



Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Readington Twp, a Sustainable Jersey silver certified applicant.

Readington Twp was certified on December 12, 2019 with 350 points. Listed below is information regarding Readington Twp's Sustainable Jersey efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Readington Twp is:

Name:	ROBERT BECKER
Title/Position:	ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION / READINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Address:	5 HENDRICK ROAD READINGTON TWP, NJ 08822
Phone:	9088064911

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Readington Twp was approved for in 2019 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.

Animals in the Community

Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan *Retired 12/31/22*

10 Points

Program Summary: In February 2019, the Readington Township Committee created the Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee of the Environmental Commission. This step recognizes the Township's commitment to manage the relationship of the Township to its nonhuman inhabitants. The subcommittee supports the Wildlife Action Plan previously adopted in 2010 and reaffirmed by the Township Committee in September, 2019. See "Reaffirm" attached. Some actions taken to

demonstrate this commitment include: 1. A dog park in Hillcrest Park 2. Erection of bat houses (see attached "Bat House") 3. Pollinator garden for bee sustainability (see attached "Garden") 4. Upgrading a deer management program (see attached "Deer History")

IMAGE: [BAT HOUSE](#)

WORD: [DEER HISTORY](#)

WORD: [GARDEN](#)

PDF: [REAFFIRM](#)

Arts & Creative Culture

Establish a Creative Team

10 Points

Program Summary: The Readington Township Museums Committee serves as a Creative Team for the Township in a variety of areas related to historical buildings and grounds and the sponsoring of community events at these curated locations. Much of the Committee's work has been focused on identifying, renovating, and maintaining local properties and articles of historical interest. The Committee consists of seven appointed members including an elected Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. Each member serves a term of three years. Four members of the Museum Committee are degreed educators; two members have extensive experience in finance; one has a degree in art. Members also participate as docents, attend museum events, and give their time as needed on the museum properties. In addition, all are community-minded people with years of proven community service. The Committee operates under the auspices of the Readington Township Committee. Readington Township also employs a part-time Program Director who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of Museums. Also, to help with planning programs and restorations, the Committee includes as members of their team: academic historians and historic professionals such as architects, archeologists, and local historians. College interns, who are studying historical preservation, also assist with summer programs, archiving, and presentations. Local artists make presentations. See "Typical Announcement" Program has its own newsletter. See "Newsletter" The program has begun affiliation with Creative Hunterdon. See "Creative Hunterdon Website"

PDF: [CREATIVE HUNTERDON WEBSITE](#)

IMAGE: [TYPICAL ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

PDF: [NEWSLETTER](#)

Utilizing Your Creative Assets

10 Points

Program Summary: The Readington Museums Committee strives to meet its mission through a variety of programming and community activities including: Partners in History school programs, Monday Mornings at the Museum, Open House Sundays, Friday Night Lecture Series, hands-on history classes, community functions and exhibits. All programs are intended to embrace a wide range of interests and are specifically designed to attract different age and gender groups, as well

as tactile, auditory, and visual learners. More specifically, the Committee offers high quality educational programs for both school children and the general public. For students, we hold our Partners in History school programs, (hands-on, living history interpretive programs) and Monday Mornings at the Museum, (a summer history craft program) geared for children where the children experience butter making, candle making, tin punching, quill writing, corn husk doll creation, and more. For the public we offer Open House Sundays, Friday Night Lecture Series, exhibits, community dances and our hands-on history workshops. See "Newsletter" See "Website" See "Program Announcement"

PDF: [NEWSLETTER](#)

IMAGE: [PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

: [WEBSITE](#)

Community Partnership & Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

Program Summary: For the last 6+ years the "Green Team" role has been the responsibility of the Township Environmental Commission. In February, 2019, the Township Committee expanded the Environmental Commission to include a Tree Advisory and Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee. These additions added to the scope of the Commission's coordination of important Sustainable Jersey categories. Members of the EC include representatives of the Township Committee, Open Space Advisory Board, and Planning Board. See attached "Environmental Commission Membership 2019" for current members. In January, 2019, the Township Committee reaffirmed the Township's commitment to Sustainable Jersey. (See attached "Sustainable Jersey Support") and reaffirmed the role of the Environmental Commission as the role of "Green Team" in September, 2019. See attached "Reaffirmation of Green Team"

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE JERSEY SUPPORT](#)

WORD: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP 2019](#)

PDF: [REAFFIRMATION OF GREEN TEAM](#)

Community Education & Outreach

20 Points

Program Summary: See Attached "RHA Testimonial" The Environmental Commission continues their affiliation with the Raritan Headwaters Association in two major programs: Stream Clean up (see attached). In 2018 in Readington we cleaned up about 3 miles of the South Branch Raritan. There were 79 people. • # Trash Bags – 47 • # Recycling Bags – 36 • LBS of Trash – 2000 The following groups participated: • Girl Scout Troop 186 • Cub Scout Pack 182 • Mohawk Canoe Club In addition, three additional activities (See Community Hikes, Tree Identification, Home Water Testing) are provided as examples of initiatives that integrate in to larger programs.

