and fascia board reconstruct	\$30,000
2002	40	Interpretative signage	\$20,000
2003	23	Statue – restore	\$100,000
2003	28	Greenhouse – expand	\$75,000
2003	32	Drainage – improvement	\$70,000
2003	33	Barrier free loop - construct	\$50,000
2003	34	Barrier free surface - construct surface path in field	\$50,000
2003	37 & 38	Fitness station & Picnic area - construct	\$80,000
Annual	18	Tree maintenance	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$4,167,000</b>
<b>Contingencies (20%)</b>			<b>\$833,400</b>
<b>Design, Inspection &amp; Contract Administration (20%)</b>			<b>\$833,400</b>
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$5,833,800</b>
* Item No. corresponds to number on schematic map for pending improvements 1999-2005.			



# Plan of Improvements to LINCOLN PARK EAST

Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED  
(1990 - 1998)

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS:  
(1999 - 2005)

MAINTAINED BY OTHERS

(1) Number corresponds to list of improvements completed or recommended as listed in the Hudson County Park & Recreation Master Plan.



Figure 7



## **LINCOLN PARK WEST**

Lincoln Park West, third largest of the County parks, and located within the western portion of Jersey City, is bounded on the east by U.S Truck Route 1-9, on the north by Duncan Avenue, on the south by Communipaw Avenue- Truck Route 1-9, and on the west by the Hackensack River. It is located due west of Lincoln Park East and is linked via two pedestrian footbridges and one vehicular bridge over truck Route 1-9.

Lincoln Park West consists of a total of 123 acres. Lincoln Park West functions primarily as a regional (County-wide) park for informal use by County residents, as a community park for Jersey City residents, and for organized (programmed) use of the various athletic fields.

Because of its water features and wetlands, the park should be further developed to provide County residents with opportunities for nature interpretation, wildlife observation, and access to the Hackensack River for fishing and passive recreation.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

Lincoln Park West contains the following facilities:

Playing Field and Courts	Number
Baseball/Softball fields	5

Water-Oriented Facilities	
Lakes and Ponds	2
Waterfront	1,850 L.F.

*Source: T&M Associates July 1998.*

### **Improvements 1990 - 1998**

Improvements completed at Lincoln Park West between 1990 and 1998 included a driving range/pitch and putt golf course and upgraded baseball complex. These facilities were completed and are maintained by private entities.

A list of completed improvements are shown below:

LINCOLN PARK WEST – COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS 1990 – 1998		
Item Number*	Improvement	Approximate Cost
1	Nature trails/interpretive paths	\$100,000
TOTAL COST		\$100,000
* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed (1990 – 1998)		

#### **Assessment of Current Conditions**

A visual survey/inspection of the park was performed on September 15, 1996 and updated July 1998 to assess the current conditions of the park facilities. A summary of the survey results are presented below. The complete survey results are included in Appendix B.

##### Playing Fields and Courts

Lincoln Park West contains 5 baseball/softball fields. The fields at St. Peter's were in generally good condition and the construction of the new baseball fields is nearly completed.

##### Water Oriented Facilities

The park contains a large wetland area associated with a tidal pond located in the northern portion of the park that is connected by pipe to the Hackensack River. The pond is in fair condition with some debris at the inflow structure. The park waterfront along the Hackensack River is proposed as a special design area for the creation of a riverfront pathway and a canoe/kayak launch area.

##### Other Park Facilities

The park contains a system of dirt roadways which were found to be in poor condition including the grade and drainage.

#### **Recommended Improvements 1998 - 2005**

Based on survey results and the current conditions of the park the following improvements are recommended for completion between 1998 and 2005. The improvements are prioritized by year with an approximate cost for each improvement.

LINCOLN PARK WEST RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 – 2005			
Item Number*	Priority By Year	Improvement	Total Cost
1	1999	Improve pond – remove debris/landscaping	\$1,000,000
4	1999	Pond restoration	\$1,000,000
5	1999	Wetlands restoration and Nature Center	\$6,500,000
2	2000	Access –gated	\$10,000
3	2000	Roadway – improvements	\$75,000
7	2000	Pathways/Roadways - regrade/resurface	\$350,000
8	2000	Parking Area	\$300,000
6	2001-2003	Special Design Area – Riverfront Pathway and Buildings	\$3,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$12,735,000</b>
<b>Contingencies (20%)</b>			<b>\$2,547,000</b>
<b>Design, Inspection &amp; Contract Administration (20%)</b>			<b>\$2,547,000</b>
<b>Project Total</b>			<b>\$17,829,000</b>
* Item No. corresponds to number on schematic map for pending improvements 1998-2005.			







## **MERCER PARK**

Mercer Park, consisting of approximately 6.4 acres, is located within Bayonne along the border with Jersey City. Mercer Park was established in 1909. Given its relatively small size, Mercer Park does not offer the broad array of recreational facilities found at other Hudson County parks. However, the park contributes to meeting the recreational needs of County residents in general and nearby residents in particular.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

Mercer Park contains the following facilities:

Playing Field and Courts	Number
Volleyball court	1
Little league/football field	1
Basketball court	2
Playgrounds:	
Children's tot lot	2
Other Park Facilities:	
Trails	-----
Park Amenities	-----

*Source: T&M Associates October 1996.*

### **Improvements Completed in 1997**

Several improvements were completed in 1997 at Mercer Park. A list of improvements, and the approximate total cost, is provided below:

<b>MERCER PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED</b>		
<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
1	Lighting - add park lighting	-----
2	Pathway - resurfacing	-----
3	Volleyball court	-----
4	Parking lot - new bituminous lot	-----
5	Little league/football field	-----

MERCER PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED (CONTINUED)		
Item Number*	Improvement	Approximate Cost
6	12' fence	-----
7	Access pathway – improve	-----
8	Remove existing basketball courts - construct colorcoated courts	-----
9	Tree maintenance	-----
10	Landscaping	-----
11	Picnic area	-----
12	Park appurtenances	-----
13	Tot lot #2	-----
TOTAL COST		\$889,000
<i>* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed</i>		

### Assessment of Current Conditions

A visual survey/inspection of the park was performed on September 15, 1996 and updated in July 1998, to assess the current condition of the park facilities. A summary of the survey results is presented below. The complete survey results are included in Appendix B.

#### Playing Fields and Courts

Mercer Park includes 2 full-court basketball, little league/football field, and volleyball courts, which were reconstructed in 1997.

#### Playgrounds

Construction of a new tot lot was completed in 1997.

#### Other Park Facilities

Components of the park completed in 1997 included picnic tables and benches, landscaping, lighting, and footpaths. Other repairs and renovation include the entranceways leading from J.F. Kennedy Boulevard toward the baseball field as well as landscaping and various park amenities (trash receptacles, bicycle racks, lighting, signage, etc). A large portion of the park is dedicated to informal seating areas. These areas are in need of immediate renovation given the level of use by nearby residents and the present condition of these areas. Redesign and relocation of seating areas and replacement of park benches together with enhanced landscaping, signage and lighting improvements are viewed as important components of the park's overall restoration.



### **Recommended Improvements 2000**

Based on survey results, and the 1997, the following additional improvement is recommended for completion.

