



# Sustainable Jersey Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey Certification Report of Ridgefield Park Village, a Sustainable Jersey silver certified applicant.

Silver Certification 2020 Silver Certification 2021 Silver Certification 2022 Silver Certification 2023 Silver Certification 2024

## Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey contact for Ridgefield Park Village is:

Name:	WANDA PORTORREAL
Title/Position:	SUSTAINABLE RIDGEFIELD PARK COMMISSIONER / VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
Address:	234 MAIN STREET RIDGEFIELD PARK, NJ 07660
Phone:	6462090326

## Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Ridgefield Park Village was approved for in 2020 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

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#### Establish a Creative Team

10 Points

**Program Summary:** On 5/25/17 at the regular meeting of the Green Team a motion was made and unanimously passed to form a Creative Team for Ridgefield Park. The team is organized and aided by an Arts Committee of the Green Team and the Ridgefield Park Arts Association. The Arts Committee has at least 3 members who are also on the Creative Team but the Creative Team will have at least 5 and have more members than just from the Green Team. At this point there are 38 members of the Creative Team. Members have a one year term. In 2019 the Northern New Jersey

Community Foundation was engaged to help the Village write a public arts master plan. The Foundation's process enhanced the creative team and a list of members is attached. Together with the Arts Association, the Green Team is actively engaged in several projects to increase the presence of public art. Past and current projects include musical concerts, a master level dance class, a garden sculpture in McGowan Park, downtown art walks, a mural in Vogt Park, an outdoor arts festival (Summer Arts Fest), an art exhibit in the municipal building and a Master Plan for Public Art.

**PDF:** [MINUTES OF PUBLIC ARTS MEETINGS](#)

**IMAGE:** [SUMMER ARTS FEST FLYER](#)

**EXCEL:** [CREATIVE TEAM ROSTER - 2019](#)

**WORD:** [LINKS TO SLIDESHOWS OF ART FEST, SCULPTURE](#)

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## Creative Assets Inventory

10 Points

**Program Summary:** In preparation for working with the Northern New Jersey Community Foundation to create a Public Arts Master Plan an update of the Creative Assets Inventory was done. The inventory was completed by interviews of long time village residents, research at the municipal library which included working with the library's historian, a book on village history and internet searches. The village website has a note under the Green Team asking people to send information/assets they think should be on the inventory. Stake Holders for this project are Guillermo Lopez-Acosta - Pastor & Green Team, Janet Malool - Education & Green Team, Giselle Holloway - Business Leader & Ridgefield Park Arts Association, Mark Olson - Green Team, Planning Board & Ridgefield Park Arts Association & Leslie Olson - Green Team & Community Garden. To continue gathering information a new survey has been created by the Northern New Jersey Community Foundation. The survey is online at Survey Monkey and posted through village social media with Facebook groups like Ridgefield Park Moms, You've Got a Friend in Ridgefield Park and Ridgefield Park Community Garden. Public Arts Champions (Creative Team) meetings have been conducted by Northern New Jersey Community Foundation/Arts Bergen. Creative Assets Inventory has been updated and meeting notes are attached. Ridgefield Park Arts association continues to identify creative assets and will hold the next meeting of the Public Arts Champions in January 2020.

**PDF:** [CREATIVE ASSETS MAP](#)

**WORD:** [PUBLIC ARTS CHAMPTIONS - MEETING 1](#)

**WORD:** [PUBLIC ARTS CHAMPTIONS - MEETING 3](#)

**EXCEL:** [CREATIVE ASSETS INVENTORY](#)

**WORD:** [PUBLIC ARTS CHAMPTIONS - MEETING 4](#)

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## Utilizing Your Creative Assets

30 Points

**Program Summary:** On June 15th the first Ridgefield Park Summer Arts Fest was held. The purpose of the event was to showcase local art and artists of all types and support our local restaurants. Featured performers were residents/groups such as Angeles Guerreros De Dios, Joe Kenney, Joe Lustica, Larry Umaña, Latin Evening Ensemble/RP Presbyterian Church, & Spotlight Performing Arts Academy. Summer Arts Fest was run by the Ridgefield Park Arts Association with

financial support from the Green Team via a \$2,000 grant from PSE&G. Logistics and other support was provided by the Ridgefield Park Department of Public Works and Police Department. As part of the Summer concert series run by the village, residents Angel Feliciano, Larry Umana & Joe Kenny performed. Concerts are at the McGowan Park gazebo and free to the public. A mural was painted on a temporary construction fence where a new building is being constructed on main street. The Ridgefield Park Arts Association did the project. Village Artists Jocelyn Garcia and Rafael Guadalupe were among the artists who painted sections of the mural.

