



TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY UPDATE

Township of Teaneck
March 12, 2024

DRAFT

March 12, 2024 - DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DRAFT

PREPARED BY



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OF NEW JERSEY

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The original document will be appropriately signed and sealed in accordance with Chapter 41, Title 13 of the State Board of Professional Planners upon adoption by the Planning Board.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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Cover Photo: Hackensack River
Executive Summary: Andreas Park

Executive Summary

The Township of Teaneck has a rich history of environmental awareness and conservation. Since the 1930s, when its Master Plan was initially drafted, the town recognized the benefit of natural resources when it established a greenbelt along the newly constructed State Route 4. More recently, the Township produced its first Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) in 2002 to document the environmental and cultural features that form the landscape of the community. The next update was in 2013, and this is the second update to that initial report.

Home to 25 municipal parks and one county park, the Township of Teaneck offers its residents places to recreate and enjoy the serenity of the rivers that form its borders. It is a walkable community with tree-lined streets and interlocking neighborhoods where families meet at parks and school playgrounds. The Hackensack River forms its western boundary, and Overpeck Creek forms its eastern border. The Hackensack feeds into Newark Bay through the tidal marshes of the Meadowlands, an area home to more than 700 plants and animals, including rare and endangered species. Tidal forces are present in the lower section of the Hackensack River below the Oradell dam, which is a few miles upstream of the Township of Teaneck.

The Township has a population of 41,631 individuals and comprises an area of 6.22 square miles. Located within seven miles of New York City, there is easy access to mass transportation into Manhattan and the larger metropolitan area. The town's Environmental Commission advocates for improving alternative transportation, increasing recycling options, and accelerating the town's efforts to become a "greener" community. Integral to this is the town's bronze certification through the Sustainable Jersey program in 2022. Updating the ERI is a priority action for renewing their certification, sharing awareness of the town's natural and cultural features, and promoting a reduced carbon footprint for residents and officials.

Sustainability and resiliency are at the forefront of municipal leadership as they address the effects of a changed climate, which includes increased flooding regionally and elevated temperatures. Knowledge of Teaneck's natural resources will allow its officials and citizens to make informed decisions as they strive to preserve and enhance the Township's character.



Photo: Brett Park

Chapter 1.

Geology & Topography

Physiographic Provinces

New Jersey's landscape is divided into four distinctive regions, each characterized by unique geologic processes and landforms, known as physiographic provinces.

Physiographic provinces classify landscapes based on terrain texture, rock type, geologic structure, and history. These attributes play an important role in determining the natural resources of an area. In New Jersey, beginning in the northwest and proceeding to the southeast, these provinces are identified as the Valley and Ridge, Highlands, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain Provinces. Teaneck Township

lies entirely within the Piedmont Province. (**Figure 1**)

The Piedmont Province covers 1,600 square miles or roughly 20% of the state. Its surface is generally low, rolling hills marked with sudden, steep ridges that extend across the state and include the Palisades in the east.

According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) New Jersey Geological and Water Survey (NJGS), the Piedmont is mostly underlain with slightly folded and faulted sedimentary rocks of Triassic and Jurassic age (240 to 140 million years old) and igneous rocks of Jurassic age.¹

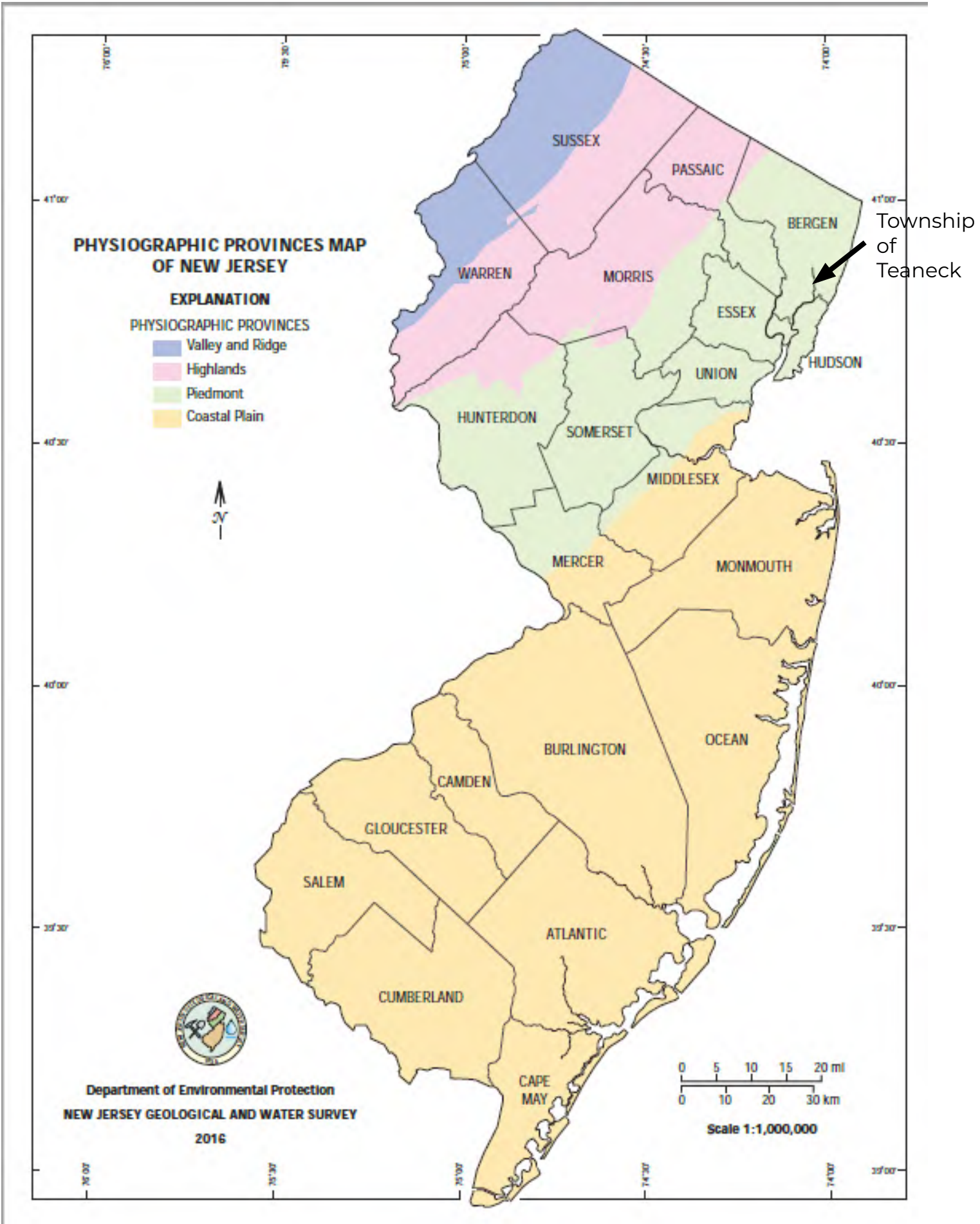


Figure 1. Physiographic Provinces ([NJGWS](#))

Bedrock Geology

The geology of the Township can be classified into two layers: bedrock geology, which is consolidated, underlying rock that extends deep into the earth's crust, and surficial geology, which is the unconsolidated sedimentary materials overlaying bedrock formations and are the parent material for soils.

According to the NJGS, the properties of these layers determine the physical extent of aquifers and the chemical quality of water they yield. They also control how groundwater recharges and moves through the aquifers, how contaminants seep into and move through soil and groundwater, and where natural hazards like radon, sinkholes, and seismic instability may occur.²

These properties establish where geologic resources such as sand, gravel, peat, clay, quarry rock, and mineral ores are located. Geologic

properties also determine an area's suitability for septic systems, stormwater and surface runoff management, and the stability of foundations for buildings, bridges, tunnels, and other structures.

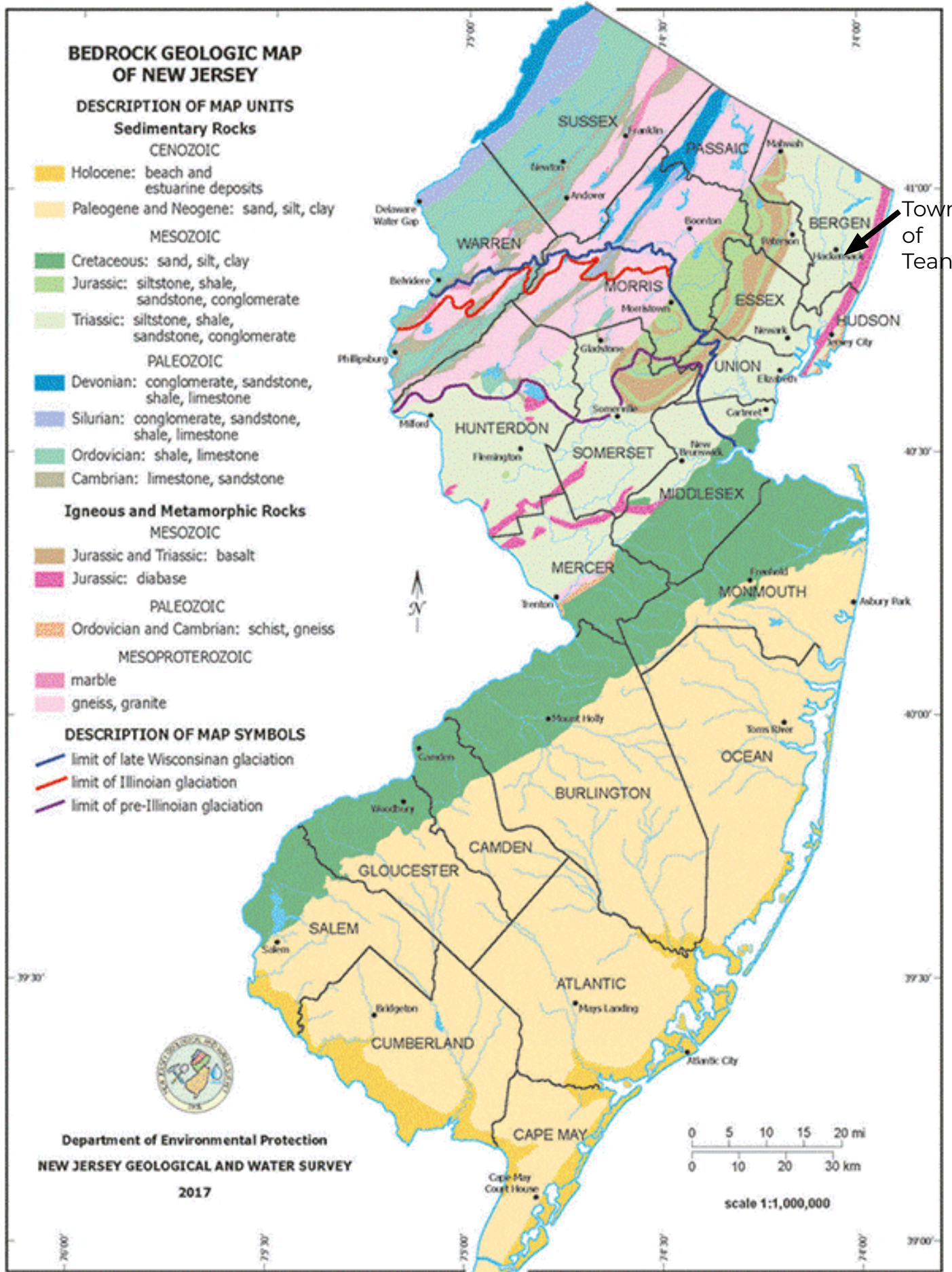
Teaneck is located in the Newark Basin, a rift basin formed during the breakup of the supercontinent Pangaea in the Mesozoic era. The underlying geology of Teaneck is predominantly sedimentary Passaic formation sandstone and siltstone facies, comprising 95% of the Township's total area.

The Passaic formation mudstone facies underlie the southeastern corner of Interstate-95 (I-95) and Overpeck Creek, comprising 3% of Teaneck's total area. Two pockets of intrusive Jurassic diabase are found in south-central Teaneck, limited to 1% of the town (see **Table 1, Figure 2, and Map 1**).

Table 1. Bedrock Geology of Teaneck Township

Abbrev.	Name	Lithology	Acres	Percent
JTrps	Passiac Formation Sandstone and Siltstone facies	Sandstone & Siltstone	3,814.03	95.5%
JTrpms	Passiac Formation Mudstone facies	Sandy Mudstone	125.25	3.1%
Jd	Jurassic Diabase	Diabase, medium to course grained	53.74	1.35%
Total :			3,993	100%

Source: [Bedrock Geology \(NJGS\)](#)

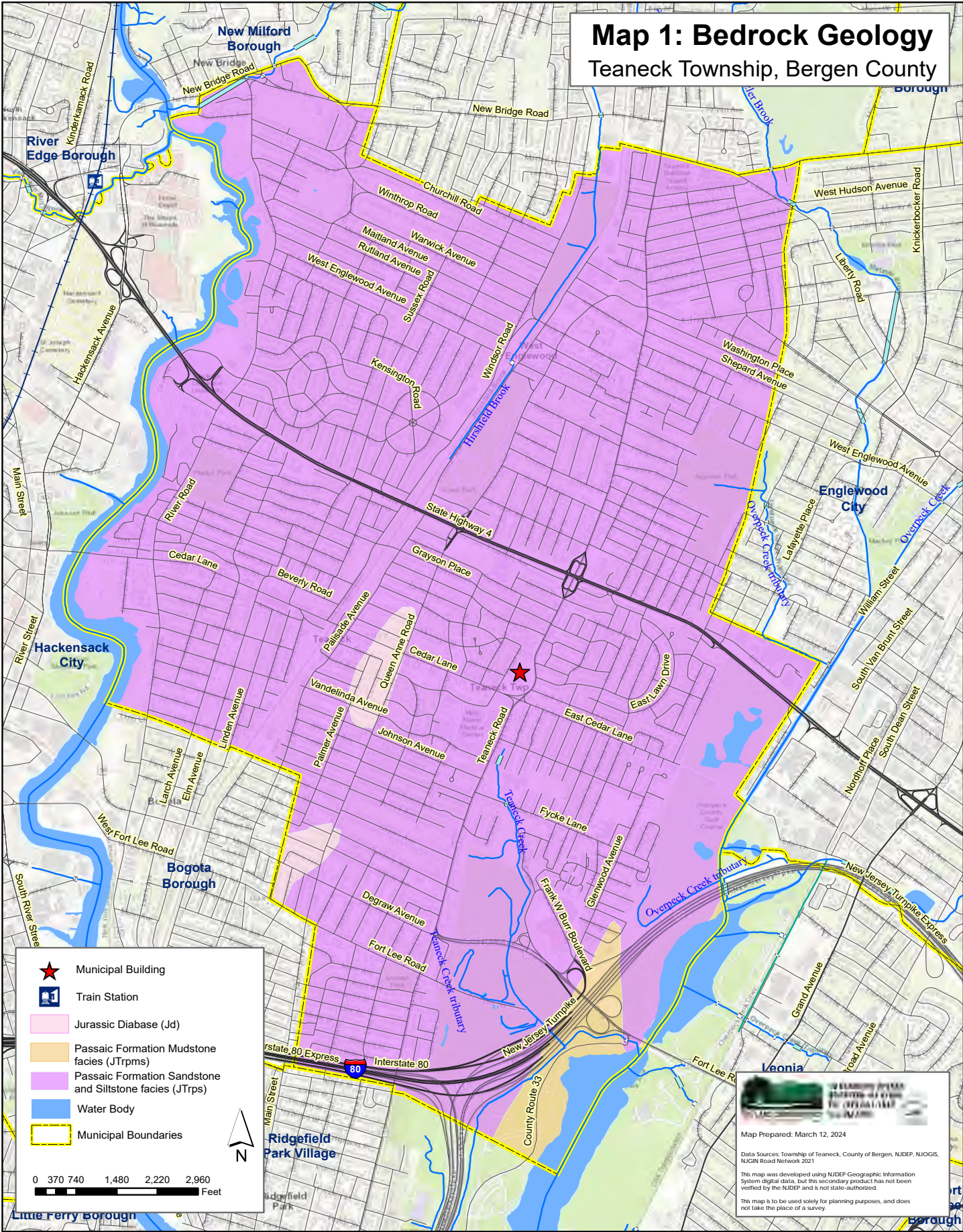









Township of Teaneck

Figure 2. Bedrock Geology Map of New Jersey (NJGWS)

Map 1: Bedrock Geology


Teaneck Township, Bergen County



-  Municipal Building
-  Train Station
-  Jurassic Diabase (Jd)
-  Passaic Formation Mudstone facies (JTrpms)
-  Passaic Formation Sandstone and Siltstone facies (JTrps)
-  Water Body
-  Municipal Boundaries

0 370 740 1,480 2,220 2,960 Feet

N



Map Prepared: March 12, 2024

Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, County of Bergen, NJDEP, NJGIS, NJGIN Road Network 2021

This map was developed using NJDEP Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by the NJDEP and is not state authorized.

This map is to be used solely for planning purposes, and does not take the place of a survey.

Surficial Geology

Glacial movement physically shaped Teaneck's topography. When passing through a landscape, glaciers picked up debris carving their path and sheering down ridges and cliffs. Glacial deposits were a mixture of sand, silt, clay, and boulders that created a hummocky topography with stony low-relief ridges.

Glacial deposition also affected surface water bodies and drainage patterns, as well as smaller formations in the Hohokus and Pascack Valleys. These unconsolidated materials overlaying bedrock formations is the surficial geology.³ The resulting deposits are sediments laid down by rivers, glaciers, ocean currents and waves, wind, and movement of soil and rocks on hill slopes. Alluvium, estuarine, and other post-glacial deposits are the most recent deposits and overlie glacial sediments. **Table 2** and **Map 2** detail the surficial geology of Teaneck. The majority of the Township (69.5%, or 2,776 acres) is covered in Rahway till (Qwtn), with 13% salt marsh and estuarine deposits (Qmm) and 8% stream terrace deposits (Qst2).

Topography

Topography refers to the slope and level of the land. It is the measurement of elevation, and the slope is the percentage change in that elevation over a certain distance. Topography is measured by connecting points of the same elevation. These points are known as contours. The topography of Teaneck is "gently rolling." The south-north trending ridgelines flanking the railroad corridor encompass the

highest elevations (162 feet near Teaneck High School) and with steeper front faces and longer back slopes, which is lower than average, a typical feature of the Piedmont. From these ridgelines, the land slopes down towards the railroad corridor in the interior along the Hackensack River and Overpeck Creek.

Steep Slopes

Consideration of the slope of the land is important to reduce the risk of natural hazards such as flooding and landslides and to minimize the impact of human activity on natural resources such as soils, vegetation, and water systems.⁴

Alteration of the slope may cause slope instability, flooding, erosion, degradation of surface water, or drainage problems. Improper grading often alters surface water flow and may cause flooding for the site and nearby property owners. Excessive grading may also alter groundwater levels, which can cause the slow death of trees and ground cover and, in turn, destroy wildlife habitats.

As noted, Teaneck's topography is gently rolling, with a majority of land containing slopes of less than 4%. There are moderate slopes of 5 to 9 percent in various locations of the Township. Steep slopes, defined as containing slopes in excess of 15%, are found only in two or three distinct locations in the northeast quadrant of the Township (**Map 3**).

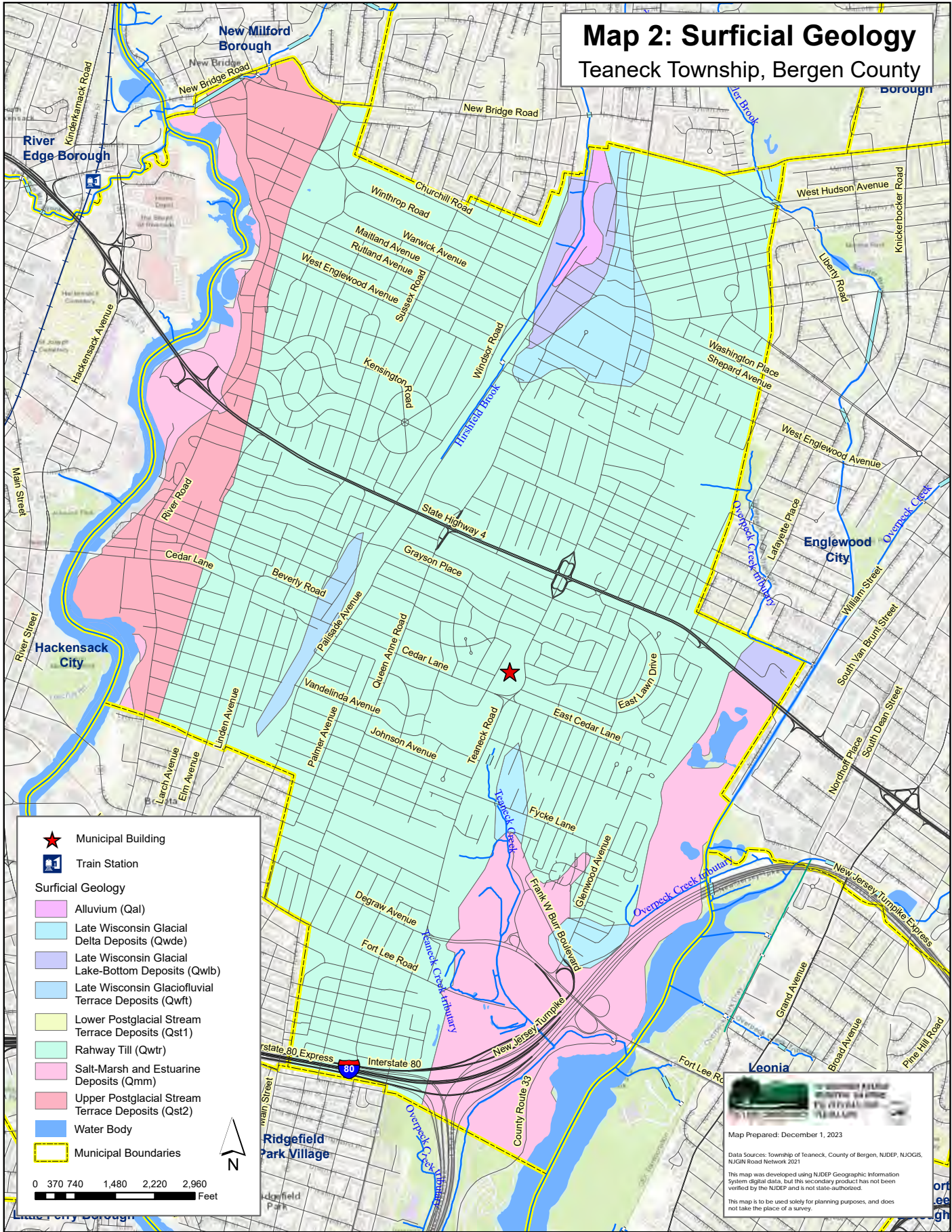
Table 2. Surficial Geology

Name	Description	Geologic Age	Acres	% of Teaneck
Alluvium (Qal)	Sand, silt, pebble-to-cobble gravel, minor clay; dark brown, brown, reddish-brown, gray; moderately to well sorted, stratified to massive.	Holocene and late Pleistocene	20.23	0.51%
Swamp & Marsh Deposits (Qs)	Freshwater peat and organic silt, sand, and clay; dark brown to black. As much as 10 feet thick.	Holocene and late Pleistocene	518.98	13.00%
Postglacial Stream Terrace Deposits (Qst)	Stratified well- to moderately-sorted, massive to laminated, and minor cross-bedded fine sand and silt in terraces flanking present and late postglacial stream courses. As much as 20 feet (6m) thick. Overlies glacial and postglacial fluvial, planar to cross-bedded pebbly sand and gravel; as much as 10 feet (3m) thick.	Holocene and late Pleistocene	320.05	8.22%
Late Wisconsinan Glacial Delta Deposits (Qwde)	Sand, pebble-to-cobble gravel, minor silt; yellowish brown, reddish brown, light gray. As much as 150 feet thick.	Late Pleistocene and late Wisconsinan	137.84	3.55%
Late Wisconsinan Glaciofluvial Terrace Deposits (Qwft)	Sand, pebble-to-cobble gravel, minor silt; yellowish brown to reddish brown. As much as 40 feet thick.	Late Pleistocene and late Wisconsinan	80	3.11%
Late Wisconsinan Glacial Lake-Bottom Deposits (Qwlb)	Sand, pebble-to-cobble gravel, few to some boulders, minor silt yellowish brown to reddish brown. As much as 150 feet thick.	Late Pleistocene and late Wisconsinan	73.04	1.83%
Rahway Till (Qwtr)	A nonstratified sediment deposited directly from the ice of Glacial Lake Teaneck. Clayey, sandy-silt with some to many pebbles and cobbles and very few boulders; reddish brown, reddish yellow, yellowish brown, brown. Gravels include mudstone, sandstone, gneiss, conglomerate, quartzite and rounded quartz pebbles. As much as 100 feet thick, generally less than 40 feet thick. (NJDEP NJGS)	Late Pleistocene and late Wisconsinan	2,775.91	69.52%
Total			3,877	97%

Source: [NJDEP](#), [NJGIN](#)

Map 2: Surficial Geology

Teaneck Township, Bergen County



- Municipal Building
- Train Station
- Surficial Geology**
- Alluvium (Qal)
- Late Wisconsin Glacial Delta Deposits (Qwde)
- Late Wisconsin Glacial Lake-Bottom Deposits (Qwlb)
- Late Wisconsin Glaciofluvial Terrace Deposits (Qwft)
- Lower Postglacial Stream Terrace Deposits (Qst1)
- Rahway Till (Qwtr)
- Salt-Marsh and Estuarine Deposits (Qmm)
- Upper Postglacial Stream Terrace Deposits (Qst2)
- Water Body
- Municipal Boundaries

0 370 740 1,480 2,220 2,960 Feet

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Map Prepared: December 1, 2023

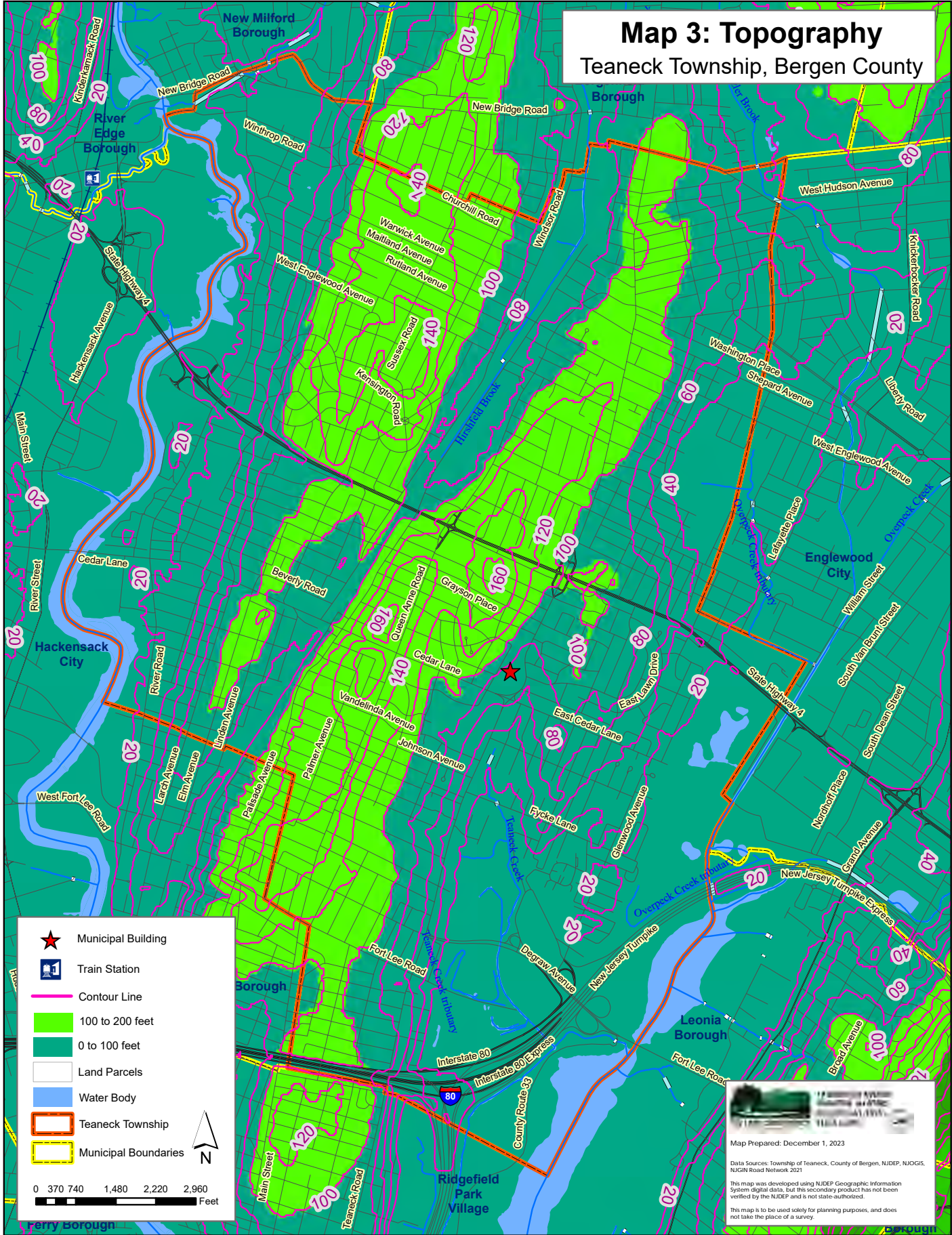
Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, County of Bergen, NJDEP, NJOGIS, NJGIN Road Network 2021

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Map 3: Topography

Teaneck Township, Bergen County



- Municipal Building
- Train Station
- Contour Line
- 100 to 200 feet
- 0 to 100 feet
- Land Parcels
- Water Body
- Teaneck Township
- Municipal Boundaries

0 370 740 1,480 2,220 2,960 Feet

Map Prepared: December 1, 2023

Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, County of Bergen, NJDEP, NJGIS, NJGIN Road Network 2021

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Photo: Puffin Sculpture Park

Chapter 2.