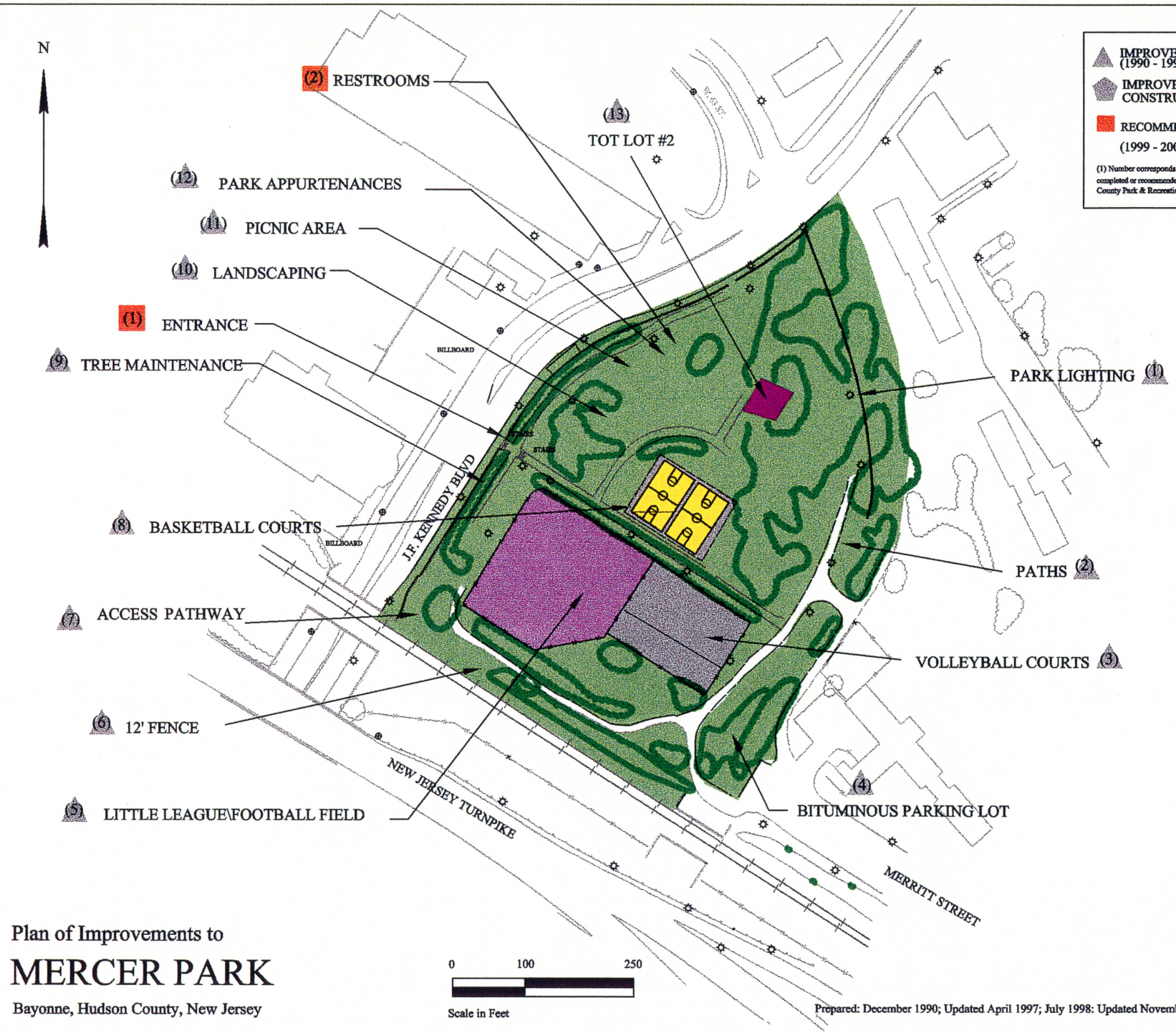
<b>MERCER PARK – RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 2000</b>			
<b>Priority by Year</b>	<b>Item No. *</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
1999	2	Restrooms-construct	\$125,000
2000	1	Entrance improvements at J.F. Kennedy Blvd. - stairway	\$40,000
<b>CONSTRUCTION COST</b>			<b>\$165,000</b>
<b>CONTINGENCIES (20%)</b>			<b>\$33,000</b>
<b>DESIGN,INSPECTION &amp; CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION (20%)</b>			<b>\$33,000</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>			<b>\$231,000</b>
<i>* Item No. corresponds to number on schematic map for pending improvements 199-2005.</i>			

**IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED**  
 (1990 - 1998)

**IMPROVEMENTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION/CONTRACT**

**RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS**  
 (1999 - 2005)

(1) Number corresponds to list of improvements completed or recommended as listed in the Hudson County Park & Recreation Master Plan.



Plan of Improvements to  
**MERCER PARK**  
Bayonne, Hudson County, New Jersey

Figure 9



Prepared: December 1990; Updated April 1997; July 1998; Updated November 1998

## **NORTH HUDSON PARK (JAMES J. BRADDOCK PARK)**

North Hudson Park, located within the town of North Bergen in northern Hudson County, is the largest of the nine County parks. Also known as James J. Braddock Park - North Hudson Park, the park was established in 1910 on lands with the highest elevation in the County thereby providing excellent views of the northern New Jersey and New York City waterfronts. By virtue of its location, the number and variety of recreational facilities, and its level of use, North Hudson Park represents one of the region's most important recreational resources.

North Hudson Park consists of a total of 167.32 acres with both active and passive areas. The Park functions primarily as a regional (County-wide) park for informal use by County residents, as a community park for North Bergen residents, and for organized (programmed) use of the various athletic fields.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

North Hudson Park contains the following facilities:

Playing Field and Courts	Number
Baseball/Softball fields	6
Youth baseball fields	2
Basketball courts	4
Bocce/shuffleboard courts	3
Exercise/crosscountry courts	1
Football fields	1
Soccer fields	3
Handball/paddleball courts	2
Tennis courts (illuminated)	17
Volleyball court	1

Water-Oriented Facilities	
Spray Pools	1
Lakes and Ponds	16 acres

Other Facilities	
Picnic Areas	1
Running/bicycle trails	7.8 miles
Nature Trails	1,300 L.F.
Arboretum	1
Natural areas/wildlife refuges	7 acres

*Source: T&M Associates July 1998.*

## *Hudson County Park Master Plan*

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### **Improvements 1990 - 1998**

Several improvements were made at North Hudson Park between 1990 and 1998. A list of improvements, and the approximate total cost, is shown below:

<b>NORTH HUDSON PARK – COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS 1990 – 1998</b>		
<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
1,5,8	Tree maintenance	-----
2,3	Lighting - ballfield, around park	-----
4	Handball courts – rehabilitate walls, asphalt	-----
6	Ballfields reconstruct #1 & #2 (backstop and lighting)	-----
7	Tennis courts – rehabilitate (courts 6-8)	-----
9	Remove existing basketball courts – construct colorcoated courts	-----
10	Landscaping – install additional	-----
11	Stairways leading to Woodcliff Lake (reconstruct)	-----
12, 16	Footpath system throughout the park - resurface	-----
13	Maintenance buildings - replaced	-----
14	Basketball court - rehabilitate	-----
15	Park roadway - resurface	-----
17	Picnic areas - upgrade and expand	-----
18	Park drainage system - renovate	-----
19	Ballfields and open play field at Woodcliff Ave. – reconstruct, including lighting	-----
22	Sidewalks and Fencing	-----

NORTH HUDSON PARK – COMPLETED (CONTINUED)		
20	Arboretum	
21	Nature Trail	
TOTAL COST		\$3,099,500
<i>* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed (1990 - 1998)</i>		

### Assessment of Current Conditions

A visual survey/inspection of the park was performed on September 28, 1996, and updated in July 1998, to assess the current condition of the park facilities. A summary of the survey results is presented below. The complete survey results are included in Appendix B.

#### Playing Fields and Courts

Located near the park's 70th Street entrance are 17 regulation tennis courts. On courts 1 through 5, the asphalt and lighting were fair, the grade, drainage and fencing were in poor condition. Courts 6 through 8 were found to be in good condition however the fencing around the courts was poor. Courts 9 through 17 had drainage problems.

Immediately across from the tennis court area is a single handball/paddleball court. The court's wall surface is in good condition, however the playing surface is in fair condition and in need of paint while the fence surrounding the court is in poor condition.

Located within the park's northwest corner are three full-court basketball courts. The courts were recently renovated and are in good condition.

Three bocce courts are located in the northern portion of the park. The boards on the courts are in poor condition and should be replaced. The grade was also in poor condition.

A single volleyball court is located near the bocce courts. The court is paved but does not have any poles or net.

North Hudson Park includes two softball fields (infield radius of 120 feet), located along Woodcliff Avenue within the northern-most portion of the park. Each of these fields had a fair grade, turf condition and infield mix. The backstops and team benches were good and lighting around the field was recently installed.

