

3.0 Natural Resources

Master Plan Recommendations Updates

Recommendation 3.1: Maintain and update inventories of the county's natural features and systems and promote the protection of natural resources in conjunction with the Monmouth County Park System (Nearing Completion). A full draft of the *Monmouth County Natural Resource Inventory* (NRI) has been produced and remains under internal review. The Implementation Strategy should be modified to read, "Complete the Monmouth County Natural Resources Inventory and begin the process of approval by the Monmouth County Environmental Council (MCEC)."

Recommendation 3.2: Participate in initiatives that identify, target, and protect important resources, critical habitats, species of concern, and Areas of Significant Environmental Quality (Continuous). *The Natural Features Study for Monmouth County* (1975) initially identified these areas and in 1978, the *Monmouth County Unique Areas Study* refined the list and summarized their importance. The MCEC's mission directs the identification of Areas of Significant Environmental Quality (ASEQ) primarily through recommendations from municipalities and the Monmouth County Park System (MCPS). Since that time, Unique Areas have been added to the list and in 2007 the program name was officially changed to Areas of Significant Environmental Quality. Staff continually visits and documents potential ASEQs in preparation of an updated report.

Recommendation 3.3: Encourage and support new and continuing partnerships for resource protection (Continuous). Environmental Planning staff continues to serve on steering or advisory committees for the Barnegat Bay Partnership and the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority (BTMUA) Metedeconk Watershed. Staff also participates in natural resource related partnerships with the Middlesex County Water Resources Association for the Raritan River Watershed, NJDEP for the

Fostering Regional Adaptation through Municipal Economic Scenarios (NJ FRAMES) project, as well as and others.

Recommendation 3.4: Continue to educate the public on the county's valuable natural resources, environmental impact assessment procedures, and other important environmental issues (Continuous). In the spring of 2017, the *Monmouth County Environmental Newsletter* was launched. This monthly newsletter, sent via e-mail, has proven to be an effective outreach tool for municipal environmental commissions, other stakeholders, and the public. The MCEC continues to facilitate environmentally focused roundtable events in the spring and fall.

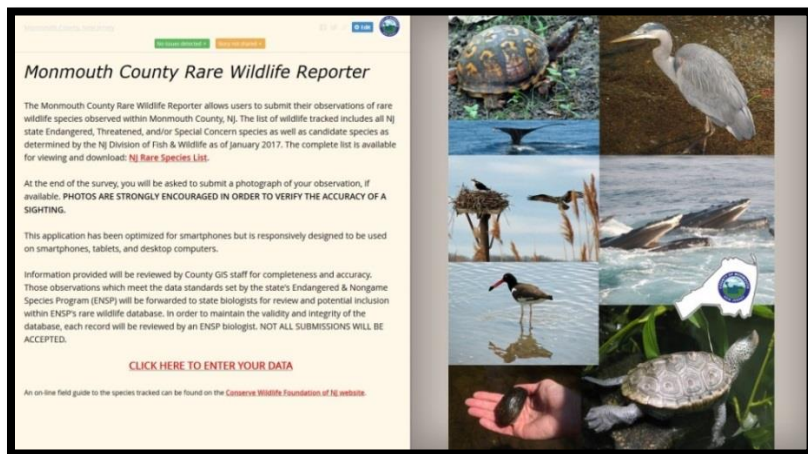
Recommendation 3.5: Assist municipalities with floodplain management and planning initiatives that improve community resiliency and/or advance their standing in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) program (Continuous). Strategic/Long Range Planning staff continue to work with interested municipalities on the NFIP CRS Program to advance community ratings. (See Recommendation 12.2)

3.2 Supportive Reports and Guiding Document

NEW! Rare Wildlife Reporter | Rare wildlife data is utilized by Federal, State, local agencies, and non-profits for a number of planning activities and in targeting areas for open space acquisition. Throughout New Jersey, planners rely on the State's *Landscape Project* mapping to identify and prioritize areas based upon the rare wildlife which have been documented in habitat necessary for those species' survival. A major shortcoming of the mapping however, is that rare species often go unreported and their presence is not reflected within the mapping products. Rare wildlife may go unreported for several reasons including a lack of knowledge that such information is being sought or the lack of ease for reporting such observations (the State currently relies on a hard copy or PDF form).