Soil

Soils Overview

Soil is the unconsolidated mineral or organic matter on the surface of the earth that has been subjected to and shows the effects of genetic and environmental factors (including climate) of micro-and macro-organisms acting on parent material over a period of time. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey identifies and maps over 20,000 different types in the United States.⁵ Most are given names from the local area where they were first mapped, and these named soils are referred to as soil series. Soil forming factors include:

Parent Material: Some soils weather directly from the underlying rocks. The residual soils have the same general chemistry as the original rocks.

Climate: Temperature and moisture can cause different patterns of weathering and leaching. The intensity, timing, and amount of rain also influence soil formation.

Topography: The slope and aspect (the direction the physical slopes face) affect the soil's temperature and moisture content.

Biological Factors: Plants, animals, micro-organisms, and humans affect soil formation. Native vegetation depends on biology, topography, and climate factors, as well as soil factors (density, chemistry, depth, temperature, and moisture).

Time: Soil formation is continuous, always altering according to climate, landscape position, and biological activity.

Soil Classifications

Soils are named and classified on the basis of physical and chemical properties in their layers (horizons).⁶ Soil Taxonomy uses the color, texture, structure, and other properties of the surface two meters deep to key the soil into a classification system to help the public use soil information.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines 12 major soil texture classifications (loamy, loamy sand, sandy loam, loam, silt loam, silt sandy, clay loam, silty clay, and clay). Soil textures are classified by the fractions of sand, silt, and clay in soil (**Figure 3** and **Figure 4**). Classifications are typically named for the primary constituent particle size or the most abundant particle sizes.⁷

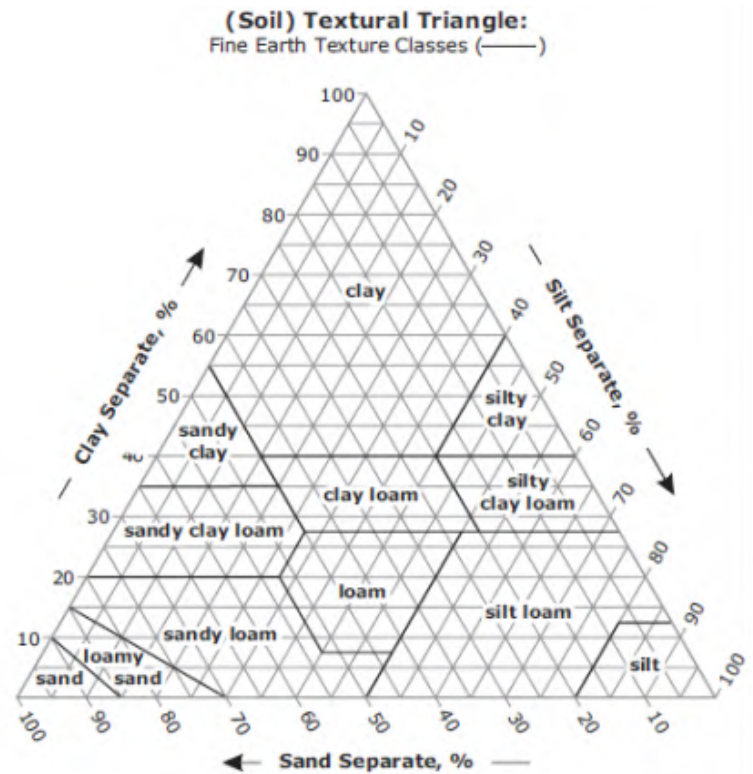


Figure 3. Soil Texture Pyramid (USDA)

Soils of Teaneck Township

The official Soil Survey for Bergen County is maintained by the NRCS.⁸ The soils maps and tables in the ERI are based on the data from that official survey. The NRCS Soil Survey plots soils by map units based on the characteristics of the dominant soils within that unit. The map unit names identify the soils by their soil series classification(s). Each map unit name has an associated abbreviation that offers a shorthand version of the naming/classification system. This abbreviation system identifies the soil types by steepness, stoniness, and frequency of flooding as follows:

- The first three letters of the abbreviation name the soil or complex. For example, Boh is Boonton and Bou is Boonton-Urban land complex.

- Capital letters at the end of the abbreviation indicate the slope "A" being less steep and "E" being steeper. An example is the Boonton-Urban land complex, BouB, BouC, and BouD.
- The smaller "t" at the end of an abbreviation indicates frequently flooded. An example is Preakness silt loam, PrnAt.

The Soil Survey categorizes each map unit as one of four types: consociations, complexes, associations, and undifferentiated groups. Teaneck's soils are typed as either consociation or complexes:

- Consociations (Cn) are named for the dominant soil. In a consociation, delineated areas use a single name from the dominant component in the map unit. Dissimilar components are minor

in extent. Examples are Boonton and Dunellen loam.

- Complexes (Cx) consist of two or more dissimilar components that occur in a regularly repeating pattern. The total number of other dissimilar components is minor in extent. Many of the complexes in Teaneck combine consociations with urban land, such as the Boonton-Urban land complex.

Major Soil Series

Soils with similar profiles are a soil series. The most prevalent soil series in Teaneck are:

- Dunellen-Urban Land Complex
- Boonton-Urban Land Complex
- Urban Land
- Udorthents

Together, they account for 72% (2,838 acres) of the total land area. Water is not considered a soil series and is excluded. Urban land is also typically excluded, but some of this land type in Teaneck Township is intermixed with other soil series, so all urban land soil series have been included. The acreage of each series is shown in **Table 3** and on **Map 4**.

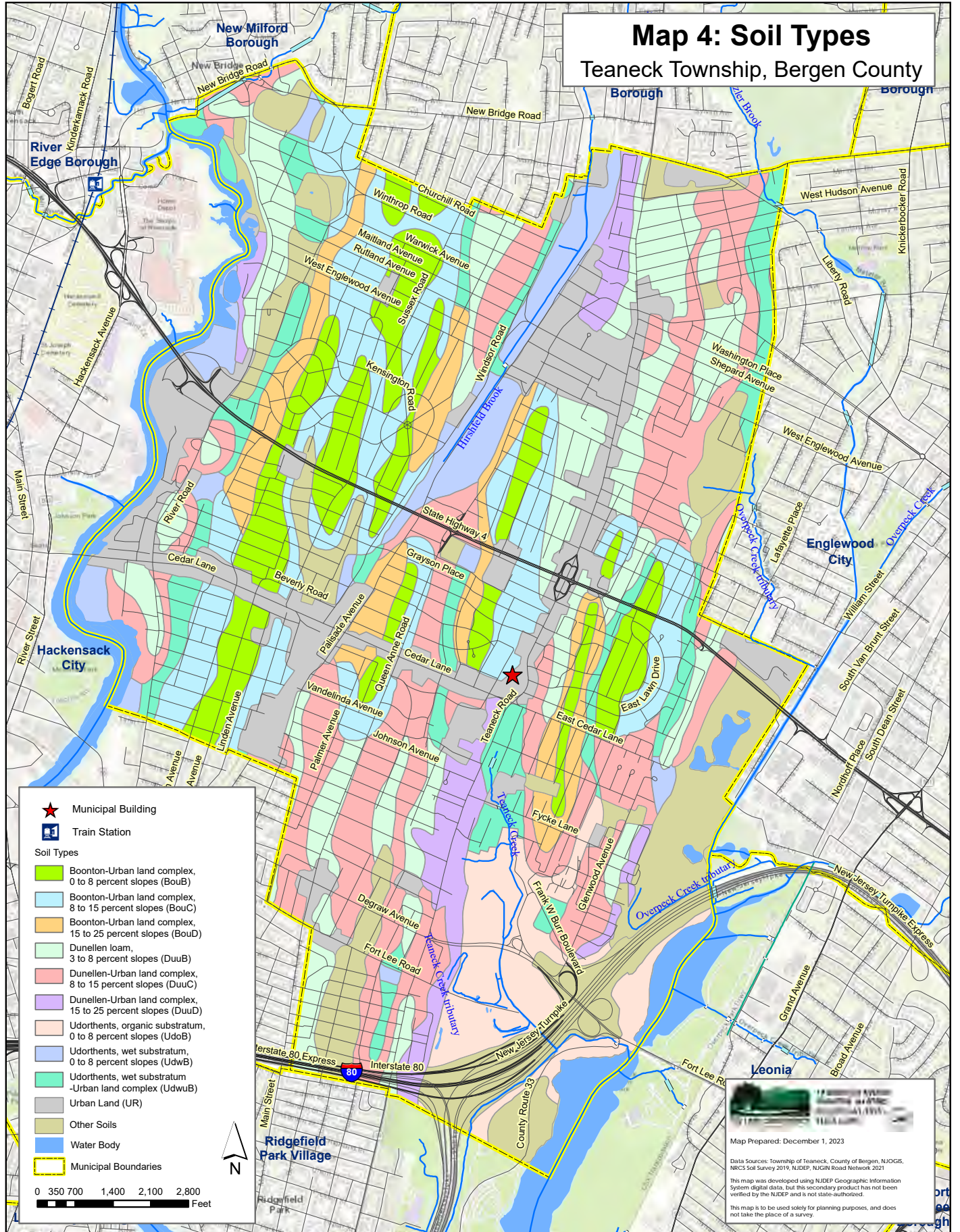
Table 3. Soils of Teaneck Township

Soil Series	Acres	% Township	
Major Series			
Dunellen-Urban Land Complex (DuuB & DuuC)	1,151.77	28.8%	2,837.91 acres 72.5%
Boonton-Urban land Complex (BouB & BouC)	801.04	20.1%	
Urban Land (UR)	469.82	11.8%	
Udorthents, wet substratum-Urban land complex (UdwuB)	267.06	6.7%	
Urdorthents, organic substratum (UdoB)	204.7	5.1%	
Minor Series			
Dunellen-Urban land complex (DuuA & DuuD)	229.39	5.6%	941.78 acres 23.5%
Boonton Urban Land Complex (BouD)	199.86	5.0%	
Udorthents, wet substratum (UdwB)	167.49	4.2%	
Udorthents, refuse substratum (UdrB)	143.91	3.6%	
Udorthents, organic substratum-Urban land complex (UdouB)	120.73	3.0%	
Dunellen loam (DuoB)	62.62	1.6%	
Haledon-Urban land complex (HasB)	35.30	0.9%	
Udorthents, loamy (UdkttB)	17.78	0.5%	
Other Series (10 acres or less)			
Pascack silt loam, Preakness silt loam, Boonton moderately well drained gravelly loam, and Otisville gravelly loamy sand (PbuA, PrmAt, BohC, & OtsD)	31.88	0.8%	31.88 acres 0.8%
Total (with water)	3,993	100%	

Source: [NRCS Soil Survey](#)

Map 4: Soil Types

Teaneck Township, Bergen County



- Municipal Building
- Train Station
- Soil Types**
- Boonton-Urban land complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes (BouB)
- Boonton-Urban land complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes (BouC)
- Boonton-Urban land complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes (BouD)
- Dunellen loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes (DuuB)
- Dunellen-Urban land complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes (DuuC)
- Dunellen-Urban land complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes (DuuD)
- Udorthents, organic substratum, 0 to 8 percent slopes (UdoB)
- Udorthents, wet substratum, 0 to 8 percent slopes (UdwB)
- Udorthents, wet substratum -Urban land complex (UdwUB)
- Urban Land (UR)
- Other Soils
- Water Body
- Municipal Boundaries

0 350 700 1,400 2,100 2,800 Feet

Map Prepared: December 1, 2023

Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, County of Bergen, NJGIS, NRCS Soil Survey 2019, NJDEP, NJGIN Road Network 2021

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Dunellen Series

The Dunellen series consists of very deep, well-drained soils formed in stratified materials. Dunellen soils are on outwash plains and stream terraces. Slope ranges from zero to 35%. The underlying bedrock is red, soft shale, or siltstone. The Dunellen series includes the soils from the Dunellen-Urban Complex series (DuuA, DuuB, DuuC & DuuD) and the Dunellen Loam series (DuoB). Characteristics include:

- Drainage and Permeability: Dunellen soils are well drained. Saturated hydraulic conductivity ranges from moderately high or high in the solum and high or very high in the substratum. Runoff is negligible to high.
- Use and Vegetation: Dunellen soils are principally used for community development. Most remaining areas are idle on the urban fringe. Trees in wooded areas include red, white and black oak, hickory, red maple, and ash.

The Dunellen-Urban and the Dunellen Loam series comprise 36% of Teaneck, totaling 1,444 acres. Dunellen loam (63 acres) is found in Teaneck's parks, including Feldman Nature Preserve, Brett Park, Argonne Park and the Teaneck Armory.

Boonton Series

The Boonton series consists of deep or very deep, moderately well and well-drained soils formed in glacial till composed mostly of red to brown shale, sandstone, basalt, and some granitic gneiss on gently sloping to very steep uplands. They are moderately deep to a fragipan

(a dense, hard subsoil forming a restrictive feature). The slope is usually smooth and regular and the gradient ranges from zero to 50%. The Boonton series includes soils from the Boonton-Urban Complex Series (BouB, BouC, & BouD) and Boonton Loam series (BohC). Characteristics include:

- Drainage and Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity: Moderately well and well drained. Runoff is slow to rapid. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately low to high in the mineral soil above the fragipan, low or very low in the fragipan, and low to high below the fragipan. There is a perched water table (a water table that is above the normal water table and separated from it by a dry, or unsaturated, zone) at a depth of 18 to 36 inches from November to May of most years.
- Use and Vegetation: Most Boonton soils are in areas that have become highly urbanized. Undeveloped sites are wooded or idle fields. Wooded areas have oaks, red maple, white ash, hickory, gray birch, and dogwood.

The Boonton Urban series and the Boonton Loam series comprise 25% of Teaneck (1,009 acres). Its distribution is uplands in northeastern New Jersey and southeastern New York.

Urban Land

The NRCS defines the parent material of urban soils as surface covered by pavement, concrete, buildings, and other structures underlain by disturbed and natural soil material. Urban land comprises 12% of Teaneck, totaling 470 acres.

Udorthents

Udorthents are defined as a form of orthent. Orthents exhibit textures ranging from very fine sand or finer in the fine earth fraction to loamy fine sand or coarser, with a coarse fragment content of 35% or higher. Additionally, these soils display a systematic decrease in organic carbon content with increasing depth. They are primarily found on recently eroded surfaces, where former soils have been removed or truncated either geologically or through cultivation, mining or other human activity.

Udorthents are generally acid to neutral and commonly occur in areas of recently exposed loess or till; areas of weakly cemented rocks, such as shale; or areas where the regolith, or loose earth, is thin over hard rocks. Vegetation is commonly a deciduous forest.

There are a number of udorthent types in Teaneck, in general, they are either a loamy material transported by human activity (UdkttB) or a loamy material spread over an organic, refuse or wet substratum. Udorthents and Udorthents–Urban land complexes comprise 23% of Teaneck, totaling 922 acres.

Minor and Other Soil Series

Haledon Series

The Haledon series consists of very deep, somewhat poorly drained soils formed in glacial till and found in low positions on undulating uplands. The soils developed in coarse textured glacial till composed primarily of basalt, red sandstone and shale, and granitic gneiss with lesser amounts

of quartzite and gray sandstone and shale. They are found at the base of steeper sloping uplands and in shallow drainageways. Slope ranges from zero to 15%. Characteristics:

- Drainage and Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity: Somewhat poorly drained. Surface runoff is medium to very high. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high above the fragipan and very slow or slow in the fragipan and densic materials.
- Use and Vegetation: Most areas are wooded or in idle fields. Much of this soil is used for housing or urban development. Vegetation is largely forest dominated by oak and maple with some birch and ash.

Haledon-Urban land complex soils comprise 0.9% of Teaneck, totaling 35 acres.

Pascack Series

The Pascack series consists of very deep, moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained soils formed in glacial outwash, which in many places has a loamy mantle. The outwash is derived principally from red shales and sandstones, basalt, and granitic gneiss. They are nearly level to undulating soils in slight depressions or broad drainageways on outwash plains and terraces. Slope ranges from zero to 8%.

Characteristics include:

- Drainage and Permeability: Moderately well and somewhat poorly drained. Surface runoff is slow. Permeability is moderately rapid in the solum and rapid or very rapid in the substratum. The

soil has a seasonal high-water table at a depth of one to three feet from October through May.

- Use and Vegetation: Most of the acreage is used for community development. Some areas are idle or wooded. Common crops are corn, soybeans, vegetables, and nursery stock. Common trees are red, white and black oak, hickory, red maple and white ash.

Pascack soils comprise 0.2% of Teaneck, totaling 9 acres and are located in the area of Tokoloka Park.

Preakness Series

The Preakness series consists of very deep, poorly and very poorly drained soils on broad, nearly level outwash plains or in narrow swales that dissect outwash terraces. Slope ranges from zero to 3%.

Characteristics include:

- Drainage and Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity: Preakness soils are poorly or very poorly drained. Runoff is negligible or low. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high in the surface and subsoil and high to very high in the substratum. The water table is at or near the surface from late autumn through winter and spring. The soils are often ponded in winter and during periods of high rainfall because of their low topographic position. In many places adjacent to streams, Preakness soils flood frequently for brief periods in late winter and early spring. They flood more extensively but less often following severe storms of low frequency in August through October.

- Use and Vegetation: Many areas of these soils are idle or are drained and used for housing developments. Native vegetation is red maple, elm, willow, and ash with some sedge and other hydrophytic species.

Preakness silt loam, totaling 9 acres, or 0.2% of Teaneck, can be found in the eastern portion of Argonne Park.

Otisville Series

The Otisville series consists of very deep, excessively drained soils and are on long narrow ridges, summits, shoulders, and side slopes. Slope ranges from zero to 60%.

Characteristics include:

- Drainage and Permeability: Excessively drained. The potential for surface runoff ranges from negligible to low. Permeability is rapid in the solum and rapid or very rapid in the substratum.
- Use and Vegetation: The soils are mainly idle. Limited areas are in deciduous fruit trees. Woodlots are dominated by oak-hickory associations at the southern limit of the series, while sugar maple and American beech are prominent near the northern limit.

Otisville soils comprise 0.2% of Teaneck, totaling 6 acres located in a north/south linear strip between Brett Park and Andreas Park.

Water

Water covers 125 acres, making up the remaining 3% of Teaneck's total area.

Soil Characteristics

Hydric Soils

According to the NRCS, a hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. Hydric soils are an important element of wetland areas and naturally support wetland vegetation. If a soil is classified as hydric, federal, and state wetlands regulations may restrict land use. The NRCS Soil Survey for Teaneck indicates the following soils with hydric components:

- PbuA - a minor component of this consociation, Preakness, frequently flooded, is a hydric soil, and represents 5% of the consociation. Landform: Drainageways
- PrnAt - Preakness silt loam, frequently flooded, is a hydric soil and represents 85% of this consociation. Landform: Drainageways.
- UdkttB – The minor component Parsippany, frequently flooded, is a hydric soil and represents 5% of this consociation. Landform: Outwash plains.
- Udwb and UdwbB – The minor components Pawcatuck, very frequently flooded and Transquaking, very frequently flooded, are hydric soils, each representing 1% of the consociation. Landform: tidal marshes.



Sand, Silt, and Clay

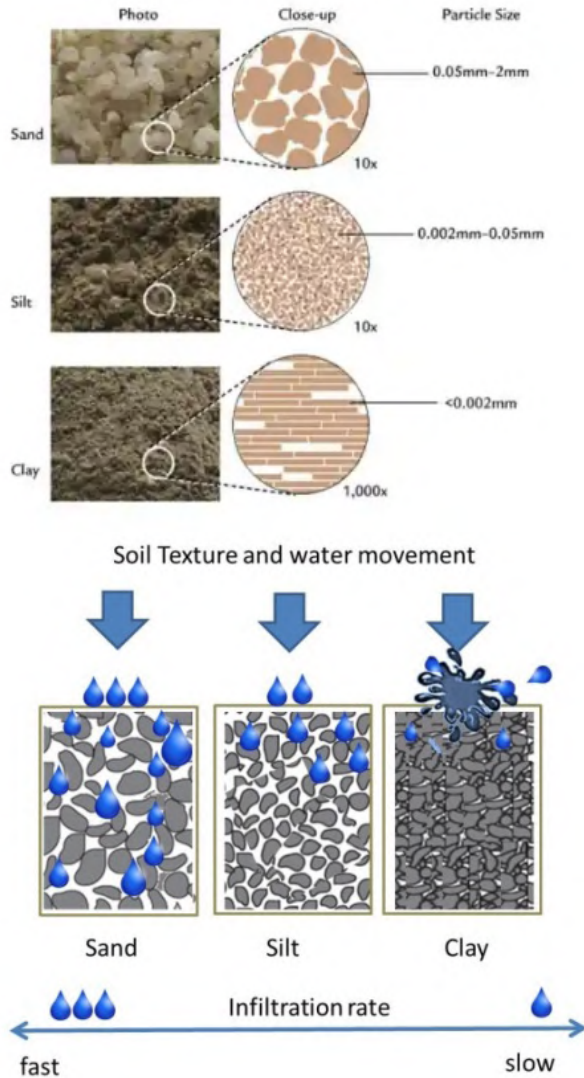


Figure 4. Soil Types (top), Soil Size (middle) and Soil Texture (bottom) (Source: [Noble Research Institute](#))

Soils with hydric components total 479 acres or 12% of Teaneck's total area.

Erodibility

Soils can be categorized by their susceptibility to erosion, the natural process by which wind, moving water, ice, and gravitational forces cause soil and particulate materials to be displaced. While erosion of exposed bedrock occurs over an extended time scale, soil erosion can occur more acutely with more immediate consequences. The consistency of the soil is one factor determining its erodibility potential, with dense, compact, clayey soils being less susceptible and looser loamy soils, with varying levels of clay and sand, being more susceptible (**Figure 4**).

A measure of this susceptibility is the K-factor. The K-factor looks at the soil texture and composition as well as the permeability to determine a number between 0.02 (less susceptible) and 0.69 (more susceptible) that demonstrates the erosion potential of a soil.

According to the NRCS, Erosion Hazard for Road/Trail Soils measures the soil loss from unsurfaced roads and trails. The soils in the Township of Teaneck (outside of water and urban land) are rated as low in this category. For the Township's four main soil units, K values are at or beneath 0.32, representing a low risk of erosion.

Topographic Protection (Wind)

According to the NRCS, the soils of the Township are subject to wind erosion. Wind erosion most

often affects soil on bare lands, where sheer force of wind detaches particles protruding from the soil surface.

Limitations for Use

Other characteristics of soil that determine suitability for development include:

- Its capacity to support foundations without corrosion.
- Limits for septic systems.
- Hydrological characteristics such as tendency towards ponding and flooding.
- Shallow water table or potential for frost heave.

According to the NRCS Soil Survey, differences in soil properties can occur within short distances.⁸ Some soils are seasonally wet or subject to flooding. Some are too unstable to be used as foundations for buildings or roads. Clayey or wet soils are poorly suited to use as septic tank absorption fields. A high water table makes soil poorly suited to basements or underground installations. Limitations for use include the following characteristics and the details for soils in Teaneck are included in **Table 4**.

Depth to restrictive layer is the vertical distance from the soil surface to the upper boundary of the restrictive layer. The restrictive layer is a nearly continuous layer that significantly impedes the movement of water and air through the soil or otherwise provides an unfavorable root environment. Examples are bedrock, cemented layers, dense

layers, and frozen layers. Shallow soils can limit plant growth. In the Township of Teaneck, the major soil series have a depth to restrictive layer greater than 200 cm.

Drainage refers to the relative wetness of the soil under natural conditions as it pertains to wetness due to a water table. Drainage classes refer to the frequency and duration of wet periods under conditions similar to those under which the soil developed. Drainage classes range from excessively drained to very poorly drained.

Depth to water table indicates a range of expected depth to a saturated zone in the soil. The soil series rating in the Township is greater than 200 cm in the Boonton and Denville series. It varies from 26 to greater than 200 cm for Udorthents.