The park includes four baseball fields located within two areas. The two fields along Kennedy Boulevard were found to be in poor condition including the infield mix, drainage and turf; however, the lighting and backstops were recently installed and were in good condition. The remaining ballfields were in fair condition. A seventh field is a lighted field maintained by others.

## *Hudson County Park Master Plan*

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North Hudson Park is also the location of a football field and bleachers used by local high schools for their official games. This facility is not maintained by Hudson County.

### Playgrounds

The park includes a children's playground located near the 79th Street entrance. The benches, and safety surface should be replaced. The perimeter fence is in fair condition.

### Other Park Facilities

The principal focal point of North Hudson Park is Woodcliff Lake. The lake is approximately 19.3 acres in size and has approximately 3,400 linear feet of shoreline. The lake and shoreline have been renovated and are in good condition, however, some minor wall repairs are necessary. An arboretum was constructed in 1998 just north of the athletic complex.

The spray pool equipment was not in operation at the time of inspection. The entry gates and columns need to be restored.

Across from the playground area is the principal entranceway to the lakefront. Access to this area is from three staircases and a pathway to the water's edge. The area is in general need of improvement with particular emphasis on the staircases which are in poor condition.

North Hudson Park incorporates several buildings which include restrooms, shelters, administration and maintenance buildings. The restroom building and the office building require restoration; the maintenance building is in good condition.

The park is also the location of several areas dedicated to passive use as well as picnic use. Many of these areas are in need of additional or improved seating areas and landscaping. Picnic benches are in need of replacement.

The park incorporates a single large parking area located within the western portion of the park. The lot is severely unstable with subsurface problems, settlement, and broken asphalt. The parking area needs repair and resurfacing which would improve its condition as well as serve to accommodate additional vehicle parking.

Park monuments were found to have minor graffiti and stone chipping.

Much of the footpath/trail systems and the park roadways within the park were in good condition.

## **Recommended Improvements 1999 - 2005**

Based on survey results and the current conditions of North Hudson Park, the improvements shown below are recommended for completion between 1999 and 2005. The improvements are prioritized by year with an approximate cost for each improvement. Three important park features have been identified as special design areas which require particular care in their enhancement and improvement.



## *Hudson County Park Master Plan*

The first special design area is the park administration building area. The administration building is a landmark element of the park and is part of an axial layout and pedestrian entrance aligned with Hudson Avenue. The unique historic design of the building incorporates an archway and reliefs. The administration building design area includes a roundabout and war monument and overlook that provides a scenic view of the park and Woodcliff Lake. The administration building and restrooms require restoration. Other improvements to this special design area should include restoration of the entry steps from 79th Street, use of pavers for the walkway and cartway, ornamental bollards around the monument, landscaping, and enhancement of views from the overlook.

The second special design area is the edge of the park along Woodcliff Avenue northward of the Palisade Avenue entrance. This edge of the park, which faces a residential area, needs to be enhanced aesthetically. A landscaping plan should be prepared and implemented to establish an appropriate landscape treatment between Woodcliff Avenue and the illuminated ballfields of the park.

The pathway around Woodcliff Lake is to be included as a third special design area which requires particular care in its enhancement and improvement. The pathway should be landscaped and improved to include decorative paving, incorporating elements such as brick, paver block, or paving stone and ornamental park furnishings that replicate traditional metal work design motifs, such as lampposts and benches. The intent is to recognize and celebrate historic roots of North Hudson Park by including turn-of-the-century design elements around the lake.

<b>NORTH HUDSON PARK – RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 – 2005</b>			
<b>Priority By Year</b>	<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
1999	22,32	Pedestrian and vehicular entranceways to park -improve (landscaping)	\$40,000
1999	24-C	Boathouse – rebuild (Community Center)	\$270,000
1999	25	Boat access - repair minor wall repairs	\$20,000
1999	28	Parking area – resurface	\$70,000
2000	-3	Soccer field - topsoil and seeding	\$45,000
2000	16	Soccer field - topsoil and seeding	\$45,000
2000	17	Ballfields #1 & #2 – turf topsoil and seeding & infield mix)	\$220,000
2000	24-B	Park administration building – renovate	\$250,000
2000	27	Children's tot lot	\$50,000
2001	12	Handball courts – rehabilitation, paint, fencing	\$22,000
2001	21	Tennis courts – rehabilitate (court 1-5, 9-17)	\$242,000
2001	22,32	Pedestrian and vehicular entranceways to park – lighting	\$40,000
2001	29	Volleyball court – renovate pole, nets, etc.	\$2,000



*Hudson County Park Master Plan*

NORTH HUDSON PARK RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 – 2005 ( CONTINUED)			
Priority By Year	Item Number*	Improvement	Estimated Cost**
2001	30	Picnic area–upgrade/expand /repair benches	\$30,000
2001	31	Bocce courts – renovate boards, paint, grade	\$21,000
2001	10	Pathway – improve pathway around the lake	\$65,000
2001	11	Overlook area – improve	\$75,000
2001	13	Passive area #2 – improvements	\$70,000
2001	18	Formal garden – create	\$50,000
2001	36	Special Design Area – Woodcliff Lake Pathway	\$250,000
2002	1, 19	Restroom building #1 and #2 - demolish & replace	\$400,000
2002	9	Special Design Area – Woodcliff Ave.	\$50,000
2002	14	Landscape Embankment	\$25,000
2002	20	Entry columns and steps (restore)	\$40,000
2002	24-A	Monument – restore	\$10,000
2002	26	Landscaping	\$80,000
2002	33	Roller Hockey Rink	\$150,000
2002	35	Park drainage system - renovate	\$150,000
2003	5	Passive area #1 – renovate	\$70,000
2004	4	Sidewalk and fencing improvements	\$70,000
2004	6	Grading improvements	\$25,000
Annually	2,15,23	Tree maintenance	\$5,000
CONSTRUCTION COST			\$2,952,000
CONTINGENCIES (20%)			\$590,400
DESIGN, INSPECTION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION (20%)			\$590,400
PROJECT TOTAL			\$4,132,800
* Item No. corresponds to number on schematic map for pending improvements 1999-2005.			
** Total cost estimates are included in Appendix A.			





Plan of Improvements to  
NORTH HUDSON PARK (JAMES J. BRADDOCK PARK)  
North Bergen, Hudson County, New Jersey

Figure 10



## **WASHINGTON PARK**

Washington Park, consisting of approximately 21 acres, is located within the northern portion of Jersey City and the southern portion of Union City. Formerly known as Suckley Park, Washington Park was established in 1918 on lands extending from Central Avenue on the west edge of the bluff overlooking the Hudson River on the east. By virtue of its location and the number and variety of recreational facilities, Washington Park represents an important recreational resource serving the residents of central Hudson County.

Washington Park functions primarily as a regional (County-wide) park for informal use by County residents, as a community park for Jersey City and Union City residents, and for organized (programmed) use of the various athletic fields.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

Washington Park contains the following facilities:

Playing Field and Courts	Number
Tennis courts	10
Baseball/softball fields	4
Basketball court	2
Playgrounds	
Children's tot lot	1
Water-Oriented Facilities	
Spray pool	1
Other Park Facilities	
Running/ Bicycle trails	3.8 miles
Restrooms/showers	1
Park Amenities	-----

*Source: T&M Associates October 1996.*

### **Improvements 1990 - 1998**

Several improvements were made at Washington Park between 1990 and 1998. A list of improvements, and the approximate cost is shown below:

WASHINGTON PARK - COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS 1990 – 1998		
Item Number*	Improvement	Approximate Cost
1	Footpaths - resurface entire pathway system within park	---
2	Basketball court #1 - renovate	---
3	Tennis courts - rehabilitate	---
4	Landscaping - add additional	---
5	Tot lot renovation	---
6	Children's spray pool - renovate	---
7	New fences & gates (North St.)	---
8	Bathhouse - demolition	---
9	Landscaping - add additional	---
10	Tree Maintenance	---
11	Ballfield - upgrade	---
12	Landscaping planters	---
13	Park amenities - install new/additional seating, benches, bicycle racks, etc.	---
14	Fence-2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave. /Tennis Court	---
15	Restroom renovation	---
16	Entrance Signs	---
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$975,000</b>
* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed (1990 – 1998)		

### Assessment of Current Conditions

A visual survey /inspection of the park was performed on September 21, 1996, and updated in July 1998, to assess the current conditions of the park facilities. A summary of the survey results are presented below. The complete survey results are included in Appendix B.