In early 2017, GIS staff within the Monmouth County Division of Planning developed an online citizen science *Rare Wildlife Reporter*

application in an effort to overcome this shortcoming within the *Landscape Project*. The application enables users to submit their own observations of rare wildlife species through the application, which are then reviewed and forwarded to New Jersey Fish & Wildlife (NJFWS) for inclusion within their statewide database known as *Biotics*. The *Biotics* database is utilized for the creation of several New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) regulatory products including the *Landscape Project*. The application is accessible through desktop, tablet and smart phone platforms.



In June 2017, the application was presented to the MCEC who expressed support for the use of the application. Although it has received limited publicity, the application has already collected observation data on a number of Threatened and Special Concern species throughout the County where they had not previously been documented. Once reviewed and forwarded to NJFWS, this data will better inform subsequent versions of the *Landscape Project* and other NJDEP projects.

Access the Wildlife Reporter at <http://bit.ly/MCwildlife>.

3.3 Emerging Issue and Long Range Challenges

- **NEW! Stormwater Utilities** | While stormwater utilities are not new in the U.S., with some in operation since the early 1970's, the law does not permit their existence in New Jersey. Over the past decade several bills have been introduced to permit local or regional authorities to impose user fees in order to finance the development, operation and maintenance of stormwater utility systems, however, none of these bills have been adopted. During the 2018 legislative session yet another stormwater utility bill, S1073, was introduced. In June 2018 the bill passed the Senate and was referred to the Assembly, where an identical bill, A2694, had already been introduced and referred to committee. The persistence of the certain members of the State legislature is indicative that stormwater utilities may be allowed in New Jersey in the near future.
- **NEW! Wildlife Permeability Strategy (WPS)** | More transportation and engineering departments are incorporating appropriate Wildlife Permeability Strategies into their overall infrastructure design. Beyond reducing potentially dangerous and harmful conflicts between humans and animals, applying WPS principles also counters habitat fragmentation caused by development; providing contiguous wildlife habitat corridors that allow for safe, uninterrupted wildlife movement and migration. (Also see Section 3.4, Stakeholder Efforts, Wreck Pond Wildlife Passage System; Section 8.3, Emerging Issues: Section 8.4, Stakeholder Strategies, Assunpink WMA Wildlife Passage System)

3.4 Stakeholder Actions and Efforts

3.4.1 Monmouth County Actions and Efforts

- **Deer Management (Relocated from Chapter 4.0)** | Being the third largest landowner in Monmouth County (after Federal and State governments), the MCPS manages deer populations in County parklands through the deer management program. Annual reports

are provided to the Monmouth County Board of Recreation Commissioners, the most recent being the [Deer Management Program Annual Report](#) (2018).

- **NEW! Wreck Pond Wildlife Passage System** | As part of the ongoing efforts to restore Spring Lake's Wreck Pond, in 2016 the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Littoral Society partnered to improve the Wreck Pond inlet with the installation of a box culvert specifically designed for fish passage from the coastal pond to the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to the ecological benefits of the culvert, such as increasing spawning river herring populations and improving water quality, this Wildlife Permeability Strategy has also provided flood mitigation for the surrounding area. (Also refer to Section 8.4, Assunpink WMA Wildlife Passage System)

Updated Figures for Chapter 3.0 Natural Resources

Figure 3.5 | Municipal Natural Resource Inventories

- Hyperlinks removed.
- Adds the missing Wall Township ERI (2013) to the list, no link available.

Figure 3.5: Municipal Natural Resource Inventories		
Municipality	Resource Inventory	Date
Aberdeen	Natural Resource Inventory	2002
Allentown	Natural Resource Inventory Natural Resource Inventory	2002
Atlantic Highlands	Our Town's Environment	2000
Belmar	Belmar: A Natural & Historic Treasure	2008
Brielle	Natural Resource Inventory	1978
Colts Neck	Natural Resource Inventory	1983
Fair Haven	Environmental Resource Inventory	2017
Freehold Township	Natural Resource Inventory	1974
Howell	Environmental Resource Inventory	2008
Keyport	Natural Resource Inventory	2007
Lake Como	Natural Resources Inventory: Borough of South Belmar	1995
Little Silver	Environmental Resource Inventory	2008
Long Branch	Environmental Resource Inventory	2011
Manalapan	Natural Resource Inventory	2001
	Natural Resource Inventory Addendum and Supplement	1992
	Natural Resource Inventory, Phase 2	1993



Links to Municipal ERI's are now available through the Environmental and Sustainability Planning Section webpage.