Available water capacity is the quantity of water that the soil is capable of storing for use by plants. The capacity for water storage is given in centimeters of water per centimeter of soil for each soil layer. The capacity varies depending on soil properties that affect retention of water. The most important properties are the content of organic matter, soil texture, bulk density, and soil structure. Available water capacity is an important factor in the choice of plants and in the design and management of irrigation systems. The known soils in the Township of Teaneck narrowly range from 0.08 to 0.60 cm, with no data available for Urban Land.

Flooding is the temporary inundation of an area caused by overflowing streams or by runoff from adjacent slopes. Water

standing for short periods after rainfall or snowmelt is not considered flooding, and water standing in swamps and marshes is considered ponding rather than flooding. Given the well-drained loamy and gravelly soils throughout the Township, none of the major soil series are prone to flooding.

Potential for frost action is the likelihood of upward or lateral expansion of the soil caused by the formation of segregated ice lenses (frost heave) and the subsequent collapse of the soil and loss of strength on thawing. Silty and highly structured, clayey soils that have a high water table in winter are the most susceptible to frost action. Well-drained, very gravelly, or very sandy soils are the least susceptible. Frost heave and low soil strength during thawing cause damage to pavements and other rigid structures.

Ponding is standing water in a closed depression. Unless a drainage system is installed, the water is removed only by percolation, transpiration, or evaporation. Ponding in Teaneck Township was ranked as “none” for both the Dunellen and Boonton series.

Risk of corrosion pertains to potential soil-induced electrochemical or chemical action that corrodes or weakens uncoated steel or concrete. The rate of corrosion of uncoated steel is related to such factors as soil moisture, particle-size distribution, acidity, and electrical conductivity of the soil. The rate of corrosion of concrete is based mainly on the sulfate and sodium content, texture, moisture content, and acidity of the soil. The corrosion of concrete and steel in

Table 4. Soil Limitations

	Major Soil Series in Teaneck Township				
	<i>Dunellen Urban Land Complex</i>	<i>Boonton Urban Land Complex</i>	<i>Urban Land</i>	<i>Udorthents</i> wet substratum, urban land complex	<i>Udorthents</i> organic substratum
Depth to Restrictive Feature (cm)	>200	>200	>200	76	>200
Drainage	Well Drained	Well Drained	N/A	Moderately well drained	Moderately well drained
Depth to Water Table (cm)	>200	>200	>200	76	>200
Available Water Capacity (cm)	0.15	0.17	N/A	N/A	
Flooding	None	None	None	None	None
Frost Action Potential	Moderate	Moderate	N/A	Low	Low
Ponding	None	None	None	None	None
Risk of Corrosion Steel	High	High	N/A	Low	Low
Risk of Corrosion Concrete	High	High	N/A	High	High
Septic Absorption	Very Limited	Very Limited	N/A	Very limited to Somewhat limited	Very limited to Somewhat limited
<i>Source: NRCS Soil Survey</i>					

Table 5. Soil Limitations for Recreational Use

Major Soil Units in Teaneck	Camp Area	Picnic Area	Playground	Paths and Trails
Dunellen Urban Land Complex	Somewhat to Very Limited	Somewhat to Very Limited	Very Limited	Somewhat Limited
Boonton Urban Land Complex	Very Limited	Very Limited	Very Limited	Somewhat Limited
Urban Land	Not Rated	Not Rated	Not Rated	Not Rated
Udorthents	Somewhat Limited	Somewhat Limited	Somewhat Limited	Somewhat Limited
<i>Source: NRCS Soil Survey</i>				

the Township's soils is rated as high for all soils in the Township except UdrB (low), Urban land (no data) and Water (no data).

Septic limitations refer to effectiveness of a soil type to manage a septic tank absorption field. The ratings are based on the soil properties that affect absorption of the effluent, construction and maintenance of the system, and public health. Within the Township of Teaneck, all soils are classified as "very limited" except for UDoB and UdrB, which are classified as "somewhat limited." The "very limited" classification indicates that the soil has at least one feature that is unfavorable for such use, with the expectation of poor performance and high maintenance.

Limitations - Recreational Use

The NRCS Soil Survey also provides general recommendations with the capacity of the soil to support recreational use. This includes camping, hiking, picnicking and playgrounds (**Table 5**). In Teaneck, the soils in this category range from limited to somewhat limited (**Figure 5**). For the municipality, the Recreation Department manages the fields and parks to sustain soil health and playing capacity, regardless of the mapped limitation.

Soil Limitations for Building Site Development

Teaneck has certain soils rated by the NRCS as having no limits on their ability to support dwellings and small commercial buildings. For the purpose of these ratings, dwellings are defined as single-family houses of three stories or less and small

commercial buildings are structures that are fewer than three stories high and do not have basements. The ratings for dwellings are based on the soil properties that affect excavation and construction costs.

The properties that affect the load-supporting capacity include depth to a water table, ponding and flooding, subsidence, linear extensibility (shrink-swell potential), and compressibility. Properties that affect excavation and construction costs are depth to a water table, ponding and flooding, slope, depth to bedrock or cemented pan, hardness of bedrock or cemented pan, and the amount and size of rock fragments. In Teaneck this is shown on **Figure 6**:

- 29% (1,173 acres) of the Township is "very limited," which indicates that the soil has one or more features that are unfavorable for dwellings with basements.
- 28% (1,128 acres) of the Township is not limited, meaning the soil has conditions that is favorable for basement dwellings.
- 27.5% (1,098 acres) is somewhat limited, which indicates that the limitations can be overcome or minimized by planning, design, or installation.

Figure 5. Soil Limitations -Recreational Use
(Source: [USDA](#))

- Key
- Soil Rating Points
 - Very limited
 - Somewhat limited
 - Not limited
 - Not rated or not available

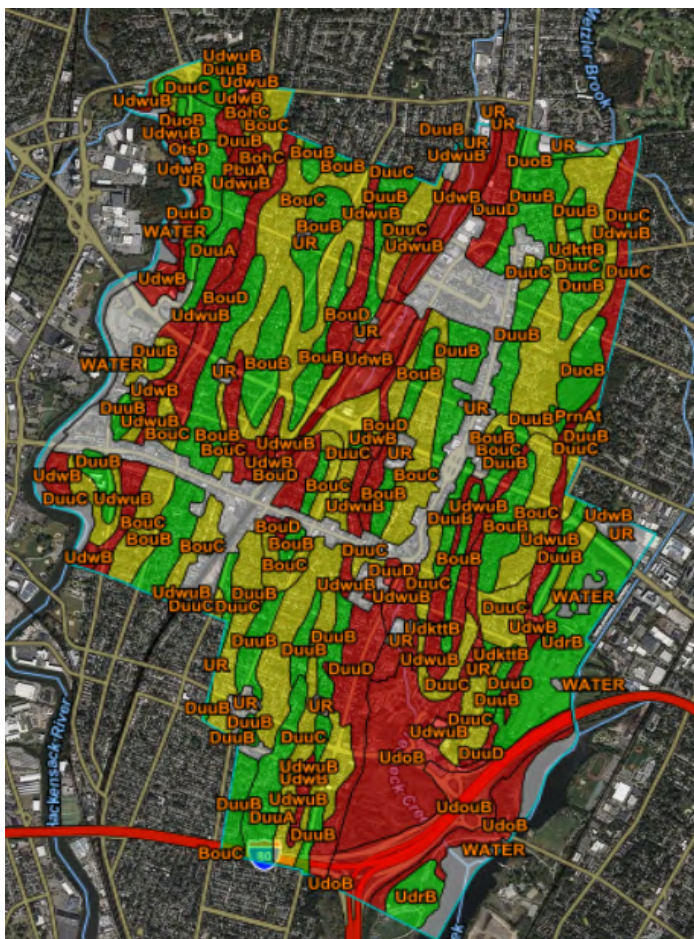
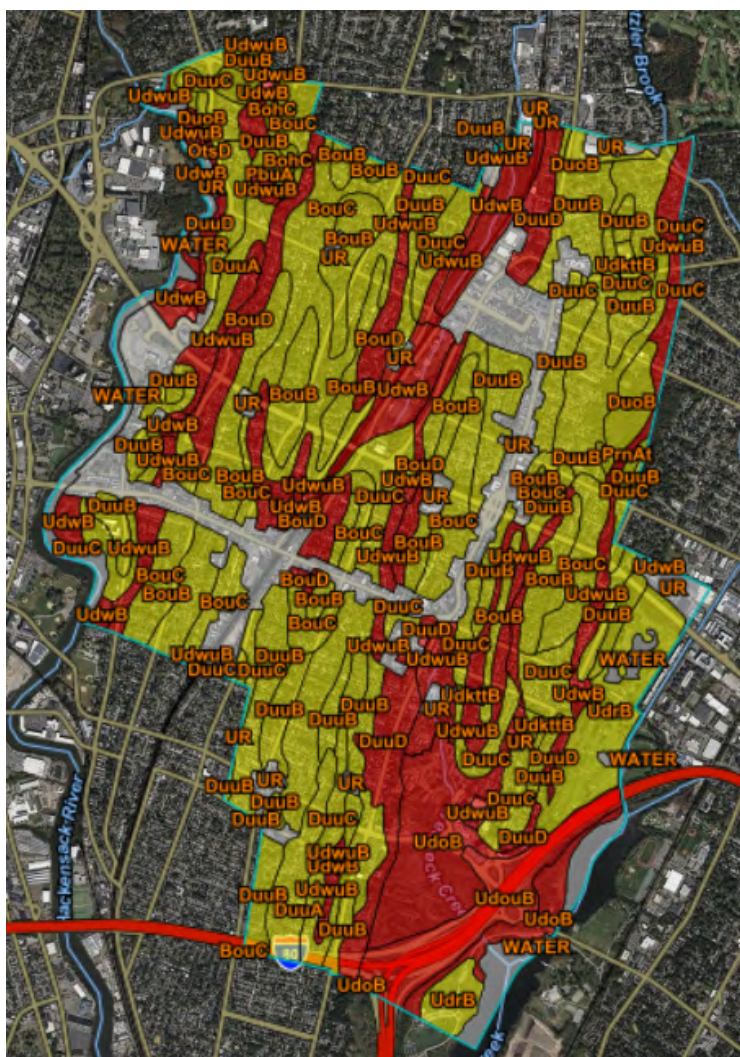


Figure 6. Soil Limitations for Building Site Development (Source: [USDA](#))



Photo: Municipal Building

Chapter 3.

Land Use Land Cover

The NJDEP maps land use and land cover using digital orthophotography (known as Land Use/Land Cover or LU/LC, data).⁹ Areas are delineated using color infrared images. Nearly all of the Township is designated by the NJDEP as urban. Per the Anderson Land Use Classification System, upon which the NJDEP categorizes land cover:

The term urban is characterized by intensive land use where the landscape has been altered by human activities... Urban categories can include residential, commercial and service, industrial, transportation, communication and commercial complexes, mixed urban or built-up, other urban or build-up, and recreational

Table 6 presents a breakdown of the four different land use types found within the Township and includes a comparison of the land use/land cover in 1986 and 2020, along with the percent change between the years. **Map 5** documents current land use.

Urban land classifications compose nearly 86% of the Teaneck, indicating a high amount of commercial and residential development. Of the urban land category, 5% (179 acres) is high density or multiple residential dwelling. Single unit, medium-to-low residential density is 66% (2,269 acres) of total urban land (**Figure 7**). Smaller areas of urban land use include utilities and infrastructure, athletic fields, industrial uses, and recreational land.

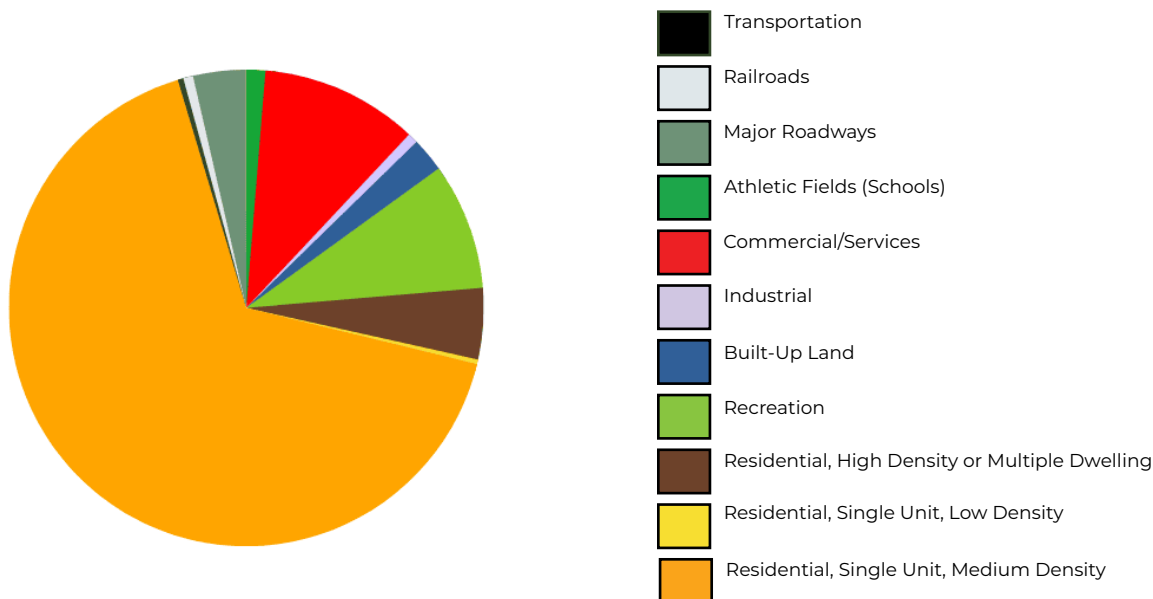
Over the past 34 years, the town has lost 15% of its forest cover (47 acres), with a corresponding increase in the urban cover. The NJDEP defines the land cover types as follows:

- Agriculture – lands used for the production of food and fiber, and the structures associated with this production
- Barren Land – The sub-categories of barren land that are identified in Teaneck include altered lands and transitional areas.
- Forest– lands covered by woody vegetation other than wetlands.
- Water – Areas that are periodically water covered.
- Wetlands – Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground waters at a frequency and duration sufficient to support vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.
- Urban Land – Urban land is characterized by intensive land use where the landscape has been altered by human activities. Urban land categories are shown in **Figure 7**.

Type	Acres		% Change 1986-2020
	1986	2020	
Agriculture	2.47	3.11	26%
Barren	9.61	2.33	-76%
Forest	319.52	272.32	-15%
Urban	3,405.83	3,450.06	1%
Water	124.16	139.90	13%
Wetlands	131.46	125.29	5%
Urban	3,405.83	3,450.06	1%
Total:	7,398.88	7,443.07	

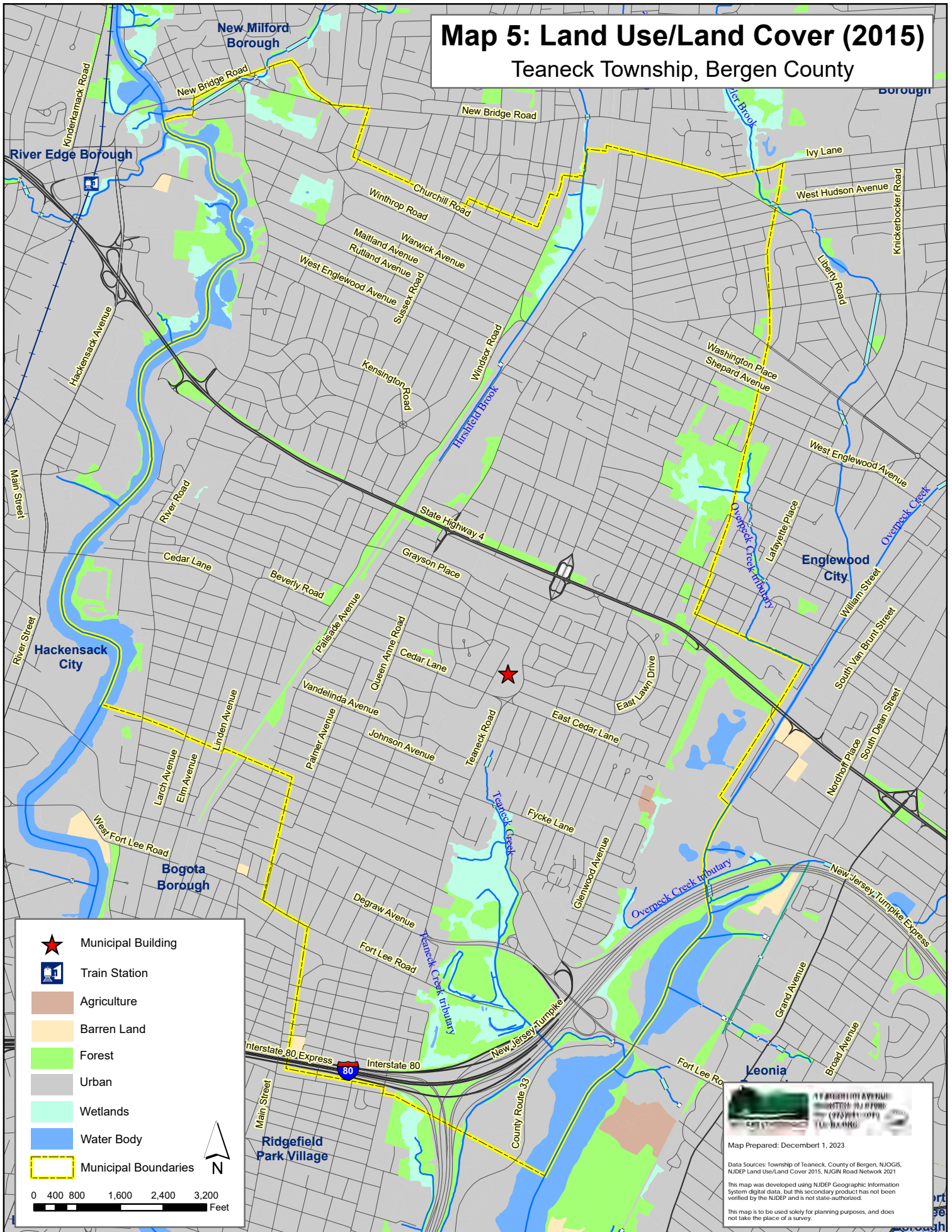
Source: [Land Use Land Cover, NJDEP](#)










Figure 7. Urban Land Classifications in Teaneck ([NJDEP Land Use/Land Cover, 2020](#))




Map 5: Land Use/Land Cover (2015)


Teaneck Township, Bergen County



-  Municipal Building
-  Train Station
-  Agriculture
-  Barren Land
-  Forest
-  Urban
-  Wetlands
-  Water Body
-  Municipal Boundaries


 N

0 400 800 1,600 2,400 3,200
 Feet



Map Prepared: December 1, 2023

Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, County of Bergen, NJGIS, NJDEP Land Use/Land Cover 2015, NJGN Road Network 2021

This map was developed using NJDEP Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by the NJDEP and is not state-authorized.

This map is to be used solely for planning purposes, and does not take the place of a survey.



Photo: Teaneck Community Garden

Chapter 4.

Vegetation

Forest Types

Forested areas represent 7% of the Township's land cover (267 acres). These wooded areas are commonly found within or near municipal parks, riparian corridors, residential backyards, and undeveloped parcels.

Of the 267 acres of deciduous forest, 152 acres have >50% crown closure, and 97 acres have 10-50% crown

closure. Only 18 acres are brush or shrubland (**Table 7**).

Forested lands in the Township of Teaneck include the following classifications :

Deciduous – Forested land that contains deciduous tree species, which lose their leaves at the end of the growing season. These trees remain leafless throughout the

Table 7. Forested Land Classifications

Classification	Acres	% of Category
Deciduous Forest (>50% Crown Closure)	151.58	56.83%
Deciduous Forest (10-50% Crown Closure)	96.74	36.27%
Deciduous Brush/Shrubland	18.39	6.90%
Total:	266.71	100%

Source: [Land Use Land Cover, NJDEP](#)

winter and sprout new leaves the following spring. The average height of the stand is at least 20 feet. A forest stand must have at least 75% canopy coverage from deciduous tree species to be placed in this category. In the Township of Teaneck, there are 267 acres of deciduous forest.

Deciduous Forest, >50% Crown Closure: This category contains deciduous stands with crown closure greater than 50%. Crown closure is the percentage of forest area occupied by the vertical projections of tree crowns. Crown closure percentages provide a reasonable estimate of stand density. Most of the deciduous forests in New Jersey are in this category. The Township has 152 acres of forest in this category.

Deciduous Forest, 10-50% Crown Closure: This category contains deciduous forest stands that have crown closure greater than 10% but less than 50%, which includes 97 acres in the Township.

Deciduous Brush/Shrubland: This category contains forested areas with deciduous species less than 20 feet in height. An area must have greater than 25% brush cover to be placed in this category. This category can also contain inactive agricultural areas that have grown over with brush. There are 18 acres of deciduous brush/shrubland within the Township.

The Native Plant Society of New Jersey [website](#) maintains a list of native plants.

Tree Protection Ordinance

The Township's code, Chapter 37: Trees and Plants, 37-1 to 37-26, covers tree removal and planting.¹⁰ Initially adopted in 1951, this section regulates the removal of trees, protects local infrastructure, and provides initiatives for replenishing shade trees. The code:

- Protects shade trees in the Township.
- Prohibits unauthorized tree cutting and pruning.
- Establishes regulations for tree planting on public land.
- Forbids topping of public trees except in certain cases.
- Sets regulations for public utility operations.
- Authorizes the Council to designate landmark trees.

Trees in Teaneck

The Shade Tree Commission has identified the most common trees found in Teaneck (**Table 7**). In addition to what is in the table, various varieties of hollies, magnolias, pines, balsam, spruce, dogwood, flowering cherries, crabapple, birches, cottonwood, and serviceberries are also seen throughout the Township.¹¹ Recently, the Commission has observed an increase in invasive plant species, including the Porcelain Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) threatening the tree canopy.¹²

In October 2023, a team of plant scientists and volunteers documented plants growing in the

Teaneck Creek Conservancy’s (TCC) new restoration areas. A survey of 20 plots found 56 plant species growing on the 20 acres of land (**Table 8**).¹³

Trees in Teaneck, as seen throughout the state and region, have been affected by two invasive insects, the emerald ash borer and the spotted lanternfly.^{14,15} The Emerald Ash Borer

afflicts ash trees, burrowing beneath the bark, disrupting its absorption of water, and eventually causing its death. The spotted lanternfly nymphs and adults suck sap from the stems and leaves of trees, interrupting weakening the tree and killing it. The NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA) promotes an integrated pest management approach. Aerial spray treatments on residential and recreational areas using the selective, non-chemical insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* is recommended where natural controls struggle to keep the pest population in check.

Urban and Community Forestry Program

The Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) program is a part of the federal government’s Justice40 Initiative.¹⁶ This comprehensive climate legislation was passed under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act to help disadvantaged communities with low tree canopy. Operated by the USDA Forest Service, the UCF Program provides technical, financial, and educational support for nature-based solutions to create tree cover in urban areas. Strategies include cooling urban areas by planting more trees, promoting forest health, and creating green job opportunities. The Forest Service is allocating \$250 million in the form of competitive grants, cooperative agreements, and technical assistance. For disadvantaged communities, the federal government is waiving the match requirement.

More details can be found at this link: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/UCF-IRA-NOFO-04122023.pdf>.

Table 8. Local Tree Inventory	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Dawn Redwood	<i>Metasequoias glyptostroboides</i>
Eastern White Pines	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Yellowwood	<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>
Callery Pears	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>
Japanese Lilacs	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
European Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
Black Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
Golden Raintree	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis.</i>
Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Source: Teaneck Shade Tree Advisory Board	

Table 9. Plants Recorded at Teaneck Creek Conservancy	
Common Name	Scientific Name
Alsike clover	<i>Alisma subcordatum</i>
American water plantain	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Beggar tick	<i>Bidens frondosa</i>
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardi</i>
Birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Black medic	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>
Blunt spikerush	<i>Eleocharis obtusa</i>
Broom sedge	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>
Brownish beaksedge	<i>Rhynchospora capitellata</i>
Cattail species*	<i>Typha sp.</i>
Clearweed	<i>Pilea pumila</i>
Clover species	<i>Trifolium sp.</i>
Common mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
Common ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Common three square	<i>Schoenoplectus pungens</i>
Corn speedwell	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>
Creeping yellowcress	<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>
Crown vetch	<i>Securigera varia</i>
Curly dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Cursed crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>
Deer-tongue grass	<i>Dichanthelium clandestinum</i>
Eastern cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Goldenrod species	<i>Solidago sp.</i>
Hardstem bullrush	<i>Scirpus acutus</i>
Source: Teaneck Creek Conservancy: June 2023 Restoration Area Plot Survey	

Common Name	Scientific Name
Fireweed	<i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i>
Hop sedge	<i>Carex lupulina</i>
Hop trefoil	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>
Horseweed	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>
Japanese stiltgrass	<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>
Joe-pye-weed	<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Path rush	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Pickerelweed	<i>Pontederia cordata</i>
Plantain species	<i>Plantago sp.</i>
Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Queen Ann's Lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>
Rabbit-foot clover	<i>Trifolium arvense</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Rush species	<i>Juncus sp.</i>
Sedge species	<i>Carex sp.</i>
Skunk cabbage	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>
Smartweed species	<i>Persicaria sp.</i>
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Square stemmed monkey flower	<i>Mimulus ringens</i>
Swamp rose mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
Tickseed species	<i>Coreopsis sp.</i>
Water purslane	<i>Lythrum portula</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
Yellowseed false pimpernell	<i>Lindernia dubia</i>
*A plant name that includes "species" indicates that they could only determine the genus of the plant, but it did not have enough distinguishing characteristics to determine the particular species.	

Carbon Storage

Forests remove or sequester substantial amounts of carbon from the atmosphere and are known as carbon sinks. Forests in the United States are currently estimated to offset about 15% of annual U.S. carbon emissions. This is in addition to any local climate benefits they may provide (as discussed in **Chapter 9**). However, the impact of forest carbon sequestration is dependent on the fate of a forest — when wood is harvested and burned, for example,

any stored carbon is returned to the atmosphere.

The Nature Conservancy has created detailed mapping of estimated carbon sinks (the amount of carbon currently stored in forests) as of 2010 and projected sequestration between 2010 and 2050 under a no-disturbance scenario.¹⁷ Actual carbon sequestered may be higher or lower depending on management practices or the success of forest preservation. Areas of stored carbon in Teaneck correspond to the deciduous forest cover (**Figure 8**).