#### Playing Fields and Courts

Washington Park contains 2 basketball courts. Basketball court #1 was in good condition. On court #2 there was a missing backboard and the benches were in poor condition.

A total of 10 tennis courts are located in Washington Park. On courts #1 through #8 the asphalt and grade were good and the color coat was fair. Courts # 5 through #8 some cracking was reported. On courts #9 and #10 the asphalt color coat and grade were good. Some sections of fencing around the tennis courts was completely replaced in 1997.

Washington Park has 3 baseball fields. Pat Hogan Sanserve Field and Danny Killen Field are located in the northwestern portion of the park and an additional field is located to the east of Paterson Plank Road. Pat Hogan Sanserve field was reported in fair to good condition. Danny Killen field was reported to be in generally poor condition. The additional field was in fair/poor condition. A fourth field, privately operated, was not inspected.

#### Playgrounds

The tot lot located at the corner of New York Avenue and Paterson Plank Road has been completely reconstructed in 1997.

#### Water Oriented Facilities

The park contains a small spray pool adjacent to the tot lot. The pool was completely rebuilt recently.

#### Other Park Facilities

The system of pathways within the park was in good/fair condition. The pathways were resurfaced between 1990 and 1996.

The picnic areas are in poor condition. Landscaping, furniture, and turf are in need of replacement.

The formal landscaped passive areas and entrance areas are in need of renovation.

A detailed inspection of the restroom building and maintenance building by the tennis courts and the gazebo is recommended. The bathhouse was demolished.

### **Recommended Improvements 1999 - 2005**

Based on survey results and the current conditions of the Washington Park, the following improvements are recommended for completion between 1999 and 2005. The improvements are prioritized by year with an estimated cost for each improvement. The area of the park bounded by Paterson Plank Road, North Street, and Webster Avenue has been identified for special design treatment and improvement with paths, seating, and ornamental landscaping.



WASHINGTON PARK RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 – 2005			
Priority By Year	Item No.*	Improvement	Estimated Cost **
1999	2	Basketball court - add backboard, refurbish benches	\$2,600
1999	1	Lighting - add at baseball field	\$150,000
1999	5	Picnic area – upgrade	\$30,000
1999	8	Passive area – Prepare landscaping plan and upgrade area	\$100,000
2000	6	New sidewalk - New York Ave.	\$62,000
2000	9	Wall – restore	\$50,000
2000	10	New Sidewalk (Palisade Ave.)	\$62,000
2000	12	Picnic area – construct	\$38,000
2001	3	Maintenance building - renovate	\$30,000
2001	13	Gazebo - upgrade	\$10,000
2001	15	New Sidewalk (North St.)	\$68,200
2001	16	Parking area needs repair	\$12,000
2001	23	Park amenities - install new/additional seating, benches, bicycle racks, trash receptacles, etc.	\$25,000
2002	19	Baseball fields – upgrade field/bleachers/backstop	\$225,000
2002	20	Drainage Improvements	\$30,000
2003	14	Special Design Area - paths, formal design for seating, and ornamental landscaping	\$150,000
2004	7	Bollards (10)	\$10,000
2004	22	Storm drainage system - refurbish	\$100,000
Annually	17	Tree maintenance	\$5,000
CONSTRUCTION COST			\$1,159,800
CONTINGENCIES (20%)			\$231,960
DESIGN, INSPECTION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION (20%)			\$231,960
PROJECT TOTAL			\$1,623,720
* Item No. corresponds to number on schematic map for pending improvements 1999-2005.			





# Plan of Improvements to WASHINGTON PARK

Union City & Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey

Prepared: December 1990; updated April 1997; updated July 1998



## **WEST HUDSON PARK**

West Hudson Park, located in the western portion of the County within the towns of Harrison and Kearny, ranks fourth in total land area among the nine parks comprising the Hudson County park system. West Hudson Park was established in 1907 and is one of the oldest parks within the County system. The park itself is in an area of densely developed residential neighborhoods and related urban uses. By virtue of its location, the number and variety of recreational facilities, and its level of use, West Hudson Park represents an important recreational resource, serving residents of western Hudson County.

West Hudson County Park consists of a total of 43.4 acres with both active and passive areas. West Hudson Park functions primarily as a regional (County-wide) park for informal use by County residents, as a community park for Harrison, Kearny and East Newark residents, and for organized (programmed) use of the various athletic fields.

### **Inventory of Existing Facilities**

West Hudson Park contains the following facilities:

Playing Field and Courts	Number
Baseball/Softball fields	2
Youth baseball fields	1
Basketball courts	1
Volleyball court	1
Soccer fields	1
Tennis courts	3

Water-Oriented Facilities	
Spray Pools	1
Ponds	2 acres

Other Facilities	
Picnic Areas	2.00
Running/bicycle trails	4.0 miles
Playgrounds/tot lots	2
Senior Citizens Center	1

*Source: T&M Associates October 1996.*

## Hudson County Park Master Plan

### Improvements 1990 - 1998

Several improvements were made at West Hudson Park between 1990 and 1998. A list of improvements, and the approximate total cost, is shown below:

<b>WEST HUDSON PARK COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS 1990 - 1998</b>		
<b>Item Number*</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>
1, 6, 17	Landscaping - install additional	-----
2	Open field - restore	-----
3	Chinese Gazebo – replace	-----
4	Footpaths - resurface within park (near ballfields)	-----
5, 11	Ballfields (upgrade new irrigation systems, drainage improvements, backstops, fencing, benches)	-----
7	Basketball court – asphalt, color coat	-----
8	Pond dredging	-----
9	Walkway surrounding pond –resurface	-----
10	Senior citizen building - new roof, door, paint	-----
12	Parking area – resurfacing	-----
13	Soccer field – rehabilitate turf, goals	-----
14	Park roadways – resurfacing	-----
15	Spray pool – improve	-----
16	Children's playground – renovate tot lot #1 - include new equipment to accommodate handicapped children	-----
18	Tennis court – reconstruct	-----
19	Tree maintenance	-----
20	Passive area in northwest portion of park – walkways completed	-----
21	Park amenities – improve with new/additional seating benches, bicycle racks, trash receptacles etc.	-----
<b>TOTAL COST</b>		<b>\$1,073,000</b>
* Item number corresponds to number on schematic map for improvements completed (1990 – 1998)		



## *Hudson County Park Master Plan*

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### **Assessment of Current Conditions**

A visual survey/inspection of the park was performed on September 28, 1996, and updated in July 1998, to assess the current condition of the park facilities. A summary of the survey results is presented below. The complete survey results are included in Appendix B.

#### Playing Fields and Courts

West Hudson Park contains 1 basketball court which was in fair condition. In particular, the color coat is faded.

The park contains one Little League field and two baseball fields. In general all the fields were in good/fair condition. The bleachers at field #3 were in poor condition, however.

A soccer field is located in the central portion of the park. The goals were found to be in fair condition and the turf in poor condition.

The park includes three regulation tennis courts which were recently upgraded and are in good condition. The fencing around the courts is old and rusted but is functional. The asphalt around the tennis courts is poor and should be overlaid.

The volleyball court is missing a net; the turf is in poor condition.

#### Playgrounds

The park includes a tot lot and a playground. The tot lot consists of one swing set, one climber, one slide, and three seating benches within a small fenced and paved area near the park's entrance off Duke Street and Schuyler Avenue. The playground was found to be in good condition, however the benches were poor and some of the fencing needs replacing. The tot lot play structure was poor with graffiti and no safety surface.

#### Water Oriented Facilities

The park includes a small spray pond and a pond adjacent to the playground area which was recently upgraded and is now in good condition. The pond bank at West Hudson County Park, however, is in poor condition. The bank is eroding the steps are cracking. One of the two pond aerators is not working and should be repaired.