**PDF:** [2019 SUMMER ARTS FEST FLYER](#)

**IMAGE:** [2019 CONCERTS IN THE PARK SERIES - MCGOWAN PARK](#)

**PDF:** [COMMISSIONERS' CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 20, 2019](#)

**PDF:** [SUMMER ARTS FEST 2019](#)

**WORD:** [SUMMER CONCERT SERIES 2019](#)

**IMAGE:** [TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION MURAL - MAIN STREET](#)

## Community Partnership & Outreach

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### Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required

**Program Summary:** The Green Team was formed in 2016 and represents a cross-section of friends and neighbors who have come together to promote sustainability and educate our community about the different projects underway in the Village of Ridgefield Park. We intend to find opportunities to work with residents, businesses and the village to cost effectively reduce our impact on the environment through conservation and increased use of green energy options. In 2019 the Green Team saw the first piece of public art installed in one of the Community Gardens as well as murals created by high school students installed in two parks while helping to create an arts district in the village and many other projects. . In 2020, the Green Team hopes to see the addition of a Master Plan for Public Art as well as continue to work on educating the public about living a greener and more sustainable lifestyle. The Green Team also plans to continue being very involved with the Bergen County HUB. The Green Team began efforts to recycle more than the mandated items by recycling crayons, plastic bags, EPS Styrofoam as some examples. The Green team was Recertified Bronze Level in December 2019 and is very close to achieving Silver Certification, which should happen in 2020.

**PDF:** [RIDGEFIELD PARK GREEN TEAM RESOLUTION](#)

**PDF:** [GREEN TEAM LETTER 2020](#)

**WORD:** [GREEN TEAM ROSTER 2020](#)

**WORD:** [GREEN TEAM 2019 ANNUAL REPORT](#)

**WORD:** [GREEN TEAM PLAN 2020](#)

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## Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

**Program Summary:** To increase the response rate and to educate the public about what the census is and why it is important to complete as well as remind people to complete the census and reach the harder to count population. Social media, websites, fliers, reverse 911 (reaches 8500 numbers), email blasts from the Village, electronic school distribution, church websites and FB pages, police dept. FB page, members FB pages, weekly podcasts by the Mayor during covid-19 updates, mailings to apartment buildings so messages could be posted on bulletin boards in lobbies, emails to first responders, sports rosters, civic/public organizations were all used to remind people to complete their census forms. English and Spanish fliers were used to reach the hard to count population. The GT will not know if this increased responses from residents until the Census Bureau informs the Village Clerk of the response rate. Census 2020 has the additional challenge of people dealing with stress from the covid-19 situation when the census was received by households so the reminders might have been very helpful and needed this year. A planned Census Kiosk at the public library was not able to be utilized once covid-19 restrictions were in place so the GT had to rely on email and voicemails for requests for assistance.

**WORD:** [COMMUNITY EDUCATION - ONLINE OR PRINT INITIATIVE CHECKLIST - CENSUS 2020](#)

**WORD:** [ENGLISH & SPANISH CENSUS 2020 FLIER/POST USED](#)

**PDF:** [EXAMPLES OF CENSUS 2020 OUTREACH EFFORTS](#)

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## Green Fair

10 Points

**Program Summary:** On May 11 the Ridgefield Park Green Team and the Bogota Green Team sponsored a Green Fair from 10:00am – 5:00pm at Riverside Park, 24 Industrial Avenue, Ridgefield Park, NJ in conjunction with the Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission's Earth Day. Attendees were encouraged to carpool, walk, jog or bike to the event. A detailed schedule of the day's events are uploaded. Over 70 families attended and some participated in composting demonstrations. Also present were Department of Public Works Reduce, Reuse, Recycle information kiosk, Bergen County Mosquito Control with an exhibit, Rutgers Bergen County Cooperative Extension provided gardening information and advice. Ridgefield Park Grammar Schools were represented with their recycling poster projects. Education on EPS styrofoam, plastic bag and crayon recycling as well as reusable bags was added. Reusable straws were given away. Free milkweed seeds were given out. Participants that signed a pledge to use a reusable bag were given a free bag.

