



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Highland Park Boro, a Sustainable Jersey silver certified applicant.

Highland Park Boro was certified on September 22, 2023 with 420 points. Listed below is information regarding Highland Park Boro's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Highland Park Boro is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Highland Park Boro was approved for in 2023 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

Arts & Creative Culture

Establish a Creative Team

10 Points

Program Summary: Highland Park's Arts Commission serves as the community Creative Team. The Arts Commission's purpose is to support and facilitate cultural programs in the Borough for the benefit of its residents. Programs include dance, theater, music, visual arts, poetry, spoken word, woodworking etc. In recent years, the commission has made a focused effort to produce diverse cultural programming and public art. Members of the Arts Commission are appointed on

an annual basis for a three year term by the Mayor. The Borough's elected officials have great respect and admiration for the arts community and Councilman Jason Postelnik serves as the council liaison to the commission. Attached to this submission is an updated report on the Arts Commission including membership, purpose, and recent accomplishments as well as the agenda from the January 3, 2023 Council meeting (meeting minutes are not yet available but a recording of the meeting is available if requested) when select Arts Commission members were reappointed (page 3). Also attached is the ordinance that established the Arts Commission in 2007.

WORD: [ARTS COMMISSION ORDINANCE.DOCX](#)

PDF: [1.3.23 REORG MEETING AGENDA.PDF](#)

WORD: [HIGHLAND PARK ARTS COMMISSION REPORT_2023.DOCX](#)

PDF: [ARTS COMMISSION 23.PDF](#)

Community Partnership & Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: Highland Park's Green Team is organized as Sustainable Highland Park (SHP). SHP members are confirmed annually at the Borough's Reorganization Meeting. It has been an extremely busy year for SHP from June 2021 - June 2022. First and foremost, the Borough finally restarted it's 'Bring Your Own Bag' ordinance after a yearlong hiatus due to COVID supply chain challenges. SHP was essential in getting the word out to businesses and residents about the reactivation of this ordinance. SHP has been equally as involved with preparing the town - administration, governing body, merchants, and residents - for the May 4, 2022 bag ban to take effect statewide. SHP also played a role in assisting Borough Council with overhauling its existing RGEA ordinance to loosen cost savings qualifications to make the Borough more competitive during the bid process. SHP approaches sustainability in Highland Park with both an advocacy and education lens. They are an invaluable resource to the community who work tirelessly to improve it and make it more resilient. Attached to this submission is the resolution establishing SHP as the Borough's Green Team, the minutes from the 1/4/22 Reorganization Meeting, and an activity report from June 2021 - June 2022. Also included is a letter from the Council President/ Acting Mayor confirming SHP still serves as Highland Park's official Green Team.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [REORG MEETING MINUTES_1.4.22.PDF](#)

WORD: [GREEN TEAM ACTIVITY REPORT_2022.DOCX](#)

PDF: [MAYOR CONFIRMATION LETTER_SIGNED.PDF](#)

Green Fair

10 Points

Program Summary: Sustainable Highland Park (SHP) held its first in-person Earth Day Fair on May 1, 2022 since 2018. More than a dozen boards, commissions, and businesses exhibited at the event and they represented the local, county, and community levels. Activities included hands-on

kid's learning activities, distribution of reusable bags in advance of the May 4th statewide bag ban, distribution of metal straws, distribution of butterfly weed plants and an education on their benefits, and a rain barrel demonstration by Rutgers Water Resources. For the first time ever, the Earth Day Fair was merged with Main Street Highland Park's annual street fair and it was a big success for both organizations. Each organization advertised their own event separately and cross-promoted the other as an additional component. Attached to this submission are Facebook posts advertising both Earth Day and the annual street fair, a copy of our biweekly "Take Five" newsletter announcing the Earth Day Fair, the design for the free reusable bags that were handed out, photos of some exhibitors from the event, and the SJ qualitative assessment.

WORD: [HP QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT_8.17.22.DOCX](#)

PDF: [REUSABLE BAG DESIGN.PDF](#)

PDF: [PROMO: TAKE FIVE EMAIL NEWSLETTER](#)

PDF: [PROMO: FB POST #1](#)

PDF: [PROMO: FB POST #2](#)

PDF: [EARTH DAY 2022 PHOTOS_COMBINED.PDF](#)

Diversity & Equity

Diversity on Boards & Commissions

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: In February 2021, the Borough Administrator's Office launched a 14-question diversity survey that was sent to all volunteer members of our boards, commissions, and committees via email. Survey questions were created based on input from Sustainable Highland Park and the Human Relations Commission. Data collection was slow going and required multiple reminders from the Administrator's Office, Council Members, and the mayor. Overall the Borough had a response rate of nearly half of its volunteer population. The data from the survey was synthesized and a report was created (attached). The report was first discussed with the Mayor's Equity Advisory Council on October 25, 2021 and questions were answered on methodology and results. The report was then discussed at the November 9, 2021 Borough Council meeting, the minutes of which will be uploaded to the Borough website once they're completed: <https://www.hpboro.com/government/mayor-borough-council/borough-council-meetings/-folder-1182>. If the minutes are not uploaded yet at the time of review, you can also view the Borough Council meeting for confirmation that this report was presented and discussed by the governing body: <https://www.youtube.com/user/hptv15/videos>. An agenda for the November 9, 2021 council meeting including the report as a work session item can be found here: <https://www.hpboro.com/home/showpublisheddocument/3866>.

PDF: [2021 DIVERSITY SURVEY_MEAC.PDF](#)

Energy

Energy Efficiency for Municipal Facilities

50 Points

🏅 Bronze Priority 🏅 Silver Priority

Program Summary: We are seeking 50 points for this action item. After an NJCEP local government energy audit in October 2018, Highland Park chose to move forward with energy upgrades in all seven of our Borough-owned buildings. We partnered with the PSE&G Direct Install Program to install the energy upgrades in May 2019. According to PSE&G, the Borough expects to save 153,933 kWh and 5,370 therms annually with the energy upgrades, equaling \$28,298 in annual (or \$2,358.16 monthly) cost savings. Using the values from the PSE&G Direct Install reports and the Sustainable Jersey EUI calculator, the Borough should expect to see a 33.55% reduction in energy usage across all seven buildings. Attached to this submission is the Sustainable Jersey EUI calculator spreadsheet as well as the PSE&G Direct Install Program's Energy Efficiency Upgrade Proposal for all Borough buildings.