#### Other Park Facilities

The entire system of footpaths and roadways were recently repaved and are now in good condition. Because of the park topography, many areas require erosion control. For that reason, curbing and stabilization of slopes within the park is needed.

West Hudson Park has several gazebos and similar park structures. With the exception of the Chinese gazebo which was recently upgraded, the remaining structures were in generally poor condition with deterioration found affecting foundations, steps, railings, roof structures, etc.

## Hudson County Park Master Plan

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The entry and passive area at Kearny Avenue needs restoration. The fencing and concrete structures were found to be in poor condition. This area has been identified for special design treatment, restoration, and landscaping as an important feature of the park and public entry point.

The landscaping and park amenities throughout the park were found to be in generally fair condition.

There should be a structural inspection of the bridges. Superficially, they are poor and need improvement.

### Recommended Improvements 1999 - 2005

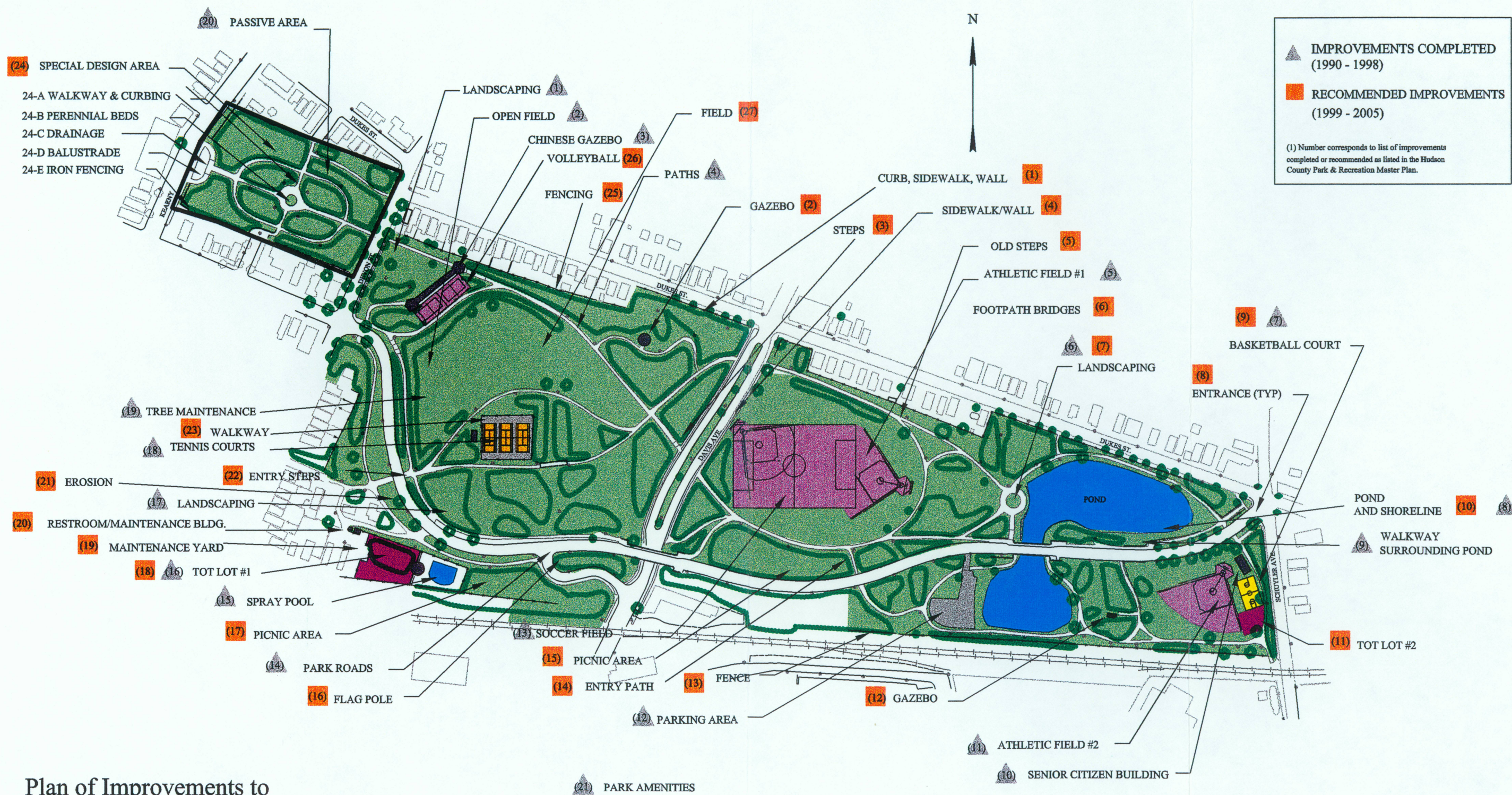
Based on survey results and the current conditions of the park, the following improvements are recommended for completion between 1999 and 2005. The improvements are prioritized by year with an approximate cost for each improvement.

<b>WEST HUDSON PARK RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 – 2005</b>			
<b>Priority By Year</b>	<b>Item Number *</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
1999	11	Tot lot #2 – reconstruct structures, add safety surface	\$60,000
1999	9	Basketball court - striping, backboard	\$7,000
1999	10	Shoreline-restore & Pond-repair 1 aerator	\$1,000,000
1999	18	Tot lot #1 – new benches	\$4,000
1999	26	Volleyball – restore	\$5,500
1999	2, 12	Gazebos – repair /replace	\$100,000
1999	20	Restore restroom & maintenance shed buildings	\$50,000
2000	6	Footpath bridges - resurface 2	\$50,000
2000	8,14,22	Pedestrian and vehicular entranceways - improve fencing, concrete, signage	\$120,000
2000	7	Landscaping – install additional	\$25,000
2000	21	Erosion Control	\$50,000
2000	25	Fencing – Duke Street	\$75,000
2001	19	Maintenance yard - upgrade	\$75,000
2001	23	Walkway – resurface around tennis courts	\$5,000
2002	3	Reconstruct steps - Davis Ave. area	\$25,000

*Hudson County Park Master Plan*

<b>WEST HUDSON PARK RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS 1999 – 2005</b>			
<b>Priority By Year</b>	<b>Item Number *</b>	<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Estimated Cost**</b>
2002	24	<b>Special Design Area</b> 24-A Walkway & curbing 24-B Perennial beds 24-C Drainage 24-D Balustrade 24-E Iron Fencing	\$350,000
2003	4	Sidewalk/wall repair - Davis Ave.	\$75,000
2003	5	Steps – replace	\$25,000
2003	13	Fence – reconstruct along railroad R.O.W.	\$62,500
2003	27	Field improvements	\$100,000
2005	1	Miscellaneous curb & sidewalk repairs	\$75,000
2005	16	Flag Pole- restore	\$3,500
2005	15,17	Picnic Area	\$60,000
<b>TOTAL COST</b>			<b>\$2,402,500</b>
<b>CONTINGENCIES (20%)</b>			<b>\$ 480,500</b>
<b>DESIGN, INSPECTION &amp; CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION (20%)</b>			<b>\$ 480,500</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,363,500</b>
* Item No. corresponds to number on schematic map for pending improvements 1999-2005.			





Plan of Improvements to  
**WEST HUDSON PARK**  
 Harrison & Kearny, Hudson County, New Jersey

0 100 250 500  
 Scale in Feet

Prepared: December 1990; Revised April 1997; Revised July 1998; Revised November 1998

Figure 12

**TM**  
 ASSOCIATES



## **SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The public parks operated by Hudson County are among the oldest and most intensively used public parks in New Jersey. As a new century approaches, the County has embarked on a program to rehabilitate each park by upgrading, replacing, repairing, or providing new facilities to meet the recreation needs of the residents in the most densely populated area of the State. The County has also expanded its park system and added a ninth park to its inventory of public open space.

Over the next seven years, further efforts will be needed to complete the major rehabilitation and improvement work. The estimated total cost of the future work, shown below for each park, is \$39,413,212.

The County has been successful in obtaining low interest loans and grants from the State Green Acres program to fund much of its rehabilitation effort. Because the County has a great need for recreation and open space and because of its past success in using Green Acres funds to improve the parks, the County anticipates continued State support in funding the park improvement and expansion program.