**PDF:** [HOLD A GREEN FAIR DOCUMENTATION](#)

**WORD:** [GREEN FAIR STREET SIGNAGE](#)

**WORD:** [GREEN FAIR QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT](#)

**IMAGE:** [MAY 2019 GREEN TEAM BOOTH](#)

**PDF:** [MAY 2019 FLYER](#)

**IMAGE:** [2019 SCHOOL RECYCLING POSTERS](#)

## Diversity & Equity

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### Lead Education & Outreach Programs

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Ridgefield Park Health Department handles lead education outreach for the Village. Education focuses around hazards of lead paint, lead paint exposure for children/pregnant women as well as safe lead paint removal. The Village website ([www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org)) has information for residents wishing to learn about the dangers of lead in homes listing links to [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) and [www.cdc.gov/lead](http://www.cdc.gov/lead). The Health Dept. page of the website lists info on the Bergen County Childhood Lead Program offering free screenings to all families who are interested. Children are exposed to lead from different sources such as paint, cosmetics, certain foods, water, dust, soil, and time spent in a home built before 1978. (Info on website - uploaded). A flyer on free lead screenings is uploaded. ([www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org)) A lead remediation pamphlet is available in the Board of Health office as well as online. (uploaded). Info on Lead Poisoning & Hazards is available online on the Board of Health page of [www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org). (info uploaded) The Environmental Commission & Green Team makes this information available to everyone that visits the website, electronically distributes the info to the schools and also distributes at public events such as the annual Earth Day/Green Fair or Street Fair held every September.

**PDF:** [LEAD REMEDIATION PAMPHLET](#)

**PDF:** [CHILD LEAD SCREENING](#)

**PDF:** [FREE CHILD LEAD SCREENING](#)

**PDF:** [LEAD POISONING INFO](#)

**WORD:** [LEAD POISONING & HAZARDS HEALTH DEPT. WEBSITE INFO WWW.RIDGEFIELDPARK.ORG](#)

## Emergency Management

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### Emergency Communications Planning

15 Points

**Program Summary:** The Main Communications Center is Police Headquarters, 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park, NJ with a Backup Center a 50 Main Street. The Village of Ridgefield Park uses a variety of methods to keep residents informed using Reverse 911, NIXLE, Social Media and Message Boards. A Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) exists which manages Information Centers in each section of the Village to receive up to the minute information via portable radios from the Emergency Operations Center during an event. Our OEM office distributes updates to the special needs listing to the police department highlighting medical conditions, issues, special concerns of the population. The Village uses the quarterly Village Newsletter to solicit updated information from residents. OEM and/or CERT participates at Volunteer night, Earth Day/ Green Fair, Back to School nights and school functions as part of the outreach plan. The Village website <http://www.ridgefieldpark.org/files> provides guidance for hurricane preparedness and overall emergency management. Our outreach also includes reissuing our letter with visits scheduled to the Civic Center housing our Senior Citizens programs, as well as 278 Main Street & 265 Main Street where some of our special needs adults reside. In addition, we reach out to three group homes with 24-hour counselors who insure that all special needs for those residents are captured and provided to the Emergency Operations contact annually.

**IMAGE:** [RP OEM. ON VILLAGE WEBSITE](#)

**IMAGE:** [FACEBOOK PAGE RP OEM](#)

**IMAGE:** [EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SIGN UP](#)

**PDF:** [EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS WS SJ 2020](#)

WORD: [OEM COMMUNICATIONS LETTER](#)

WORD: [VILLAGE NEWSLETTER](#)

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## Vulnerable Populations Identification for Emergencies

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Office of Emergency Management of Ridgefield Park has developed a village wide Special Needs Registry. The police department and the OEM keep lists of all residents who have special needs and encourage everyone who has special need situations to register. In addition, our school district has a special needs list of our autistic population which is also shared with our Police department and OEM. Information and registration forms can be found on the village website, village newsletter and at specific locations in the village. These lists are updated yearly. Our emergency services and CERT have been engaged to identify and assist when necessary.

PDF: [SPECIAL NEEDS FORM](#)

WORD: [VULNERABLE POPULATION CHECK LIST](#)

WORD: [NEWLETTER ARTICLE](#)

## Energy

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### Energy Tracking & Management

20 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** Ridgefield Park has undertaken to track energy usage for municipally owned buildings. A energy tracking and management worksheet is attached.

EXCEL: [ENERGY TRACKING AND MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET](#)

WORD: [MUNICIPAL PERFORMANCE](#)

## Food

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### Community Gardens

20 Points

**Program Summary:** Ridgefield Park Community Garden was officially opened in April 2017. Now in season 4, there are 2 village-owned locations for those who wish to garden. One is at McGowan