PDF: [ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

EXCEL: [ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

: [ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR MUNICIPAL FACILITIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

Energy Tracking & Management

20 Points

🏅 Bronze Priority 🏅 Silver Priority

Program Summary: We are seeking 20 points for this action item. We began using the Energy Star Portfolio Manager in April 2016. The Borough collects electricity and natural gas usage data for eight buildings including: the Community Center, the Environmental Education Center, the fire station, the police station, the library, the public works building, the Teen Center and Borough Hall. We also collect the solar meter readings for the panels on top of Borough Hall and the Public Safety Carport. On a monthly basis, the Assistant to the Borough Administrator collects the PSE&G bills from the eight buildings and inputs the usage values into Energy Star. The DPW Superintendent reads the solar meters at Borough Hall and the Police Department and sends that information to the Borough Administrator and the Assistant, who then adds it to Energy Star. Attached to this submission is a building inventory, a baseline energy usage report for 2022, Statements of Energy Performance, 12 months of energy usage for each of our eight buildings and a document detailing the Borough's reporting process. Please note the Police Department's gas meter is shared with the Fire Department and there is no gas at the Environmental Education Center.

PDF: [2023 SEP.PDF](#)

WORD: [HIGHLAND PARK REPORTING PROCESS_2023.DOCX](#)

EXCEL: [HP BUILDING INVENTORY 2023.XLSX](#)

EXCEL: [HP METER USAGE 2023.XLSX](#)

EXCEL: [HP BASELINE ENERGY USAGE REPORT 2023.XLSX](#)

Municipal Onsite Solar System

10 Points

Program Summary: The Borough of Highland Park is seeking 10 points for this action item.

Highland Park installed solar panels on the roof of Borough Hall in 2006 using financial incentives from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. The energy generated by those solar panels is used to partially offset the building's need to purchase electric - in 2018, the panels generated 3.97% of the building's energy needs by producing 6908.5 kWh of electricity annually. With our recent energy upgrades installed in May 2019, we anticipate this number will increase significantly as the building's total energy usage decreases. Highland Park's new public safety building was built in 2014 and the parking covers also double as solar panels. In 2018 the panels produced 30,725 kWh of electricity. This electricity is stored and sold on the SREC trade market. Attached to this submission is energy usage data for 2018 for Borough Hall as well as a Letter of Certification for both PV systems signed by Mayor Gayle Brill-Mittler.

EXCEL: [MUNICIPAL ON-SITE SOLAR SYSTEM DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [MUNICIPAL ON-SITE SOLAR SYSTEM DOCUMENTATION](#)

Solar Outreach

15 Points

Program Summary: Highland Park is seeking 15 points for this action. In 2016, Highland Park's administration and Green Team partnered with Sustainable Jersey for the Solar Challenge to encourage residents to install solar panels on their homes. The program utilized EnergySage to connect residents with qualified solar installers via a website that was customized for Highland Park (www.hpsolar.org). Interested residents signed up on the site for more information and were put in touch with solar companies to discuss their options and pricing. In order to drive people to the solar website, our Green Team publicized the challenge on the Borough website and Facebook as well as in the monthly newsletter. The challenge was also promoted in The Highland Park Planet as a press release and in a letter from the Mayor that was sent to 3,314 residents in single-family homes that were possibly eligible for a solar array. Additionally, the Green Team set up a table at the annual spring street fair to promote the solar challenge and get residents thinking about solar. In January 2017, the Green Team hosted an informational session at the public library to discuss the challenge and answer questions residents may have. That informational session attracted more than 30 residents. The official challenge ran for eight months from October 2016 - May 2017. In that time period, 68 households inquired about solar panels through EnergySage and 42 properties were deemed solar-suitable. Of those 42 households, 1 went solar and added a 6 kW PV array to their home, joining the other 40 - 50 homes in Highland Park who already had solar arrays. Attached to this submission are two newsletters promoting the Solar Challenge, the flyer for the January 2017 info session and a copy of the letter that was sent to residents in single-family homes.

PDF: [COMMUNITY-LED SOLAR INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY-LED SOLAR INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY-LED SOLAR INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [COMMUNITY-LED SOLAR INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

Fleet Inventory

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Borough of Highland Park's fleet is managed by our DPW Superintendent in partnership with the Borough Administrator's Office. The Borough is currently

undertaking a Vehicle Replacement Program to eliminate our oldest fleet vehicles and replace with more efficient hybrid or electric vehicles, when appropriate. We have 73 vehicles in our fleet which range from code inspection sedans to heavy duty trash trucks to hybrid patrol cars. 14% of our fleet is hybrid or electric. Our Project Manager has been partnering with the DPW Superintendent to streamline the processes for tracking mileage and fuel usage and we are currently exploring the use of a product called Samsara to help with that initiative. There are some gaps in our data we're hoping to fill in for our 2024 inventory, namely tracking diesel fuel fill-ups for our DPW trucks since those are not tracked the same as our gas fill-ups, which happens at the Middlesex County pump stations. We only have a total amount of diesel fuel purchased for 2022 so we calculated our fleet carbon footprint using that number. Our full-time mechanic who was hired in summer 2021 has also helped better monitor preventative maintenance, thus improving fuel efficiency and reducing maintenance costs. Attached is our updated fleet inventory as well as up-to-date maintenance practices.