### **Cost Summary of Improvements**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
<b>Bayonne Park</b>	\$1,936,000	\$305,000	\$4,000	\$718,000	\$263,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$3,234,000
<b>Columbus Park</b>	\$77,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$77,000
<b>Laurel Hill Park</b>	\$280,400	\$560,000	\$0	\$420,000	\$1,400,000	\$0	\$420,000	\$3,088,400
<b>Lincoln Park East</b>	\$2,913,000	\$1,364,600	\$505,000	\$453,200	\$596,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,833,800
<b>Lincoln Park West</b>	\$11,900,000	\$1,029,000	\$1,633,334	\$1,633,334	\$1,633,334	\$0	\$0	\$17,829,001
<b>Mercer Park</b>	\$175,000	\$56,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$231,000
<b>North Hudson Park</b>	\$561,000	\$855,000	\$1,214,800	\$1,268,000	\$99,000	\$134,000	\$1,000	\$4,132,797
<b>Washington Park</b>	\$396,640	\$297,800	\$204,280	\$358,000	\$211,000	\$155,000	\$1,000	\$1,623,717
<b>West Hudson Park</b>	\$1,717,100	\$448,000	\$112,000	\$525,000	\$367,500	\$0	\$193,900	\$3,363,500
<b>Total</b>	\$19,964,139	\$4,915,399	\$3,673,412	\$5,375,532	\$4,569,832	\$293,999	\$620,900	\$39,413,212

### **Cost Summary of Acquisition**

To meet the need for additional public open space, the County Park system should be expanded in appropriate locations and where the opportunity presents itself. A specific location to expand Laurel Hill Park have been identified. The expansion of approximately 100 acres is proposed at a cost of \$5,000,000.

In future, if other expansion opportunities arise for existing or new parks, the County should pursue those acquisitions that best meet the needs of the County and its residents.

### **Funding Sources**

Sources of funds for park improvements which should be considered include the following:

#### The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection - Green Acres Program

Since its inception in 1961, the bond issues associated with this State-sponsored program have provided the principal source of revenues for land acquisition and park development in New Jersey. Competitive applications are solicited annually by the Green Acres Program. Applications are reviewed and comparatively ranked against other projects. Projects may be submitted or resubmitted annually for consideration. Also, phased development projects are eligible for more than one loan.

The primary source for the rehabilitation of the existing County parks and the development of the new County parks has, in fact, been the Green Acres Program. Hudson County has aggressively been utilizing this revenue source particularly since the late 1980s and has received almost \$15,000,000 in grants and long-term (20 year), low interest (2%) loans in the past decade. As all Hudson County cities are Urban Aid-eligible communities, and are likely to remain so, Hudson County has qualified for and received grants totaling up to 50% of the cost of construction. It is therefore recommended that the County continue to aggressively seek development funds on a regular basis from the Green Acres Program for subsequent park improvements.

In addition to the above-listed information on the Green Acres Program, the 1995 Green Acres, Farmland Preservation, Historic Preservation, and Blue Acres Bond Act also includes \$25 million for historic preservation projects. As several of the Hudson County parks contain facilities and structures of historic significance, this aspect of the Green Acres Program should also be utilized for eligible projects.

#### Federal Land and Water Conservation Program

The land and water conservation program provides federal funds for open space projects. The distribution of grant monies is administered by the Green Acres Program. However, although this federal program is still in existence, there are presently no funds available for distribution to New Jersey or other states.

#### Community Development Block Grant Program

Block grant funds consist of federal aid distributed to Hudson County for carrying out a variety of activities that can improve the environment, housing, and expanded economic opportunities. Hudson County has relied on CDBG funds in the past to carry out public park improvements. The County should continue to seek development funds on a biennial basis, if eligibility requirements permit.

#### County Bonds and Capital Improvement Programs

Both of these funding methods have also been previously employed by Hudson County. Efforts should be made to maintain and/or increase annual expenditures to enable the park rehabilitation program to continue.

#### Hudson County Improvement Authority

This agency can be utilized by municipal and county agencies to make various improvements to public facilities, either on a financial loan basis or a lease-back arrangement. The current interest rate is slightly higher than that offered by Green Acres, yet is competitive with other County bonds. This agency, based in Jersey City, has been utilized by numerous other County agencies, but has not to date been utilized by the Division of Parks. This funding source should be considered in the future as a viable option to fund park improvements.

#### U.S Army Corp of Engineers

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers offers funding under Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act (WDRA) of 1986, P.L. 99-662, as amended and Section 206 of WDRA 1996, P.L. 104-303, for environmental restoration for water resources projects. Funding for projects include the following categories: Modification of an existing Corps project such as levees, dams, channels or control structures; Restoration where an existing Corps project has contributed to the degradation of the quality of the environment; Joint projects; and Section 206 projects which include restoration of aquatic ecosystems, manipulation of hydrology in and along water bodies of water including wetlands and riparian areas. The non-Federal cost of the projects will be 25 percent and no more than \$5,000,000 in Federal funds may be expended on any single modification or measure carried out under the Act. The County should seek funding under this Act as eligibility permits.



## **APPENDIX A**

### **POPULATION BACKGROUND STUDY**

## **POPULATION TRENDS AND CHARACTERISTICS**

Hudson County experienced a steady increase in its population through 1930 and a continual decline in population since 1930. Future population growth in the County has been projected over the next decade. Growth rates and changing population characteristics are important considerations in planning for the future recreation needs of the County. Population growth and trends affecting Hudson County are analyzed below along with key characteristics of the Hudson County population.

### **Historical Population: 1880-1990**

Hudson County's resident population has steadily declined since 1930, with the largest decrease occurring between 1970 and 1980. The U.S. Census of 1930 recorded a peak population of 690,730. By 1940, the population had dropped to 652,040; a decrease of 5.6 percent. In comparison, the State of New Jersey population increased by 2.9 percent during this period.

Between 1940 and 1950, the resident population of Hudson County declined by an additional 0.7 percent while over the same period, New Jersey population increased by 16.2 percent. A slowing of the decline in population for the County and the increase of the growth rate for the State reflected the national post-war building and baby boom.

During the 1950's, Hudson County continued to experience a decline in population, reaching a total of 610,734 by 1960; a 5.7 percent decrease. In contrast, during the same period, New Jersey's population increased by 25.5 percent. This State increase and County decrease reflected not only the post-war baby boom, but also the movement of population from urban areas to the newly developing suburbs.

The population of Hudson County continued to decline between 1960 and 1970, decreasing to 607,839 or 0.5 percent. New Jersey's population, in comparison, grew by 18.2 percent.

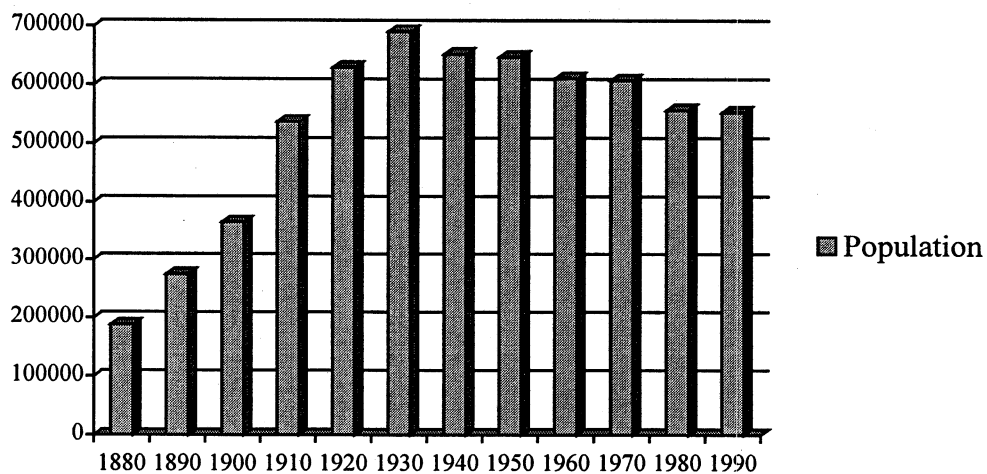
During the decade from 1970 to 1980, Hudson County experienced its most dramatic decline in population decreasing to 556,972, a decrease of 8.4 percent. In comparison, the State population experienced its lowest population increase, slowing to a 2.7 percent growth rate over the same period. A declining birth rate and decreasing household size are in part responsible for the changes in both the County and the State populations.

