



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

Contact Information

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Ridgefield Park Village was approved for in 2021 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: On June 8, 2021 at a regular meeting of the Ridgefield Park Board of Commissioners a resolution was passed designating the Ridgefield Park Public Arts Champions as the village's Creative Team. The Public Arts Champions has 29 members. Makeup is 2 elected officials, 7 artists, 1 business leader, 2 education community, 4 Green Team. The rest are residents of the village. The Public Art Champions meet at least quarterly to discuss the scope and direction of municipal Creative Placemaking initiatives.

PDF: [RIDGEFIELD PARK CREATIVE TEAM.PDF](#)

WORD: [2021 CREATIVE TEAM AGENDA](#)

PDF: [ESTABLISH CREATIVE TEAM - RESOLUTION 2021-73.PDF](#)

Creative Assets Inventory

10 Points

Program Summary: Village of Ridgefield Park continues to update its resource listing for inclusion in the Public Arts Master Plan which is under development (Updated Creative Assets Inventory attached). The inventory is on the Concerts, Arts and Culture section of the website under Public Arts Champions (<https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/concerts-art-culture/pages/public-art-champions>) with an invitation to the public asking for information/assets they think should be included. The Public Arts Champions identify future projects, public assets for inclusion, other ideas and designs for consideration. Inventory review includes public art placed in our local parks, community garden and downtown in the form of murals, sculptures and free-style pieces. The Artist Laureate Program recognizes the accomplishments of artists who live in the village. The proclamation and the 2021 Artist Laureate information is attached. Information on the recipient is on our website under Concerts, Arts and Culture – <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/concerts-art-culture/pages/artist-laureate-2021>. A Village of Ridgefield Park Artist/Artisan Survey is in process to gain insight into our community of artists. Survey results will be presented at the December, 2021 Public Arts Champions meeting.

PDF: [2021 ARTIST LAUREATE PROCLAMATION](#)

WORD: [2021 ARTIST LAUREATE - F. DONARUMA](#)

PDF: [PUBLIC ARTS MEETING MINUTES](#)

PDF: [VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK ARTIST/ARTISAN SURVEY](#)

EXCEL: [CREATIVE ASSETS INVENTORY UPDATE](#)

Utilizing Your Creative Assets

30 Points

Program Summary: The Village of Ridgefield Park has not formally implemented a Creative Placemaking Plan. However, several initiatives are underway including projects with local art and artists, engaging with the Ridgefield Park Arts Association, Creative Bergen, and support of local business. These projects have added depth to daily life within the Village. Three of the projects underway are included here. They are Arts Amble 2021, Mural Mania and Business District Economic Development.

PDF: [ARTS AMBLE 2021](#)

PDF: [MURAL MANIA](#)

PDF: [BUSINESS DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT](#)

Community Partnership & Outreach

Create 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](#)

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](#)

Green Fair

10 Points

Program Summary: On May 1, 2021, 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 65 families attended. Also present were Department of Public Works Reduce, Reuse, Recycle information kiosk, Ridgefield Park Arts Association gave out flyers for the upcoming Summer Arts Festival and had information on the upcoming Village Art Exhibit featuring student art work. Ridgefield Park Grammar Schools were represented with their recycling poster projects. The community garden helped visitors plant seeds to take home. The Green Team had multiple handouts on recycling, caring/cleaning reusable bags, leaving grass cuttings to name a few.

PDF: [MAY 2021 EARTH DAY/GREEN FAIR](#)

PDF: [HOLD_A_GREEN_FAIR_QUALITATIVE_ASSESSMENT_MAY_2021.PDF](#)

Diversity & Equity

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) has information for residents wishing to learn about the dangers of lead in homes listing links to www.epa.gov/lead and 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) A lead remediation pamphlet is available in the Board of Health office as well as online. (uploaded). On the Village website, different informational flyers are rotated covering: Blood Levels in Children; Lead Poisoning – Know the Facts; The Good News – Lead Poisoning is 100% Preventable; Are you Pregnant?; Lead Poisoning – Know the Facts (www.ridgefieldpark.org), Protect Your Family. (all uploaded) Info on Lead Poisoning & Hazards is available online on the Board of Health page of 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, Street Fair and Health Fair. There is a table with info in it in the Health Dept. and hallway at the Clerk's Office. Info is also available at the Building Dept.