EXCEL: [HIGHLAND PARK FLEET INVENTORY_2022_UPDATED.XLSX](#)

PDF: [HIGHLAND PARK PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE_2023.PDF](#)

WORD: [HIGHLAND PARK FLEET INVENTORY NARRATIVE_2023.DOCX](#)

Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles

10 Points

Program Summary: The Borough of Highland Park is seeking 15 points for this action item. The Borough has been consistently working to increase the fuel efficiency of its municipal vehicles. We purchased two plug-in electric vehicles for the Department of Code Enforcement in 2020: a Kia Niro and a Nissan Leaf. Both are exclusively for 'around-town' driving and replaced less efficient hand-me-downs from the Police Department. We also ordered three pursuit-grade Ford Hybrid Utility Interceptors for the Police Department. With two EV chargers on-site thanks to an NJDEP grant, we estimate we could accommodate up to six full-electric vehicles before having to add an additional charger. More than 10% of our fleet is hybrid or electric at this point and we plan to continue to replace aging vehicles with plug-in hybrid or electric alternatives as appropriate.

PDF: [KIA NIRO INVOICE.PDF](#)

PDF: [NISSAN LEAF INVOICE.PDF](#)

PDF: [WINNER FORD INVOICES_2 B&W.PDF](#)

PDF: [WINNER FORD INVOICES_STEALTH.PDF](#)

PDF: [REGISTRATION_PD PURSUIT CLASS HYBRID.PDF](#)

Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

15 Points

Program Summary: The Borough installed two single-port, level-2 Chargepoint charging stations in its Community Center lot in 2020. The chargers can be found on a publicly accessible directory system on Chargepoint's website: https://na.chargepoint.com/charge_point. The chargers are also findable via Google search. The chargers are used for approximately 50 charges a month and we've found that it's many unique individuals using the chargers and not just the same 5-10 people consistently. The Borough owns the charging stations and purchased them utilizing grant monies from NJDEP's "It Pays to Plug In" program. Members of the Code Enforcement Department who use our two plug-in electric vehicles charge them at no cost. Members of the public who want

to use the chargers can do so for \$1/ hour for the first five hours and then \$5/ hour for every hour after that. We chose the price to go up at 5 hours after discovering the average charging time was right around 4 hours. The chargers have signage designating the two spots in their immediate vicinity as EV-only spots. The Borough promoted the activation of the chargers on its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/hpboro/posts/3519814604721994>) once they were operational. Attached to this submission is a letter from our Borough Administrator confirming the chargers are active and in use and photos of the charging stations.

IMAGE: [EV CHARGER 1.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [EV CHARGER 2.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [EV CHARGER 3.JPG](#)

PDF: [SIGNED LETTER RE EV CHARGERS.PDF](#)

Food

Community Food Pantry/Bank & Soup Kitchen

10 Points

Program Summary: The Borough of Highland Park has two volunteer organizations committed to combating food insecurity by providing perishable and non-perishable food items at no cost to residents in need. The HP Community Food Pantry, distributed through the Community Center, works with the Department of Community Services and is led by Chair Janice Ballou (<https://www.hpboro.com/government/boards-commissions/community-food-pantry>). Outside of their regular hours - 2nd and 4th Thursdays and Saturdays of each month from 9am-10:45am/6pm-7pm - residents can contact Nicole Huff, Borough social worker, for additional assistance. HP Gives a Hoot works with the Teen Center for a distribution that offers free groceries throughout the week (<https://www.hpboro.com/government/boards-commissions/hp-gives-a-hoot>). Director of the Teen Center, Ashton Burrell, helps run the day-to-day distribution. Both of these food options are great resources for residents and offer some stability as residents have equal access to both pantries, which have varied food options available throughout the week. Information on these two pantries, as well as other pantries within Middlesex County's Replenish network, can be found on the Borough website (<https://www.hpboro.com/residents/food-insecurity-assistance>). Attached to this submission are Facebook posts from two entities about our distribution.

IMAGE: [BORO MAIN FB POST_5.5.23.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [HP GIVES A HOOT FB POST_5.5.23.JPG](#)

Farmers Markets

10 Points

Program Summary: 2022 marks the 26th year of the Highland Park Farmer's Market. The market is run by Main Street Highland Park (MSHP) staff and is open every Friday between April and December from 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The Market is held in a municipal lot owned by the Borough between 2nd and 3rd Avenue and Raritan Avenue. All farmers that attend the market are

required to exclusively sell Jersey Fresh produce and are certified by the New Jersey Council of Farms and Communities. Other vendors sell baked goods, flowers and other niche goods. Since 2020 MSHP has also put on their 'Night Owl Market' to bring in a later evening crowd of shoppers to the market and to downtown Highland Park. The Borough provides MSHP the lot free of charge to MSHP and also contributes by providing publicity and financial support. The Borough collects the Business Improvement District (BID) tax on MSHP's behalf. MSHP's website with more information on the market and vendors that attend can be found here:

<https://www.mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket>. Also included with this submission is a collection of promotion materials by both the Borough in their quarterly newsletter and MSHP via their email marketing as well as a letter from the market manager certifying the Borough's support it provides for the market annually.

PDF: [PROMO MATERIALS_2022.PDF](#)

PDF: [MARKET MANAGER LETTER.PDF](#)

PDF: [MSHP BUDGET_6.16.22.PDF](#)

Making Farmers Markets Accessible

5 Points

Program Summary: Highland Park's Farmer's Market is within a quarter mile of two bus stops at 2nd & Raritan Avenue (Route 27) and 3rd & Raritan Avenue (Route 27), making it accessible to nearby communities of Edison, New Brunswick and Piscataway. All of the farmers vending at the market accept both WIC and FMNP vouchers. As of 2021, the farmer's market also accepts SNAP/EBT benefits and is able to double them up to \$20 thanks to a generous partnership with the Garden State Good Food Buck Network. In order to use SNAP benefits at the market, customers can purchase red SNAP tokens that can be spent on any SNAP-eligible item in the market. The tokens can be doubled with Good Food Bucks that can be spent on produce items only. The centralization of SNAP/EBT collection has been an integral part in helping lower-income customers access fresh produce and other items without each vendor having to go through the onerous process of setting themselves up technologically to accept SNAP/ EBT cards. Additionally, vendors are encouraged to accept special farmer's market vouchers. This innovative program is administered by Outreach Services in partnership with Middlesex County and is funded by USDA. Highland Park residents over the age of 60 can register to receive five \$5.00 vouchers to be used at any stand in the market during the season. Vouchers are collected from vendors by Main Street employees at the end of each market day and exchanged for money. Attached to this submission is a map showing the market's proximity to public transportation. Information on the SNAP program can be found on MSHP's website: <https://www.mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket> and materials advertising the market's acceptance of SNAP benefits are attached to this submission.