During the decade 1980-1990, Hudson County's population decreased by 3,873 to 553,099, for a decline of 0.7 percent. New Jersey's growth rate during this decade was 5.0 percent. Table A-1 summarizes the County population trends from 1880 to 1990.

**TABLE A-1**  
**POPULATION TRENDS - HUDSON COUNTY**

Year	Resident Population	Percent Change
1880	187,944	---
1890	275,126	46.4
1900	366,048	33.0
1910	537,231	46.8
1920	629,154	17.1
1930	690,730	9.8
1940	652,040	-5.6
1950	647,437	-0.7
1960	610,734	-5.7
1970	607,839	-0.5
1980	556,972	-8.4
1990	553,099	-0.7

*SOURCE: U.S Census of Population 1930-1990*  
*COMPILED BY: T&M ASSOCIATES, October 1996*





### **Population Change: 1980-1990**

Between 1980 and 1990, the Hudson County resident population continued to decline according to Census figures. Hudson County's population decreased slightly (0.7 percent) over the ten year period. By comparison, as shown in Table A-2, "Resident Population: 1980 to 1990 Hudson County and New Jersey" the State has shown a ten year increase of 5.0 percent.

### **Population Characteristics**

The general characteristics of the County's resident population can be determined from the U.S. Census of Population for 1980 and 1990. These characteristics include age, sex, and households by persons in households and by housing type.

#### **Age**

Hudson County's population has been growing younger since 1970 when the median age was 32.8 years. This can be further documented by comparing 1980 and 1990 census data by age group. As shown in Table A-3, "Population by Age: 1980-1990, Hudson County," the County population under 25 years and over 45 years has decreased while the age groups of 25-44 have shown modest increases.

The 1990 Census recorded the 25-34 year age group as the largest, representing 20.4 percent of the total population. The second largest age group was the 35-44 age group which represented 14.3 percent of the total population. The smallest age groups were the 15-19 year group (high school age) and the under 5 group (preschool age) which represented 6.5 and 6.9 percent of the total population respectively. When the 15-19 and 20-24 year age groups are combined to form a comparable age group spanning a ten year age cohort, it represents 15.1 percent of the total 1990 population.

In comparison, the 1980 Census recorded the 25-34 year age group as the largest in the county, representing 15.6 percent of the total population. The second largest age group was the 5-14 group which represented 14.1 percent of the total population.

#### **Gender**

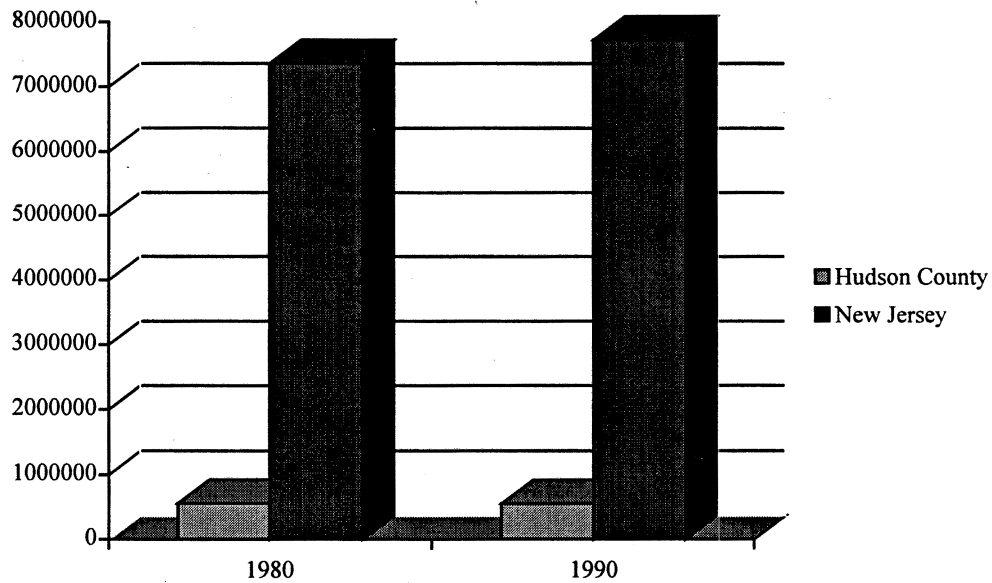
Hudson County's resident population in 1990 was 51.5 percent female and 48.5 percent male. The higher ratio of females to males in Hudson County is attributed to a higher percentage of senior citizens which generally have a higher ratio of females to males. Table A-4, "Population by Gender 1990 - Hudson County and New Jersey," compares male and female populations for the County and state.

**TABLE A-2**  
**RESIDENT POPULATION: 1980-1990**  
**HUDSON COUNTY & NEW JERSEY**

HUDSON COUNTY			NEW JERSEY	
Year	Resident Population	Percent Change	Resident Population	Percent Change
1980	556,972	---	7,364,823	---
1990	553,099	-0.70	7,730,188	5.0

SOURCE: U.S Census of Population 1980 & 1990

COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996



**TABLE A-3  
POPULATION BY AGE: 1980-1990  
HUDSON COUNTY**

Age (Years)	1980		1990		Change 1980-1990
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Under 5	37,306	6.7%	38,152	6.9	846
5-14	78,763	14.1%	64,905	11.7	-13858
15-19	48,168	8.6%	35,957	6.5	-12211
20-24	49,889	9.0%	47,354	8.6	-2535
25-34	86,991	15.6%	112,561	20.4	25570
35-44	61,908	11.1%	78,929	14.3	17021
45-54	61,500	11.0%	55,475	10.0	-6025
55-64	62,515	11.2%	50,202	9.1	-12313
65+	69,932	12.6%	69,564	12.6	-368
Total	556,972	100.0%	553,099	100.0	-3873

*SOURCE: U.S Census of Population 1980 & 1990*

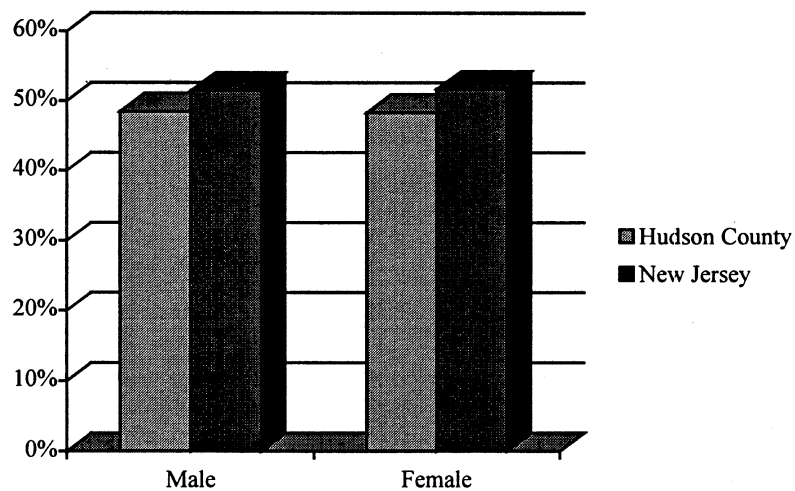
*COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996*



**TABLE A-4  
POPULATION BY GENDER: 1990  
HUDSON COUNTY & NEW JERSEY**

	HUDSON COUNTY		NEW JERSEY	
	Resident Population	Percent Change 1980-1990	Resident Population	Percent Change 1980-1990
Male	268,176	48.5	3,735,685	48.3
Female	284,923	51.5	3,994,503	51.7

SOURCE: U.S Census of Population 1980 & 1990.  
COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996



## **Racial Characteristics**

The 1990 Census recorded the population of Hudson County as 68.8 percent White and 14.4 percent Black. The remaining residents of the County, accounting for 16.7 percent of the population, consist of American Indians, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and "other". Between 1980 and 1990 the number of White residents declined by approximately 44,679 (-10.5 percent) while the number of Black residents increased by 9,720 (13.9 percent). The number of residents of American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander and "other" races increased significantly during this time, rising from 61,631 to 92,717 residents or 50.4 percent (Table A-5).