PDF: [ANNUAL STREAM CLEANUP](#)

WORD: [HOME WATER TESTING](#)

PDF: [RHA TESTIMONIAL](#)

WORD: [COMMUNITY HIKES](#)

WORD: [TREE IDENTIFICATION](#)

Food

Farmland Preservation Plans

10 Points

Program Summary: Farmland Preservation Readington Township has historically been among the State's most active Township's in preserving farmland. In 2013, Readington received an award from the SADC for preserving the most farms under the State's Planning Incentive Program (the "PIG Program") Readington Township preserved its first farm in 1987, and since that year has gone on to has preserve a total of 70 farms, which total 5,280 acres. Readington is actively continuing its efforts. It's most recent have successes resulted in the preservation of two farms located in its designated Agricultural Development Area (ADA) in 2017, namely the Schley Farm and the Cole Farm. In 2018 and 2019, the members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are currently working with the Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee to complete negotiations on several large farms, also located in the ADA. Throughout the last three decades, Readington's Farmland Preservation liaison has kept in close contact with the Count Agricultural Development Board, and since 1999, has been an active participant in the SADC's PIG Program, keeping it's application for funding current, and updating its Project Reference Form annually as required. This document maintains an active list of "targeted Farms" and in 2018 the Agricultural Advisory Committee sent letter out to alert eligible landowners to the program. For 2019, they are planning an invitation only dinner at Readington's local Buffalo Farm to interest these landowners. The SADC staff has agreed to attend the event planned for early fall. In addition, the Agricultural Development Board has handled issues brought to their attention by local farmers and has been an active advocate for agriculture in the community. The 2018 Open Space and Farmland Prservation plan can be found: <https://www.readingtontwpnj.gov/images/PB/master-plan/2018-Amended-Final-Open-Space-Plan.pdf> In addition the "Farmland Preservation Plan" is included in the attachment section completed in conformance with Guidelines for Developing Municipal Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plans. Ag Advisory Committee meeting minutes attached below.

PDF: [NEW JERSEY STATE FARMLAND REPORT](#)

PDF: [FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN](#)

WORD: [AG ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES](#)

Community Gardens

10 Points

Program Summary: The Township Community Garden continues to thrive and involve more families and individuals who do not have garden space at their residences or who wish to share

their expertise and comraderie with others. Initiated in 2009, the garden has been approved in the 2016 recertification. The garden is planted on a Township owned public park where supporting facilities, maintained by the Township, are available for gardener's use. The Township has provided a water source to supply the gardens drip irrigation system, a storage barn, and a meeting room which includes a kitchen and dining area. The Township crew is available to the gardeners for special tasks as needed. The crew has trucked donated compost from neighboring farms each spring, and the Township has arranged for a local farmer to do the rototilling. The Township also helps with publicity. Our slogan is "Share the Work, Share the Harvest". A diverse group of people participated including families, single people, seniors, anyone that had a few minutes a week to spare was welcome. Timing was not an issue, you could go anytime during the day, evening and/or weekends. Township residents worked to plant, weed and harvest crops in exchange for being able to pick fresh vegetables. In 2014-15 we had up to 50 people each weekend. At the end of each of the growing seasons a potluck was held at Readington Township's Dobozyński Farm Park where the garden is located. The invitation to participate is spread by residents: neighbor-to-neighbor and through articles in local papers and blogs and via the Township email. See attached "Newsletter" for up to date status and activities. For the latest information go to the Garden's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Readington-Community-Garden-1134197870050697/> and the Gardens webpage at: <https://www.readingtontwpnj.gov/community/community-garden> See attachment "Newsletter" for latest news.

PDF: [NEWS LETTER](#)

Health & Wellness

Building Healthier Communities

15 Points

Program Summary: There are two major elements to report. 1. The Township Parks and Recreation Department continues to offer healthy programs for children and adults. A full range of current programs can be found on their website: Readingtonrecreation.org In addition to the website, newsletters and other event promotions are sent to homes and schools. Samples are included in attachments below. Participation data is included in the attached spreadsheet. As a percent of the Township population, 35% of the residents participate (this number does not factor that one person can participate in multiple activities.) Year to year variation occurs based on programs offered, weather cancelations, and population changes. New programs are always added such as pickle ball, fencing, and others as the need is identified. Examples of new programs created in the last 18 months appear in attachment "New Program Examples". Major programs continue to be repeats of programs offered over many years. A Township Committee person is a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The Township Open Space Advisory Board offers a monthly hike on Township trails. Over the years, participation has increased to 30 a hike. A sample announcement is included. 2a. Well and Septic systems. 80% of the Township residents are on private well and septic systems. The Township Board of Health (BOH) is responsible for overall promotion and adoption of current best practices working with Hunterdon County. In addition, BOH is responsible for the approval of septic tank installations and reviews 50 or so applications each year. 2b. The Environmental Commission in conjunction with Raritan Headwaters Association, conducts well water testing program. Over 300 sample are tested yearly for land owner information. For seniors, in addition to Readington developed programs, all senior residents receive "Seasoned Years" quarterly from the Hunterdon County Senior Center with a schedule of classes. See Attached "HC Classes". 25% of participants are from Readington

Township.