Park which is on Bergen Turnpike and the other location is in Fellowship Park on Bergen Ave and Hobart Street. Our gardeners also maintain the food pantry garden run by St. Francis of Assisi Church located on Mt. Vernon Street for residents in need of within the Village Community. We have 50 gardeners. The estimated cost of the gardens is \$8,000 and approximately 500 hours is spent on maintenance and improvement. The day to day running of both the Fellowship and McGowan locations is coordinated by the community garden oversight committee. This committee which consists of three gardeners, reports to the Commissioner of Public Works. We had a late start due to the pandemic this year. We created a specific protocol to ease everyone back in and to ensure social distancing and adhere to the Governor's requirements for outdoor gatherings as well as our as added suggestions from our commissioners. More recently, we were impacted by tropical storm Isaias. It took down a large tree at one location, impacting several public plots and a few private plots. At our other location, we had a small tree come down impacting one gardener's plot and out shed toppled over. Luckily, minor repairs were needed. The gardeners are expected to maintain their plot and the overall care of the garden. Both locations have sheds and access to running water. The DPW mows the lawn surrounding the outer ring at McGowan and will deliver mulch and soil as requested. At Fellowship, we have grass inside and surrounding the garden. The gardeners take care of mowing inside but the DPW does the edging of our public plots when they do the rest of the park. They also pick up yard waste once a week as well as garbage. The gardeners primarily maintain the gardens through group work sessions. The vegetables grown in the public plots (perimeter of each garden) are shared with the village residents and the food pantry. The gardens have created an opportunity for community members of diverse backgrounds to meet, work, and collaborate with others who have similar interests. We maintain chemical-free gardens and encourage natural methods of fertilizing and insect control. The community garden concept is supported by our Mayor and Commissioners, and our DPW. Available plots are typically advertised in our village newsletter, municipal announcement board, banners at both locations, on Facebook pages, and on the village website. Applications are available on our website as well as in the municipal building and library. A closed group Facebook page is maintained for our gardeners to share pictures, garden updates, growing tips, recipes, plus general announcements. Meetings reminders are posted there as well as emailed to our gardeners. The meeting dates attached.

**WORD: [RP COMMUNITY GARDEN SUPPORTING DOCS](#)**

**PDF: [RPCG RULES AND APPLICATION 2020.PDF](#)**

**PDF: [CG WORK AND MEETING DATES AND SET OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING](#)**

**WORD: [SUMMARY WORKSHEET](#)**

**WORD: [ORGANIC CONTROL OF INSECTS FROM FACE BOOK PAGE FILE](#)**

**WORD: [PRODUCE DONATIONS 2020 AND SIGNAGE](#)**

## Health & Wellness

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### Building Healthier Communities

25 Points

**Program Summary:** Mayors Wellness Campaign signed, Resolution passed. Board of Recreation - bowling, basketball, cheerleading, acting classes, tennis, softball, lessons, clinics. Senior Center - yoga, Zumba, dancing, lunch, BP screening, speakers. Rising Sun - martial arts academy helping all ages learn to defend themselves. Jiu Jitsu, karate, ladies' cardio kick boxing, boot camp. Free training to police officers. <http://risingsunacademy.net/> Board of Health - flu shots for employees; Hep B shots for firefighters; well-baby clinic; rabies vaccine; handouts. Police Dept.: • checks car

seats • safe use of bicycle helmets • Junior Police Academy Program physical conditioning/training; first aid, DWI Presentation • OPERATION TAKE BACK NEW JERSEY PROGRAM – proper medication disposal • Babysitting Class • Law Enforcement Against Drugs Program. Utilizing Too Good for Drugs curriculum reinforcing skills to empower students to lead safe, healthy lives; setting goals; building positive relationships; effectively communicating; resisting peer pressure; information about consequences of drug use, drug related crimes, bullying, violence and benefits of drug-free, nonviolent lifestyle • Fitness room Library - health/wellness programs Environmental Commission: • Bat Walk – education on bats; how they help control mosquito population. • Nature Preserve – trails underway and wildlife - walk, jog, bike - just get back to nature, right in our own backyard! • Village Leaders Walks • Fishing Derby. • Earth Day/Green Fair Community Garden Members: • work outdoors • learn gardening • demonstrations/ lectures • maintain public plots & picking days so all enjoy fresh healthy vegetables • maintain plots donating fresh food to food pantry. Municipal pool - swim, lessons, swim team. Summer recreation camp: • outdoor play • evening program - Teens & Adults • weight room, basketball courts, volleyball courts available Neighborhood parks: • outdoor exercise, walking, jogging, sports, kayaking, canoeing • outdoor track lit until 10:00 p.m. attracting walkers • added bike paths promoting biking Village sports available: soccer, baseball, wrestling, football, men's softball St. Francis Church - Health Fair scheduled Oct. 20, 2018. [www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org) for Village info.