PDF: [LEAD EDUCATION FLYERS](#)

PDF: [LEAD POISONING INFO](#)

PDF: [HUD - LEAD](#)

PDF: [FREE CHILD LEAD SCREENING](#)

PDF: [LEAD INFO DISTRIBUTION](#)

PDF: [LEAD REMEDIATION PAMPHLET](#)

Emergency Management & Resiliency

Emergency Communications Planning

15 Points

Program Summary: The Main Communications Center is Police Headquarters, 234 Main Street, Ridgefield Park, NJ with a Backup Center at 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](#)

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

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

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

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 for Village info.

PDF: [MWC PLEDGE & RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [YOUTH POPULATION - BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES](#)

PDF: [SCAN - SENIORS BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES 2021.PDF](#)

PDF: [SCAN - EMPLOYEES BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES 2021.PDF](#)

PDF: [SCAN - ENTIRE COMMUNITY BUILDING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES 2021.PDF](#)

Innovative Projects

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](#)

Innovative Community Project 2

10 Points

Program Summary: The Environmental Commission/Green Team had been contacted by Gianna Terrarosa, a 10th grade Ridgefield Park High School Student and Senior Level Girl Scout who was proposing a project for her Gold Award. She attended several of our Environmental commission meetings to explain her project of planting a pollinator garden using all native plants at her high school to help pollinators (endangered Monarch butterflies, bees, and birds), educate students at all levels, as well as the community to the plight of pollinators as well as the importance of native plants in the environment and of course to beautify the neighborhood. Gianna met with the EC several times to discuss the parameters of her project. She contacted the appropriate people in the borough to approve the location for the planting. With the help of the Environmental Commission, special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Quinn for plant donations and guidance, the Bergen County Audubon Society, with special thanks to Tammy Laverty for plant donations and guidance, D & G Landscaping for soil donation, Rohsler's Nursery for plant donations, This and That Hardware store in town for plant donations, the Home Depot for timber donation to frame the garden, Mr. Pablo Lema neighbor and master carpenter for help framing the garden, Commissioner Olson and the RP DPW for mulch donation and back hoe work and of course special

thanks to Superintendent, Dr. Bender for supporting the project and approval of the location, allowed for a completion of the physical planting of the 10 x 10 garden with 14 different species on 5/28/21. Plant stakes with information about each plant as well as permanent signage designed by Gianna and donated by Signarama were installed on July 20th 2021. The sign has the "Just One Plant" logo Gianna designed for her project as well as a QR code that brings people to the website that she has created. Placed pollinator water dish on August 30th, 2021. The in person education section of the project took place on August 31st, 2021. Gianna did a presentation for a group of Girl Scout Brownies teaching them about pollinators, native plants and her garden. As the garden gets established and flourishes Gianna plans on splitting plants and placing them in other locations in the neighborhood i.e. elementary schools, the library, and our parks.

POWERPOINT: [SUSTAINABLE NJ INNOVATIVE PROJECT #2 POLLINATOR GARDEN.PPTX](#)

Local Economies

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](#)

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](#)