PDF: [PARKS AND RECREATION WEBPAGE](#)

IMAGE: [PROGRAM NOTICES](#)

PDF: [TRAIL HIKE ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

EXCEL: [PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMS DATA](#)

PDF: [HC CLASSES](#)

WORD: [NEW PROGRAM EXAMPLES](#)

Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Places

10 Points

Program Summary: § 192-3 Adopted 7-18-2016 by Ord. No. 10-2016 Smoking prohibited; signs required. A. Smoking shall be prohibited in all municipal buildings as defined herein. No-smoking signs or the international no-smoking symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a diagonal red line through its cross section) shall be clearly, sufficiently and conspicuously posted at each municipal building entrance and within each closed area where smoking is prohibited by this section. The signs shall be clearly visible to the public and shall contain letters or a symbol which contrast in color with the sign, indicating that smoking is prohibited therein. The sign shall also indicate that violators are subject to a fine. B. Smoking shall be prohibited within a 35-foot radius of all entrances of all municipal buildings. No-smoking signs or the international no-smoking symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a diagonal red line through its cross section) shall be clearly, sufficiently and conspicuously posted both on the building and at the thirty-five-foot perimeter of all entrances of all municipal buildings where smoking is prohibited by this section. The signs shall be clearly visible to the public and shall contain letters or a symbol which shall also indicate that violators are subject to a fine. C. Smoking shall be prohibited in all public parks and recreation facilities owned or leased by Readington Township and all property owned or leased by Readington upon which the public is invited or upon which the public is permitted and where individuals gather for recreational activities, including all areas adjacent to such facilities, including, but not limited to, any parking area, driveway or drive aisle, which have been designated with no-smoking signs. No-smoking signs or the international no-smoking symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a diagonal red line through its cross section) shall be clearly, sufficiently and conspicuously posted in all areas regulated by this section. The signs shall be clearly visible to the public and shall contain letters or a symbol which contrasts in color with the sign, indicating that smoking is prohibited at the designated area. The sign shall also state that violators are subject to a fine. D. Smoking shall be prohibited in any municipal vehicle registered to the Township of Readington. (see attached "Ordinance Reference" (see attached "Sample no smoking signs" The Township does need to support any additional awareness to the dangers of smoking than what is available to the public through many media channels.

IMAGE: [SAMPLE NO SMOKING SIGN 1](#)

IMAGE: [ORDINANCE REFERENCE](#)

IMAGE: [SAMPLE NO SMOKING SIGN 2](#)

Innovative Projects

Innovative Community Project 1

10 Points

Program Summary: Ash Tree Mitigation Why was this program important? In 2016, members of the Open Space Board became aware of the threat of the emerald ash borer on the ash tree population in Readington Township. The township had programs for tree removal and other defensive programs, but never budgeted for any proactive tree management programs. Through the process of developing and implementing the Ash Tree Mitigation project, the Township Committee now has a formal budget for tree activity and a formal Tree Advisory Committee as a part of the Environmental Commission. A remarkable effort for an environment threat and sustaining the value of ash trees in the community. Do we have ash trees? In December and January 2016/17 14 resident volunteers were trained in ash tree identification. They were provided paper street maps on which to mark ash trees and their diameters. See attachment "Paper Map". As a result, after inventory of 85 miles of streets, the answer was "yes", about a 1000. With guidance from the New Jersey Community Forestry Department, see "Planning Tool" a presentation was made to the Township Committee for funding. See attachment "Interim Report". The Committee authorized funding to hire Raritan Valley Community College Environmental Studies program to do an all species street tree inventory, procure tree management software, and begin injection treatment of 100 ash trees that were determined based on size and value to the neighborhood to be saved. In addition, a boy scout offered to inventory trees in Township parks. See attachment "Park Inventory". By the end of 2018, 85% of the streets were inventoried, 87 ash trees were found and treated. In 2019, additional trees will be treated, some will be cut down and a planting replacement program initiated.

PDF: [PLANNING TOOL](#)

WORD: [INTERIM REPORT](#)

IMAGE: [PAPER MAP](#)

WORD: [PARK TREE PROPOSAL](#)