PDF: [TRANSIT MAP_2022.PDF](#)

WORD: [PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.DOCX](#)

Innovative Projects

Innovative Community Project 1

10 Points

Program Summary: Highland Park Public Library's Seed Library is a way for new and experienced home gardeners to try planting new seeds and learn about the important practice of seed saving. Local partner organizations include Raíces Eco-Culture, the Good Earth Community Garden, the Highland Park Native Plant Sanctuary, and Sustainable Highland Park. The seed library contains donated seed from community members and surplus seed from seed companies. Highland Park Public Library provides planting instructions for each type of plant in the seed library. The seed library is available in the library building for anyone to take seed packets and Sustainable Highland Park often brings it to their outreach table at the Highland Park Farmers' Market each Friday and to other community events as they pop-up. Raíces Eco-Culture is working on installing a second, permanent seed library at the Environmental Education Center on the other side of town from the Library so seeds can be accessible to all residents. In September 2022, the Highland Park Public Library hosted a "Seed Saving Workshop" with Raíces Eco-Culture. The workshop included songs, a story sharing, and a short presentation about the history of seed saving and sharing around the world. It ended with a hands-on, seed-saving activity. All participants left with seed packets, instructions for planting a seed-saving garden next year, and an invitation to return some of their saved seed to the Highland Park Public Library's Seed Library to expand this important resource of locally saved seed.

IMAGE: [FB POST SCREENSHOT.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [SEED LIBRARY FLYER.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [SEED LIBRARY_1.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [SEED LIBRARY_2.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [SEED SAVING WORKSHOP FLYER.PNG](#)

Innovative Community Project 3

10 Points

Program Summary: Founded 6 years ago by our former Mayor, the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council (MTAC) has become a major engine of civic engagement by youth in our Borough. MTAC consists of teen leaders from the public high school system, who meet monthly to offer feedback to the Mayor about teen concerns in town, to learn about opportunities for involvement by the teens, and to raise funds for a local charity selected by the teens. In the past academic year a dozen teens were regularly active on the group. MTAC chose the Highland Park FAS as the beneficiary of their efforts. The students held a fundraiser for a specific piece of equipment requested by the first aid squad and exceeded their fundraising target. The students also decided to help organize and run an open house for the first aid squad. After the conclusion of the open house, FAS officials informed the students that they had raised over \$6000 for the first aid squad over the course of the fundraiser and the open house event. In the fall semester, the teens encouraged the Mayor to become involved in an effort to save state funding for the teen counseling center in the high school; the state's decision to curtail funding of the center was later reversed. The Governing Body are very impressed with the civic engagement of the members of MTAC and look forward to seeing what they will do in the upcoming school year. Attached to this submission are photos from MTAC meetings and events as well as a screenshot of a promotional post for the FAS open house.

IMAGE: [IMG_6528.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [IMG_6583.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [IMG_6874.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [ENEYA AND ANDREW WITH HP FAS LEADERS.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [FAS OPEN HOUSE POST.JPG](#)

Land Use & Transportation

Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Plan

10 Points

Program Summary: Through the support of an NJDOT planning grant, the Borough worked for more than a year to develop a plan to improve its walkability and bikeability. The Planning Board at their August 6, 2019 meeting adopted the final Bike/Ped Plan, prepared for the Borough by WSP, and many short and long-term recommendations from it were incorporated into the Borough's 2019 Master Plan Reexamination Report. WSP's work was guided by a Bike/Ped Plan Steering Committee, which included representatives from: the Mayor's Office, the Safe Walking & Cycling Committee (SWACC), the Administrator's Office, Borough Council, Main Street Highland Park (MSHP), the Planning Board and Public Safety. The steering committee sought out community feedback twice – once during a feedback session at the Reformed Church of Highland Park in March 2019 and again at an open public meeting in June 2019. The plan was also circulated via social media and email and comments were accepted via email. WSP took into consideration all feedback given at these meetings and via email in order to pull together the final plan that the Planning Board adopted. To view the June 2019 input meeting on the Bike/Ped Plan, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtAzDIrn4TI&fbclid=IwAR32McQky4f-Fk1SqKjPTIJ3jmRL2VU8yxJltjRNGfn8UdP4QM8RaFsaWw> To view the full Bike/Ped Plan, click here: <https://www.hpboro.com/Home/ShowDocument?id=2129> To view the Master Plan Reexamination Report where recommendations from the Bike/Ped Plan have been incorporated on page 17 and elsewhere, click here: <https://www.hpboro.com/home/showdocument?id=1997> Attached to this submission is the signed resolution of the Planning Board adopting the Bike/Ped Plan into the Master Plan Reexamination Report.

PDF: [SIGNED PLANNING BOARD RESO](#)

PDF: [HP FINAL BIKE PED PLAN_2019.PDF](#)

Green Infrastructure Planning

10 Points

Program Summary: The Borough of Highland Park is seeking 10 points for this action item. In 2015, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program prepared an Impervious Cover Assessment and Impervious Cover Reduction Plan for the Borough. The plan identified 15 sites around Highland Park where stormwater runoff is an issue and made green infrastructure recommendations to reduce incidences of stormwater runoff. A map of the 15 locations can be found here: http://water.rutgers.edu/Projects/NFWF/Highland_Park/index.html We are currently working with representatives from the Water Resources Program to implement green infrastructure at one of the 15 sites detailed in the action plan utilizing 319(h) funds from DEP which the Water Resources Program has secured. We are also actively seeking funding opportunities to move along further implementation of the plan. The Borough will engage the broader community in the planting and care of new green infrastructure sites, starting with the neighbors in close proximity to the projects. We will invite them to an open house to learn about the green infrastructure and landscape plans, asking them to help us by volunteering on planting

days and clean-up days throughout the year. Attached to this submission is our Impervious Cover Assessment (Tier 1) and Impervious Cover Reduction Plan (Tier 2).