**PDF: [MWC PLEDGE & RESOLUTION](#)**

**PDF: [YOUTH POPULATION SUBMISSION FORM & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION](#)**

**PDF: [SENIORS POPULATION SUBMISSION FORM & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION](#)**

**PDF: [EMPLOYEES POPULATION SUBMISSION FORM & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION](#)**

**PDF: [ENTIRE COMMUNITY POPULATION SUBMISSION FORM & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION](#)**

## **Innovative Projects**

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### **Innovative Community Project 1**

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** The purpose of the Welcome Packet is to provide all new homeowners and renters of the Village of Ridgefield Park a guide to all the Village has to offer. The packet is a resource filled with: 1.) A brief History of the Village 2.) Amenities of the Village 3.) Organizations that make our Village special 4.) Ways a resident can get involved 5.) Additional Important Information The goal is that with this Welcome Packet, a new resident can feel just a little bit more at home. With every new initiative that is added to the village, the Welcome Packet will be updated accordingly. In order to continue with our sustainability approach, the Welcome Packet is placed on the village website. This way, every resident of the Village will always have the most up-to-date version of the Welcome Packet.

**PDF: [A WELCOME PACKET FOR HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS](#)**

**PDF: [WELCOME PACKET SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.PDF](#)**

**PDF: [RP RECYCLING PORTION OF WELCOME PACKET.PPTX.PDF](#)**

## **Local Economies**

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## Green Business Recognition Program

10 Points

🏅 Bronze Priority 🏅 Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The Green Team continues to implement the actions of the New Jersey Sustainable Business Registry during 2019. We have 7 businesses who are committed where their business has completed 3 - 5 actions and are registered and recognized by the village. Once the business owner is interviewed and the village survey is completed, reviewed and approved, the business owner receives a seal that signifies the business is recognized by the village. We will pursue Leadership level commitment through the NJSBR with these additional businesses who wish to obtain this level and that have been village recognized. At 2019 Earth Day/Green Fair event we announced our certified businesses and published an article in the village newsletter a copy of which is in supporting documents. The Qualifications and Actions spreadsheet details the businesses, dates of recognition and what they do to be recognized.

PDF: [PROGRAM WEBSITE SCREEN SHOT](#)

EXCEL: [RIDGEFIELD PARK BUSINESSES QUALIFICATIONS AND ACTIONS](#)

PDF: [NEWSLETTER ARTICLE JUNE 2019](#)

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## Natural Resources

### Environmental Commission

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Environmental Commission is committed to making the Ridgefield Park community more sustainable in a variety of ways, including but not limited to a drug take back program, community garden project, regular weeding meetings at our Nature Preserve, partnering with our Historic Preservation Commission to install recycling containers in our business district, Green Business program, crayon recycling, Styrofoam recycling, Bring Your Own Bag give-aways and education on cleaning your reusable bags, reusable straw give-aways, as well as progress in the work done on the Nature Preserve and Nature Trail.

WORD: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2019](#)

WORD: [ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ROSTER 2020](#)

WORD: [ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING EC](#)

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### Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission has taken a more active role in reviewing applications before the Planning/Zoning Board and voicing opposition to plans

that would be a quality of life issue and negatively impact the environment. Since 2018, the EC has received approximately 15 cases/applications to review. (list uploaded) Re: 53 Bergen Tpke - Development of Multi-Unit Dwellings. Attached is a letter from the EC to the Board of Commissioners where the EC highly recommended that the Commissioners advise the Zoning Board to deny this application based on the variances required and to aggressively pursue the purchase of this property to address upcoming CSO State required improvements in the near future. This advice was taken by the BOC. The past year the EC has begun adopting resolutions supporting their position on different applications/issues. (Uploaded). The EC has also gone to public meetings to voice their opinion on different cases. As far as the resolution adopted and speaking at the public meeting in opposition to Area II of Overpeck Park, it was successful and the proposed Dino Park did not get approved after many public comments. There are two current applications that the EC will be sending in a letter as well as appearing at a public meeting to voice opposition to a proposed application for development. The EC also reviews various permits from the DEP such as waterfront development, fresh water wetlands applications and voices its opinion on these as well by sending letters to various levels of government as well as attending meetings to speak in support of the EC's opinion on development and projects that would negatively impact the environment.