Innovative Community Project 2

10 Points

Program Summary: See attached "RHA Testimonial" For background on the the significance of the Township's participation, review the overall activity of the Raritan Headwaters Association (RHA) water testing program at: <https://www.raritanheadwaters.org/2016/06/09/groundwater-study/> RHA and Readington Township have had a strong partnership over 20 years to support programs to enhance environmental and sustainable activities. In particular, the Readington Environmental Commission (EC) recruits members for the RHA stream cleanup (see attached "Cleanup" and attached "Cleanup Data") to see the scope and results of the program. In addition, the EC runs sample pick-up locations in the evening and day to support the RHA well testing program. See Attached "Well Test" for details and information. This is a continuous annual activity. Over 80% of the Township are serviced by private wells. The data obtained allows homeowner to apply applicable remediation and allows RHA to provide critical data to the New Jersey DEP. In 2016, we tested 237 wells for coliform bacteria and nitrate, our "basic" annual kit (66 wells also tested for lead) In 2017, we had 218 basic (83 lead) In 2018, there were 161 basic (46 lead) See "Letter to Resident" for example of public notification and addition information provided. As persons pick up bottles they are given handouts and exchange comments with EC members. Public accesses a webpage where they select the time and location to pick up sample bottles. See Attached "Pick Up Schedule" Additional information is provided to the public via handouts and water supplier bill inserts. See attachment "Other information"

PDF: [CLEANUP](#)

PDF: [CLEANUP DATA](#)

IMAGE: [LETTER TO RESIDENT](#)

PDF: [RHA TESTIMONIAL](#)

IMAGE: [PICK UP SCHEDULE](#)

WORD: [OTHER INFORMATION](#)

Land Use & Transportation

Sustainable Land Use Pledge

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: See attachment "Sustainable Plan Use Documentation" This document was reviewed and supported by the Township Environmental Commission and the Planning Board in May 2019 meetings. The Township Committee Reaffirmed the Land Use Pledge in September, 2019. A Township Committee person is assigned to each commission and committee affected by the Land Use Pledge. Activities are monitored by the Township Environmental Commission and significant actions reported monthly and are available in meeting minutes.

PDF: [SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PLEDGE DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM](#)

Green Infrastructure Planning

10 Points

Program Summary: Readington Township recognizes that the long term management of the Township's streams cannot be achieved without increasing the awareness and the commitment of all the citizens and businesses and motivating all to work both individually and collectively to meet this goal. In order to establish a level of severity, the Environmental Commission (EC) worked with Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program to complete an analysis of impervious cover (See Attachment Impervious Cover Report). Scoring less than 10% was comforting but would not detract for the overall goal to continue to improve stream quality. In addition, flood risk was reviewed and Readington has no property in a flood plain. (See Flood Plan Map attached.). Our current storm water ordinance and environmental review process assure new development meets sustainable practices. See Attachment " Storm Water Ordinance." . Short term 5 year action plan beginning in 2016 is to maintain stream quality based on data collected by the Raritan Headwaters Association (see Attached "RHA Trend Line Report"), strong enforcement of the storm water ordinance, and the development of pilot projects demonstrating best management practice. To that end, two projects were initiated, Holland Brook School and the Buffalo Farm, Tier 1 Green Infrastructure Demonstration Projects. . The clear intention is that the Holland Brook School rain garden project will serve as a stimulus and example for similar (though smaller) projects on private property. The documentation will become part of an ongoing library of information available in the schools and the municipal government for educating new residents and new employees about the Township's commitment to clean water. The Buffalo Farm

(Readington River, LLC, Block 62, Lots 4 and 7) Design of a passive, vegetated agricultural BMP that will filter and attenuate runoff from adjacent pasture lands, while at the same time increasing the quality of the Pleasant Run riparian buffer which abuts the farm fields. . A detailed description of additional opportunities are listed in the attached "Reduction Action Plan" document for future funding. . The effective of these projects will be monitored and will provide demonstration to other adapters.

PDF: [IMPERVIOUS COVER ASSESSMENT](#)

WORD: [RHA TREND LINE](#)

WORD: [STORM WATER ORDINANCE](#)

IMAGE: [FLOOD PLAIN MAP](#)

PDF: [GREEN PROJECTS](#)

PDF: [RAP](#)

Green Infrastructure Implementation

10 Points

Program Summary: Beginning in 2015, the Readington Environmental Commission (EC) began to review the practices to control storm water. Working with Rutger's Water Resources Program, and Impervious Cover Assessment report (see attached) was prepared. Although the Township scored below the 10% threshold for concern, the EC concluded that there were still opportunity to study potential actions but most importantly, assure that nothing would contribute to increasing undesirable activities. Readington Township recognizes that the long term management of the Township's streams cannot be achieved without increasing the awareness and the commitment of all the citizens and businesses and motivating all to work both individually and collectively to meet this goal. Our current storm water ordinance and environmental review process assure new development meets sustainable practices. . Short term 5 year action plan beginning in 2016 is to maintain stream quality based on data collected by the Raritan Headwaters Association, strong enforcement of the storm water ordinance, and the development of pilot projects demonstrating best management practice. To that end, two projects were initiated, Holland Brook School and the Buffalo Farm, Tier 1 Green Infrastructure Demonstration Projects. Project 319H Watershed-Based Plan Implementation Grant. See Attached "Demonstration Projects" . The clear intention is that the Holland Brook rain garden project will serve as a stimulus and example for similar (though smaller) projects on private property. The documentation will become part of an ongoing library of information available in the schools and the municipal government for educating new residents and new employees about the Township's commitment to clean water. The Buffalo Farm (Readington River, LLC, Block 62, Lots 4 and 7) Design of a passive, vegetated agricultural BMP that will filter and attenuate runoff from adjacent pasture lands, while at the same time increasing the quality of the Pleasant Run riparian buffer which abuts the farm fields. The effective of these projects will be monitored and will provide demonstration to other adapters. . See Attachment "Buffalo Farm" and Attachment " Holland Brook" for details of these projects.