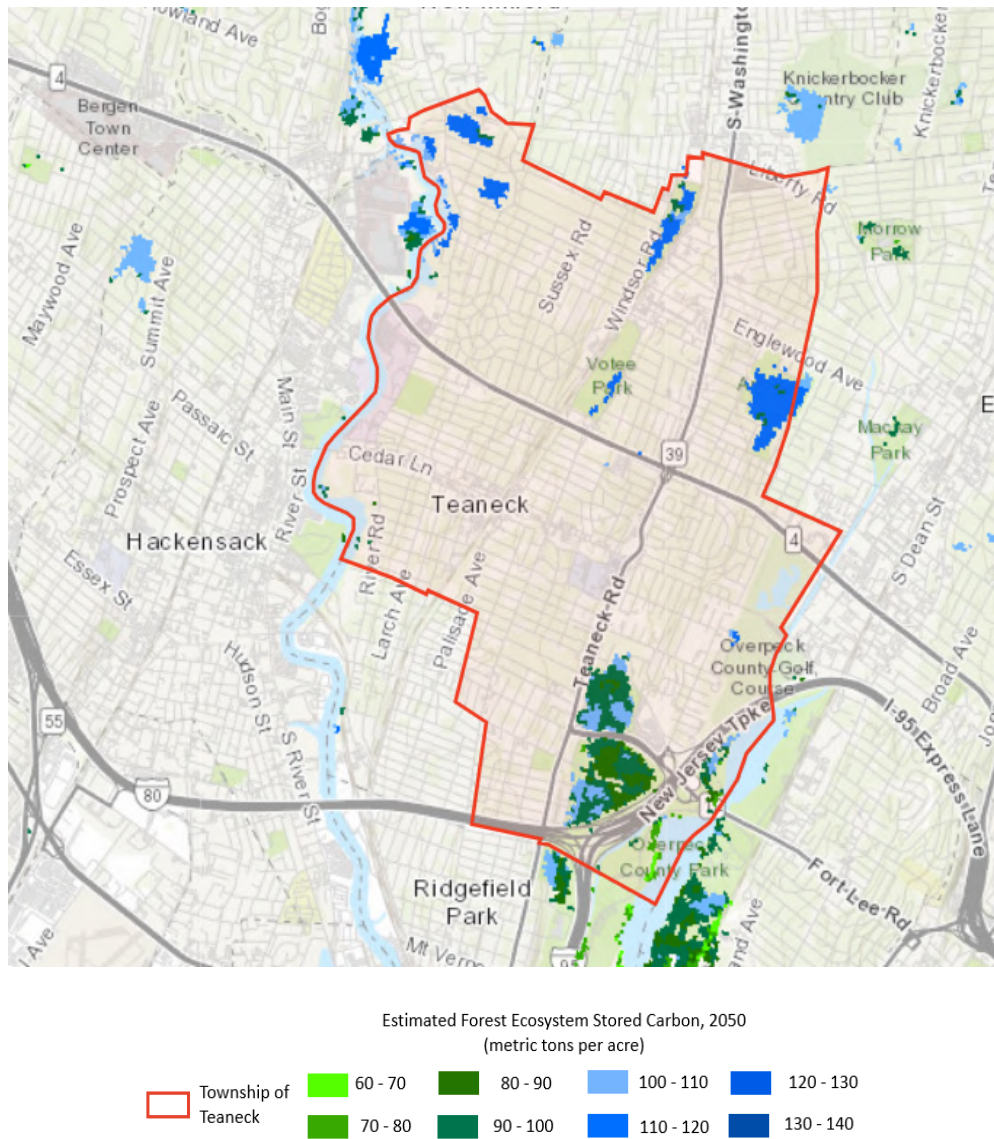


Figure 8. Forest Ecosystem Projected Stored Carbon, Teaneck 2050 ([The Nature Conservancy, Resilient Land Mapping Tool](#))



Photo: Teaneck Creek

Chapter 5.

Wildlife

Threatened & Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

The NJDEP Landscape Project 3.3 ranks patches of habitat using a numeric system (0 through 5) for the purpose of identifying habitat which may be suitable for threatened and endangered species.¹⁸ Habitat identified as Rank 3 through 5 are considered environmentally significant by the NJDEP:

- Rank 5: Species-specific patches containing one or more occurrences of wildlife listed as endangered and threatened pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- Rank 4: Species-specific patches with one or more occurrences of state endangered species.
- Rank 3: Species-specific patches containing one or more occurrences of state threatened species.
- Rank 2: Species-specific patches containing one or more occurrences of species considered to be species of special concern.
- Rank 1: Species-specific patches that meet habitat-specific suitability requirements such as minimum size criteria for endangered, threatened, or priority wildlife species, but that do not intersect with any confirmed occurrences of such species.
- Rank 0: Patches that do not contain any species occurrences and do not meet any habitat-specific suitability requirements.

There are land patches in the Township that contain endangered species or their habitat, and are ranked as either 1 or 2. These areas are located primarily along riparian corridors.

Rank 2, or habitat suitable for species of special concern, is concentrated along the Township's eastern side from Teaneck Creek in the south to Overpeck Creek tributary and Hirshfield Brook in the north. Other areas where these species are found are Tokoloka Park, Clarence W. Brett Park and Andreas Park.

Rank 3, or state threatened species, is primarily seen in two spots, one spot is to the northeast near Liberty Road at Metzler Brook and another one is northwest near New Bridge Road in French Brook above Matthew Feldman Nature Preserve.

Rank 4, or state endangered species habitat, can be found along the Hackensack River running along the west side of the Township's border. State endangered species habitats are also found along the Overpeck

Creek which is to the southeast of the Township.

Rank 5, or federally listed endangered species habitat, is not present in Teaneck.

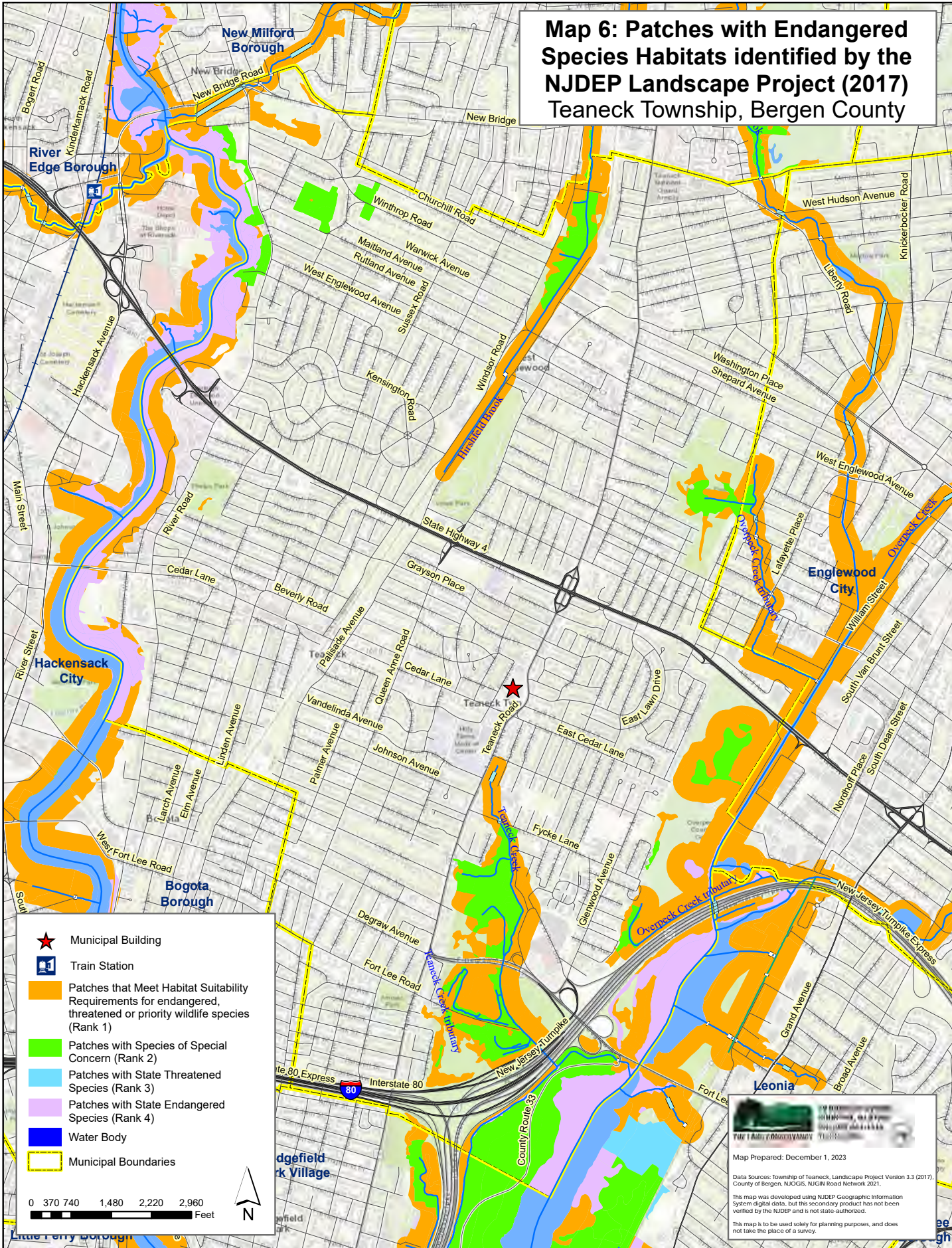
The NJDEP notes that several rare species and their habitat have been found within the Township of Teaneck (**Table 10** and **Map 6**)¹⁹:

- Rank 2: The majority (71%) of these species and their habitat fall under Rank 2 and includes the brown thrasher, glossy ibis, little blue heron, snowy egret and wood thrush.
- Rank 3 (5%) containing the yellow-crowned night heron (**Figure 9**).
- Rank 4 species (bald eagle): 25% of species-specific patches.
- None of the Township maintains Rank 5 with species-specific patches containing one or more occurrences of federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Table 10. Rare Wildlife Species in Teaneck

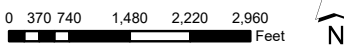
Species Rank	Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Patch (Acres)
Rank 2 (Species of Special Concern)	Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	49.69
	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	114.32
	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	128.11
	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	187.04
	Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	27.31
Rank 3 (State Threatened)	Yellow-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	33.22
Rank 4 (State Endangered)	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	144.17
	Bald Eagle nest		31.18
Total			715.04
Source: NJDEP; Natural Heritage Database and Landscape Project			

Map 6: Patches with Endangered Species Habitats identified by the NJDEP Landscape Project (2017) Teaneck Township, Bergen County



Mc

- ★ Municipal Building
- Train Station
- Patches that Meet Habitat Suitability Requirements for endangered, threatened or priority wildlife species (Rank 1)
- Patches with Species of Special Concern (Rank 2)
- Patches with State Threatened Species (Rank 3)
- Patches with State Endangered Species (Rank 4)
- Water Body
- Municipal Boundaries



Map Prepared: December 1, 2023

Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, Landscape Project Version 3.3 (2017), County of Bergen, NJGIS, NJGIN Road Network 2021.

This map was developed using NJDEP Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by the NJDEP and is not state-authorized.

This map is to be used solely for planning purposes, and does not take the place of a survey.

Aquatic Species

Recently, the Teaneck Creek Conservancy conducted an aquatic survey which found the following species²⁰:

- American bullfrogs
- Green frog
- Dragonfly larvae
- Pouch/lunged Snail
- Eastern painted turtles
- Planaria (flatworm)
- Sowbugs
- Fly midges
- Aquatic worms
- Soldier fly larvae
- Leeches
- Oriental weatherfish
- Water skimmer bugs
- Mummichog (small killifish)

Vernal Habitat

Vernal habitats, also known as vernal pools, are natural wetland depressions that fill with water during the rainy season in the fall and remain ponded until the warmer weather in early summer causes them to dry out. Vernal pools provide habitat for a wide variety of amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and many species of wetland vegetation, but cannot support a fish population because of their brief dry period. Certain wildlife species,

The NJDEP defines a vernal habitat in the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:7A-1.4) as a wetland that meets all of the following criteria:

- The wetland must consist of or contain a confined basin or depression without a permanently flowing outlet.
- The pool must feature evidence of breeding by at least one obligate or two facultative vernal habitat species. (these species are identified in N.J.A.C. 7:7A)
- The area must maintain ponded water for at least two continuous months between March and September of a normal rainfall year.
- The area must remain free of fish populations throughout the year, or it must dry up at some time during a normal rainfall year.

referred to as obligate vernal pool breeders, have evolved with reliance upon these fish-free breeding sites and cannot successfully produce elsewhere. Other wildlife species, referred to as facultative vernal pool species, also take advantage of vernal habitats for breeding and/or feeding purposes, but are not limited to performing these functions solely in vernal pools.

Wetland areas featuring a confined basin depression exhibiting the hydrologic and biological criteria established above are said to meet certification requirements and may be referred to as certified vernal habitats.

The NJDEP's Landscape Project divides its mapping of vernal habitats into two categories:

Potential vernal habitat areas are areas identified as possibly containing a vernal pool that meets the criteria of a vernal habitat pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7A-1.4. These sites include sites that have been field inspected and found to meet the physical characteristics of a vernal habitat but for which biological criteria have not yet been measured, as well as sites that have not been checked by NJDEP staff.

Vernal habitat areas contain pools that have been field-verified by the NJDEP and have been determined to meet both physical and biological characteristics of a vernal habitat in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:7A-1.4. The Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:7A) protect vernal habitats as wetland areas requiring a 50-foot buffer, or a 150-foot buffer if the pool supports a State Threatened or Endangered Species.

The NJDEP maps both certified vernal habitat areas and potential vernal habitat areas. **Map 7** shows 300-meter radius circles around the estimated center of Teaneck's one potential vernal habitat. The 300-meter buffer is used to account for the varying sizes of individual pools, the likely presence of adjacent wetland areas and – significantly – the adjacent dispersal habitats typically utilized by many resident amphibian species.

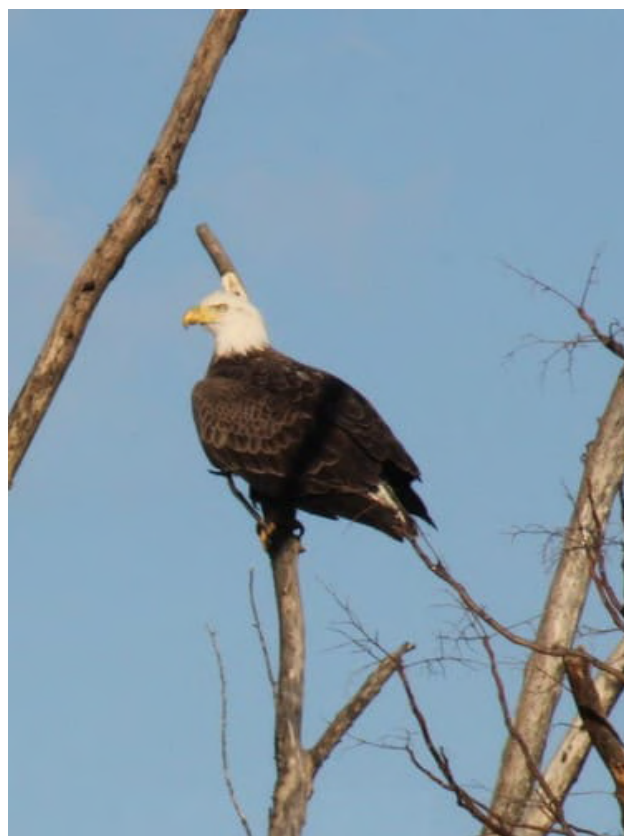


Figure 9. *Threatened & Endangered Species, Yellow-Crowned Night Heron (top, National Audubon Society) and Bald Eagle (bottom, Mark Oppenheim)*

Map 7: Vernal Habitats by the NJDEP Landscape Project (2017) Teaneck Township, Bergen County

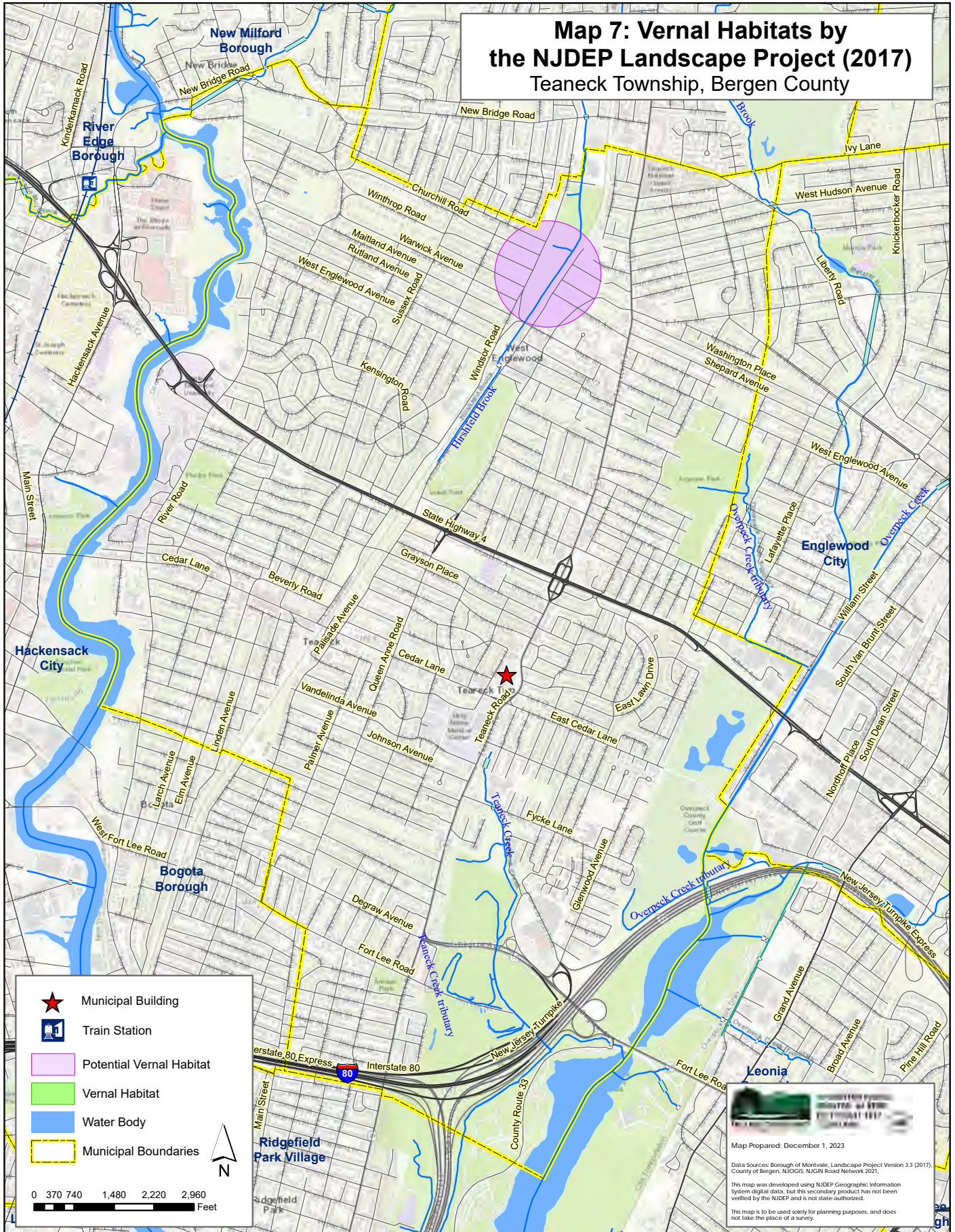




Photo: Hackensack River

Chapter 6.

Hydrology

Watersheds

A watershed is a topographic area within which surface water runoff drains into a specific point on a stream or to a water body, such as a lake. A watershed-based approach to natural resource

management is considered by state and national agencies to be the most appropriate unit for managing complex environmental problems.²¹ The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has mapped and identified watersheds using a hierarchical numbering system.

Table 11. HUC14 Watersheds

WMA	WMA Name	Watershed Name	Sub-Watersheds Name	Acres	Percent
05	Hackensack, Hudson, and Pascack	Hackensack River (below/including Hirshfeld Brook)	Hackensack River (Fort Lee Road to Oradell gage)	1,166	29%
05	Hackensack, Hudson, and Pascack	Hackensack River (below/including Hirshfeld Brook)	Hirshfeld Brook	719	53%
05	Hackensack, Hudson, and Pascack	Hackensack River (below/including Hirshfeld Brook)	Overpeck Creek	2,109	18%
Total				3,993	100%

Source: [NJDEP HUC14 Watershed Data](#)

This system identifies watersheds by a hydrological unit code (HUC) that includes up to 14 digits for the smallest watersheds. The HUC14 watersheds for Teaneck are identified on **Map 8** and **Table 11**. The NJDEP has divided the state into Watershed Management Areas (WMAs). Teaneck is located in WMA 5, the Hackensack River, Pascack Creek and Hudson River watersheds.

Surface Water Quality

Surface water is water that collects on the ground or in a stream, river, lake, wetland, or ocean. The surface water bodies in Teaneck are listed in **Table 12** and shown on **Map 9**.

Table 12. Surface Water		
Stream	Miles	Percent
Teaneck Creek	1.23	12%
Teaneck Creek UNT	1.39	14%
Hirshfeld Brook	1.25	12%
Hirshfeld Brook UNT	0.12	1%
Overpeck Creek	1.51	15%
Overpeck Creek UNT	1.63	16%
French Brook	0.31	3%
Metzler Brook	0.16	2%
Hackensack River	2.64	26%
Total:	10.24	100%
<i>Source: NJDEP Surface Water Quality Data (UNT: Unnamed Tributary)</i>		

New Jersey's Surface Quality Standards (SWQS), N.J.A.C. 7:9, classify water based on the type of waterbody and designated use of the waterbody.

Freshwaters are classified as:

- FW1: not subject to any man-made wastewater discharges. FW1 waters are non-degradation waters set aside because of their ecological significance.
- FW2: all other freshwaters. FW2 waters are further classified based on their ability to support trout:
 - FW2-TP: Trout Production
 - FW2-TM: Trout Maintenance
 - FW2-NT: Non-trout

The presence of trout in a stream means that the waters are relatively free of chemicals or biological contaminants:

- TP: Designated for use by trout spawning or nursery purposes during their first summer.
- TM: Support trout throughout the year.
- NT: Do not support trout, either because of their physical nature or due to biological or chemical characteristics (SWQS, N.J.A.C.7:9B).

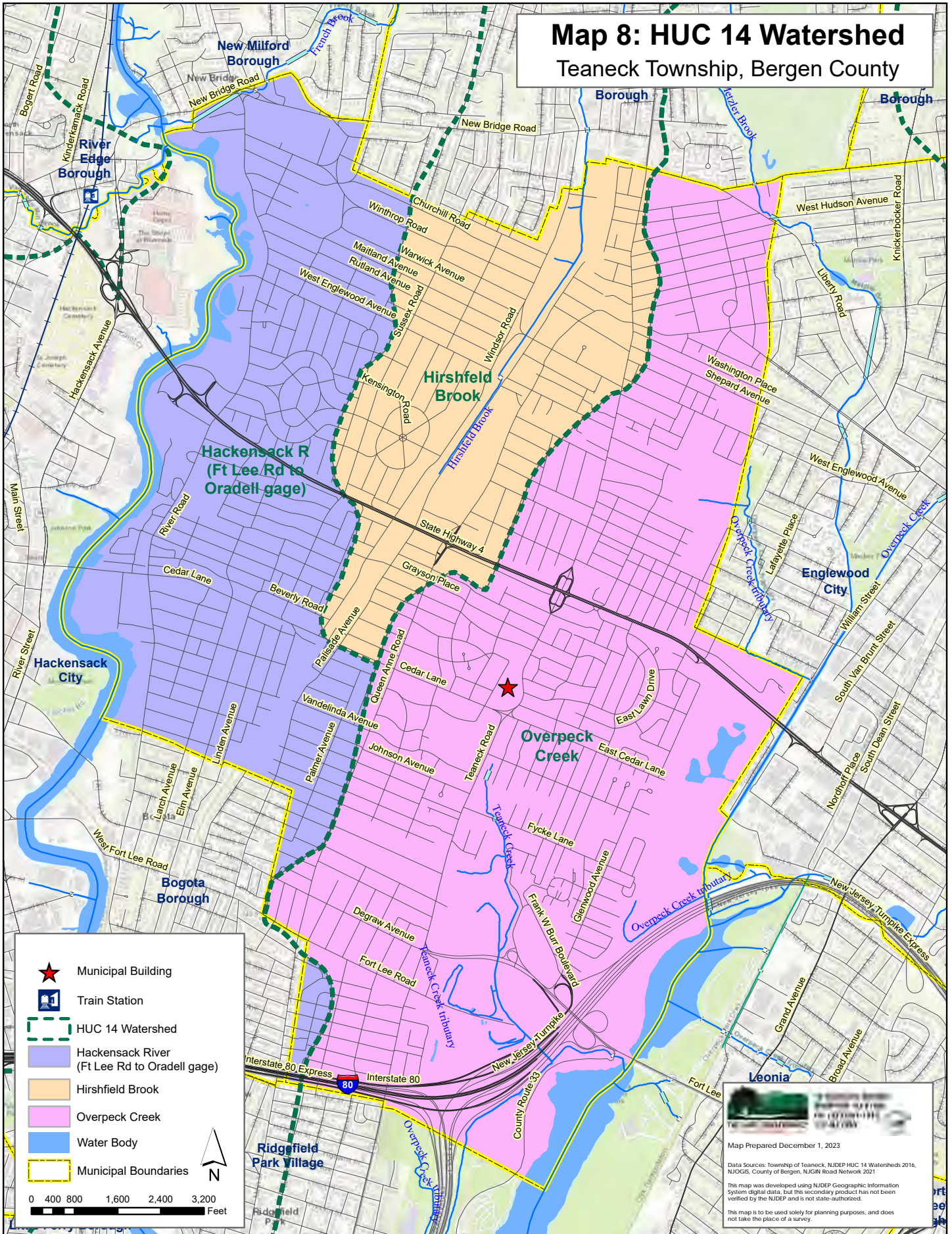
In addition, saline waters (such as the waters in Teaneck) are classified as:

- SE: Saline Estuary
- SC: Saline Coastal

The Township's surface waters are classified as either FW2 and Non-Trout (FW2-NT) or Saline Estuarine (SE1 or SE2). The SE waters are further classified based on their ability to support recreation, shellfish harvesting, and warm water fish species. FW2-NT/SE1 indicates that the water changes from freshwater to saline due to tidal influences.