Environmental Commission Site Plan Review

10 Points

Program Summary: The Ridgefield Park Environmental Commission has taken an 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. In the past 18 months, the EC has received approximately 15 cases/applications to review. (minutes uploaded) In March of this year, NJ Transit advised the Village that it was in the early stages of investigating the acquisition of the 56-acre property known as the “Skymark” Redevelopment Area. The Village has been actively trying to redevelop this property for decades. NJ Transit plans to take this property and build a 500-bus garage and maintenance facility on this site for its fleet of loud, aging diesel buses. After receiving NJ Transit’s letter, the BOC immediately objected to the size and location of this project, and also asked to start a dialogue about how a NJ Transit project could be structured to benefit both the Village and NJ Transit. During covid, the BOC did not get anything back from them. The BOC asked NJ Transit for the plans, studies, reports and other documents that they were using to support this takeover but NJ Transit refused to provide these important documents, in violation of State Law. The BOC sent out a letter to all residents explaining the situation and asked them to write, call and email our State representatives and NJ Transit to tell them to move the site or make it right. The BOC doesn’t want to see this go to eminent domain where the Village gets nothing. A large amount of this money (\$6 million annually) was going to help with the CSO situation. The EC has remained in constant contact with the BOC on this matter. A petition was started in opposition to New Jersey Transit's 500 bus garage in Ridgefield Park that, to date, has over 2,300 signatures. As far as the proposed bus terminal, there is not much progress as far as the project being stopped. The fate of the eagles is still in question as the NJ Fish & Wildlife and the US Fish & Wildlife service agreement with Skymark is not something that carries over to this new acquisition so it would be up to environmental groups such as the EC and Bergen County Audubon and others to make the developers aware of the need to save those eagles. The EC reviewed an application from Challenger 60 for 522 residential units with retail on first floor as well as the Environmental Impact Report Re: 60 Challenger Road. After reading the application for 60 Challenger Road, Tammy Laverty (EC member) suggested to Chairman Steve Quinn that birdproof glass be used on this project. Steve submitted comments to the Planning Board and backed them up with lots of data that literally millions of birds are killed every year by this glass. The applicant was very agreeable and they will provide birdproof glass. This shows that one person can make a difference. Based on that, the EC put together a letter to the BOC that when large apartments or office buildings or buildings (non-specific) are built, that they require those buildings being built use bird protecting glass. The EC reviewed an application before the ZB for 291 & 295 Main Street. After much push back, the original plan of a multi-unit apartment building was dropped. The new plan was to combine two lots into one residence. This change in design is a good thing. There are some big, beautiful elm trees on the property that would be a shame to lose. The EC sent a letter about the trees on the property and hopes that the architectural nature will fit in with the neighborhood after looking at the plans.

WORD: [EC LETTER TO MAYOR TETERBORO AIRPORT DEC 2019](#)

WORD: [EC SITE PLAN REVIEW 2021](#)

WORD: [MEMO TO ZONING BOARD RE: CASE #1561](#)

WORD: [EC ANNUAL REPORT 2019](#)

WORD: [EC ANNUAL REPORT 2020](#)

Community Forestry Management Plan & NJUCF Accreditation

20 Points

Program Summary: The Ridgefield Park Community Forestry Status Report confirms compliance with the four requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. The Village of Ridgefield Park tree cover goal continues to be set at 27% to be achieved over the next decade. Although the current Community Forestry Management Plan indicates that opportunities for further expansion of the tree canopy cover are limited in most areas of the Village due to high density development, the Shade Tree Commission concentrates on municipal tree replacement and outreach programs where possible to encourage Village residents and businesses to plant and maintain trees on their properties, where opportunities for additional canopy cover are greatest.

PDF: [2020 ACCREDITATION REPORT](#)

PDF: [NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE](#)

PDF: [2019-2023 COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN](#)

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](#)

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](#)

Operations & Maintenance

Adopt a Green Purchasing Policy by Resolution *Retires 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](#)

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

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

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 drop off location is the Police Department Headquarters at 234 Main Street physically inside the department's offices. Community notification is the same process for the two take-back events. This action is handled in an anonymous manner. Neither the number of clients nor the number of prescriptions deposited by clients are counted just the weight. A flyer is distributed and displayed at the Municipal Building, Lombardi Towers, Marlboro house, Main Street Senior Building, 7-11, IGA, CVS, post office, as well as the eight doctors offices within the village. Information is also placed on the village website calendar, the PBA Facebook page, and a standard format NIXLE message (See Community Message/DEA Local Program Announcement) is distributed prior to the event along with notification to citizens who signup for email and text messages. April 24 2021 Take-back Flyer and Receipt shows 47 pounds of material was collected on April 24, 2021. April 29, 2019 Receipt shows 48 pounds of material was collected on April 27, 2019.