Figure 3.5 Continued | Municipal Natural Resource Inventories

Figure 3.5: Municipal Natural Resource Inventories		
Municipality	Resource Inventory	Date
Manasquan	Natural Resource Inventory	1992
	Natural Resource Inventory, Phase II, Volume II (no link available)	1993
Marlboro	Green Building & Environmental Sustainability Plan Element	2013
Millstone	Natural Resource Inventory- Phase I	1991
	Natural Resource Inventory Update Phase II	1992
Neptune Township	Environmental Resource Inventory	2003
	Environmental Resource Update (no link available)	2017
Oceanport	Environmental Resource Inventory	undated
Red Bank	Environmental Resource Inventory	1994-97
Roosevelt	Natural Resources Inventory Phases I, II, III	1991-93
Shrewsbury Borough	Environmental Resource Inventory	2011
Wall Township	Environmental Resource Inventory (no link available)	2013
West Long Branch	Natural Resources Inventory	1995
Sources: Municipal websites, direct communication, and Rutgers University Community Repository		

Figure 3.6 | Environmental Regulatory Features Map

■ Map includes effective FIRM maps dated June 20, 2018 for Highlands and Little Silver Boroughs.

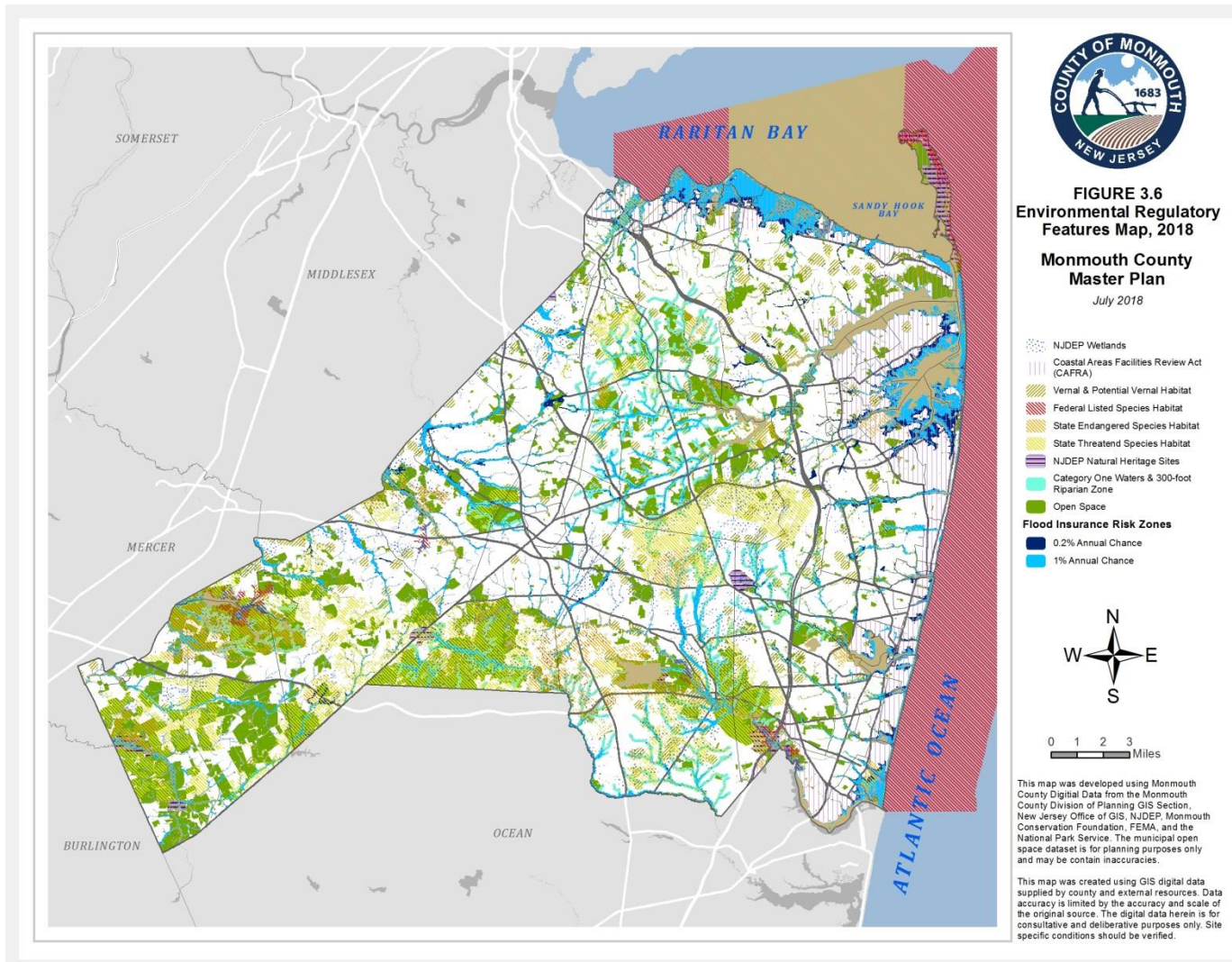


Figure 3.7 | Significant State Environmental Laws

■ Table includes references to updated laws and rules.

Figure 3.7: Significant State Environmental Laws		
Citation	NJ Environmental Acts, Rules, and Regulations	Date
N.J.A.C. 7:1H	County Environmental Health Act	2005
N.J.A.C. 7:5A	Natural Areas and the Natural System	2010
N.J.A.C. 7:7	Coastal Permit Program Rules	2018
N.J.A.C. 7:7A & N.J.S.A. 13:9B	Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act & Freshwater Wetlands Protection Rules	2018/2016
N.J.A.C. 7:7E	Coastal Zone Management Rules	2018