PDF: [IMPERVIOUS COVER ASSESSMENT](#)

WORD: [BUFFALO FARM](#)

PDF: [DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS](#)

WORD: [HOLLAND BROOK](#)

Local Economies

Support Local Businesses

10 Points

Program Summary: The Readington Business Association (RBA) was created in 2018. A list was developed by pulling together a list of all businesses in Readington that had a physical presence (like a storefront). The Mayor sent out 200 letters to these businesses inviting them to a meeting. The first meeting was in March of 2018. The group meets monthly. Third Wednesday of the month. One of the business owners stepped forward to organize the FaceBook page and email list notifications. The purpose of the RBA is for local businesses to communicate between each other and to have a communications channel between the Township Committee and the businesses. This is not an official charter nor an official leader, but there is a Readington Business Association FaceBook Group and an email list to send out notifications of meetings. Meetings are facilitated by a member of the Township Committee. Various people: (Sean Smith--fire official, Christina Schwartz--zoning officer, Michael Kovonuk--code enforcement, and Ron Monaco--Planning Board chair) have made presentations at RBA meeting. Other meetings have been more of a question and answer session with the businesses asking about recent events or how a certain process works. The main accomplishment is to establish communications with a group that has felt shunned and under appreciated by Readington for many years. Longer term their comments will have impacts on our Ordinances and possibly cause minor zoning changes. See attachment "Facebook"

IMAGE: [FACEBOOK](#)

WORD: [PROJECT](#)

Natural Resources

Wildlife Interaction Plan

10 Points

Program Summary: Readington Township covers over 48 square miles of which 30% is preserved open space and woodlands. A major threat to the Township is the high deer population. The attached "Deer Population Study" conducted by Raritan Valley Community College under the direction of the Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee indicates deer population of 130 deer per square mile, far in excess of the 10 deer per square mile sustainable standard. With increases in vehicle damage, Lyme disease and other factors, the Wildlife Advisory Subcommittee of the Environment Commission has made changes in the deer hunting program, changing emphasis from recreational hunting to managed hunting. A "Readington Township Deer Management History" is contained in the attachment below showing engagement with the New Jersey Fish and Game department, public communication and Township meetings. Our future forest will not exist unless the deer population is brought under control. The action to reduce the deer herd is another example of Readington Township's commitment to sustain our forests and public health. See "Plan" attached.

WORD: [READINGTON TOWNSHIP DEER MANAGEMENT HISTORY](#)

PDF: [DEER POPULATION STUDY READINGTON TOWNSHIP](#)

WORD: [DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

IMAGE: [READINGTON NEWS](#)

Natural Resource Inventory

20 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: The Readington Township ERI was prepared in 2002 by the Township's Environmental Commission (EC) and their consultant Princeton Hydro, LLC. Full access is found at the following URL: https://www.readingtontwpnj.gov/images/EC/2002_Readington_Final_ERI.pdf The 2002 ERI represented the first update of the Township's ERI since the late 1980s. For the Environmental Commission (EC) and Township Planning Board the ERI continues to be the baseline infrastructure catalog for on going review and analysis. Over time, various on-line resources have been adopted as aids to planning. See Attachments "NJ GeoWeb", "ChannelJ Webview" and "New Jersey Conservation Blue Print". These sources containing various overlays of streams, vernal pools, animal channels, population centers continue to add substance to the ERI. These tools are used by the Open Space Advisory Board for open space land evaluation and by the EC for site review. See "Master Plan Inclusion" in attached.

IMAGE: [NJ GEOWEB](#)

IMAGE: [CHANNELJ WEBVIEW](#)

IMAGE: [NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION BLUE PRINT](#)

WORD: [MASTER PLAN INCLUSION](#)

Environmental Commission

10 Points

Program Summary: The Ordinance establishing the Environmental Commission (EC) was adopted 9/2/1969 (Chapter 18) and can be found in the Township Code Book at the following URL: <https://www.ecode360.com/8745062> See attached "Township of Readington EC" The Environmental Commission continued its core responsibility of reviewing Planning Board and Board of Adjustment applications for items of environmental impact and to suggest consideration of sustainable practices in the design and construction of new projects. It also continued its work in education and awareness campaigns focusing on single stream recycling, water quality (including private well testing) and sustainability actions on lawn care (leave the clipping and the new NJ fertilizer laws) and recycling throughout the Township departments. It continued to partner with the Raritan Headwaters Association in Stream Monitoring, Stream Cleaning and Community Well Testing Programs. It participated in the School District Green Team and continued to contribute to the Township Green Team. It held open meetings for residents to learn about the impact of a natural gas pipeline expansion through the Township and worked with Tranco Pipeline Services to establish clear, ongoing communication with the Township during the work in 2016 - 2019. Other projects included rain barrel work shop and a demonstration to Township 3rd graders and water loss brushing teeth as part of water conservation awareness. The EC meets monthly and has a website (see attached "Website") where access to meetings agendas and minutes are posted in addition to timely information. In 2017 the EC obtained a 319H grant for projects focusing on point source water controls. In conjunction with Princeton Hydro, this has been a major effort which will continue into 2020. In February, 2019, the responsibilities of the EC were expanded to include subcommittees for Wildlife and Tree Management in the Township. The Township also folded the activities of the Green Team into the EC as a permanent program with the EC and liaison representatives from other Township Committees and Boards participating. See