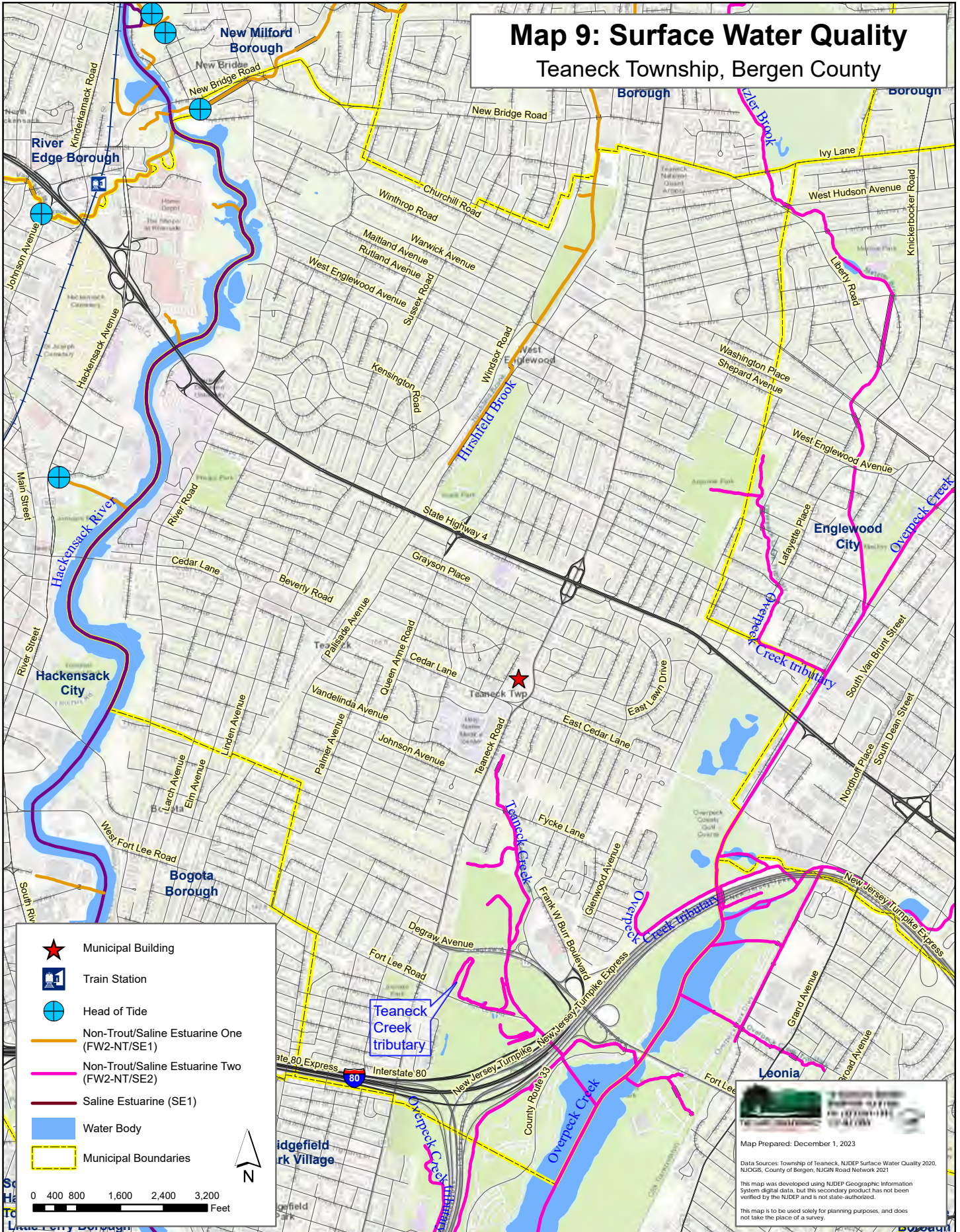
Map 8: HUC 14 Watershed

Teaneck Township, Bergen County



Map 9: Surface Water Quality

Teaneck Township, Bergen County



Over time, the primary streams divide into smaller streams and continue their flow beneath the surface. This phenomenon can be observed in Teaneck, where Teaneck Creek emerges on the premises of Holy Name Hospital slightly north of Vadelinda Avenue. It then transverses Teaneck Road in a culvert before heading east towards Thomas Jefferson Middle School (**Figure 10**).²³



Figure 10. *Teaneck Creek emerging on the grounds of Holy Name Hospital (Google Maps)*

Surface water quality in Teaneck Township is affected by point source and non-point sources of pollution, as well as erosion and sedimentation.²⁴ Point source means any discernible, confined, and discrete fissure or container from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This includes discharges from sewage treatment plants and factories, stormwater runoff, illegal dumping, and malfunctioning underground storage tanks and septic tanks.

In contrast to point source pollution, non-point source pollution comes from many different sources. As rainfall or snowmelt moves over and through the ground, it picks up and carries natural and human-made pollutants (such as fertilizers, herbicides, and motor

oil) and deposits them into surface and groundwater. The effects of pollutants on specific waterways can vary, but eventually all are manifested into negative outcomes for drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

One of these effects is eutrophication, which, in freshwater systems, is the addition of substances, either man-made or natural, to a water body, affecting the primary productivity of that body of water. Nitrates and phosphates promote excessive algae growth. These blooms can have negative effects on the ecosystem. This can include clouding of the water which limits sunlight penetration and stops the growth of plants deeper in the water. Additionally, the excess nutrient availability (eutrophication) from the decomposition of dead phytoplankton can cause depleted levels of dissolved oxygen (anoxia). This can be seen in algal blooms which can choke the water body of oxygen and degrade conditions for wildlife and recreation.

Water quality can also be negatively impacted by sedimentation, which is the transportation and deposition of eroded materials. A primary cause of sedimentation is development near streams and on steep slopes that reduce vegetative cover and result in exposed soil. The vegetative cover can typically absorb the impact of raindrops, but when it is removed, the exposed soil easily becomes eroded. The eroded soil can then be transported to surface waters, where it could contaminate and increase the turbidity of the water, effectively blocking sunlight to plant species and negatively affecting the health of the aquatic ecosystem. Teaneck's waters are exposed to this as well.

Aquifer Recharge

An aquifer is an underground formation of permeable rock or unconsolidated materials that can yield significant quantities of water to wells or springs. The rate of recharge is not the same for all aquifers, and that must be considered when pumping water from a well. Pumping too much water too fast draws down the water in the aquifer and eventually causes a well to yield less water or run dry.

Aquifers in New Jersey are classified as either bedrock or surficial. Bedrock aquifers consist of rock formations, while surficial aquifers are formed from unconsolidated materials, such as sand or gravel or glacial sediment. Bedrock aquifers in the Piedmont contain water in fractures within the rock while surficial aquifers contain water primarily in the spaces between sand and gravel particles.

Teaneck Township is underlain by the Brunswick Aquifer (Rank C) and diabase (Rank E) (**Map 10**).

The Brunswick Aquifer is composed of sandstone, siltstone, and shale of the Passaic, Towaco, Teltville, and Boonton Formations. Groundwater is stored and transmitted in fractures. Water is normally fresh, slightly alkaline, non-corrosive and hard, while calcium-bicarbonate type waters dominate. The NJGS identifies the Brunswick Aquifer as a fractured rock aquifer of the Newark Basin which yields between 100 and 250 gallons per minute.

Surficial aquifers in New Jersey are water-bearing formations which are both greater than 50

feet thick (New Jersey law requires well casing of no less than 50 feet) and are significantly different, hydrogeologically, than the underlying aquifer. Surficial aquifers are most prevalent in northern New Jersey where bedrock consists of consolidated fractured bedrock overlain by thick sequences of unconsolidated glacial sediments.

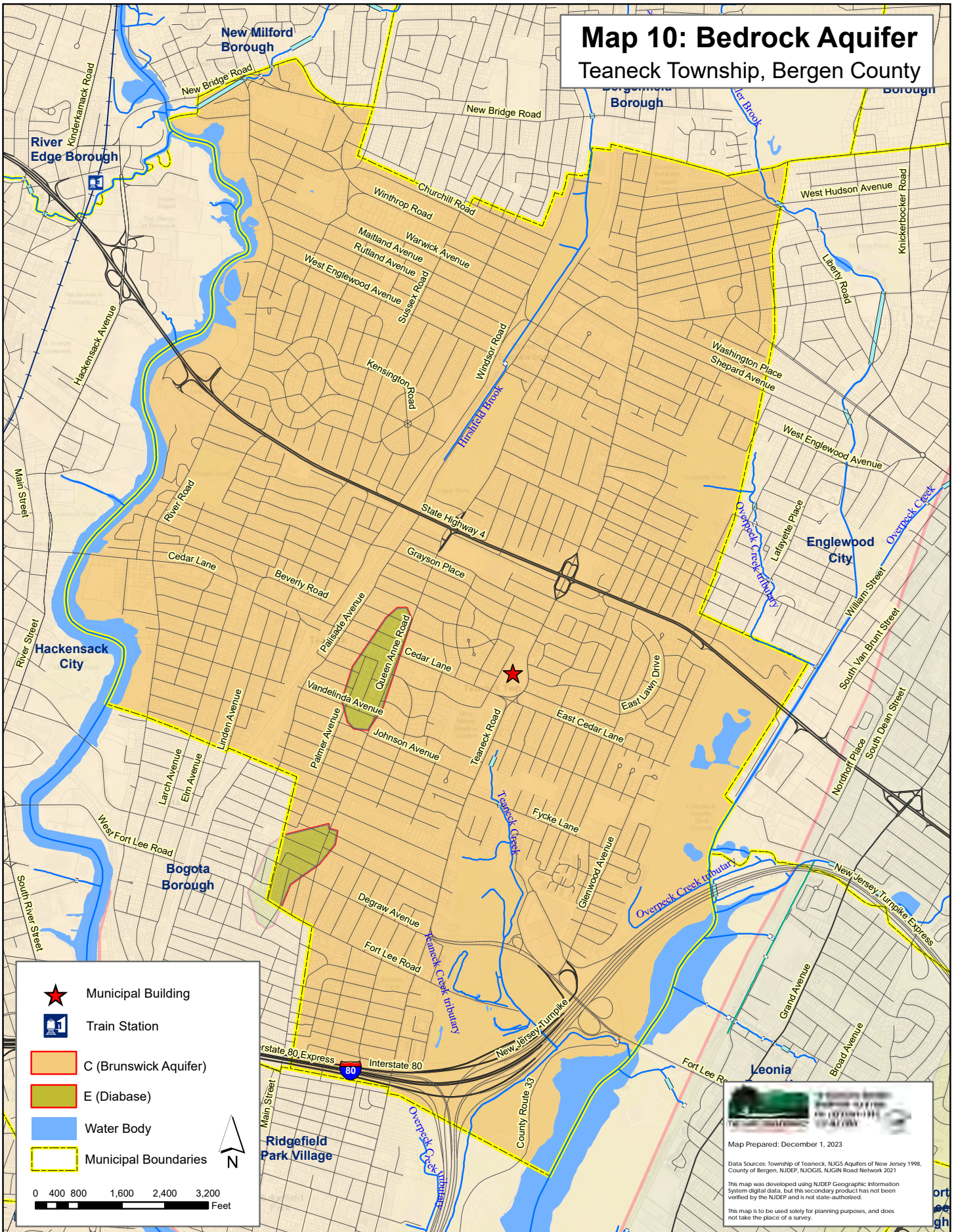
Aquifers in New Jersey can be ranked on their ability to yield groundwater to high-capacity wells. These wells include water-supply, irrigation, and industrial-supply wells sited and tested for maximum yield. Many of the wells have boreholes exceeding the standing six-inch diameter for domestic wells. The five aquifer ranks values are based on a statistical analysis of median yields for over 8,000 high-capacity wells (**Table 13**).

Map 11 and **Table 14** show the distribution of rankings for the Township. 79% of Teaneck is ranked as either C/B, C/C or C/E. These ranks have a well yield potential ranging 25-250 gallons per minute (gpm) and a groundwater infiltration rate between 8-17 inches per year (in/yr).

The areas of highest recharge potential in the Township are the forested, undeveloped lands found primarily within and near public parks. The areas of lowest potential are located in the wetland areas where the hydric nature of the system holds (ponds) the water where it slowly percolates and infiltrates the groundwater aquifer.

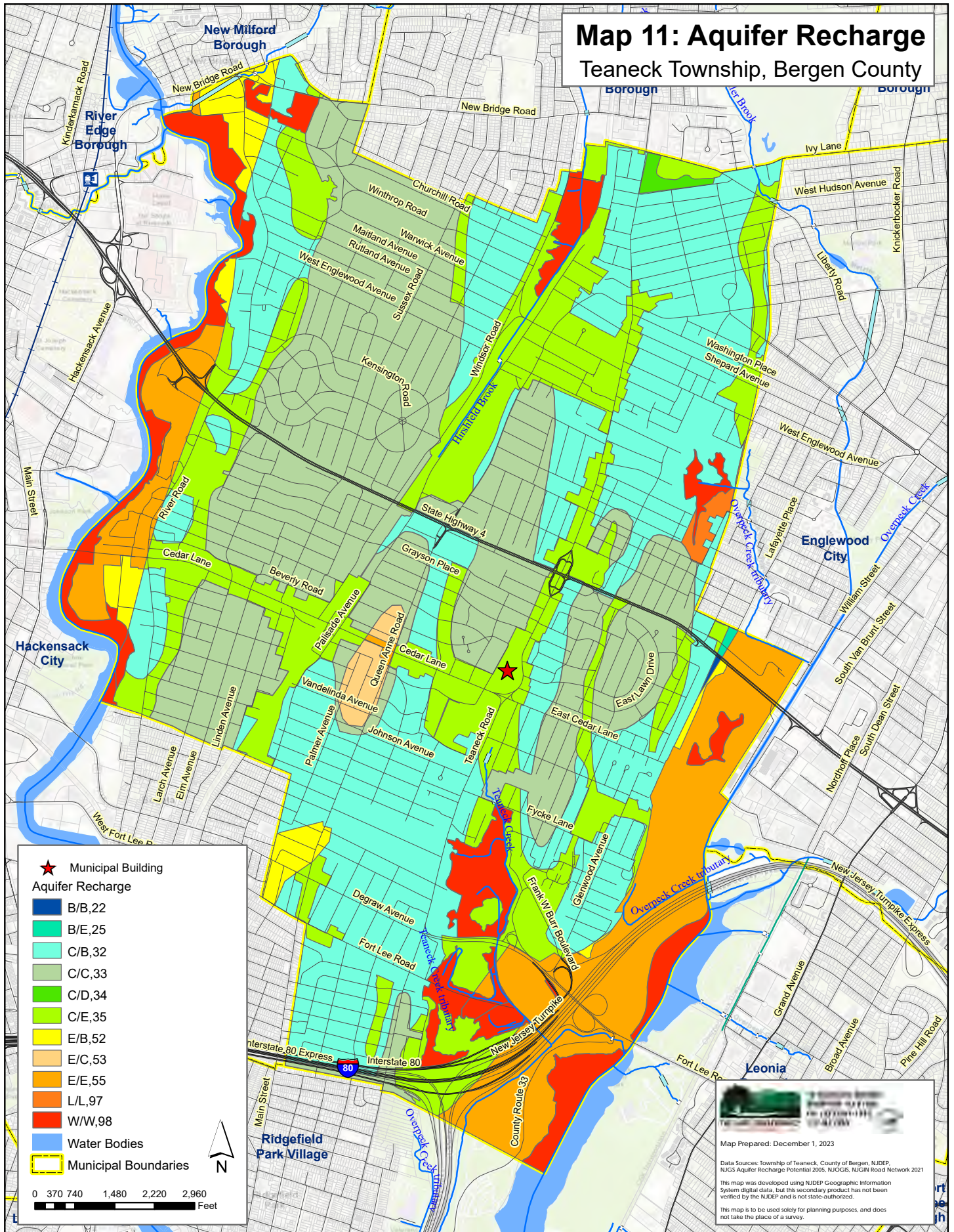
Map 10: Bedrock Aquifer

Teaneck Township, Bergen County



Map 11: Aquifer Recharge

Teaneck Township, Bergen County



★ Municipal Building

Aquifer Recharge

- B/B,22
- B/E,25
- C/B,32
- C/C,33
- C/D,34
- C/E,35
- E/B,52
- E/C,53
- E/E,55
- L/L,97
- W/W,98

Water Bodies

Municipal Boundaries

0 370 740 1,480 2,220 2,960 Feet

Map Prepared: December 1, 2023

Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, County of Bergen, NJDEP, NJGIS Aquifer Recharge Potential 2005, NJOGIS, NJGIN Road Network 2021

This map was developed using NJDEP Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by the NJDEP and is not state-authorized.

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Aquifer Rank	Median Well Yield (Gallons/Minute)	Groundwater Rank	Avg. Annual Infiltration (In/Yr)
A	>500	A	18-21
B	>250-500	B	12-17
C	>100-250	C	8-11
D	25-100	D	1-7
E	<25	E	0

There are also hydric soils (L/L), wetlands and open water (W/W) and instances where no recharge is calculated (X/X).

Source: [NJDEP NJGS. Aquifer-Recharge Potential for Bergen County](#), New Jersey

Alpha Rank	Numeric Rank	Acres	Percent of Total
B/B	22	1	0%
B/E	25	2	0%
C/B	32	1,277	32%
C/C	33	1,081	27%
C/D	34	9	0%
C/E	35	816	20%
E/B	52	80	2%
E/C	53	29	1%
E/E	55	432	11%
L/L	97	12	0%
W/W	98	255	6%

Source: [NJDEP NJGS](#)

C/B, C/C, and C/E, highlighted in gray, comprise 79% of the recharge in Teaneck.

Public Water Supply and Wellhead Protection

Wellhead Protection Areas (WPAs) are delineated for both public community and non-community supply wells.²⁵ The delineations for these wells are two, five, and twelve-year tiers. Each tier represents the horizontal extent of groundwater captured by a well pumping at a specific rate over those periods of time.

Based on NJDEP data, there are no public community water supply wells located within or surrounding Teaneck Township (**Map 12**).

There is a non-community public water supply well on the southwest of the Township in the Borough of Bogota (near Elm Street). A non-community public supply well provides water to non-residential

structures (such as business, restaurants, lodging or camps, etc.) and the NJDEP does not provide the tiered time of travel to these types of wells.

Veolia Water New Jersey, Inc. (previously Suez Water; amalgamated in 2022 through a [merger agreement](#)) is the water utility provider for Teaneck Township. The Township falls under the Hackensack water system. According to the 2022 Healthy Community Planning report, Teaneck fell in the lower range(1-5) of maximum contaminant levels and treatment techniques violations as well as action levels exceedances.²⁶

The 1986 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments (Section 1428, P/L. 93-523, 42 USC 300 et. seq) directed all states to develop a Well Head Protection Program (WHPP) Plan for both public community (CWS) and public non-community (NCWS) water supply wells. A component of the WHPP is the delineating of Well Head Protection Areas. This delineation is the first step in defining the sources of water to a public water supply to prevent and clean up groundwater contamination.

Map 12: Public Wellhead Protection Teaneck Township, Bergen County

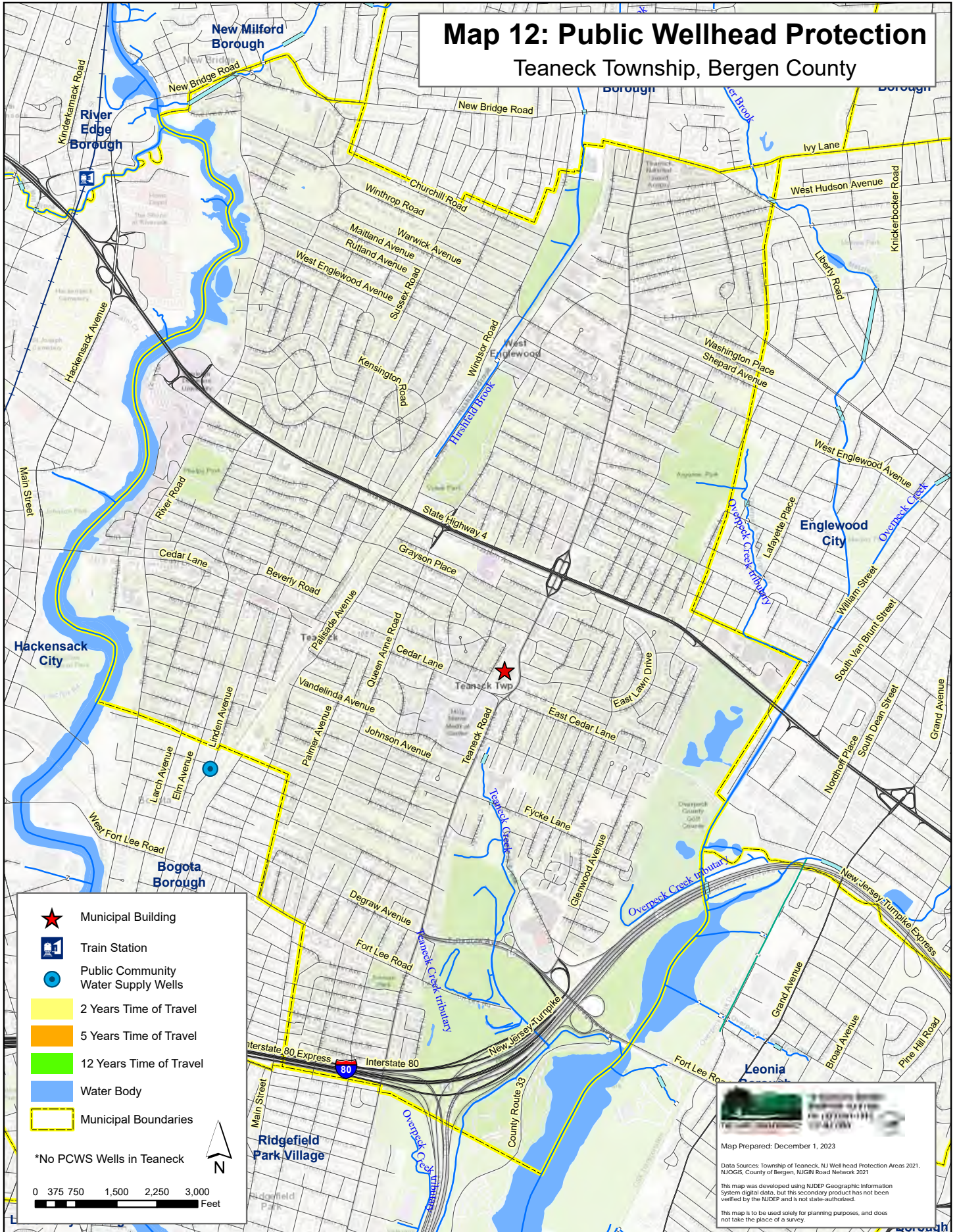




Photo: Pomander Walk, Meadowlands Conservation Trust

Chapter 7.

Wetlands

Wetlands:

- Filter chemicals.
- Remove pollutants and sediment from water.
- Provide flood control.
- Offer critical habitat for wildlife.
- Host recreation and tourism.

The NJDEP defines a freshwater wetland as an area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, commonly known as hydrophytic vegetation.

In designating a wetland, three parameters are used: hydrology, soils,

and vegetation (enumerated in the 1989 Federal Manual, N.J.A.C. 7:7A). NJDEP has adopted this manual as the technical basis for identifying and delineating wetlands.²⁷

The NJDEP regulates virtually all activities in a wetland, including removing vegetation, filling, and placing obstructions. Depending on the environmental value of a wetland, there may also be a transition area, or buffer, around the wetland that will require a waiver issued by the NJDEP for any activity within that zone. A wetland containing endangered species habitat would require a 150-foot wide transition area, whereas a small wetland in a ditch might not require any transition area at all.

Most freshwater wetlands require a 50-foot buffer.

Wetlands in New Jersey are classified as: exceptional resource value, ordinary resource value, or intermediate resource value. The criteria for these classifications are described below.

Exceptional Resource Value Wetland

- Dischargers into FW-1 water and FW-2 trout producing waters and their tributaries;
- Is presently a habitat for threatened or endangered species; or
- Is a documented habitat for threatened or endangered species, and remains suitable for breeding, resting, or feeding by the species during the normal period these species would use the habitat.

Ordinary Resource Value Wetland

A freshwater wetland which does not exhibit any of the characteristics of an exceptional resource value wetland, and which is one of the following:

- An isolated wetland (as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:7A-1.4) smaller than 5,000 square feet, with the following uses covering more than 50% of the area within 50 feet of the wetland boundary: lawns, maintained landscaping, impervious surfaces, active railroad right-of-way, and graveled or stoned parking/storage area and roads.
- A drainage ditch.
- A swale.
- A detention facility that was uplands at the time it was created regardless of the wetland resource classification of the

wetlands under these rules, or classification of the body of water, as FW-1 or FW-2 trout production, to which it discharges.

Intermediate Resource Value Wetland

- A freshwater wetland of intermediate resource value is any wetland not defined as exceptional or ordinary.

According to the NJDEP 2020 Land Use/Land Cover data, Teaneck Township contains 125 acres of wetlands, of which:

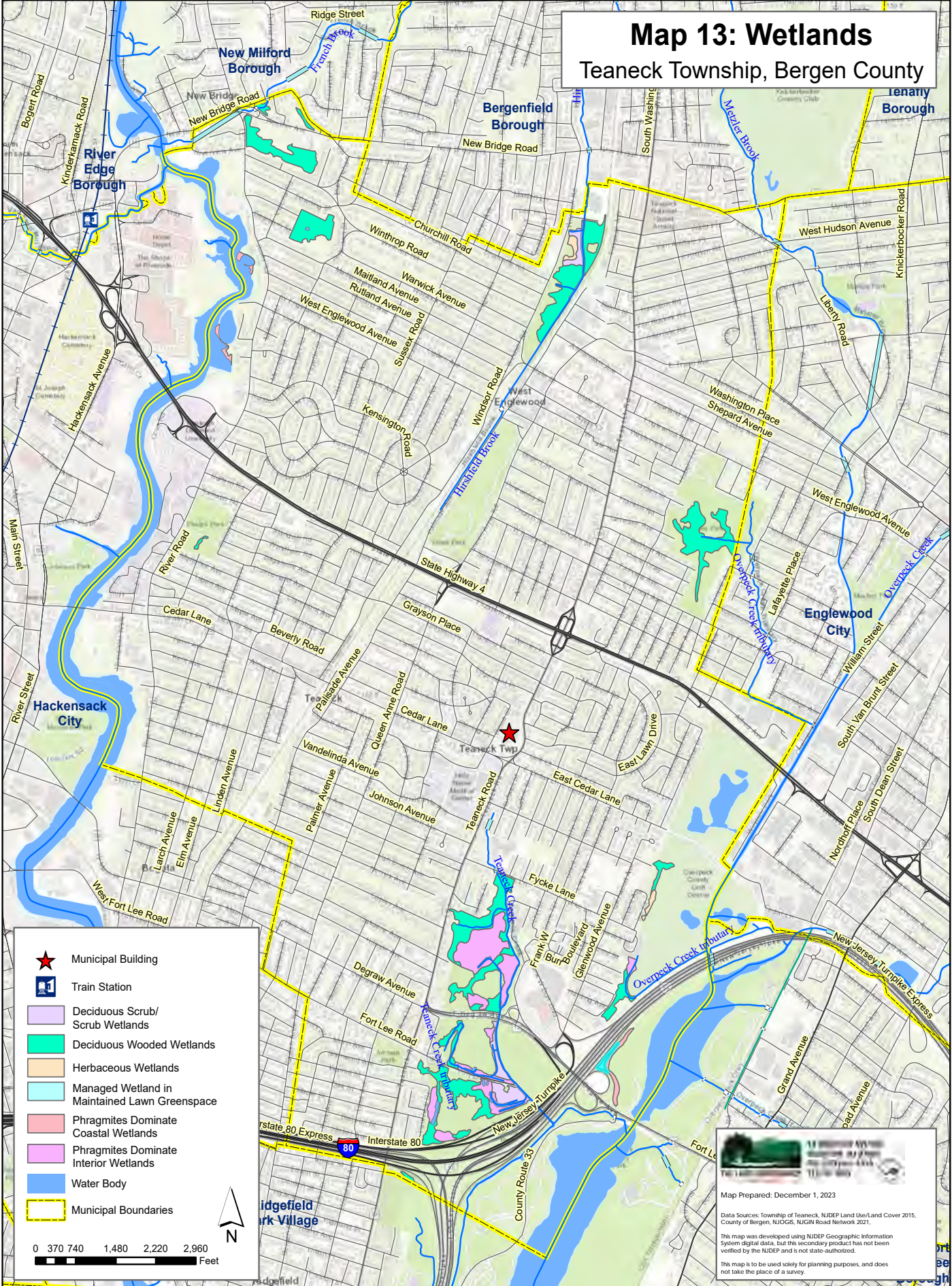
- 75 acres of which are classified as deciduous wooded.
- 8 deciduous scrub/shrub.
- 2 acres are herbaceous wetlands.