PDF: [APRIL 24 2021 TAKEBACK FLYER AND RECEIPT](#)

WORD: [APRIL 24 RPPD WEBPAGE AND LOCATION SIGNAGE](#)

PDF: [COMMUNITY MESSAGE/DEA LOCAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

PDF: [APRIL, 2019 TAKEBACK RECEIPT](#)

PDF: [DROP OFF LOCATION AND SIGNAGE](#)

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 on the Village website and on the Village message boards. 7,240lbs of material was collected at the April 24, 2021 event (receipt attached).

WORD: [APRIL, 2021 EVENT SIGNAGE](#)

PDF: [APRIL, 2021 PAPER SHREDDING RECEIPT](#)

Household Hazardous Waste

15 Points

Program Summary: The DPW recycling center at 24 Industrial Avenue is where the village collects car batteries, consumer electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, cooking oil, and used motor oil is collected for recycling and disposal. We do not recycle Paint, Pesticides, and Herbicides. Instructions are located on the Village website at: <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works>. The DPW webpage also directs residents to the BCUA for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule. The DPW was instructed by the BCUA to cease collecting paint. A flyer announcing the change to paint collection was distributed on Earth Day/Green Fair on May 1, published on the DPW webpage and in the June 2021 newsletter. (Attachment: No More Paint flyer). The June 2021 newsletter is on the Village website in the News Box at <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/about-us>. The last page of the newsletter contains relevant DPW information, instructions, and the office number. Using the website and Recycling Coach app (see image attached) residents can create a customized monthly calendar using their physical address. When requested the DPW will supply a physical packet of information which residents can pick up at the office or have it dropped off at their home. (Attachment: 2021 DPW Webpage and Packet Info).

WORD: [2021 NO MORE PAINT FLYER](#)

PDF: [BULB RECYCLING](#)

PDF: [2021 GARBAGE RECYCLE HHW WEBPAGE.PDF](#)

WORD: [2021 DPW WEBPAGE AND PACKET INFO.DOCX](#)

PDF: [2019-2020 TONNAGE RP](#)

IMAGE: [RECYCLE COACH STAGE 3 WEBSITE LANDING PAGE](#)

Non-Mandated Materials Recycling

10 Points

Program Summary: Plastic bags/film - The plastic bag and film recycling program is a partnership with Bogota and Englewood. The Village has six collection sites plus the DPW recycling center. Material is sorted through by volunteers then bagged. Plastic is accumulated at the DPW until taken to the Englewood DPW where it is baled then stored. Attachment: Combined Plastic Bag and EPS Information EPS - The Village Recycling Center is open to residents six days a week for EPS recycling. Signage on the container and a DPW employee onsite guides residents about what is acceptable. Material is regularly sorted through by volunteers then bagged. When enough EPS has accumulated it is taken to POLY/MOLDING LLC. Attachment: Combined Plastic Bag and EPS Information Textiles - The Fire Dept. has four textile collection boxes around town and in the DPW recycling center. Attachment: Textile Collection, <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works/pages/recycling->

information#anchor_textiles Cooking Oil is collected for recycling in a tank provided by MOPAC RENDERING. When enough has accumulated MOPAC picks it up. Attachment: Cooking Oil Documentation, https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works/pages/recycling-information#anchor_cooking Other Fluorescent Bulbs, Wood Waste and Crayons Fluorescent Bulbs are accumulated at the DPW recycling center for pickup by National Bulb Recycling Corp. Attachment: Other_Fluorescent Bulbs Wood Waste and Crayons Wood Waste is brought by residents to the DPW recycling center and accumulated in a 20 yard roll off dumpster. When full it is brought to a processing location. Attachment: Other_Fluorescent Bulbs Wood Waste and Crayons Crayon collection boxes are at all public schools, the library and Municipal Building. Flyers are electronically distributed to schools. 195 new packs of crayons were made for donation to children's hospitals.(crayoninitiative.org) Attachment: Other_Fluorescent Bulbs Wood Waste and Crayons Recycling calendar is delivered to homes twice a year and is at <https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works/pages/recycling-information> A physical packet of information containing the recycling calendar and instructions is given to new residents.