**WORD: EC ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

**WORD: EXCERPTS OF NOTICES RECEIVED AND ACTIONS TAKEN**

**WORD: LETTER TO FREEHOLDER RE: SAVING BALD EAGLE "FORAGING" TREES IN OVERPECK COUNTY PARK**

**PDF: LETTERS IN OPPOSITION - 53 BERGEN TPKE & APP FOR FRESHWATER WETLANDS PERMIT - OVERPECK SHORELINE**

**WORD: LETTER ENCLOSING RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO DEVELOPMENT OF AREA II IN OVERPECK COUNTY PARK**

**WORD: RESOLUTION OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF THE NORTH BERGEN LIBERTY GENERATING GAS-FIRED POWER PLANT**

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## **Tree Hazard Inventory**

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** Ridgefield Park has a current tree hazard inventory for every street tree in the village. Trees are rated according to the severity of the damage or threat to a given tree. An outside consultant was used to custom-design and performed the survey. The DPW is provided with a list of high priority trees that require pruning or removal. In an emergency when there is a potentially hazardous situation the tree is removed immediately. In a non-critical situation the tree is scheduled for action. The property owner is notified by the Shade Tree Commission and informed of action that will be taken. 2018 Shade Tree Commission Work Plan details the trees removed, planted and pruned. In 2019, work is underway to identify and evaluate trees in parks and other public properties (school grounds) for action.

**PDF: TREE HAZARD MANAGEMENT SECTION OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**PDF: 2018 SHADE TREE COMMISSION ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

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## **Tree Maintenance Programs**

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** Ridgefield Park has used a tree maintenance program since the inception of the Shade Tree Commission in 1979. Tree maintenance is included as part of the Shade Tree

Commission's annual budget. The Shade Tree Commission uses a baseline inventory, ongoing inventory updates and additional information to keep current what is known about the public tree population. A combination of resources from the DPW and two outside arborists are used to complete the maintenance tasks which may require highly specialized equipment or skills. Any street plantings under power lines are now smaller trees to avoid conflicts with electric wires.

**PDF:** [TREE MAINTENANCE SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

**PDF:** [2018 SHADE TREE COMMISSION ANNUAL WORK PLAN](#)

**PDF:** [PUBLIC TREE ASSESSMENT AND CANOPY COVER](#)

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## Tree Planting Programs

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Shade Tree Commission of the Village of Ridgefield Park develops and implements an annual tree planting plan. Since 1979 we have had an active tree planting and replacement program, always looking for opportunities for additional canopy cover. The Commission has committed to achieving a 27% tree cover goal over the next decade. The planting program is accomplished using a combination of volunteers and Department of Public Works municipal employees. .

**PDF:** [RIDGEFIELD PARK TREE COVER GOAL RESOLUTION](#)

**EXCEL:** [2017 TREE PLANTING LIST](#)

**PDF:** [2017 TREE PLANTING INVOICE](#)

## Operations & Maintenance

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### Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution \*Retired 12/31/23\*

5 Points

**Program Summary:** On November 19th 2020 the Village of Ridgefield Park adopted a Green Purchasing Policy. Resolution is attached/uploaded.

**PDF:** [RESOLUTION 2020-147 GREEN PURCHASING POLICY.PDF](#)

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## Recycled Copy Paper

10 Points

**Program Summary:** Paper with a minimum 30% post-consumer content is fully adopted in the Village of Ridgefield Park departments: Clerk's office, Building Department, Municipal Court, Welfare Department and Police Department. The Clerk's Office coordinates supply orders. All requests for paper are funneled through that office to insure that the departments are using

paper with 30% post-consumer content. The scanned documentation confirms that recycled paper is in use as stated above with 30% post-consumer content. Attached are the 2019 Office Universe Invoice 2 order and the 2020 Office Universe Invoice 1 order.

PDF: [2019 OFFICE UNIVERSE INVOICE 2.PDF](#)

PDF: [2020 OFFICE UNIVERSE INVOICE 1](#)

## Sustainability & Climate Planning

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### Community Asset Mapping

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Village of Ridgefield Park community assets information is captured on a spreadsheet and categorized by type of entity with contact information as appropriate and available. It is on our Village Website for the general population to use. Significant challenges to accomplish this were time, resources and people. The community asset log was built by volunteers who walked the town and verified information by doing Internet searches. The log was supplemented using the Creative Assets Inventory process as a resource. The Public Arts Champions (Creative Arts Team) use this information when deciding which areas of the Village will be focused on for Public Art projects.

WORD: [RECAP - MEETING 1](#)

WORD: [RECAP - MEETING 3](#)

EXCEL: [RP COMMUNITY ASSETS SPREADSHEET](#)

WORD: [RECAP - MEETING 4](#)

## Waste Management

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### Prescription Drug Safety & Disposal

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority

**Program Summary:** The Village of Ridgefield Park conducts two annual drug take-back events. The next drug take-back event will be scheduled in October, 2019 and the drop off location is the Police Department Headquarters at 234 Main Street physically inside the department's offices. Flyer is distributed and displayed at Lombardi towers, Marlboro house, senior building, 7-11, IGA, CVS, post office, as well as the eight doctors offices within the village. Information is also placed in the village website calendar, the pba Facebook page, and a NIXLE message is distributed prior to the event. May, 2019 event secured 48 pounds of drugs delivered to the DEA.