These areas are largely concentrated along the riparian corridors, the Hackensack River, and within Overpeck County Park. There are some small areas along French Brook near New Bridge Road, Givaudan Drive, and around Stuyvesant Road. These areas are shown on **Map 13**, and in more detail on **Map 13A** and **Map 13B**.

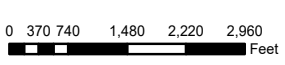
Wetland mapping from NJDEP is approximate, and unmapped wetlands may exist within Teaneck Township and would still be subject to NJDEP regulations (*as noted above*). Wetlands require a professional delineation before a regulated activity can occur in or around them.

Map 13: Wetlands

Teaneck Township, Bergen County



- Municipal Building
- Train Station
- Deciduous Scrub/Scrub Wetlands
- Deciduous Wooded Wetlands
- Herbaceous Wetlands
- Managed Wetland in Maintained Lawn Greenspace
- Phragmites Dominate Coastal Wetlands
- Phragmites Dominate Interior Wetlands
- Water Body
- Municipal Boundaries



Map Prepared: December 1, 2023

Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, NJDEP Land Use/Land Cover 2015, County of Bergen, NJDEP, NJGH Road Network 2021

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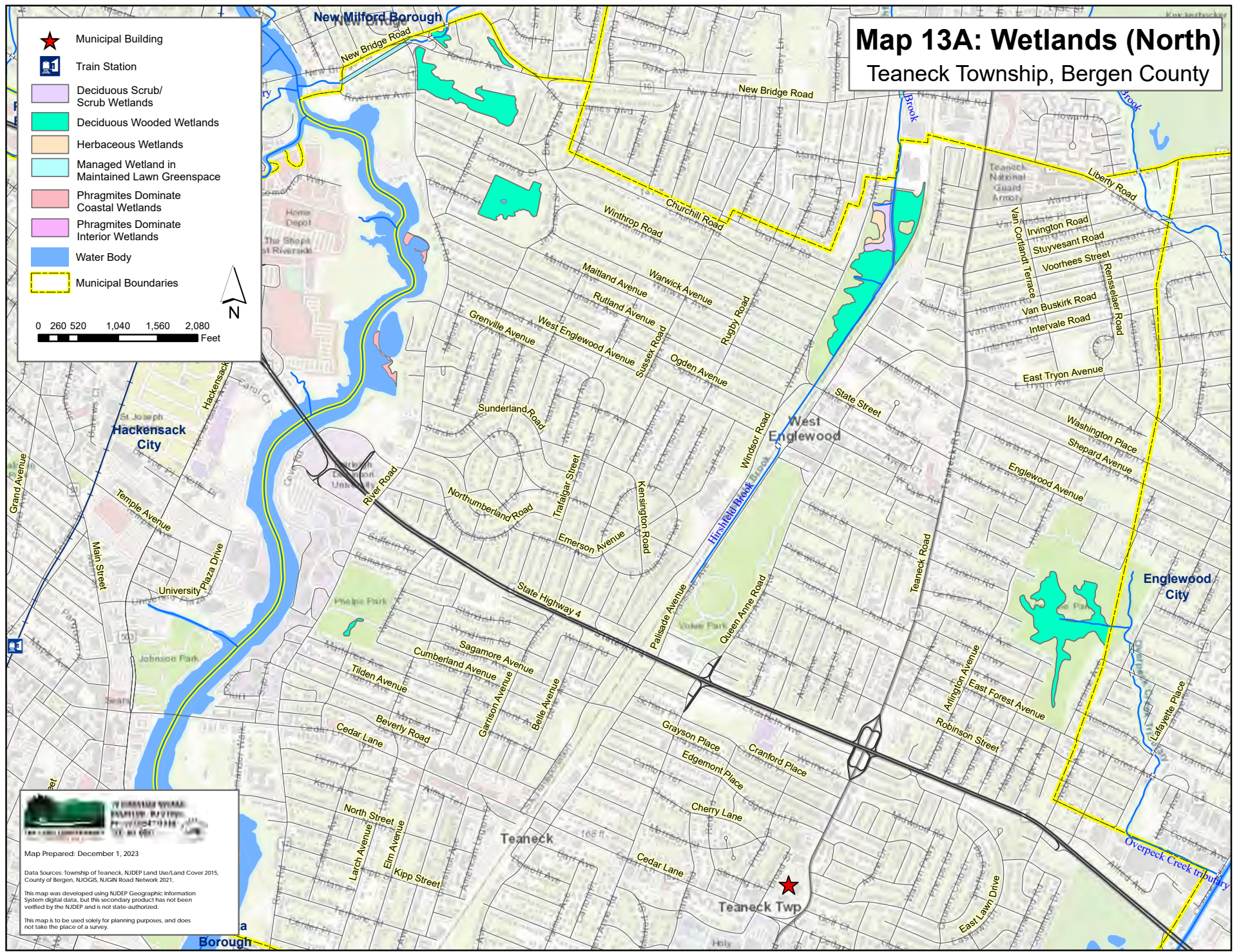
Map 13A: Wetlands (North)


Teaneck Township, Bergen County

-  Municipal Building
-  Train Station
-  Deciduous Scrub/Scrub Wetlands
-  Deciduous Wooded Wetlands
-  Herbaceous Wetlands
-  Managed Wetland in Maintained Lawn Greenspace
-  Phragmites Dominate Coastal Wetlands
-  Phragmites Dominate Interior Wetlands
-  Water Body
-  Municipal Boundaries









Map Prepared: December 1, 2023

Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, NJDEP Land Use/Land Cover 2015, County of Bergen, NJDEP, NJGIS Road Network 2017.

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Map 13B: Wetlands (South)

Teaneck Township, Bergen County

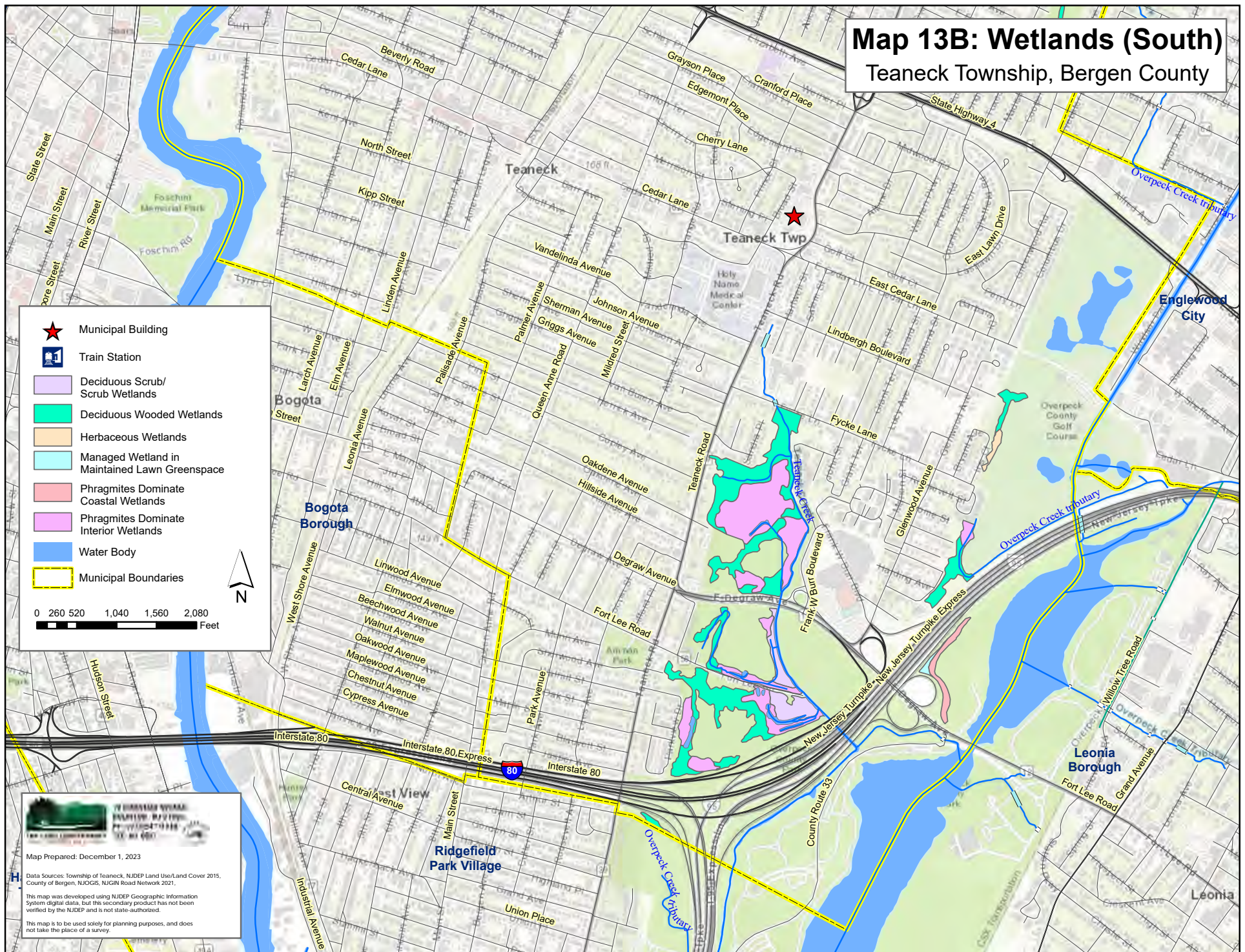




Photo: Overpeck Creek, njpaddle.org

Chapter 8.

Riparian Areas & Flood Zones

The lands along waterways serve critical roles in the mitigation of downstream flooding and maintenance of healthy stream ecology. Development within these riparian areas can cause environmental damage and expose people to flood risk. Because of their importance, these lands are subject to regulation from multiple different authorities. Riparian zones and flood zones are overlapping regulated areas by the NJDEP and other agencies.

Riparian Zones

A riparian zone comprises the land and vegetation within and adjacent to surface waters regulated by NJDEP. As a baseline, riparian zones include all lands within 50 feet of any

NJDEP regulated waters. Riparian zones are expanded to 150 feet around the following waters:

- Any trout production water and all upstream waters.
- Any trout maintenance water and all upstream waters within one mile of a trout maintenance water.
- Waters which flow through an area of habitat for threatened or endangered species, and waters within one mile of such habitat.

The widest riparian zone buffer, 300 feet, is applied to Category One (C1) waters and all upstream waters within the same watershed. All these definitions also include tributaries, and buffers are measured from the top of the waterway's banks.

In April 2020, NJDEP's Division of Water Monitoring and Standards adopted a new rule that expands C1 waters designation to 600 miles of rivers and waterways in the state.²⁸ This rule accordingly widened the riparian zone around those waterways newly listed as C1 waters. While this rule may not directly impact Teaneck, increased protections of waterways will benefit water quality across the State.

Flood Zones

Federal, state, and municipal governments oversee areas prone to flooding through various acts, laws, and ordinances. The intent is to minimize property damage by limiting development and protecting areas subject to frequent flooding.

At the federal level, the USGS maps flood prone areas and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) evaluates and maps Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) that can be used in participating communities to determine flood insurance rates.²⁹ On the state level, the NJDEP delineates Flood Hazard Areas along streams and regulates activities within these areas. In recent years, FEMA and the state have coordinated to integrate NJDEP flood hazard area parameters into FEMA updates. Municipal code may set standards that are stricter than either the state or FEMA.

There are different methods of delineating SFHAs and Flood Hazard Areas, but the two terms are intended to mean the same thing. These areas include all lands which would be underwater in a 100-year flood, meaning a flood level which is expected to only occur every 100

years. These areas have a 1% chance each year of being completely flooded. Estimates for 100-year floods do include a small margin of safety to factor in potential increased flow due to upstream development. SFHAs are delineated and regulated for waterways with a drainage area of 50 acres or greater.

Information on specific areas in the Township that are prone to flooding can be found in **Chapter 9**.

FEMA Mapping and Flood Insurance Program

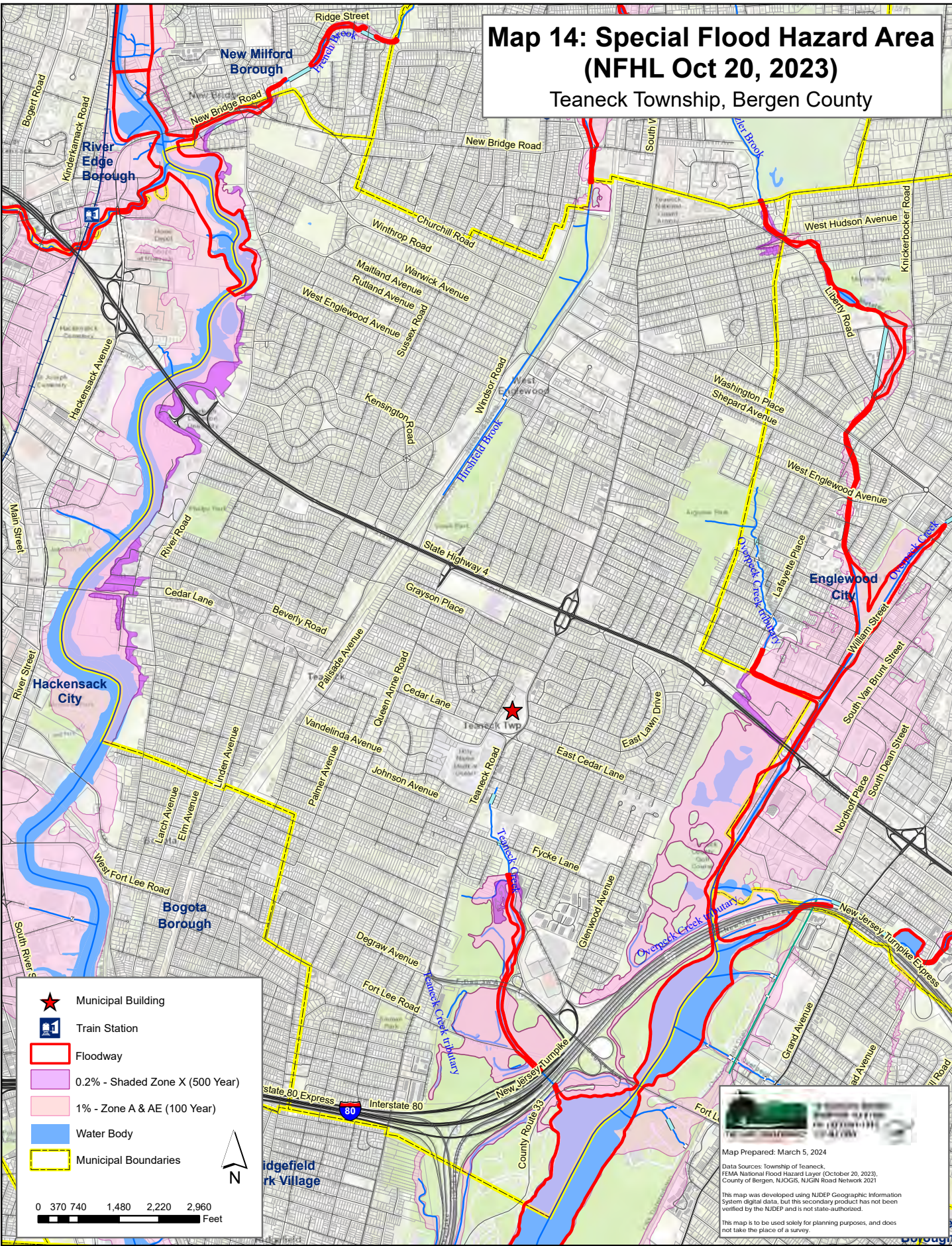
SFHAs as delineated by FEMA are used, along with other flood zones, to create official Flood Insurance Rate Mapping (FIRM) that can be used in participating communities, to determine flood insurance rates. Communities can choose to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which requires mandatory flood insurance in areas mapped as SFHAs.

In addition to the SFHAs, NFIP mapping also delineates 500-year flood zones and various sublevels within the 100-year zone. As shown on **Map 14, Map 14A and 14B**, the Township of Teaneck contains approximately 40 acres of land within the 500-year flood zone (0.2% chance of an annual flood, also known as the Shaded Zone X) and 391 acres within the 100-year flood zone (1% chance of an annual flood, also known as Zones A and AE).

NJDEP Regulations

NJDEP regulates floodprone areas through the New Jersey Flood Hazard Area Control Act, N.J.A.C. 7:13, last amended on October 5, 2021.³⁰

Map 14: Special Flood Hazard Area (NFHL Oct 20, 2023) Teaneck Township, Bergen County



- ★ Municipal Building
- Train Station
- Floodway
- 0.2% - Shaded Zone X (500 Year)
- 1% - Zone A & AE (100 Year)
- Water Body
- Municipal Boundaries

N








0 370 740 1,480 2,220 2,960
Feet

Map Prepared: March 5, 2024
 Data Sources: Township of Teaneck,
 FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (October 20, 2023),
 County of Bergen, NJOGIS, NJGIN Road Network 2021

This map was developed using NJDEP Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by the NJDEP and is not state-authorized.

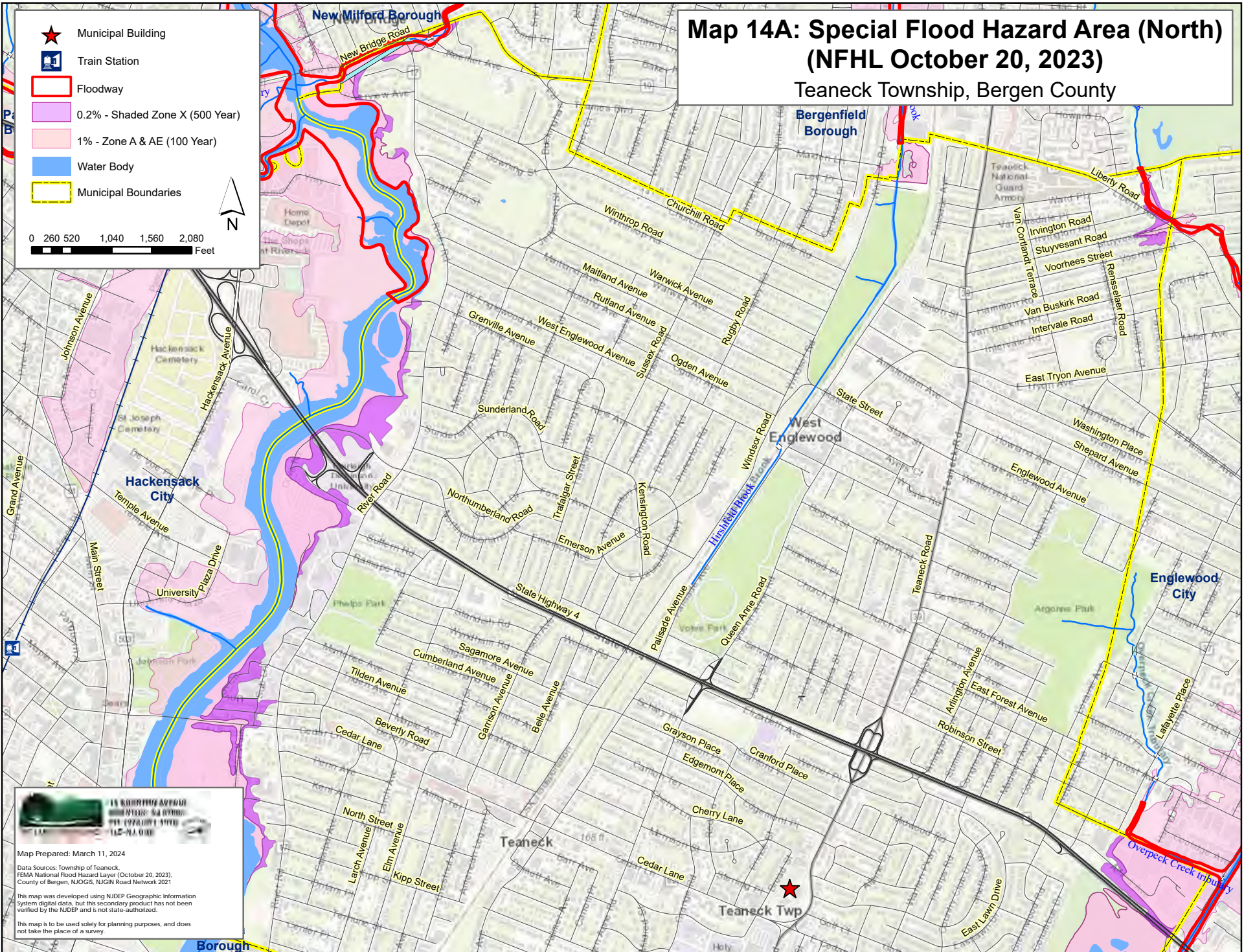

This map is to be used solely for planning purposes, and does not take the place of a survey.

Map 14A: Special Flood Hazard Area (North) (NFHL October 20, 2023) Teaneck Township, Bergen County

-  Municipal Building
-  Train Station
-  Floodway
-  0.2% - Shaded Zone X (500 Year)
-  1% - Zone A & AE (100 Year)
-  Water Body
-  Municipal Boundaries

N

0 260 520 1,040 1,560 2,080 Feet

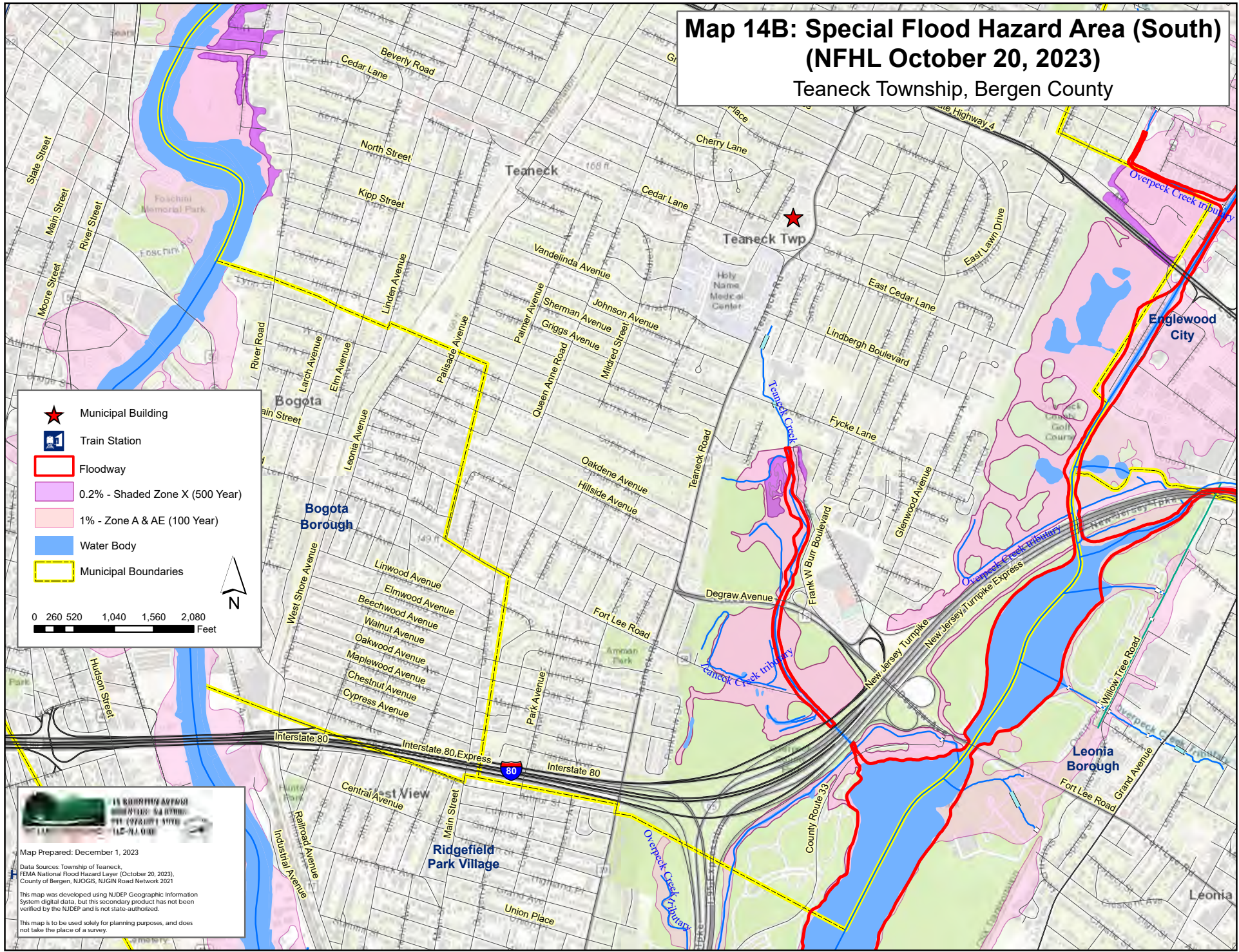



Map Prepared: March 11, 2024
 Data Sources: Township of Teaneck,
 FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (October 20, 2023),
 County of Bergen, NJOGS, NJGIN Road Network 2021

This map was developed using NJDEP Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by the NJDEP and is not state-authorized.

This map is to be used solely for planning purposes, and does not take the place of a survey.


Map 14B: Special Flood Hazard Area (South) (NFHL October 20, 2023) Teaneck Township, Bergen County



★ Municipal Building
■ Train Station
 Floodway
 0.2% - Shaded Zone X (500 Year)
 1% - Zone A & AE (100 Year)
 Water Body
 Municipal Boundaries

0 260 520 1,040 1,560 2,080 Feet

N


 Map Prepared: December 1, 2023
 Data Sources: Township of Teaneck,
 FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (October 20, 2023),
 County of Bergen, NJOGIS, NJGN Road Network 2021
 This map was developed using NJDEP Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by the NJDEP and is not state-authorized.
 This map is to be used solely for planning purposes, and does not take the place of a survey.