attached "RHA Testimonial" as an example of the Readington Environmental Commission support of local programs. Meeting minutes are posted on the Township Website. No written annual report is prepared since the activities of the Commission are reported to the Township Committee at Township meetings by the Commission's Township Committee Liaison. See attachment for Website Listing of meetings and minutes. See attached "2018 EC Summary" for 2018 annual report.

PDF: [WEBSITE](#)

PDF: [RHA TESTIMONIAL](#)

IMAGE: [EC MINUTES POSTING](#)

PDF: [2018 EC SUMMARY](#)

PDF: [TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON EC](#)

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

Program Summary: Site plan reviews are conducted in coordination with the Township Planning. The Site Plan Review procedure and documentation can be found in the Township Code Book at the following URL: <https://www.ecode360.com/8741373> The checklist is included in the above Code reference in Attachment 4 - Checklist. A Sample of a checklist as part of the site plan review in attachment below "Environmental Checklist." Approvals of the Planning/Zoning Board: 2017 - 3 2018 - 4 2019 to date - 4 A sample "Approval Resolution" is included in attachments below.

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST](#)

PDF: [APPROVAL RESOLUTION](#)

Open Space Plans

10 Points

Program Summary: In 2018, the Open Space Component of the Township Master Plan was adopted and can be found on the Township Website: <https://www.readingtontwpnj.gov/images/PB/master-plan/2018-Amended-Final-Open-Space-Plan.pdf> Detail analysis and references to the Master Plan are contained in the attached "Detailed Submission Document". Acceptance by Planning Board in attached "Master Plan Approval" Public Participation. The Open Space Advisory Board agenda and minutes are public record making meetings available to interested parties. During the time the Board developed and reviewed the document, input were obtained. In addition, the Plan was present to the Township Committee for public comment prior to approval by the Planning Board.

PDF: [DETAILED SUBMISSION DOCUMENT](#)

PDF: [MASTER PLAN APPROVAL](#)

Water Conservation Education Program

10 Points

Program Summary: The Environmental Commission and the Township Green Team planned and delivered two water conservation education events in May of 2016. The first on May 16th was in conjunction with the Readington School District Spring Project Wet Festival in Pickle Park. 160 Third graders from two elementary schools attended the outdoor learning event where they saw demonstrations by the fire department, played games to learn more about stream aquatic life and to touch and learn from animals. Our booth was a dual bathroom sink where teams of students thought through the implications of leaving the tap water running while brushing their teeth. One group left the water running for two minutes, the other turned on the water only to wet the toothbrush and to rinse it and their mouths afterward. Students then calculated the water used in both cases and ran the math for their family for one year. When they realized that the “lost” water could easily fill a firetruck they were surprised. Each received a Sustainable Jersey Readington Water Wizard membership card and a charge to share what they learned with others. The demonstration booth is portable and now available for other Township events. The second event - a Rain Barrel Workshop on May 22nd - was targeted to families and featured a presentation on stormwater by our partners at Raritan Headwaters Association. It was promoted through posters, website announcements and email to the ~Listserve. The session held at our Cushetunk Nature Preserve barn drew 18 people who built 13 barrels to take to their homes and begin the harvesting process. Feedback was very positive and another event will be scheduled in the near future. Even in a rural community like Readington learning more about managing the water flowing onto our properties and onto the downstream neighbors. The PowerPoint presentation enjoined lively conversation about the impact runaway water can have. Please see that attached files for examples of the handouts and the presentations. Shf.91016

WORD: [WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

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PDF: [WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

Clustering Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: Readington Township was a pioneer in its requirement for mandatory clustering in its rural residential zones, variations of which have been in place since 1988. The Township's current ordinances, last updated in June of 2009 and attached along with the minutes, mandate clustering of varying densities in residential zones as defined in Section 148 of the Land Development Ordinance. Each cluster has specific set asides for open space. The zoning in Readington's Special Resource Residential Zone (SRR), and in its Agricultural Residential Zone (AR), which collectively cover approximately 70% of Readington Townships 48 square miles, requires an 80% set aside of preserved open space, at a 10 acre and 8 acre residential gross density respectively. The Rural Residential zone, which makes up another 10% of Readington, mandates a 60% open space set-aside with a 5-acre residential gross density. The preserved open space that results from these residential clusters must be deed restricted to conservation and fenced from neighboring residential lands. Environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands and stream corridors, must be marked with signage informing residents that there shall be no disturbance of these lands. Specifications for each zone are outlined in the Township ordinances.