PDF: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING *NEW* DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING *NEW* DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Infrastructure Implementation

10 Points

Program Summary: Highland Park is seeking 10 points for this action item. The Eugene Young Environmental Education Center (EEC) in the Borough was dedicated on Earth Day in 2007 and opened its doors in 2008. The building is owned and managed by the Borough and features a green roof. The green roof is one of many environmentally-friendly demonstration components of the building, which provides environmental education resources to both schools and adults through hands-on and traditional teaching methods. The EEC also hosts the regular meetings of the Environmental Commission and the Shade Tree Advisory Committee (STAC). The Borough also has a number of rain gardens around town. As a part of a program titled "Taking Back Paradise: Taking Back a Parking Lot," Highland Park brokered a deal to replace a used car sales lot with a sustainable park that features native plants, recycled glass pavers and a rain garden. The park, named Centennial Park, is on the corner of Route 27 and River Road where many pedestrians, cyclists and motorists pass by on a daily basis going to and from work in New Brunswick. Through consultation with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, Highland Park is coordinating with DPW to establish a schedule for better maintaining the components of Centennial Park so they function as they're supposed to. Simple tasks like more regular weeding, annual mulching etc. will go a long way in ensuring the longevity of Centennial Park's functionality. Attached to this submission are photos of the green roof, photos of Centennial Park, and construction plans for the EEC's green roof and for Centennial Park.

PDF: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION *NEW* DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION *NEW* DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION *NEW* DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION *NEW* DOCUMENTATION](#)

IMAGE: [GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION *NEW* DOCUMENTATION](#)

Local Economies

Support Local Businesses

10 Points

Program Summary: Highland Park strives to be as business-friendly as possible. There have been a number of efforts over the past year to attract new businesses and help retain existing businesses. We want our residents to be able to live, work, and shop in Highland Park. Business Participation in Community Events: All Highland Park businesses within the Borough's Special Improvement District (SID), which is administered by Main Street Highland Park at the direction of the Governing Body, are invited to vend at the weekly Friday Farmer's Market, Earth Day Fair,

May Street Fair, September Arts in the Park Fair, and December Night Owl Markets at no charge. These events draw thousands of people a year and provide great exposure for the businesses. Municipal Website Link: Highland Park's website has a whole Business section which includes information for cannabis businesses, quick links to frequent permits and licenses, and a link to Main Street Highland Park's website which houses the Borough's official directory of businesses. The Borough doesn't have the link to this list itself as to not be duplicative of Main Street's efforts but it is referenced on our website. Showcasing Businesses: The Borough's PIO has done a great job of highlighting new and existing businesses on the Borough's FB page, website, and quarterly newsletter. If the PIO knows about a business event, he tries his best to be there or appoint a staff person to attend in his absence. Neighborhood Preservation Program: Highland Park was designated a Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) community by NJDCA in October 2021. We are in the second year of the five year program which is being administered by the Assistant to the Borough Administrator. Our Stakeholder Team driving the NPP efforts include representatives from businesses, residents, Middlesex County, and the Governing Body. We have nearly \$70,000 worth of facade grant money that businesses have been able to take advantage of as well as technical assistance opportunities to plan on exterior facade improvements and internal business operations improvements. For more information on NPP: <https://www.hpboro.com/government/neighborhood-preservation-program>. Attached to this submission are photos from the May 2023 Street Fair featuring local businesses, a snapshot of the business directory on Main Street Highland Park's website, a snapshot of a recent promotional Facebook post, and the NPP commercial grant flyer.

IMAGE: [CENTURY 21 STREET FAIR PHOTO.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [DIRECTORY SNAPSHOT.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [PARK MED SPA OPENING.JPG](#)

WORD: [HIGHLAND PARK QA_2023.DOCX](#)

PDF: [COMMERCIAL GRANT FLYER_FINAL.PDF](#)

Natural Resources

Environmental Commission

10 Points

Program Summary: The Highland Park Environmental Commission (EC) was established in 1968 based on state legislation and a Borough ordinance. There are currently six commissioners and no alternates. The Commission meets at the Eugene Young Environmental Education Center, 20 River Road, 8:00 PM on the first Wednesday of the month except August and unless there is a conflict with a religious holiday. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meetings have been virtual by Zoom. The EC is a member of ANJEC. A primary responsibility is the review of site plan application for environmental issues, which might include steep slopes, stream corridors, riparian buffers, stormwater management, chemical contamination/site remediation, and the use of native plants and trees for landscaping. The EC issues a memo to the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment with any issues of concern or recommendations. As required by the Ordinance, one of the commissioners has a joint position with the Planning Board. This assures that environmental issues are considered for major and minor development projects. The commission has spent a significant amount of time reviewing site remediation plans and reports for developments being built on a brown field contaminated site or industrial sites. The EC has successfully competed for grants including three National Recreational Trail grants, an ANJEC grant for an ERI, and recently a Sustainable Jersey/Nature Conservancy Reforestation grant. The EC also has built and maintained

a Loop Trail in the 18-acre Borough owned property “The Meadows”, which is in the southeast corner of the Borough adjacent to the Raritan River. The EC has stewardship over the property. A number of Eagle Scout projects have been performed under the guidance of the EC and include construction of wooden benches, bat boxes, and boardwalks. The EC has a website (<http://hpenvironmentalcommission.org>). In 2012 the Environmental Commission issued the Highland Park ERI. The Environmental Commission also reviews draft environmental ordinances for the Borough Council and on occasion recommend ordinances to the Council. Attached to this submission is the ordinance establishing the Environmental Commission as well as a link to the Commission's portion of the Borough's E-Code. Also included is the Commission's most recent annual report (January 2021 - December 2021) and a list of current members.