IMAGE: [234 MAIN STREET POLICE DEPARTMENT DROP OFF LOCATION](#)

PDF: [OCTOBER 2019 FLYER](#)

PDF: [MAY 2019 FLYER](#)

PDF: [MAY 2019 RECEIPT FROM DEA](#)

WORD: [VILLAGE CALENDAR SCREENSHOT](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY NIXLE MESSAGE OCTOBER, 2019](#)

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## Community Paper Shredding Day

5 Points

**Program Summary:** The Village of Ridgefield Park conducts two community paper shredding events annually, in April and October using an outside company. It is held on a Saturday between 9am - 1pm at the DPW Garage-24 Industrial Avenue, Ridgefield Park, NJ. where DPW employees assist residents to insure that only acceptable material is submitted for shredding. The event is publicized in the Village Newsletter, Village website, on 2 message boards one on Main Street and the 2nd on Industrial Avenue, plus shredding events are listed on the collection schedule delivered to homes each year. During 2018 the April and October event had over 70 people participating with 7 tons recycled. The April, 2019 even had 40 people bringing shredding material and 3.73 tons were recycled.

WORD: [2018 AND 2019 SHREDDING EVENTS TOWN WEBSITE](#)

PDF: [2019 DPW JAN-JUNE COLLECTION SCHEDULE](#)

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## Non-Mandated Materials Recycling

35 Points

**Program Summary:** The Green Team has partnered with the TREX corporation program to recycle plastic bags and plastic film. Collection sites are: high school, Lincoln School, IGA grocery store, This N That Hardware, public library, the First Presbyterian church and the recycling center at the Department of Public Works. Volunteers collect bags and drop them off at Target or Whole Foods. The Green Team has received two benches already from this recycling meaning at least 1,000 lbs have been collected and just earned it's third bench for collecting another 500 lbs of plastic bags. As of October 2019, 1,792 lbs. was recycled (emails attached). An expanded polystyrene (EPS) collection event in conjunction with Bogota was held on October 20th 2018. On April 22nd 2019 a permanent EPS recycling program was put in place at the Village Recycling Center, which is open to residents six days a week. To date 650 pounds have been collected. The Village Recycling Center currently recycles cooking oil in a 300 gallon tank that gets emptied by Mapoc (receipt for .536 tons attached & 190 gallons motor oil). A recycling flyer is sent to each household annually as well as published on the website and a large version is posted at the recycling depot. See uploaded recycling flyer and receipts for both cooking oil and motor oil. At the Earth Day/Green Fair celebration a collection container for cooking oil was one of the handouts for visitors. The Village Recycling Center recycles textiles. See uploaded recycling flyer. The Fire Dept. also has collection boxes around town to collect textiles to be recycled. There are signs advertising the textile collection on the collection boxes and at the recycling depot. The Green Team partnered with the crayoninitiative.org to recycle crayons. Collection boxes are at all public schools, library and Municipal Building. See uploaded flyer. A volunteer collects the boxes when full and sends them to The Crayon Initiative for recycling and donation to children's hospitals. This is a new activity but 39 lbs. were recycled so far.(documentation attached). All flyers are on the Village website [www.ridgefieldpark.org](http://www.ridgefieldpark.org) as well as electronically distributed in the schools. Info is also in the Village newsletters. Shrink wrap recycling was done with Hackensack Yacht Club which several members of the of the village are members of. During the fall and spring

boat preparation process 327lbs of shrink wrap were collected and delivered to Target/the Trex program. Non-mandated recycling 35 pts: bulky rigid plastics (10), cooking oil (5), textiles (5), shrink wrap (5). Other 10 points {plastic bags, crayons, EPS, cigarette butts, motor oil - these items are worth an additional 10 points for other non-mandated items}. Twice a year the collection calendar gets delivered to homes. It is also on the website. Paper shredding is advertised on website and online, as well as town message board and DPW message board. Materials are handed out at the Green Fair. The DPW usually has 1 or 2 school groups each year that come down for a tour and are given info to share with their families. When new residents move into town and request info, the DPW makes up a packet and drops it at their home. It includes the recycling info, calendar, a recycling sticker for their can, info from BCUA on hazardous waste and put it in a reusable shopping tote. There is also a large sign at the recycling depot explaining all the various items that can be recycled. This is also printed in the village newsletter and on the website as well.

