

Highland Park Waterfront Restoration

Visioning an Enhanced Environmental Center and Site

Sustainable Raritan River Studio
Spring 2011

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RUTGERS

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HIGHLAND PARK
NJ HIGH QUALITY HOUSING COMMUNITY



A scenic landscape with a river, trees, and mountains. The river is in the foreground, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. The trees are lush and green, and the mountains in the background are partially obscured by a light mist or haze. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Regulatory Framework

Current Status of the Site

&

NJDEP Permitting Requirements

Constraints

Zoning

- Municipal property
- Zoned as Community Service

Flood Hazard Area Controls

- Within 500-year and 100-year flood hazard areas
- Bordered by floodway
- Zero net fill requirement

Site Contamination

- Presence of lead, heavy metals, and petroleum byproducts

Flood Hazard Area, Highland Park, NJ



Legend

	Raritan River Bank
	Study Area
	Floodway
	100 year flood hazard area
	500 year flood hazard area



Source: DFIRM Database, NJDEP

0 50 100 200 300 400 Feet

Current Status

Site Remediation



- Site divided into two phases (I and II) that NJDEP approved for remediation
- Phase I was completed - allowed the Environmental Center to be built
- Phase II went unremediated due to unanticipated cost overruns

Opportunities

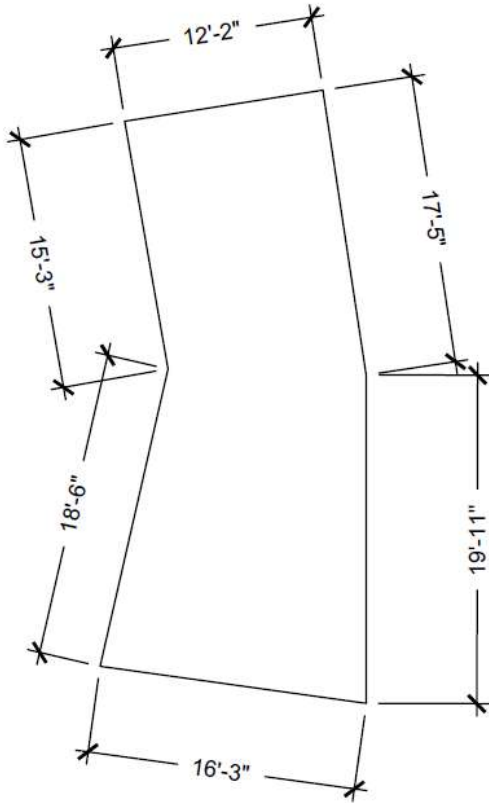
- Waterfront Development Permit
 - New vs. Extended
- Highland Park could reclassify site as not environmentally sensitive
- Transfer remediation case to third party
 - LSRP speeds up the handling of casework
- Declare specific Areas of Concern
- Complete additional soil testing





Building Recommended Redesign

Existing Building



Footprint: 464 ft²

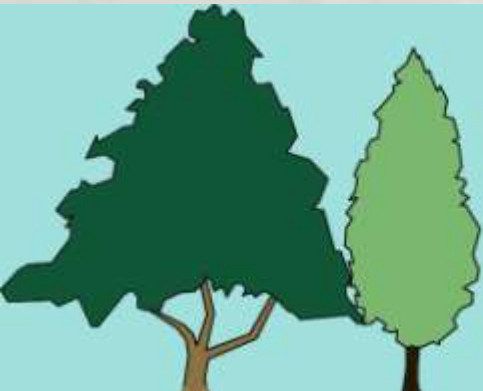
Capacity: 19 persons

Some **green features**

Hidden & small entrance



New Building: A Vision



The background is a soft, painterly landscape. It features a wide valley with a river or stream winding through it. The hills are covered in lush green vegetation, and the sky is a pale blue with wispy white clouds. The overall style is reminiscent of a watercolor or oil painting, with a gentle and serene atmosphere.