## **Income**

The median household income of Hudson County in 1989 was \$30,917, while the median household income for the State was \$40,927. Per capita income of Hudson County residents in 1989 was \$14,480 which was lower than the per capita income of the State (\$18,714).

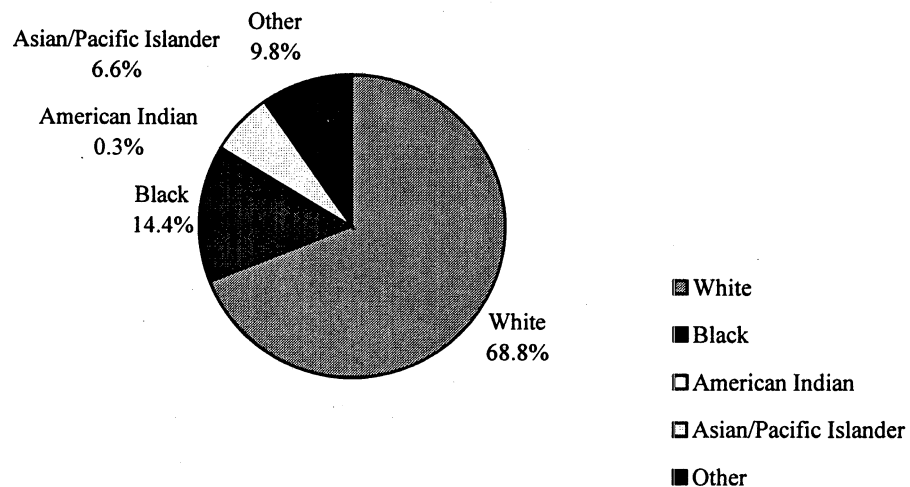
Table A-6 summarizes household income levels. Income data for 1989 indicates that 52.7 percent of all Hudson County households earned less than \$32,500 per year. This compares to 39.4 percent for the State of New Jersey; 29.3 percent earned between \$32,500 and \$59,999 which compares to 31.4 percent for the State, 18 percent of the households earned \$60,000 or more per year, which compares to 29.2 percent for the State. A household refers to the occupants of a housing unit and can be families, individuals living alone, or unrelated people living together. Therefore, the combined income of several family members would be given equal rating with the single income of a person living alone.

## **Population Density**

Hudson County's population resides on a land area of less than 50 square miles creating a very dense development pattern. Population density within the County ranges from a low of 2,424 persons per square mile in Secaucus to over 42,000 persons per square mile in West New York. The County as a whole exceeds 11,915 persons per square mile. Table A-7 depicts population density since 1930 while Table A-8 identifies population densities which currently exist within the County's 12 municipalities.

**TABLE A-5  
POPULATION BY RACE - HUDSON COUNTY**

Race	Number	Percent
White	380,612	68.8
Black	79,770	14.4
American Indian	1,460	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	36,777	6.6
Other	54,480	9.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>553,099</b>	<b>100.0</b>



SOURCE: U.S Census of Population 1990  
COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996



**TABLE A-6**  
**HOUSEHOLD INCOME: 1989**  
**HUDSON COUNTY & NEW JERSEY**

Household Income (dollars)	HUDSON COUNTY		NEW JERSEY	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 - 4,999	15,248	7.3	105,777	3.8
5,000 - 9,999	20,993	10.1	181,344	6.5
10,000 - 12,499	9,330	4.5	88,549	3.2
12,500 - 14,999	6,983	3.3	76,962	2.8
15,000 - 17,499	8,776	4.2	90,067	3.2
17,500 - 19,999	7,345	3.5	80,649	2.9
20,000 - 22,499	8,713	4.2	97,321	3.5
22,500 - 24,999	7,641	3.7	83,022	3.0
25,000 - 27,499	8,833	4.2	101,353	3.6
27,500 - 29,999	7,166	3.4	82,437	3.0
30,000 - 32,499	8,883	4.3	110,120	3.9
32,500 - 34,999	6,864	3.3	80,336	2.9
35,000 - 37,499	8,054	3.9	101,615	3.6
37,500 - 39,999	6,073	2.9	79,327	2.8
40,000 - 42,499	7,503	3.6	103,229	3.7
42,500 - 44,999	5,644	2.7	75,436	2.7
45,000 - 47,499	5,944	2.8	89,360	3.2
47,500 - 49,999	4,314	2.1	70,915	2.5
50,000 - 54,999	8,841	4.2	153,301	5.5
55,000 - 59,999	7,858	3.8	127,435	4.6
60,000 - 74,999	16,167	7.8	303,679	10.9
75,000 - 99,999	12,543	6.0	265,656	9.5
100,000 - 124,999	4,870	2.3	114,982	4.1
125,000 - 149,999	1,821	0.9	49,135	1.8
150,000 or more	2,167	1.0	82,309	2.9
TOTAL	208,574	100.0	2,794,316	100.0*
Median Household Income	\$30,917		\$40,927	
Per Capita Income	\$14,480		\$18,714	

\* Total exceeds 100% due to rounding.  
 SOURCE: U.S. Census of Population 1990

COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996

**TABLE A-7  
HUDSON COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Density Residents/Sq. Mi.</b>
1930	14,880
1940	14,047
1950	13,947
1960	13,157
1970	13,094
1980	11,999
1990	11,915

*SOURCE: U.S Census of Population 1930 - 1990  
COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996*

**TABLE A-8  
PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Size Sq./Mile</b>	<b>Density- Person Per Square Mile</b>
Bayonne City	61,444	5.39	11,399
East Newark	2,157	0.10	21,570
Guttenberg	8,268	0.20	41,340
Harrison	13,425	1.20	11,187
Hoboken	33,397	1.30	25,690
Jersey City	228,537	14.65	15,600
Kearny	34,874	9.30	3,758
North Bergen	48,414	5.40	8,965
Secaucus	14,061	5.80	2,424
Union City	58,012	1.40	41,437
Weehawken	12,385	0.78	15,878
West New York	38,125	0.90	42,361
HUDSON COUNTY	553,099	46.42	11,915

*SOURCE: NJSDC 1990 Census Publication - "Total Resident Population," April 1991*

*COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996*

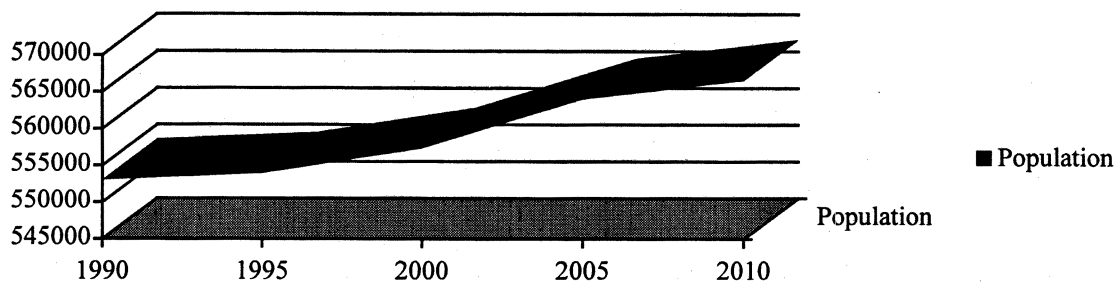
## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The New Jersey Department of Labor has prepared population projections for Hudson County for the years 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010.

The projections in Table A-9 show that the County's population is expected to increase from 553,099 as reported in the 1990 Census to 566,600 persons by the year 2010.

**TABLE A-9  
POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

	1990 Census	1995	2000	2005	2010
N.J. DEPT. OF LABOR	553,099	554,000	557,400	564,100	566,600



*SOURCE: New Jersey Department of Labor Population & Labor Force Projections for New Jersey: 1995-2030; January 1994*

*COMPILED BY: T&M Associates, October 1996*