

Introduction to the Environmental Resource Inventory Process for Ocean Twp, Monmouth County

Ocean Township Deborah Kratzer Environmental Commission Kratzer Environmental Services Meeting Jan. 10, 2019

An ERI is...

REPORT

BEPOT

- baseline documentation of natural resources and environmentally significant features of an area.
- an objective listing, rather than an interpretation or recommendation

The goals of the ERI



Kratzer Environmental Services Ocean Twp. EC Meeting 1/10/2019 to provide objective, reliable environmental data in one document to enable municipal officials to make more informed decisions

to better protect the municipality's natural resources and the overall health and welfare of the community EC STARTS PROCESS Obtain funding, RFP, bid & contract √Complete

Update ERI ~2029

Develop ERI 2019 In progress

Use ERI

2019-2029

Planning Board Usually adopts ERI as part of Master Plan Tentatively end of 2019

Work Plan Details

Month	Task
September 2018	Contract awarded to KESMeeting between EC members and KES
January 2019	KES presentation at EC meeting"Introduction to the Ocean Twp. ERI"
April 2019	KES submits Draft to EC
May 2019	 Public, boards, and committees submit comments to EC EC submits comments to KES
July 2019	 KES makes changes and submits final ERI
TBD	 Planning Board hearing and adoption of ERI as an amendment to the Master Plan

ANJEC Guidelines

- EC Enabling Legislation (N.J.S.A. 40:56A) states that ECs have the power to conduct research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the municipality; the EC shall keep an index of wetlands, and may recommend plans and programs for inclusion in the municipal master plan and the development and use of such areas.
- The Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq.) requires municipalities to have a land use plan element in their master plan,

"including but not necessarily limited to, topography, soil conditions, water supply, drainage, flood plain areas, marshes, and woodlands...." (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-28b(2)).

- An ERI is not required by law
- The ERI should be revised and re-adopted periodically to reflect new data and changed conditions.



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inform this process, the environmental commtion can maintain a romaing list of corolitions information that have changed for considered staring the next EBJ update.

Legal Authority for ERIs

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Sustainable Jersey Guidelines

The EC obtained funding from Sustainable Jersey

Natural Resource Inventory (20 points)

≻Why is an ERI Important?



- Provides a land use tool for the land use decision-making process
- To help protect, integrate and/or conserve resources
- To help plan a sustainable community
- Serves as an educational tool about why certain land use decisions are made.
- Empowers citizens, environmental commissions, and planning boards to think about how they can further protect and plan for the sustainability of the municipality's resources.

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Continued: Sustainable Jersey Guidelines

> An NRI should be used:

- As a factual basis for municipal land use planning;
- As a resource in the preparation of the land use element of the municipal Master Plan;
- As a comprehensive guide in the Site Plan review process;
- As a basic tool in determining zoning regulations, municipal ordinances, or other land use management techniques;
- As a basis for a land capability analysis and for determining the intensity and location of development;
- As an indicator of sensitive areas and areas suitable for certain kinds of development;
- As a tool to increase understanding of natural systems, and their limitations and opportunities for use;
- As a long-term planning tool to identify potential land use and natural resource problems;
- As an educational tool for residents to learn more about their community and its environment;
- As a way to save dollars by avoiding future problems and mitigation costs;
- As a tool for making decisions about the placement of infrastructure, roads, sewers, schools, etc.

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Source: http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actionscertification/actions/#open/action/60

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Table of Contents (draft)

1.0 INTRODUCTION 2.0 BACKGROUND

- GEOGRAPHY
- DEMOGRAPHY
- HISTORY
- LAND USE
 - Zoning
 - Current land use
 - Land use change 1972-2012



3.0 NATURAL RESOURCES

- ▶ 3.1 CLIMATE
- ► 3.2 AIR QUALITY
- ▶ 3.3 GEOLOGY & SOILS
- 3.4 HYDROLOGY
 - ground and surface water
- ▶ 3.5 WETLANDS

▶ 3.6 VEGETATION

 Native vegetation types/species, rare plant species, invasive species, tree canopy, threats)

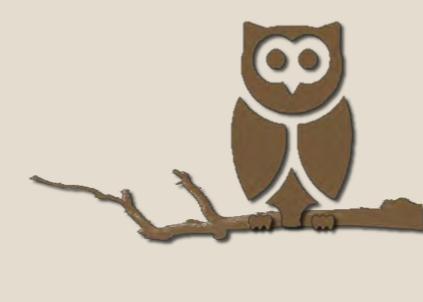
3.7 WILDLIFE & WILDLIFE HABITAT

 Native wildlife types/species, threats, deer population, endangered, threatened, or special concern wildlife, invasive species, feral cats, NJDEP State

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► 3.8 OPEN SPACE

 Public open space , recreation, privately-owned green spaces, opportunities for more public open space acquisition?