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ORDINANCE.PDF](#)

PDF: [ECODE LINK.PDF](#)

PDF: [2021 EC ANNUAL REPORTDOCX.PDF](#)

PDF: [HP EC MEMBERSHIP.PDF](#)

PDF: [2021 EC ANNUAL REPORTDOCX.PDF](#)

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

Program Summary: The HP Environmental Commission (EC) reviews site applications. A Professional Planner and a Professional Engineer review the site applications for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. They provide a very detailed “finding of facts”, concerns, and recommendations. Thus, it is redundant for the EC to also write a detailed “finding of facts”. The EC typically deals with environmental issues: storm water, steep slopes, riparian buffer, endangered species, and contamination/remediation. Despite a major redevelopment effort by the Borough of Highland Park, it has resulted in one site applications - JSM at Highland Park, LLC in the last two years. The developer JSM purchased a site sometime in the 1980’s. The site is 49 residential lots of 5000 ft². Each. The site was covered with approximately 500 trees and has steep slopes on two sides. In the early 1990’s the developer proposed to build approximately 100 single homes on the site. The Planning Board (PB) rejected the application. In 2016, the developer requested a tree removal permit to remove one hundred trees from the site in order to test for contamination on the site. The Borough considered the number trees excessive. The developer took the Borough to Superior court and was allowed to remove the trees. In 2018, the developer requested a second permit to remove trees, another 300 trees. The developer had also instituted litigation that the Borough was responsible for the contamination on the site and thus the cost of the cleanup. The court had taken on the issues of contamination, tree removal, and steep slopes and superseded the PB’s authority. In 2018, the PB adopted an ordinance Multi-Family Residential Overlay Zone for the site, which allowed 58 unit with a mix of apartments and town houses with 15% affordable units. In August 2022, the developer submitted an application with the one major issue left for the EC - contamination. An EIS was part of the application and claimed there was no contamination. This resulted in a series of memos. The application was revised in January 2023. The application was approved in May 2023 with the contamination issue to be resolved by litigation in Superior Court.

PDF: [10.12.2020 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION COMMENTS - JSM @ HIGHLAND PARK.PDF](#)

PDF: [11-12 -2020 EIS REVISED \(36 PGS\).PDF](#)

PDF: [11-22-2022 GABRIELLE ESTATES RESPONSE TO JSM COPY.PDF](#)

PDF: [11-30-22 ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT COPY.PDF](#)

PDF: [3_8_23 COMMENTS ON EIS IN SITE APPLICATION .PDF](#)

PDF: [03-31-23 GABRIELLE ESTATES.PDF](#)

Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

Program Summary: The Borough is seeking 20 points for this action item. The Highland Park Shade Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) was established 30 years ago in order to advise the Department of Public Works on all issues involving trees. STAC has also taken on the responsibility of completing the New Jersey Urban & Community Forestry Program's annual accomplishment report in partnership with Borough Administration. STAC has submitted reports since 2001; the most recent report was approved in February 2022. Highlights from the 2021 report include the training done for DPW employees, Board of Education employees, and STAC volunteers regarding new tree care and pruning by the New Jersey Tree Foundation and the planting of more than 100 new street trees. In order to best assist STAC with meeting their goals, DPW has sent four employees to CORE training over the years and 5/8 STAC volunteers are CORE trained. Attached to this submission is Highland Park's confirmation of accreditation by NJUCF as well as the 2019 - 2023 Community Forestry Management Plan that was submitted in November 2018.

PDF: [APPROVED CFMP 2019 - 2023](#)

PDF: [HP NJUCF ACCREDITATION_2021.PDF](#)

Tree Maintenance Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: The Highland Park Shade Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) was established 27 years ago in order to advise the Department of Public Works on all issues involving trees. STAC and our Department of Public Works are partners in maintaining our street trees. Thanks to a local volunteer who designed and launched a street tree inventory for the Borough, we now know how many trees we have as well as their GPS locations. This digital inventory has given us a mechanism for tracking our tree maintenance. Since we began implementing our CFMP in in 2019 and have added extra capacity at Public Works for tree care, the Borough has been working on finding a balance between planting an appropriate amount of trees and caring for existing trees (watering, pruning, etc.) Attached to this submission is our 2022 Annual Accomplishment Report and a 2022 report from our DPW foreman who oversees our tree program.

PDF: [SIGNED AAR_2022 HIGHLAND PARK.PDF](#)

WORD: [2022 SHADE TREE ACTIVITIES.DOC](#)

Tree Planting *New 2026*

10 Points

Program Summary: Highland Park is fortunate to have a team of very dedicated volunteers on its Shade Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) that's committed to repopulating the Borough's tree canopy. Prior to drafting the CFMP for 2019 - 2023, the Borough solely fulfilled tree requests in their spring or fall street tree plantings - about 35 trees annually. This number was not even keeping pace with the rate of tree removals that were about double the tree-planting amount. The

most recent CFMP set ambitious goals for tree planting while maintaining species diversity and a focus on native species, where appropriate. With nearly 50% of viable planting space in the public right-of-way vacant, STAC and the Borough have ample opportunity to replenish the tree canopy in Highland Park. The maintenance of existing trees is equally as important as the planting of new trees. DPW has a running list for tree removals (which have been assessed for hazards), tree prunings, and stump grindings. EAB's and dead trees always take priority as they are the most dangerous to people and property but prunings are also important for safety and visual appeal. The budget for tree maintenance remains stagnant every year even though more trees are being planted. Borough Council has been made aware and is going to try to allot more dollars to tree maintenance in future years. Attached to this submission is a Tree Planting Project Report for 2017 - 2020 including tree species and the cost of each project. There's a very clear uptick in the number of trees planted from 2018 to 2019 and then to 2020. Also attached are photos from our most recent planting project in partnership with the Highland Park School District and Rutgers Extension as well as a list of species planted at the schools in fall 2019 and spring 2020.