PDF: [TEXTILE COLLECTION](#)

PDF: [COMBINED PLASTIC BAG AND EPS INFORMATION](#)

PDF: [OTHER_FLUORESCENT BULBS WOOD WASTE AND CRAYONS](#)

PDF: [COOKING OIL DOCUMENTATION](#)

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. Photos of members of the Green Team educating the public about items on National Recycling Day are uploaded. Photos of Green Team members working at the Recycling Depot are uploaded.

IMAGE: [RECYCLING DEPOT BOARD](#)

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

WORD: [PHOTOS OF GT MEMBERS AT RECYCLING DEPOT](#)

PDF: [2021 RECYCLING CALENDAR](#)

WORD: [SOURCE URL: HTTPS://WWW.RIDGEFIELDPARK.ORG/DEPARTMENTS-PUBLIC-WORKS/PAGES/RECYCLING-CENTER](https://www.ridgefieldpark.org/departments-public-works/pages/recycling-center)

PDF: [MATERIALS REUSE PROGRAM](#)

Grass - Cut It and Leave It Program

5 Points

Program Summary: The Village of Ridgefield Park has been using its newsletter and website to promote the value of leaving grass cuttings behind since May of 2018 with selected reprints used to discuss the value of leaving the grass cuttings at our Earth Day and Green Fair events each

year. The Village Newsletter contains a Grasscycling Article with a reprint posted on the website <http://www.ridgefieldpark.org/green-team>. Members of our Green Team and Environmental Commission informally share the advantages of using a mulching blade - saves time because it speeds up the job and you don't have to stop and empty the container. The website and handouts also include information on thatching as suggested.

PDF: [GRASS CUT IT AND LEAVE IT - THATCH](#)

WORD: [PHOTO OF CUT IT & LEAVE IT FLYER ON EC TABLE AT PUBLIC EVENT](#)

PDF: [GRASSCYCLING FLYER](#)

IMAGE: [HOW MULCHING OR RECYCLING MOWERS CAN HELP YOUR LAWN - SCREENSHOT](#)

IMAGE: [BENEFITS OF LETTING YOUR GRASS LAY - SCREENSHOT](#)

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 May 2021 Earth Day_Green Fair Exhibit). 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 website and distributed in the schools. The flyer is also available at public events such as Earth Day, annual Street Fair, Health Fair etc. (Photos uploaded) RP Girl Scout, Gianna Terrarosa, came up with the idea to promote literacy and community involvement through recycling. She built a Little Free Lending Library for Ridgefield Park which is installed in Fellowship Park. All the books the Little Library holds are recycled, donated by residents and borrowed by residents and visitors.

WORD: [2021 MATERIALS REUSE EXHIBIT AT MAY EARTH DAY_GREEN FAIR](#)

WORD: [MATERIAL REUSE PROGRAM PROMOTION PHOTOS & NOTICE](#)

IMAGE: [2019-07-29 17.22.35.JPG](#)

PDF: [DPW MATERIALS REUSE FLYER](#)

WORD: [GREEN TEAM MEMBERS VOLUNTEERING AT MATERIALS REUSE PROGRAM](#)

Reusable Bag Education Program

5 Points

Program Summary: The Environmental Commission distributes reusable cloth bags on Earth Day/public events and asks people to sign a pledge that they will use the cloth bag. (photo & pledge uploaded). It also asks stores to put the uploaded BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag) sign in their windows to remind people to bring reusable bags. The uploaded flyers educating people about the positive aspects of using reusable bags and care for reusable bags are 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 Earth Day, EarthFest, Health Fair 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 flyers in the schools as well as at public events.

PDF: REUSABLE BAG EDUCATION FLYER

WORD: PHOTOS FROM EVENTS PROMOTING REUSABLE BAG EDUCATION

IMAGE: BEST WAYS TO CLEAN REUSABLE BAGS

WORD: REUSABLE BAG PLEDGE

WORD: PHOTO OF REUSABLE BAG

IMAGE: BYOB SIGN