N.J.A.C. 7:8	Stormwater Management Rules	2016
N.J.A.C. 7:10	Safe Drinking Water Act	2017
N.J.A.C. 7:13 & N.J.S.A. 58:16A	Flood Hazard Area Control Act Flood Hazard Area Control Rules	2018/2018
N.J.A.C. 7:15	Water Quality Management Planning Act	2016
N.J.A.C. 7:27	Air Pollution Control Act	N/A
N.J.S.A. 12:3	Tidelands Act	2016
N.J.S.A. 12:5-3	Waterfront Development Act	2016
N.J.S.A. 13:19	Coastal Area Facility Review Act	2016
N.J.S.A. 13:9A	Wetlands Act of 1970	2016
N.J.S.A. 58:10A	Water Pollution Control Act	2016

Figure 3.8 | Significant Federal Environmental Laws

■ Table includes references to updated laws and rules.

Figure 3.8: Significant Federal Environmental Laws		
Citation	Federal Environmental Act	Date
<u>16 U.S.C. §1431 et seq. & 33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.</u>	Marine Protection, Research & Sanctuaries Act	2010
<u>16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.</u>	Endangered Species Act	2012
<u>16 U.S.C. §1451 et seq.</u>	Coastal Zone Management Act	2012
<u>33 U.S.C §1251 et seq.</u>	Clean Water Act	2014
<u>33 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.</u>	Shore Protection Act	2010
<u>33 U.S.C §401 et seq.</u>	Rivers and Harbors Act	undated
<u>42 U.S.C. §4321 et seq.</u>	National Environmental Policy Act	undated
<u>42 U.S.C §13201 et seq.</u>	Energy Policy Act	2005
<u>42 U.S.C §6901 et seq.</u>	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	2011
<u>42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.</u>	Clean Air Act	2010
<u>42 U.S.C. §9601 et seq.</u>	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (<i>Superfund</i>)	1999

NEW! Figure 3.16 | Areas of Significant Environmental Quality (ASEQ)

■ New map showing the locations of ASEQs.