IMAGE: [SCHOOLS PLANTING #1](#)

IMAGE: [SCHOOLS PLANTING #2](#)

IMAGE: [SCHOOLS PLANTING #3](#)

WORD: [TREE PLANTING PROGRAM REPORT 2017 - 2020](#)

PDF: [FALL 2019 SCHOOLS SPECIES](#)

PDF: [SPRING 2020 SCHOOLS SPECIES](#)

Public Information & Engagement

Municipal Communications Strategy

10 Points

Program Summary: In order to best serve the Highland Park community, the Mayor's Office hired a part-time Public Information Officer to work collaboratively with our Communications Liaison. These two roles comprise our Communications Department and they have made strides in streamlining our communication strategy and incorporating new ideas. The Borough kicked off the 2020's with a new, mobile-responsive website which is easier to navigate. The Borough's Public Information Committee sought out a lot of resident input in order to make the website user-friendly. Our website came in handy in 2020 and beyond as it was a central point of information for residents during the worst parts of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 changed the way we communicated with residents. It was the primary reason we upgraded to a paid Nixle system vs. the free option so we could reach residents via email, text, and phone calls. During COVID-19 we needed a way to get in touch with residents not online, and have ramped up our programming efforts on our cable access channel to do just that. Beginning in September 2022, we will pilot our hybrid public meeting concept. Hurricane Ida was another communications learning opportunity for us. A lot of our communications around that storm were reactionary after the damage was done. We have since developed new systems for communication based on the best tools we have in our toolbelt to make sure residents remain safe and informed even during an emergency. Highland Park utilizes its Nixle account a lot for community notices, advisories, and alerts: <https://local.nixle.com/zipcode/08904/>. We also post nearly daily on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hpboro/>. Attaching some very recent examples of communication materials, including our August 2022 Take Five newsletter and a flyer about a revaluation public meeting.

WORD: [HIGHLAND PARK CHECKLIST 8.17.22.DOC](#)

Improve Public Engagement in Municipal Government

15 Points

Program Summary: The Borough is seeking 15 points for this action item. Our town is very diverse along racial, socio-economical and age lines. In order to reach all of these populations, we understand that we need to offer a range of options for residents to participate in public discussion. Our website is our primary archive for information – upcoming events and meetings, prior meeting minutes, meeting agendas and contact details are all stored on the website. For our technologically savvy residents, we duplicate a lot of this information on social media and the Nextdoor app. For our residents who do not use a computer on a daily basis, we hang hard copies of meeting dates, agendas and notices on bulletin boards in Borough Hall, the Community Center and the public library. We are also experimenting with holding public forums at various times of day in order to accommodate our older residents as well as our residents who work regular 9 – 5 jobs. Unfortunately, we will never be able to find a time that is convenient for everyone but we try our best to reach as much of our diverse population as possible to increase public engagement. The attached rules for citizen input at public meetings have transformed the public comment portion of our meetings. The rules emphasize respect – both on residents’ part as well as on Council’s part – which paves the way for more constructive conversation. The rules have also prevented repetitious comments that are time-consuming and don’t add to fixing the problem at hand. Attached to this submission is the Submission Checklist, examples of promotions for citizen engagement opportunities and public information sessions, and our approved rules for citizen input during public meetings as of November 10, 2020.

Online Municipal Public Service Systems

15 Points

Program Summary: The Borough is seeking 15 points for this action item. Our website was overhauled in 2020 and prioritizes user experience and mobile compatibility. Our new mobile-optimized site was especially helpful in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. With all Borough buildings closed, residents were encouraged to use our online systems to pay their bills, make inspection requests, file for licenses etc. Having these online systems in place allowed us to keep the wheels of government moving while keeping residents and staff safe and healthy. All of the links included in our submission checklist are available within two clicks of the homepage. The “I Want To” tab on the far left of the website navigation has been invaluable in helping us guide residents and visitors to the information they are looking for quickly. The company we worked with for our new website, Granicus, has a number of other tools aside from web design and management and we are investigating the use of those tools to help us improve the user experience. The Borough currently uses two systems to track work order requests, complaints, and permits & licenses. We use SDL for the latter and our Code Enforcement Office intends to continue using that software while it's still relevant. It is a very responsive tool for residents to use to check in on permit requests and inspection appointments. New to the Borough is Dude Solutions, an interactive portal for tracking work order requests. The checklist explains our current rollout plan for launching Dude Solutions and fully integrating it in our operations, starting with DPW and perhaps expanding to Code Enforcement and the Community Center. Attached to this

submission is the completed checklist.

WORD: [HIGHLAND PARK CHECKLIST.DOCX](#)

Waste Management

Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Highland Park Police Department and the Borough partnered to host two prescription drug collection events on October 29 & 30, 2022 and again on April 22 & 23, 2023 in support of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency's National Rx Take Back Day. Highland Park has the event on Saturday and Sunday in order that all members of our diverse community can participate. The prescriptions were collected at the Community Center, 220 S. 6th Avenue, Highland Park (see supporting documentation). This occurs so that all residents feel comfortable dropping off the prescriptions without feeling any intimidation by going to Police Headquarters. Residents were notified of these drop off dates via Facebook and the e-newsletter, flyers in the library, Community Center and Borough Hall and through announcements at Borough Council meetings. The events were also posted on the calendar on Borough's website. October 29 & 30, 2022 Calendar Listing: <https://www.hpboro.com/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/3886/19?curm=10&cury=2022> Similarly, the April 22 & 23 Calendar Listing: <https://www.hpboro.com/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/4706/19?curm=4&cury=2023> The prescriptions were dropped off in marked bins and supervised by a member of the Police Department (see documentation). The bins are kept in a secure location at Police Headquarters until the NJ division of the DEA collects it. The prescriptions are then disposed of by incineration. These events had the following results: October 29 - 30, 2022: 6 large boxes collected totaling 118 pounds April 22 - 23, 2023: 3 large boxes collected totaling 81 pounds Attached are photos of posts from Facebook for the October 2022 and April 2023 takeback days, the Event Protocol, and totals from October 2022 and April 2023.