The full rules governing delineation and regulation of flood hazard areas are included in Title 7, Chapter 13 of the New Jersey Administrative Code, available on NJDEP's [website](#).

The act recognizes the importance of not only avoiding building in unsafe places, but also preserving vegetation that is considered essential for maintaining bank stability and water quality. The rules set standards for development in flood hazard areas and land adjacent to surface water to mitigate the adverse impacts of flooding caused by this type of activity. NJDEP regulated activities in a flood hazard or riparian are include (per N.J.A.C. 7:13-2.4):

1. The alteration of topography through excavation, grading, and/or placement of fill.
2. The clearing, cutting, and/or removal of vegetation in a riparian zone.
3. The creation of impervious surface.
4. The storage of unsecured material.
5. The construction, reconstruction and/or enlargement of a structure.
6. The conversion of a building into a private residence on a public building.

The appropriate permit must be obtained in order to engage in any of these activities in a regulated area. There are several different categories of permits: permits by rule, general permits and individual permits. There

are also area specific standards, depending on whether or not the area includes a channel, floodway, flood fringe, fishery resource, threatened and endangered species, or acid producing soils. Construction is not necessarily prohibited in a regulated area, but the permit is required. More specific regulations depend on what portion of the flood hazard area a piece of land falls in, and whether it is a riparian zone.

Inland Flood Protection Rule

On July 17, 2023, a new rule from the NJDEP known as the Inland Flood Protection Rule took effect.^{31,32} This rule updates the methods of delineating Flood Hazard Areas to account for changes to stormwater flow due to climate change and the impact of upstream development. By expanding the flood hazard areas, these standards increase the amount of land where NJDEP has the authority to regulate development.

Specifically, the rules expand the Flood Hazard Area to include all lands up to two feet higher than current 100-year flood areas in NJDEP maps, and three feet higher than current 100-year flood areas in FEMA maps.³³ The new rule also requires that all new major developments address stormwater runoff using an updated NJDEP data set for peak flow rates of streams and rivers.³⁴ This new data accounts for recent changes in the region's precipitation patterns since the data was last updated in 1999.

The NJDEP has created an online Flood Indicator Tool which provides information about potential flood risk on or near a property of interest. It does not show precise NJDEP

standards, calculate actual risk, or demarcate a zone where NJDEP regulations apply. It is intended only as a reference.

Flood Disclosure

On July 3, 2023, Bill S3110/A4783, also known as the Flood Disclosure Bill, became law. This new legislation, which takes effect in the Fall of 2023, adds a new tool for home buyers and renters across the state. The law requires that landlords and home sellers disclose flood risk to prospective tenants or buyers.³⁵ This includes the property's history of flooding and its location in a FEMA-designated (100-year or 500-year) Flood Hazard Area.

Additionally, the law requires landlords to notify tenants of the availability of insurance for renters through the National Flood Insurance Program.

Teaneck Township Municipal Planning

Teaneck Township has taken steps to address the adverse effects of flooding, as summarized by the following list of planning documents and ordinances:

2007 Master Plan and 2017 Master Plan Reexamination^{36,37} – One of the goals in the plans outlines providing mechanisms to encourage the needed upgrade of the existing stormwater management.

*2005 and 2007 Revised Municipal Stormwater Management Plan*³⁸ – The purpose of this plan is to address groundwater recharge, stormwater quantity, and stormwater quality impacts by incorporating stormwater

design and performance standards for new major development (defined as projects that disturb one or more acre of land). The plan included a series of proposed amendments to Teaneck's municipal land code to address nonstructural stormwater management strategies, including various changes to Chapter 33 of the Town Code, street classification (33-15(b)); preservation of natural features (33-15(h)); top soil protection (33-15(i)); provision of stormwater drainage systems (33-15(q)); buffer areas (for stormwater management (33-15(s)); curbs for vegetated swales(33-15(t)); and parking areas suitably paved, drained and lighted. The mitigation section identifies specific stormwater measures to reduce the impact of existing development.

*2021 Stormwater Control Ordinance No. 3-2021*³⁹ – The ordinance outlines a series of design and performance standards for green infrastructure best management practices (GI BMPs) and nonstructural stormwater management strategies to achieve flood control, groundwater recharge, and pollutant reduction in Teaneck Township. The stormwater management ordinance is based on NJDEP's Model Municipal Stormwater Control Ordinance, published in March 2020 and NJDEP's Stormwater Management Regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:8) most recently updated in March 2021.



Photo: Pomander Walk

Chapter 9.

Climate

Climate Facts: Township of Teaneck

- » The average temperature has been trending upward over the last twenty years. Teaneck experiences noticeably elevated temperatures.
- » Extreme weather phenomena in recent years have caused substantial power outages and property damage in Teaneck.
- » The USDA Forest Service has modeled the impact of climate change on forests and trees across five states, including New Jersey, predicting higher temperatures and precipitation, drought risk, and increased wildfire. Recently, Teaneck faced an unusual brush fire impacting 10 acres of Overpeck Park..
- » Teaneck's transportation and building sectors likely make up a higher percentage of carbon emissions than the statewide figure of 68%.
- » New Jersey is taking measures to adapt to a changing climate. The state's climate goals are being integrated into the permitting process.
- » Teaneck residents, renters, homeowners, and businesses in New Jersey can access state rebate programs for energy-saving measures through PSE&G.
- » Sustainable Jersey certifies actions taken by municipalities in New Jersey to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity. Teaneck earned Bronze Certification in October of 2022.

Prevailing Air Currents in New Jersey and Climate Zone

Atmospheric circulation over North America is dominated by prevailing westerly winds, which move air from west to east in a broad, undulating flow. New Jersey's weather is substantially influenced by the north-south movement of these westerly currents, and the variation in their strength throughout the year. This variation results in the state being influenced by wet, dry, hot, and cold airstreams changing from day to day. The Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist (ONJSC) divides New Jersey into five distinct climate zones, each of which experiences distinct variations in the daily weather due to differences in:⁴⁰

- Geology.
- Distance from the Atlantic Ocean.
- Prevailing atmospheric flow patterns.

Teaneck falls in the Central Zone, which stretches along the Hudson River and southwest across the state to Trenton. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) divides New Jersey into three climate divisions.⁴¹ Teaneck falls in the Division 1 (Northern) of New Jersey (**Figure 11**).

With major traffic arteries and urban development, much of this region's climate is marked by the prevalence of buildings and paved surfaces. The presence of numerous buildings and paved surfaces contributes to heat retention, resulting in elevated local temperatures. The prevalence of asphalt, brick, and concrete causes heavily developed areas to exhibit consistently warmer nighttime temperatures compared

to the surrounding suburban and rural regions. This phenomenon is commonly known as a "heat island."

Temperature and Precipitation

The ONJSC gathers temperature and precipitation data from monitoring stations throughout the state, with some site records dating back to the 1890s and many sites with more than 50 years of continuous data.⁴² This data is used to calculate averages at the division and county level. Weather statistics are available for individual monitoring stations, with the stations closest to Teaneck located at Teterboro Airport.

Divisions of New Jersey

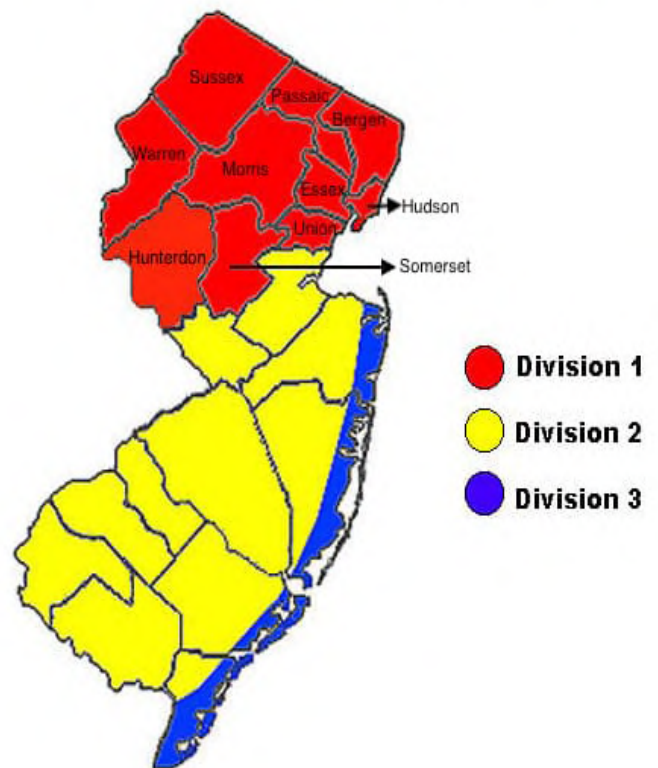


Figure 11. Divisions of New Jersey (ONJSC)

The ONJSC monitoring stations track a variety of climate factors, namely temperature, precipitation, snowfall, and heating and cooling degree days. Not all stations track the same climate factors.

Heating and cooling degree days measure the extent to which outside temperatures required energy use to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature of 65°F in a given year. For example, a 20° day in January has 45 heating degrees. The heating degrees for each day of a year are added up to calculate the number of heating degree days for that year.

Data for Division 1 show an upward trend in temperature over the last 20 years (**Figure 12**). There has been a decrease in heating degree days (**Figure 13**) and an increase in cooling degree days (**Figure 14**).

Figure 15 shows a slight downward trend in precipitation over the last 20 years in Division 1, although precipitation during these years remains higher than the average from the previous century.⁴³

Between 1895 and 2023, the average annual temperature in Bergen County has risen from about 41°F to 45°F (**Figure 16**). Annual precipitation also rose gradually over the same time period, from about 46 inches to 50 (**Figure 17**) Precipitation has also shown more extremes in recent years.

The average temperature in Bergen County is 51.4°F, warmer than the

NJ Division 1: Average Annual Temperature (2002-2021)

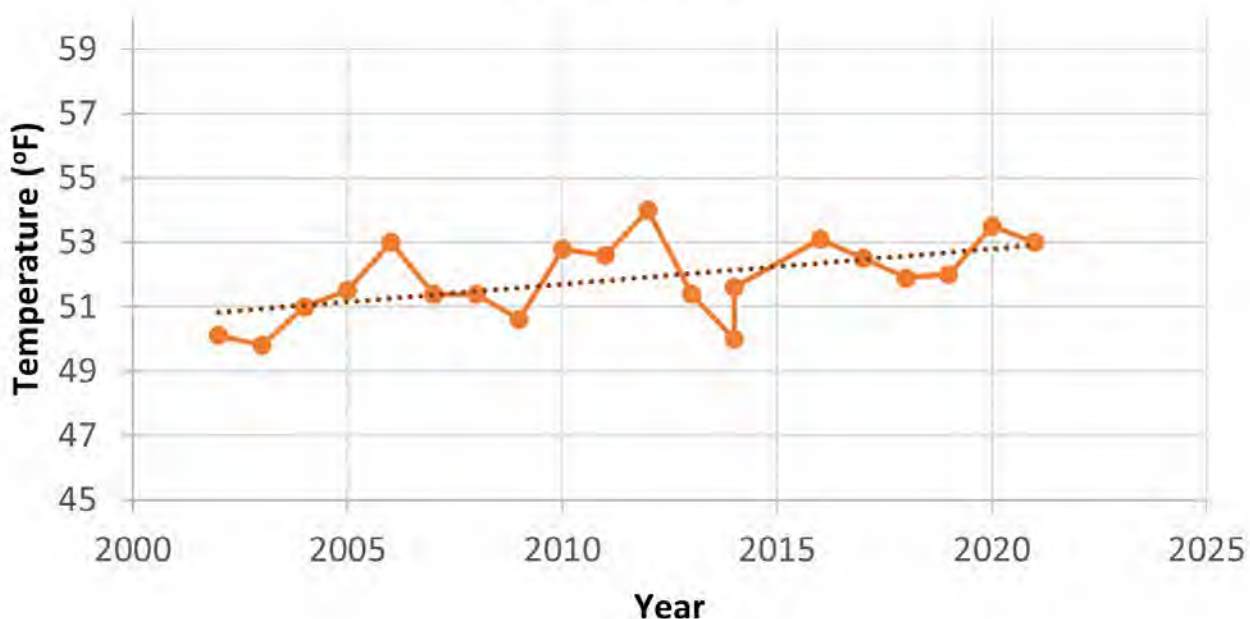
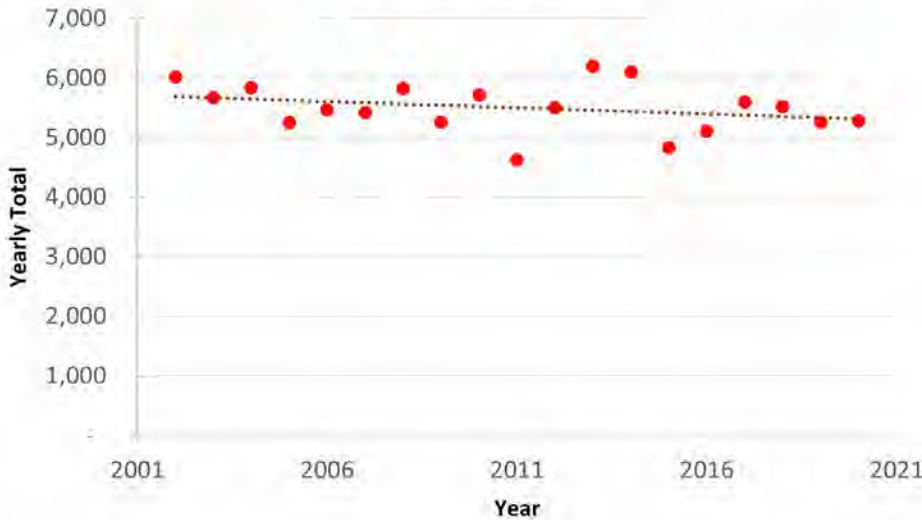


Figure 12. New Jersey Division 1, Average Annual Temperature 2002 - 2021 ([ONJSC](#))

NJ Division 1: Annual Total Heating Degree Days (2002-2020)



In 2011, Hurricane Irene contributed to an all-time record of 73 inches of precipitation in one year.

1954 to the present, show a minimum annual snowfall of 7.8 inches in 1972 and a maximum of 74.8 inches in 1960. **(Figure 18)**

The closest weather station to Teaneck, which records temperature and precipitation, is at Teterboro Airport. For that station, all-time records for temperature and precipitation extremes are shown in **Table 15**.⁴⁴ Temperature data from 1970 to 2023 and precipitation data from 1974 to 2023 are available. Monthly records indicate the year with the highest measurement for each month. For

Figure 13. New Jersey Division 1, Annual Heating Degree Days 2002 - 2021 (ONJSC)

49.8°F average for Division 1. The County’s average annual is 47.0 inches, similar to the 47.1 inches average for northern New Jersey.

The stations with snowfall data closest to Teaneck Township are Newark Airport, Raymond Dam station in Wanaque, Harrison in Hudson County, and the Canoe Brook station in Short Hills. Newark Airport, however, may be subject to more of an urban heat island effect than Teaneck, and Raymond Dam is at higher elevation in a different ONJSC climate zone. Canoe Brook is over 30 miles from Teaneck, but it may be considered similar because it is in the same climate zone, lies at similarly low elevation, and is in a similar medium-density suburban area. Its records, spanning

NJ Division 1: Annual Total Cooling Degree Days (2002-2021)

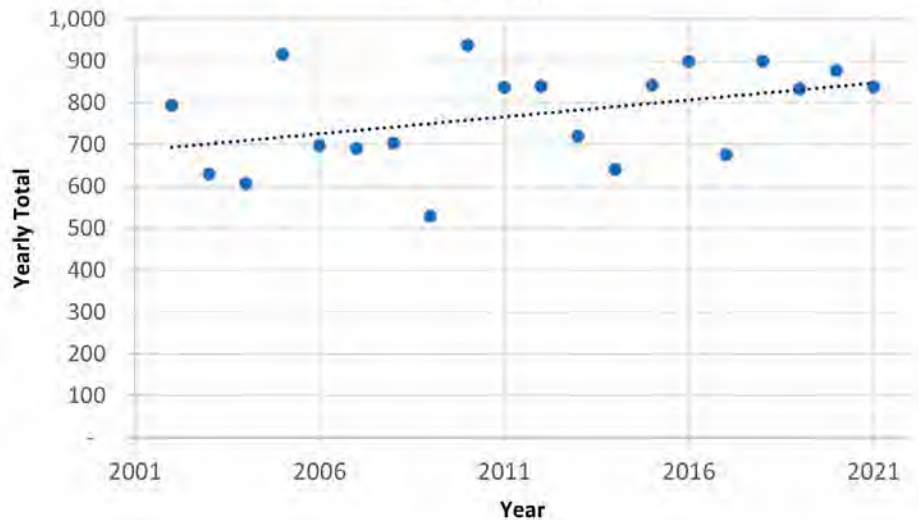


Figure 14. New Jersey Division 1, Annual Cooling Degree Days 2002 - 2021 (ONJSC)

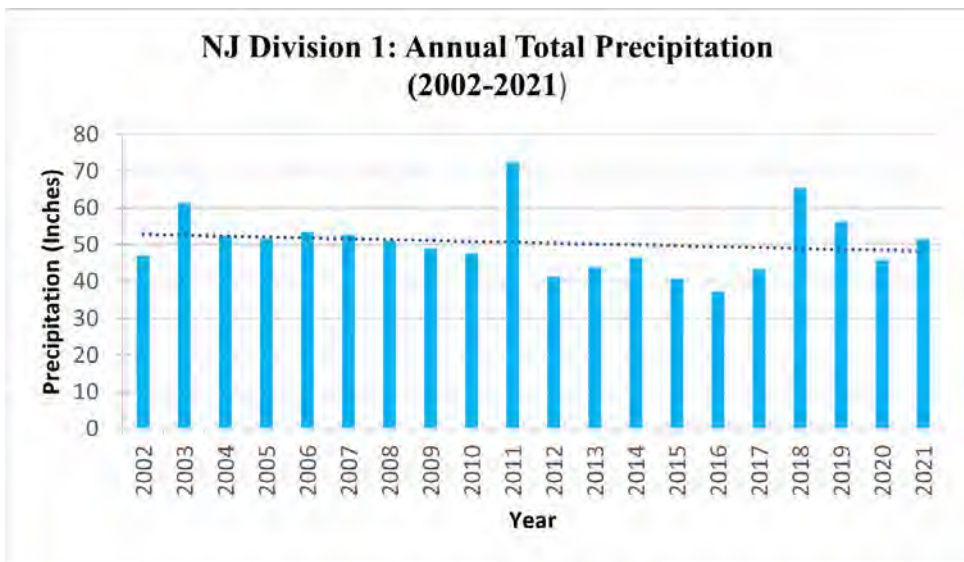


Figure 15. New Jersey Division 1, Annual Precipitation 2002 - 2021 ([ONJSC](#))

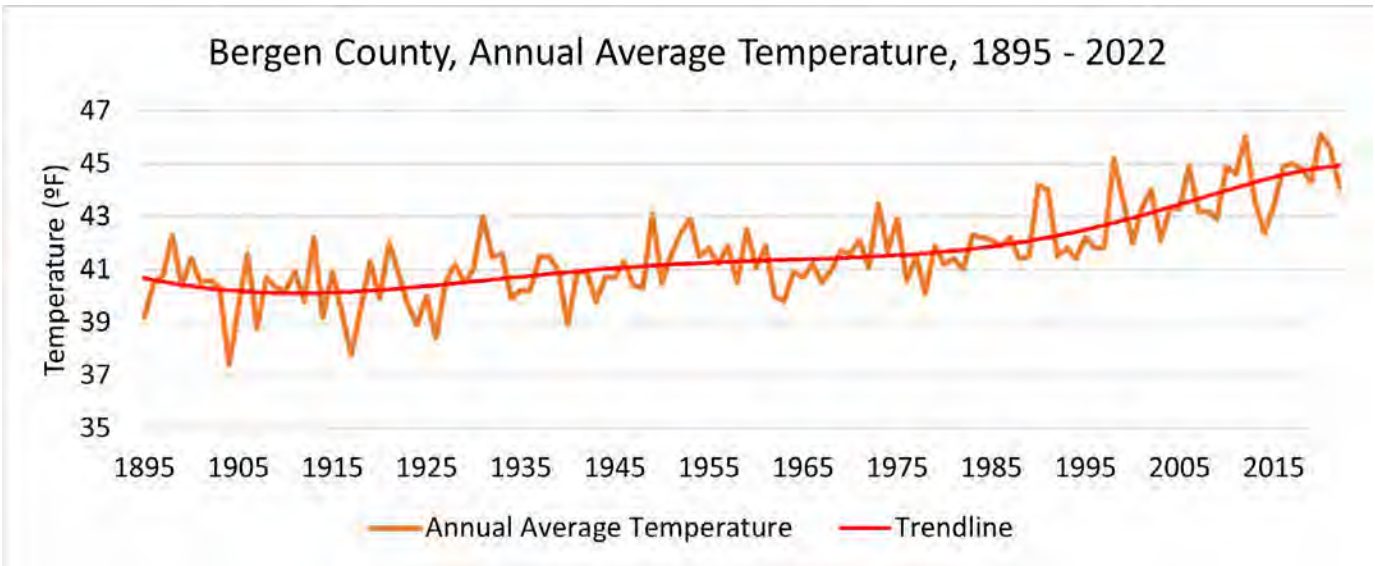


Figure 16. Bergen County, Annual Average Temperature 1895 - 2022 ([ONJSC](#))

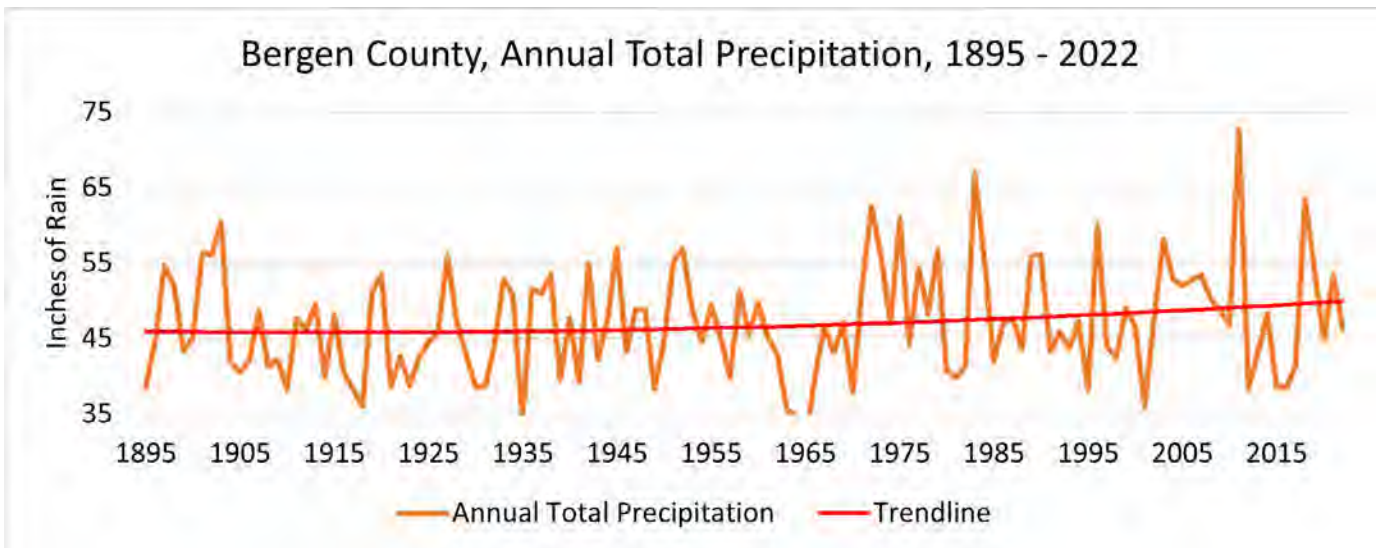


Figure 17. Bergen County, Annual Total Precipitation 1895 - 2022 ([ONJSC](#))

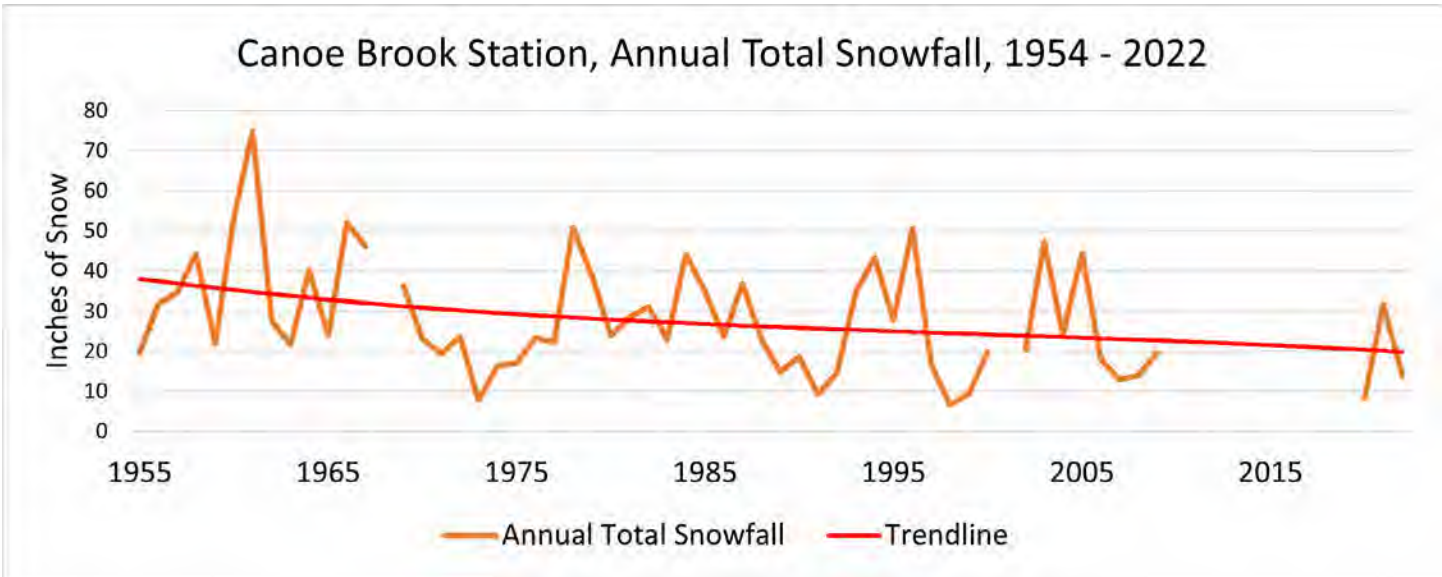


Figure 18. Canoe Brook Station, Total Annual Snowfall 1954 - 2022 (ONJSC)

example, in May 2015, the daily high temperatures surpassed any previous May since 1970. Years since 2010 are highlighted. The data show that out of 12 months in the year:

- 7 months have experienced their hottest average daily highs since 2010.
- 9 months have experienced their hottest average daily lows since 2010
- 9 months have experienced their hottest average temperature since 2010.
- No months have experienced their highest amount of precipitation since 2010.
- More records have been set in recent years for average daily lows than average daily highs, meaning that nights are warming faster than days.