PDF: [ORDINANCE #19-2009](#)

PDF: [MINUTES ADOPTING ORD #19-2009](#)

Environmental Assessment Ordinance

10 Points

Program Summary: Readington Township requires that applicants seeking a major subdivision or a variance or, in some instances a minor subdivision or improvements, to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The analysis contained in this EIS includes an assessment of the specific property in question as well as specific features on adjoining properties which could be adversely affected by development. This Environmental Assessment is addressed in Section 148-102C(1)(e) of the Township's Land Development Ordinance.

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT](#)

PDF: [INITIAL EIS ORDINANCE & AMENDM](#)

PDF: [TWP CODE-LAND USE, EIS SECTION](#)

Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

Program Summary: The Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey State Forestry Service Approval No. 279, July 10, 2014, Certified the Township Community Forestry Management Plan. The Township going into 2019 has "Approved" status. In recognition of the value of community trees, the Township Committee in February, 2019, adopted the Tree Advisory Subcommittee of the Environmental Commission. Examples of the Community Forestry efforts and accomplishments are contained in the attached annual reports to the Community Forestry program. See "Approved Status" for documentation from NJUCF. Since approved, NJUCF has Forest Management Plan on file as part of being approved. Cover page is attached "Forest Management Plan"

PDF: [2018 COMMUNITY FORESTRY REPORT](#)

PDF: [2017 COMMUNITY FORESTRY REPORT](#)

PDF: [2018 ACCREDITATION REPORT](#)

IMAGE: [FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

Tree Hazard Inventory

10 Points

Program Summary: Beginning in 2018, Readington Township contracted with Raritan Valley Community College Environmental Studies Department to conduct and street tree inventory and hazard analysis. Data was collected and inputted into PlanitGeo software application. The inventory of the data can be found through the following URL. <https://pg-cloud.com/HCRreadington/> Opening the application allows for visual view of tree species by color and clicking on the tree local provide data on the tree. The hazard rating is included in the data tables. Examples are in the attached documents. With the guidance of the Environmental Commission and the Township Public Works Department, decisions on corrective action are planned and documented in the "Maintenance" field of the data base. The results of this effort has included the treatment of 86 ash trees from the emerald ash borer deleting the hazard posed by

these trees if they would die.

IMAGE: [PLANITGEO TREE HAZARD ANALYSIS DATABASE](#)

Tree Planting Programs

10 Points

Program Summary: Readington Township has been active in tree planting through the Tree Recovery program providing trees for residents to plant (including a tree for every 3rd grade student). The Township is pleased to have collaborated with the Raritan Headwaters Association for grants from “Roots for the River” program in riparian zones. See photos and support below: April 2015 Participated in the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign program by distributing 1200 trees and planting instruction and aids to Township residents. April 2016 Participated in the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign program by distributing 2300 trees and planting instruction and aids to Township residents, 400 trees to third grade elementary school students. April 2016 Additional seedlings were added to the nursery stock. Around 25 trees from the nursery stock were planted around trailhead kiosks on Cole Road, Summer Road, Stanton Mt. and along the River Trail and Lachenmayr Trail properties. April 2017 Participated in New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign. 2500 trees to residents, 300 trees to Readington Elementary Schools 3rd grade. Additional planting on Township trails from nursery stock. 2018 Department of Forestry Tree recovery program. 2000 trees to residents, 300 trees to Readington Elementary Schools 3rd grade. Additional planting on Township trails from nursery stock. Working with Raritan Headwaters Association and AmeriCorp, 300 trees were planted on a flood plain of the Pleasant Run and 500 on a riparian zone of the Holland Brook with a grant from “Roots for the River”. Over 50 residents and students participated in the latter two projects. Grant application for Root for the River is included in the attachments below. Additional trees were planted on Township trails from stock from the Township tree nursery.

IMAGE: [THIRD GRADE STUDENTS AND THEIR TREES](#)

PDF: [ANNOUNCING TREE PLANTING PROJECT](#)

PDF: [SELECTED TREE PLANTING ACTIONS](#)

PDF: [TREE PLANTING ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

PDF: [ROOTS FOR RIVERS PROJECT APPLICATION](#)

Public Information & Engagement

Digitizing Public Information

10 Points

Program Summary: In 2018 Readington Township did a master overhaul of the Township Website to maximize availability of all information to residents. The communications strategy is to drive all eyes to the website. Home Page can be found: <https://www.readingtontwpnj.gov/home/> See attachment for “Home Page”. Digitized data can be downloaded or printed from the site. The Website provides: 1. Schedule of all committee meetings, agendas and minutes 2. Planning, Open Space, Farmland Preservation Master Plans and Revisions. 3. Posting of “Information of Interest”

by committees to residents. 4. Listing of Major, Township Committee Members, Committee Heads and how to contact. 5. Requests for information. 6. Forms for sign ups to community events, licenses, volunteer requests and permits. 7. Township Ordinances. See "Digitizing Public Information" checklist below RFP/RFQ Notice attached.