**PDF:** [EPS STYROFOAM OCTOBER EVENT](#)

**PDF:** [RECYCLING FLYER & RECEIPTS - COOKING OIL, MOTOR OIL & TEXTILES](#)

**EXCEL:** [COPY OF 2018 RECYCLING GRANT](#)

**PDF:** [CRAYON RECYCLING DOCUMENTATION](#)

**PDF:** [PLASTIC BAG, EPS COLLECTION & SHRINK WRAP FLYERS/DOCUMENTATION](#)

**IMAGE:** [SHRINK WRAP RECYCLING DOCUMENTATION](#)

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## Recycling Depot

10 Points

**Program Summary:** The Recycling Center in the Village of Ridgefield Park is open six days a week (M-S 9am - 12pm) and manned by a Village employee who guides residents through the deposit process. A recycling board that details what Village residents can drop off at the center has been posted which includes the information shown below: computers, small appliances, TVs, DVD players, etc. metal, wood general trash yard waste corrugated cardboard propane tanks used automobile oil commingled recycle (glass, plastic, aluminum) newspaper, magazines and junk mail Residents contact the DPW to arrange specific pickups for washers, dryers, refrigerators, hot water heaters and large objects made of metal.

**IMAGE:** [RECYCLING DEPOT BOARD](#)

**PDF:** [RECYCLING DEPOT & DPW INFORMATION](#)

**PDF:** [PAGES 9 THROUGH 11 RECYCLING UPDATE](#)

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## Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

5 Points

**Program Summary:** The Village of Ridgefield Park uses its newsletter and website to promote the value of leaving grass cuttings behind. The September 2018 Village Newsletter contains an the Grasscycling Article with a reprint posted on the website <http://www.ridgefieldpark.org/green-team>. Members of our Green Team continue to approach local lawn cutting services informally to share the advantages of using a mulching blade - saves time because it speeds up the job and don't have to stop and empty the container. The website as well as future handouts will also include info on thatch as suggested.

**PDF:** [GRASSCYCLING PROGRAM PAGE 3](#)

**WORD: [GRASSCYCLING - CUT AND LEAVE WEBSITE IMAGE](#)**

**PDF: [GRASS - CUT IT AND LEAVE IT THATCH WEBSITE RIDGEFIELDPARK.ORG](#)**

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## **Materials Reuse Program**

**10 Points**

**Program Summary:** The Village continues to operate their Materials Reuse Program at the DPW Recycling Center and as part of our overall recycling program. Several items were taken from the materials reuse area within the recycling depot, cleaned up and given away at the Earth Day & Green Fair. (photo uploaded from 2019 event) Uploaded is the Materials Reuse Sign which designates the area for residents to drop off their items. Since the Materials Reuse Program has been active for a number of years, the volume remains constant. The DPW caretaker of the area maintains that well over 200 people go to the materials reuse to either drop off or pick up an item which saves minimally 2 tons of material from landfills. He also tries to match up what is brought in with people in need of items. People who stop by the recycling center are shown available items and instructed they can also drop off items they no longer need. Attached is the notice that has been in the Village newsletter, website and distributed in the schools. The flyer is also available at public events such as Earth Day, annual Street Fair, etc.

**IMAGE: [ADDITIONAL MATERIALS REUSE PHOTO](#)**

**WORD: [MATERIALS REUSE PROGRAM INFO IN NEWSLETTERS, FLYERS](#)**

**IMAGE: [MATERIALS REUSE PHOTOS OF SIGNAGE & ITEMS FOR REUSE](#)**

**WORD: [MATERIALS REUSE PROGRAM SIGN & PHOTOS OF AVAILABLE ITEMS](#)**

**PDF: [DPW MATERIALS REUSE FLYER](#)**

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## **Reusable Bag Education Program \*Retires 12/31/25\***

**5 Points**

**Program Summary:** The Environmental Commission distributes reusable cloth bags on Earth Day and asks people to sign a pledge that they will use the cloth bag. (photo & pledge uploaded). It also asked stores to put the uploaded BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) sign in their windows to remind people to bring reusable bags. The uploaded flyer educating people about the positive aspects of using reusable bags and carry for reusable is on our website and distributed electronically in the schools as well as at tables hosted by the Environmental Commission throughout the year at public events such as EarthFest and the annual Village Street Fair. Members also talk to local store owners throughout the year about encouraging reusable bags. We have distributed the uploaded flyer in the schools as well as at public events.

**WORD: [REUSABLE BAG PICTURE](#)**

**IMAGE: [BYOB SIGN](#)**

**PDF: [REUSABLE BAG EDUCATION FLYER](#)**

**WORD: [PHOTOS FROM EVENTS](#)**

**PDF: [SIGNED REUSABLE BAG PLEDGE](#)**

**PDF: [BEST WAYS TO CLEAN YOUR REUSABLE BAGS](#)**