4.0 UTILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TRANSPORTATION

- WATER SUPPLY
- SEWERAGE
- STORM WATER
- SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING
- TRANSPORTATION
- RENEWABLE RESOURCES

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

HEALTH (related to air and

water quality)

- NOISE
- ► LIGHTING
 - CONTAMINATED SITES
 - CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL

AREAS [based on a combination of the following or more parameters: steep slopes, highly erodible soils, waterways, proximity to waterways, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, century forests, core forests, rare plant or animal species, "Areas of Significant Environmental Quality", & additional parameters if deemed applicable & available]

DEVELOPMENT LIMITATIONS



6.0 REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

- MONMOUTH COUNTY MASTER PLAN
- MONMOUTH COUNTY "AREAS OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"
- COASTAL AREA FACILITIES REVIEW ACT (CAFRA)

7.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

APPENDICES

- Drinking water quality report
- List of wildlife
- Rare Wildlife Species
 Reporting Form (NJDEP)
- Fact Sheets for Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern Species
- Open space inventory



For each resource, the ERI should include

- Narrative text
- Maps
- Graphs
- Tables
- References

Internet resources

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6: SURFACE WATER

A. Watershells Watershells

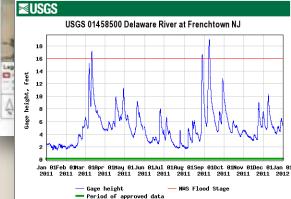
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References: Surface Water A. Watersheds

Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). April 13, 2017. <u>Basin Ip</u> Accessed 7/23/2017.

NJDEP Land Use Management, Water Monitoring and Standards. Oc <u>Quality Standards</u>. 114 pages, Re-adopted: October 17, 2016. <u>http://</u>

NUDEP.Office.of.Environmental.Planning, January 1997. Draft State Document for the State of New Jersey. http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersi

NJDEP, Geological Survey. (NJGS), February 25, 2011. <u>NJDEP, 14 D</u> <u>New Jersey. (DEPHUC14)</u> (Version 20110225). GIS.data. http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/digidownload/zips/statewide/dephuc14)

Internet Resources: Surface Water General Water Resources Protection SEEDS: The NJ Environmental Education Directory Website: http:

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Basic Watershed Information (Watershed Restoration Section): http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedrestoration/info.html

The Clean Water Book: Choices for Watershed Protection: http://www.nj.gov/dep/watershedrestoration/waterbook_tble.html

NJDEP Laws & Rules: http://www.nj.gov/dep/landuse/lawsregs.ht

Water Quality Fact Sheets and Bulletins (NJ Agricultural Experime Extension): <u>http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/subcategory.asp?cat=6&s</u>

Who does what?

- Environmental Commission (or subcommittee)
 - guides project, provides any known information sources/reports/maps/etc., reviews and comments
- Designated project lead/contact
 - the primary point of contact between the municipal staff, elected officials, other boards, public and the consultant, keeps project on track
- Municipal staff (e.g. financial officer, clerk)
 - responsible for any bidding, financial and contract tasks
- Consultant creates the ERI
- Public, municipal boards, commissions, mayor and council, and professionals as appropriate
 - review and submit comments to EC

Some sources of mapped data



NJDEP

https://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/listall.html



NJGIN

https://njogis-newjersey.opendata.arcgis.com/

NOAA

ARTMENT OF

Others include:





Some other references

- NRIs for Deal Lake, Whale Pond Brook Poplar Brook Watersheds, Joe Palaia Park
- The Future of Coastal Lakes in Monmouth County
- Impervious Cover Assessment and Reduction Action Plan
- Community Forestry Management Plan and Urban Tree Canopy Assessment
- Recycling stats via <u>www.nj.com</u>
- Twp of Ocean Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan
- Monmouth County Unique Areas Study
- Checklists (e.g. ebird)

Draft → Final

- Draft available ~ April 2019
- Comments from:
 - General public
 - EC
 - Boards and commissions (e.g. Planning Board)
 - Municipal elected officials
 - Municipal professionals

Give enough time but set deadlines ~ May 2019
EC compiles comments and submits to KES

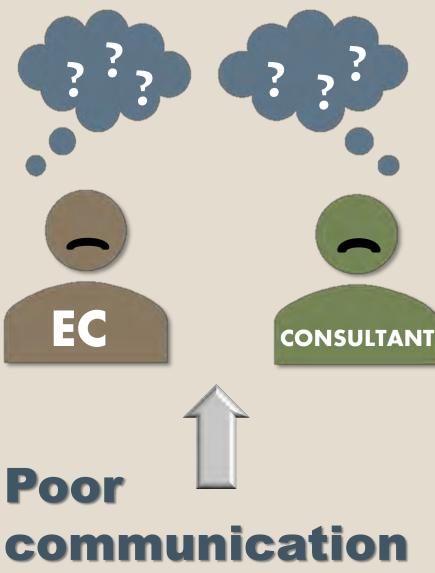




Goal is for the Board to adopt ERI as part of the Master Plan



- Board holds a hearing for adoption of ERI as part of Master Plan
- Municipal Land Use Ordinances must be consistent with the Master Plan
- When a municipality has adopted an ERI, the EC should be provided with copies of site plans and proposals



Good communication is key!

EC



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Kratzer Environmental Services