IMAGE: [HOME PAGE](#)

IMAGE: [RFP/RFQ](#)

WORD: [DIGITIZING PUBLIC INFORMATION CHECKLIST](#)

Waste Management

Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

Program Summary: In 2016 Readington Township Police Department permanently installed a prescription drug collection and disposal drop box with 24/7 access at the entrance to the Police Department at the Township offices on Route 523 in Whitehouse Station. The program was and continues to be promoted through local news outlets, the Township Newsletter and on the Township website and in conjunction with Hunterdon County drop awareness programs. The following link to the Police Department page provides more information:
<http://www.readingtonpolice.com/2014-03-28-drug-disposal-box> Update 2019: Readington participates with Hunterdon County Sheriff's office in this program. Containers from Readington are transferred to the County which then transfers to the United States Drug Enforcement agency. Sample dates of transfer and quantities are as follows: August 9, 2019: One bag totaling 23lbs. July 25, 2019: One bag totaling 16lbs. July 15, 2019: One bag totaling 20lbs. June 14, 2019: One bag totaling 20lbs. May 23, 2019: One bag totaling 23lbs. May 6, 2019: two bags totaling 26lbs.

IMAGE: [PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAFETY AND DISPOSAL BOX READINGTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING](#)

IMAGE: [HUNTERDON COUNTY DRUG DROPBOX LOCATIONS AND WEBSITE](#)

IMAGE: [PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL](#)

Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

Program Summary: Readington Township Residents participate in the Hunterdon County IDENT-A-SHRED program. See attached announcement "2019 Shredding Days". Readington Township provides a link to the County site to notify residents. See attached "Readington Link" During 2017 the County collected 43,400 lbs. During 2018 the County collected 49,320 lbs. The County does not record participant municipal affiliation. In addition, once per year, the township contracts for onsite shredding of Municipal documents.

PDF: [2019 SHREDDING DAYS](#)

IMAGE: [READINGTON LINK](#)

Recycling Depot

10 Points

Program Summary: Readington Township has had a successful and aggressive Recycling Depot Program since 2005. The Recycling Depot is located on the Township Public Works yard on Mountain Road in Whitehouse Station, NJ. Dedicated 30 yard containers have been designated for newspaper, magazines and junk mail, cardboard and co-mingled bottles/cans/plastic containers. Additionally containers are available for recycling of consumer electronics, metal, automobile tires and brush/tree debris. Hours of operation were 7AM to 4PM Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings until 12:00 Noon. It aggressively promotes all Hunterdon County Hazardous Waste Collection Days held twice each year. For the most recent yearly report to the State of New Jersey the Resident Recycling Depot results showed 492 tons of materials collected at the Recycling Depot. (See attached "Report" In January of 2012 the Township introduced a Pay-As-You-Go residential trash collection program through our contract vendor Republic Services. As part of that program each resident was provided with a 90 gallon wheeled container to collect recyclable newspaper, magazines, junk mail, co-mingled bottles/cans/plastic containers and cardboard. By the end of 2012 the amount of curbside residential recycling had increased nearly four fold; residential trash collection decreased by nearly 30%. As a result of the success of the curbside recycling collection program the Township has adjusted its Recycling Depot plan. Effective July of 2013 the Depot will be open weekdays and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. The Depot will concentrate on recycling for metals, consumer electronics, white goods, tires, and brush/tree debris. Residents will now use curbside recycling for all other materials. The Township will continue to promote best recycling practices through the dedicated Recycling pages of the Township website, via email lists to residents and with the Environmental News Kiosk located in the Recycling Depot. See attached "Readington Services" See attached "Hunterdon County Services" See attached "Readington Curbside" See attached "Photos of Depot"

WORD: [REPORT](#)

: [READINGTON SERVICES](#)

: [HUNTERDON COUNTY SERVICES](#)

: [READINGTON CURBSIDE](#)

WORD: [PHOTOS OF DEPOT](#)

Pay-As-You-Throw Program

10 Points

Program Summary: Readington Township has had a Pay-As-You-Throw Residential Waste Program since 1989. The simplest and most economic alternative is Tag The Bag. This system requires a \$1.00 sticker to be applied to each garbage bag (or up to 25 pounds in a container) set at the curbside for collection each week. Stickers are easily accessible at local grocery stores. (See attached photo). This container is for non-recyclables. In 2012 the Township introduced curbside recycling for recyclables via a provided 92 gallon rolling cart for each residence. The large size of the dedicated container, the ease of getting it to the curb for collection and the aggressive communications and education program accompanying the introduction. (See in attached photo). This service is included in resident taxes and has essentially 100% participation. Collection is every two weeks. Instructions for the program are located on the Township website URL: <https://www.readingtontwpnj.gov/curbside-recycling>

WORD: [CONTAINER SAMPLE PHOTOS](#)