IMAGE: [APRIL 2023 FB POST.JPG](#)

PDF: [EVENT PROTOCOL 2023.PDF](#)

PDF: [NTB TOTALS 4-24-23.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [OCTOBER 2022 FB POST.JPG](#)

PDF: [NTB TOTALS 10-29-22.PDF](#)

Recycling & Waste Reduction Education & Compliance

20 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Borough of Highland Park is seeking 20 points for this action item. We go through great lengths to run a seamless waste & recycling program that meet the needs of residents while maximizing recycling opportunities. One of our DPW foremen is dedicated to overseeing the weekly trash and recycling pickups, coordinating our bulk pick-up by appointment program and liaising with Middlesex County on other recycling and disposal events. That same

foreman, along with other representatives from the Borough as well as from the Environmental Commission and Sustainable Highland Park, attend community events like the Earth Day Fair and the Street Fair throughout the year to raise awareness of our waste & recycling program and answer residents' questions. Any questions residents have about waste & recycling can be answered by going to our website at the following link:

<https://www.hpboro.com/departments/public-works/recycling-1183>. Additionally, they can also choose to download the "Recycle Coach" app. Highland Park began using Recycle Coach in 2018. The biggest issue with implementation was publicizing our use of it. We discussed its launch at Council meetings, posted it on Facebook and added a direct link to it on our website's recycling page. Recycle Coach can be adjusted for our three different neighborhoods and features an always up-to-date schedule for trash, recycling, and bulk trash pickup and offers a user-friendly guide to how different items are recycled and where, and more. We frequently re-post the QR code and flyer for Recycle Coach on Facebook to increase awareness of this free app. We also have a low-tech (print) Accepted Materials flyer available in all Borough buildings. If an audit of a trash or recycling can during a regularly scheduled pick-up determines the materials are not able to be accepted, the can is left full. Most times residents call to inquire the reasoning for this and we're able to tell them which items were unacceptable. They rectify it for the following pickup and to-date we haven't needed to issue any violations. In 2021 we began piloting bulk pick-up by appointment only. It has gone over well with residents because they can schedule bulk trash pick-up around new furniture deliveries, moving etc. We've found that we've had less tonnage in bulk than with our pre-set bulk pick-up days, likely because people are trying to sell or give away the items for free before making the effort to get an appointment and wait for that appointment date to come around. The Borough highly encourages giving away bulk items rather than trashing them and even offers resources to do so on its website:

<https://www.hpboro.com/departments/public-works/bulk-waste-collection>. Attached to this submission is our Recycling and Waste Reduction Education and Compliance Strategy, a copy of the municipal recycling ordinance (which can also be found at <https://ecode360.com/10613556>), a report on the number and results of recycling inspections in 2022-2023 signed by our municipal recycling coordinator, an accepted materials flyer, a compilation of print and digital communication pieces that have been used to notify residents about local recycling opportunities, and 2 communication pieces providing residents opportunities and ideas to reduce their household waste: bulk trash and Chometz disposal. *Our Chometz drop-off is one way the Borough reduces waste in town. Chometz are foods with leavening agents that are forbidden during Passover. Prior to the Jewish holiday every year, the Borough's DPW serves as a Chometz disposal site for Jewish households observing Passover to get rid of specific foods. DPW coordinates with the food pantry to donate items that are unused and unopened instead of all the items going into the trash. (More info: <https://www.hpboro.com/departments/public-works/chometz-disposal>)

WORD: [2. COMPLIANCE STRATEGY_HIGHLAND PARK.DOCX](#)

PDF: [3. RECYCLING ORDINANCE.PDF](#)

PDF: [5. PRINT_ACCEPTED MATERIALS FLYER.PDF](#)

PDF: [7. PRINT & DIGITAL RECYCLING MATERIALS.PDF](#)

PDF: [8. REDUCING HOUSEHOLD WASTE REMINDER.PDF](#)

PDF: [4. RECYCLING INSPECTION LETTER.PDF](#)

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: The most recent Community Paper Shredding Day was on Friday, August 27, 2021 and was hosted in partnership with Middlesex County's Waste Management Department and sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders. A Borough DPW foreman

who is dedicated to our recycling program coordinated the logistics along with Highland Park's Green Team, Sustainable Highland Park. The event took place at the Community Center, which is a central meeting location for many Borough residents. The event was promoted on the Borough's website and in the county's recycling guide. Flyers for the event were printed and posted in Borough Hall, the library and the Community Center. The event drew 233 participants (92 or 39% of which were from Highland Park) and collected and recycled 9,480 pounds (4.74 tons) of paper. Attached to this submission is the flyer we used to promote the paper shredding days. The following link is to the Middlesex County Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/814728569401343/814728606068006/>.

PDF: [2021 PAPER SHRED SUMMARY.PDF](#)

PDF: [PAPER SHRED PROGRAM 2021.PDF](#)

Materials Reuse Program

10 Points

Program Summary: The Borough of Highland Park collaborates with a number of partners to put on two annual events that encourage the reuse of materials that would otherwise end up in solid waste collection: the Kids Clothing Swap and Highland Park's Townwide Garage Sale. These two programs engaged hundreds of residents and guests to consider reusing materials rather than buying new. We estimate these two events helped prevent one ton of materials from ending up in a landfill, especially large pieces of furniture that were given a second life instead of being thrown out. The Kids Clothing Swap was held on November 12 & 13 at the Highland Park Public Library to address the issue with children growing out of their clothing at rapid speeds. This event prevented families from having to throw out outgrown clothing. Tables overflowed with clothing and shoe donations in sizes 0 - 5T. All Highland Park residents were encouraged to stop by and take clothes they needed at no charge. The Kids Clothing Swap was an initiative led by two active community members and was supported by the Borough through the donation of space at the library, as well as promotion on social media and in our informational kiosks around town. Library staff also played a helpful role of organizing and sizing the clothing donations. The Annual Townwide Garage Sale was held on September 17 & 18 and is a project of the Borough of Highland Park, Century 21 JJ Laufer, and Main Street Highland Park. Residents were able to sign up at no cost at Borough Hall, the Highland Park Library or at Century 21 in town. Residents that signed up to host their sale were added to a map that was easily accessible on the Main Street Highland Park website for those interested in shopping those days. The Borough supported the event by hosting sign-up locations, advertising the event on social media, the website and in the informational kiosks around town. Attached to this submission are promotional flyers for both events, social media posts about the events and a photo from the clothing swap.

IMAGE: [CLOTHING SWAP FLYER.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [CLOTHING SWAP_SM POST1.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [CLOTHING SWAP_SM POST2.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [TOWNWIDE GARAGE SALE FLYER.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [TOWNWIDE GARAGE SALE_SM POST1.JPG](#)