Site Recommended Enhancements

Stormwater Management



Rain gardens



Green roof



Modular trellis system



Permeable paver parking lot

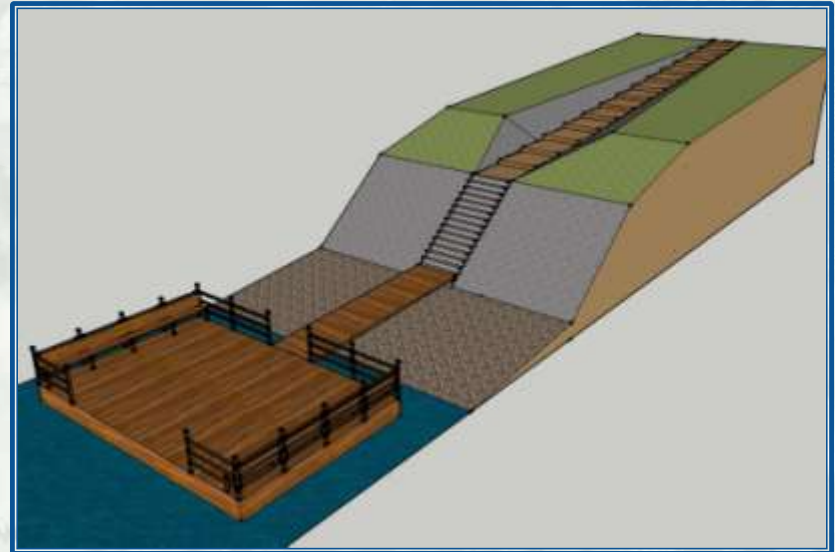
Existing & Proposed Parking Lot



Waterfront Access



Existing Waterfront



Active Waterfront Access



Passive Waterfront Access

A scenic landscape painting of a forest with a lake and mountains. The scene is rendered in a soft, painterly style with a muted color palette. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the surrounding greenery. The middle ground is dominated by a dense forest of trees in various shades of green and brown. In the background, rolling hills or mountains are visible under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is peaceful and naturalistic.

Environmental Education Learning Opportunities at The Center

It begins with a mission...

The Highland Park Environmental Center is dedicated to creating awareness, understanding and appreciation of the environment and the Borough's relationship to the Raritan River.

Outdoor Interpretives

INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS



INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



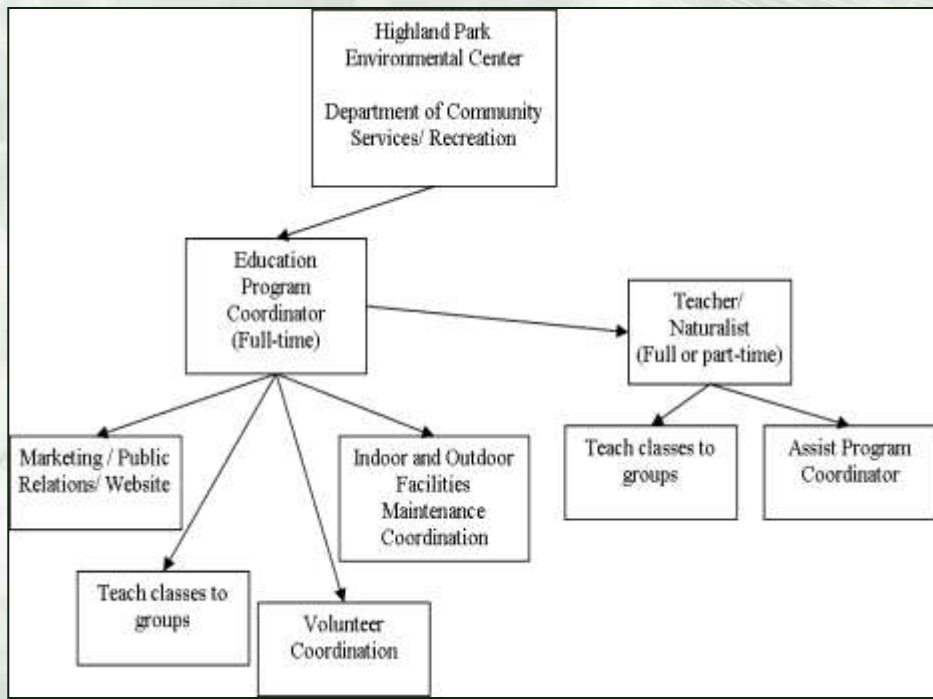
INTERPRETIVE TRAILS



Education Plan

Recommendations

Place-based Education
Full-time Staff
Engage Diverse Populations
Regional Resource



Revenue Sources

Local Grants

County Grants

State Grants

Federal Grants

Foundation Grants

Corporate Gifts

Private Donors

Program Fees

Membership

501(c)(3) partnerships

Create "Friends" group

Grants for:

- Programming
- Trails
- Building
- Green Design Elements
- Habitat Restoration
- Public Outreach



Questions?