Drought

Teaneck is a water-rich environment with frequent and substantial precipitation.

Table 15. Year in Which All-Time Monthly Records Were Recorded, Teterboro Airport				
Month	Temperature (1970 - 2023)			Highest Total Rainfall (1974 - 2023)
	Highest Average Daily High	Highest Average Daily Low	Highest Monthly Average	
January	2023	2023	2023	1999
February	2017	1998	2017	2008
March	2012	2012	2012	1983
April	2010	2017	2010	2007
May	2015	2012	2015	1984
June	2008	1973	2005	2009
July	1999	2013	2011	2004
August	2016	2018	2005	2011
September	2005	2018	2015	1999
October	2017	2017	2017	2005
November	2001	2006	2015	1977
December	2015	2015	2015	1996

Source: [Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist](#)
 Note: Highlighting indicates years since 2010

However, the distribution of precipitation has changed. Large storms are occurring more frequently, dropping more rainfall when they come, and causing more damage. At the same time, droughts are occurring more frequently. **Table 16** shows the historical droughts recorded in Bergen County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan, along with their peak severity according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The severity of droughts is classified as 1 (moderate), 2 (severe), 3 (extreme), or 4 (exceptional). Some droughts, such as those having to do with longer-term issues like low reservoir levels, are identified by Bergen County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan but not noted as occurring in Bergen County by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Missing from these records are the drought conditions experienced in 2022 due to high temperatures over the spring and summer, with a corresponding lack of rain.

Extreme Phenomena

Tropical Cyclones

NOAA defines tropical cyclones as rotating, organized systems of clouds and thunderstorms that originate over tropical or subtropical waters.⁴⁵ Tropical cyclones tend to bypass New Jersey due to its protective location slightly inland of coastal outcrops to the north and south. When they do affect New Jersey, they affect coastal areas, although a few have traveled inland. In 2011, Hurricane Irene’s heavy rains caused damage to roads and bridges as rivers overflowed their banks, while Hurricane

This data shows that the region is getting hotter and more extreme, with higher annual temperatures, more precipitation, greater precipitation fluctuations, record-high monthly average temperatures and lows, and decreasing snowfall.

Sandy’s high winds in 2012 resulted in many downed trees across the region. In recent years, Tropical Storm Isaias (2020) and Hurricane Ida (2021) caused substantial power outages and flood damage in Teaneck.^{46, 47}

Table 16. Historical Droughts Impacting Bergen County, 1895 - 2020	
Date of Drought	Severity (1 to 4)
May 1929 to October 1932	3
February 1949 to October 1950	3
May 1953 to July 1955	3
June 1961 to August 1966	4
June 1980 to April 1981	4
June 1984 to August 1985	4
November 2001	N/A - low reservoir levels
January - February 2002	4
August - September 2002	1
October 2002	N/A - low reservoir levels
May to July 2006	N/A
August to October 2010	N/A
September 2015 to March 2016	2
October 2016 to April 2017	2
<i>Source: U.S. Drought Monitor, Bergen County Hazard Mitigation Plan</i>	

Notable Tropical Cyclones:

Hurricane Floyd: September 1999

Hurricane Irene: August 2011

Hurricane Sandy: October 2012

Tropical Storm Isaias: July 2020

Hurricane Ida: August 2021

Landslides

No landslides have occurred in the Township of Teaneck.⁴⁸

Earthquakes

The NJDEP has recorded 16 earthquakes in Bergen County, of which 13 are considered microquakes with magnitudes of 2.0 or less.⁴⁹ The closest to Teaneck that an earthquake has occurred is a 2007 earthquake of magnitude 1.3 in Hackensack. The strongest earthquake recorded within 15 miles of Teaneck was in Yonkers, New York, in 1985 with a magnitude of two.⁵⁰

NJDEP Earthquakes:

216 earthquakes recorded as of April 2023

Frequency of occurrence is more along the fault lines in north-central New Jersey than in other parts of the state. New Jersey earthquakes are typically minor in nature, causing no damage.

Urban Heat Island Effect

A heat island is a localized area which experiences higher temperatures than surrounding areas due to development.⁵¹ Though often referred to as the urban heat island effect, this phenomenon also affects suburban areas such as Teaneck.

Heat islands are caused by modifications to the natural environment, such as buildings, roads, and other infrastructure. These features generally absorb more heat from the sun than natural ground cover would, in part due to their darker color. In addition, areas without trees do not benefit from the cooling effect of plants through a process known as evapotranspiration. Buildings and other structures may also block wind which would otherwise circulate cooler air. Waste heat from cars, air conditioners, buildings, and industry is also concentrated in developed areas.

This can be reduced through strategies such as:

- Lighter-color roofs.
- Reduced paved surface.
- Increased tree cover.

The Trust for Public Land has constructed a map of the heat island effect throughout the United States (**Figure 19**). Darker shades such, as red and orange, indicate the strongest effect. Substantial areas of urban heat island effect exist in Teaneck along the interstates and highways and near the commercial and industrial areas along the Cedar Lane. Other areas with higher heat island effect are seen along Teaneck Road.

Climate Change

Climate Change refers to the impacts humans have on Earth's climate as a result of activities that emit greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are defined by the NJDEP as atmospheric gases that slow the rate at which heat radiates into space. In a stable climate, sunshine heats the earth, and that heat then radiates back into space. Because GHGs do not block the sunshine but prevent its heat from going back into space, they have a warming effect on the atmosphere, much like the glass roof of a greenhouse. Most GHGs occur naturally in earth's atmosphere, but human activity has caused a substantial increase in the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere, thereby holding more of the sun's heat in and warming the planet. This has a complex effect on the earth's climate, which can already be observed.

According to the NJDEP's **2020 Scientific Report on Climate Change**, the state's annual average temperature has increased by 3.5°F since 1895.⁵² According to Rutgers University's **New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center**, average annual precipitation has also

Across urban areas, daytime temperatures are generally 1-7°F warmer than the region's baseline, and nighttime temperatures are 2-5°F warmer.

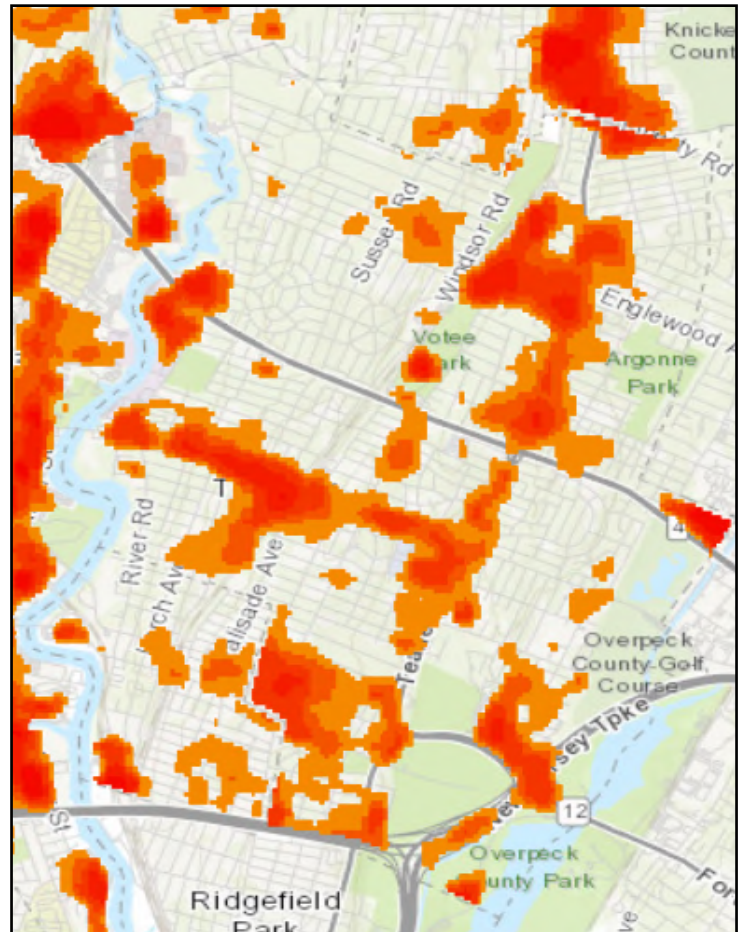


Figure 19. [*The Trust for Public Land - Urban Heat Island Severity*](#)

increased by more than 3 inches since 1900, with greater volatility from year to year.⁵³ As noted by the Resource Center in its **2021 New Jersey State of the Climate Report**, this increased and more intense precipitation, along with sea level rise, has increased the frequency and length of coastal floods.⁵⁴

Climate change can have impacts on the health of humans. According to the **U.S. Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Climate Effects on Health Resources**, the predicted effects of climate warming on human health include heat stress and increased air pollution in summer, along with increased spread of disease due to increased temperatures in winter. These effects will vary based on

New Jersey is already experiencing the effects of climate change.

Summers are growing longer and hotter, while winters are getting shorter and warmer.

location. For example, residents of more urbanized areas are at higher risk for heat stress.

As noted in the CDC's **2020 Preparing for the Regional Health Impacts of Climate Change in the United States** report, climate-related disruptions to the water cycle will likely result in more intense rain events and more frequent periods of drought, causing disruptions to the food supply.⁵⁵ The CDC also notes that the northeastern United States, with its high concentration of polluted sites along historically industrial waterways, is particularly vulnerable to chemical contamination when there is flooding. Hot days can result in dangerous air quality due to the formation of ozone and the accumulation of pollutants.

Climate change will also have an impact on ecosystem health in the region. According to **NJDEP's 2020 Environmental Trends - Climate Change** report, predicted ecosystem repercussions of increased temperatures include:

- Loss of critical habitat.
- Further stress on already threatened and endangered species.

- Impacts on the water supply, agriculture, and fisheries.
- An increase in fires, pests, disease pathogens, and invasive weed species.

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) has modeled the specific impact that climate change will have on forests and trees of the Mid-Atlantic region, which spans 60 million acres across New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and most of New York and Maryland.⁵⁶ The USFS predicts increased temperatures and precipitation, along with drought risk. Other predicted impacts include an increased risk of wildfire, changing conditions for tree regeneration and recruitment, increased suitability for southern species, decreased suitability for northern species, and increased damage from invasive plants, pests, and pathogens.

Of the 10 hottest summers in New Jersey since 1895, all have occurred since 1999. Nine have occurred since 2005.

- Office of the New Jersey State Climatologist, [2022 Summer Recap](#)

Wildfires

Wildfires are worsening across the United States. Heat-trapping pollution is warming and affecting weather conditions, increasing the risks of wildfires. The NJDEP listed all of North Jersey as very high risk for wildfires. The report **Wildfire Weather: Analyzing the 50-Year Shift Across America**, focused on

three weather conditions which contribute to fire conditions: relative humidity, temperature and wind.⁵⁷ The brush fire which destroyed ten acres of Overpeck Park in 2023 is an example of these types of climate-related conditions.⁵⁸ In the summer of 2023, New Jersey faced the effects of wildfires from Canada, resulting in the air quality being the worst in 43 years.⁵⁹ There were 14 major wildfires, making 2023 the busiest fire season in more than a decade.⁶⁰ [American Lung Association](#) and [Rutgers Climate Change Resource Center](#) provide adaptability strategies.

Flooding

With the changing climate, the Township has seen a surge in storms and hurricanes which has led to flooding in regions not affected previously. Although only a small part of the Township falls within the FEMA flood hazard zone (see **Map 14**), residents have been impacted by storms and flooding. The Township Engineer has identified homes along Belle Avenue, Pomander Walk, the Sagamore Park area, and Hawthorne Athletic Fields at higher risk from severe storms.⁶¹ At present, the Township has undertaken mitigation efforts at the Belle Avenue location for these floods. Also, drainage issues have arisen from the CSX Railroad ditch.

Plant Hardiness Zones

Plant hardiness zones provide a general indication of the extent of overwintering stress experienced by plants and are based on the average annual extreme minimum temperatures.⁶² Hardiness zones are used by horticulturists to evaluate the cold hardiness of plants. Plant

The NJDEP offers three reports on climate change: [2020 New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change](#), [2021 Statewide Climate Change Resilience Strategy](#) and [2022 Human Health Addendum](#).

[Resilience Action Plans](#) will be based on the 2021 Strategy policy framework and research from the 2020 and 2022 reports. The Plan will cover climate threats to New Jersey, the first being extreme heat. This report should be released in Spring 2024. A prelude to the plan recently release can be found [here](#).

Additionally, the recently introduced [Heat Hub NJ](#), a one-stop digital resource for all things related to extreme heat, provides information on effects of heat on individuals, communities, and the environment, along with real-time weather alerts, surveys, and quizzes. Furthermore, through participation in the [Cooling Center Survey](#), individuals can contribute to the assessment and improvement of the facilities.

hardiness zones and subzones are delineated by the USDA, which breaks the geography into zones by 10°F increments. North America is divided into 11 separate planting

zones; each growing zone is 10°F warmer (or colder) in an average winter than the adjacent zone. Currently, Teaneck is in the Plant Hardiness Zone 7a. This could increase due to rising temperatures, reflecting the lengthening of the growing season and the types of plants endemic to the region.

Climate Mitigation: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The primary driver of climate change is the ongoing emission of GHGs into the earth's atmosphere, primarily due to the extraction and combustion of fossil fuels. Reducing the continued emission of GHGs is the first and most direct step to mitigating climate change.⁶³

The New Jersey Legislature enacted the **Global Warming Response Act** (GWRA) in 2007 and updated it in 2019. This law requires a reduction of GHG emissions by 80% below 2006 levels by 2050. An intermediate reduction requirement of 20% by 2020 was achieved. The 2019 updates to the GWRA require that the NJDEP collaborate with other state agencies and to share recommendations for reducing emissions, and the NJDEP's **2020 Global Warming Response Act 80 x 50 Report** (80 x 50 Report) describes progress to date and strategies for reaching the required emissions reductions.⁶⁴

A breakdown of emissions sources is not available on the municipal level. However, carbon emissions per capita are generally highest in areas with car-dependent infrastructure and large homes. The transportation and building sectors likely make up an even higher percentage of Teaneck's carbon emissions than the statewide figure of 68%. The **80 x 50**

New Jersey's met its carbon emissions reduction goal for 2020 due to market forces. The 2050 goal, to reduce carbon emissions by 80%, will require a "seismic shift." (NJDEP)

Report attributes the state's success in meeting the 2020 emission reduction requirement to market and other forces which caused a transition from coal-fired power plants to power plants powered by natural gas. In addition to other complementary strategies, such as increasing ridership on mass transit, the report recommends transitioning the electric grid to:

- 100% renewable energy.
- Electrifying 100% of light-duty vehicles.
- Electrifying 90% of building and water heating.

Legislation, agency reports, and executive orders relating to climate change continue to be produced. The **Energy Master Plan: Pathway to 2050** was released in 2019, outlining strategies to transition New Jersey's electrical grid to 100% renewable by 2050.⁶⁵ In 2020, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 100: **Protecting Against Climate Threats** (PACT), which authorizes the NJDEP to make regulatory reforms to pursue the state's climate goal.⁶⁶

Resilience: Living in a Changed Climate

Along with its efforts to reduce the scale of climate change, New Jersey is taking action to adapt to a changing climate. In 2019, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 89,

creating the **Interagency Council on Climate Resilience (ICCR)**.⁶⁷ The ICCR spans 17 agencies working together to maintain New Jersey's economic, environmental, and natural resources in the face of climate change. Executive Order 89 also created the **New Jersey Climate and Flood Resilience Program**, responsible for releasing the state's first **Climate Resilience Strategy** in 2021.

One component of the ICCR's work is the production of subject-specific **Resilience Action Plans**. The plan for extreme heat is scheduled for release, and more information about the process and public engagement opportunities is available [here](#). The Resilience Action Plan and all other resilience work in the state is guided by the six main goals identified in the Climate Resilience Strategy, available [here](#):

- Build resilient and healthy communities.
- Strengthen the resilience of New Jersey's ecosystems.
- Promote coordinated governance.
- Invest in information and increase public understanding.
- Promote climate informed investments and innovative financing.
- Coastal resilience.

Sustainable Jersey

Sustainable Jersey certification recognizes actions taken by municipalities in New Jersey to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity. Of the 564 Municipalities in New Jersey, 466 are registered with Sustainable Jersey.⁷² Teaneck received bronze certification in October 2022 and the completion of this update to the ERI is part of its application for renewal of certification.⁷³

Clean Energy Initiatives

Renters, homeowners, and businesses in New Jersey can take advantage of various state rebate programs on energy-saving measures through their local utility.⁶⁸ In Teaneck, PSE&G offers resources for energy-saving practices, as well as an online marketplace for energy-saving items ranging from efficient water fixtures to smart home items.⁶⁹ Rebates are included in purchases from their online store at this [website](#). There are an increasing number of public electric vehicle charging stations in and around Teaneck.^{70 71}

The state's Climate Resilience Strategy defines climate resilience as “the ability of social and ecological systems to absorb and adapt to shocks and stresses resulting from a changing climate, while becoming better positioned to respond in the future.”



Photo: Andreas Park

Chapter 10.

Air

Air and Teaneck Township: Fast Facts

- » Air quality is monitored by the NJDEP's Division of Air Quality through 30 air monitoring stations across the state, to ensure that air quality meets national standards.
- » In 1970, the federal government passed the Clean Air Act, which set air quality standards. The Act was amended in 1990 under which, it is the responsibility of the EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, fine particulates, and lead.
- » New Jersey utilizes data from its monitoring network to track specific pollutants.
- » Recent years have shown varying numbers of days with Air Quality Index (AQI) values surpassing 100: 19 in 2018, 14 in 2019, and 6 in 2020. The lowest number of exceedance days occurred in 2020, likely due to reduced traffic resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, air pollutant levels returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2021.
- » State regulations set noise limits above 50 decibels during nighttime (10:00 pm to 7:00 am) and 65 decibels during the day, with municipalities allowed to adopt more stringent ordinances. Teterboro Airport is a source of noise pollution in Teaneck. The Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee, which includes Teaneck, works with the airport to address noise concerns. Runway 24 at Teterboro Airport accounted for 61% of departure flights in 2021, and there were 85 noise complaints related to the airport.

The NJDEP's Division of Air Quality (DAQ) oversees 30 air monitoring stations across the state to ensure that air quality levels meet the national standards set by the federal Clean Air Act as well as various state laws and regulations.⁷⁴ The local air monitoring stations help the NJDEP assess:

- The population's exposure.
- Determine the impact of major pollution sources.
- Measure background levels.
- Determine the extent of regional pollutant transport.
- Measure secondary impacts in rural areas.

The levels recorded for many pollutants vary greatly from season to season and even from day to day depending on weather conditions and traffic patterns.

National Clean Air Standards

In 1970, the federal government passed the Clean Air Act, which set air quality standards to be met throughout the country. The Act was amended in 1990, with focus on four areas of pollution⁷⁵:

- Acid rain.
- Urban air pollution.
- Toxic air emissions.
- Stratospheric ozone depletion.

The amendment also introduced a permit program and strengthened enforcement. Under the Act, it is the responsibility of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common pollutants (ozone, carbon

monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, fine particulates, and lead) and the responsibility of each state to develop State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to attain and maintain these standards. In New Jersey, that role is assigned to the DAQ.

Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is responsible to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common pollutants such as ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, fine particulates, and lead.

Regional/Local Statistics

The State uses the air quality data from its air monitoring network to determine which areas comply with NAAQS as well as overall trends in air pollution levels. The NJDEP produces yearly reports known as the New Jersey Air Quality Reports and provides real-time reporting through its Air Quality Index (AQI) [website](#).⁷⁶ Each monitoring site measures a limited set of pollutants; no one site tracks them all. **Figure 20** illustrates the location of the air monitoring stations in northern New Jersey.

The AQI rates air quality based on the NAAQS, on a scale from zero to 500 (**Figure 21**).⁷⁷ AQI pollutants include ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. A score of 50 to 100 is considered a moderate level of concern.

Figure 20. [NJDEP Northern New Jersey Air Monitoring Sites](#)



In 2021, New Jersey exceeded an AQI of 100 on 15 days. 14 of these days were considered “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” and was considered “Unhealthy.”

The number of days with AQI values over 100 in recent years has been 19 in 2018, 14 in 2019, and 6 in 2020. The number of exceedance days in 2020 was the lowest in recent years, likely due to decreased traffic throughout the year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and related closures of businesses, offices, schools, and other destinations. At the New Jersey Clean Air Council’s annual public hearing in April 2022, data was presented to show that COVID-19 measures most strongly affected ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter.⁷⁸ In 2021 air pollutant levels returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Criteria Pollutants

The six pollutants for which standards have been set by the EPA, ozone, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and lead, are known as criteria pollutants and are regulated by air quality standards.

Since 1997, annual concentrations of all criteria pollutants in New Jersey have decreased.⁷⁹ Air quality has improved significantly over the last fifty years since the advent of environmental regulation in 1970. New Jersey has attained NAAQS levels of lead, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide for many years. There are still periodic exceedances of the NAAQS for ozone and fine particulates.

Air Quality Index Levels and Associated Health Impacts

AQI Level of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning	Color Code
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.	Green
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.	Yellow
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.	Orange
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.	Red
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.	Purple
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.	Maroon

Figure 21. [NJDEP Air Quality Index Guide](#)

Ozone, O₃

Ozone (O₃) is a gas consisting of three oxygen atoms. It occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere, where it offers protection from harmful ultraviolet rays and has been the subject of successful environmental efforts to maintain its presence.⁸⁰ However, when found at ground level, ozone can have serious adverse health effects.

Ground-level ozone is formed through a chemical reaction involving nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and the presence of heat and sunlight.

Volatile organic carbons (VOCs) are a group of compounds typically emitted in industrial processes and leached into the air as gases from common household products,

such as paint and certain plastics.⁸¹ Nitrous oxides (NO_x), are a family of poisonous gases produced by the combustion of fuels and largely associated with on-road emissions from cars and trucks.⁸² VOCs and NO_x are emitted year-round, but ozone only forms in warmer and sunnier conditions. The ozone season is defined as the annual period between March and October.

Statewide, New Jersey is classified as a “marginal” ozone non-attainment area for NAAQS. A state is considered to be in non-attainment for ozone in a given year if, at any monitoring stations, the three-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average concentration exceeds 0.070 parts per million (ppm). The Leonia station, at 0.071 ppm, is the only New Jersey station to exceed this standard. New Jersey’s standard of 0.12 ppm 1-hour concentration has not been exceeded since 2018. However, the 8-hour average concentration

exceeded the NAAQS of 0.070 ppm at some stations on 13 days in 2021, causing the AQI on those days to reach the “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” range. The EPA also defines a primary contributor to the AQI for each day by county.

In 2021, the primary contributor to AQI in Bergen County on 142 days of the year was ozone.

Source: Air Quality Index Report: Bergen County, NJ 2021. <https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data/air-quality-index-report>

The ozone monitoring stations closest to Teaneck are the Leonia, Fort Lee Near Road, and Paterson stations. The Leonia station is located at the convergence of all major state thoroughfares to the George Washington Bridge, while Fort Lee Near Road is located along Interstate 95 Lower Level near the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and Paterson station is located near the intersection of Broadway Avenue and Memorial Drive.

Teaneck is closest in geography and type to the Leonia station, which reported 1-hour concentrations up to 0.103 ppm and 8-hour concentrations up to 0.084 ppm (**Table 17**). In 2021, the Leonia station exceeded the 8-hour NAAQS on 8 separate days. Leonia is the most frequent station to exceed the NAAQS and the only one in the state in overall non-attainment and is categorized as moderate.

The effort to lower ozone concentrations has focused on reducing emissions of VOCs, but further improvements will require reductions in both VOCs and NO_x. New Jersey falls within the EPA’s Ozone Transport Region, where local ozone is particularly impacted by the regional transport of ozone-forming NO_x.⁸³ Continued interstate cooperation may be required to achieve further reductions in New Jersey’s ozone levels.

Sulfur Dioxide, SO₂

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) is a heavy, colorless gas with a suffocating odor that easily dissolves in water to form sulfuric acid, or acid rain. SO₂ gases can be formed when fuels containing sulfur are burned, or when gasoline is extracted from

Table 17. 2021 Ozone Concentrations (ppm)

Monitoring Site	1-Hour Average Concentration (NJ Standard: 0.12 ppm)	8-Hour Average Concentration (NAAQS Standard: 0.070 ppm)		
	Maximum	Highest Daily Maximum	4th Highest Daily Maximum	4th Highest Daily Maximum: 2018-2021 Average
Leonia	0.103	0.084	0.076	0.071

Source: [2021 New Jersey Air Quality Report](#)

crude oil. Most of the sulfur dioxide released into the air comes from the combustion of fossil fuels in power plants and industrial processes, and it is particularly associated with the burning of coal.

As the northeastern United States has phased out the use of coal, the regional average concentration of SO₂ has decreased by 90% since 2000 and been well in attainment of the NAAQS standard for over 10 years.

SO₂ can be harmful to people (primarily children, the elderly, and asthmatics) and the environment. It reacts with other gases and particulates in the air to form sulfates, which have their own harmful effects. Sulfates are the primary cause of reduced visibility in the eastern United States. SO₂ can also react with other substances in the atmosphere to form acid rain, which damages forests, crops, aquatic environments, and buildings.⁸⁴

New Jersey has been in SO₂ attainment since 2015. The State has more stringent requirements which were also met in 2021. Regulations requiring the use of low sulfur fuels in New Jersey have been effective in lowering SO₂ concentrations.

The last year an exceedance of the national SO₂ standards was recorded in the state was 2013-2014.⁸⁵ The activities of a coal-fired power

plant in Portland, Pennsylvania, are believed to be the primary reason for this 2013-2014 exceedance, and New Jersey has not been near NAAQS exceedance any year since the power plant's closure in 2014.

Carbon Monoxide, CO

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas formed when carbon in fuels is not burned completely. The primary sources of carbon monoxide emissions in New Jersey are on-road and off-road vehicles, with boilers, incinerators, and forest fires also contributing.

90% of New Jersey's CO comes from internal combustion engines.

Outdoor CO levels can reach dangerous levels in cases of a weather inversion, where a layer of air becomes trapped at the earth's surface, allowing pollutants to build up without the usual circulation.

Carbon monoxide reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood and, therefore, slows the flow of oxygen to critical parts of the body. CO does not occur in outdoor air at the lethal concentrations which can be recorded in indoor air. However, even at the lower concentrations which occur in outdoor air, exposure to CO can result in headaches and nausea. CO can be more damaging for individuals with cardiovascular disease, reducing ability to exercise and causing chest pain.⁸⁶

The CO monitoring stations closest to Teaneck are Fort Lee Near Road, Newark Firehouse, and Jersey City. At these stations, concentrations were well below the national and state standards, though the highest values of any monitoring site in the state were recorded at Newark Firehouse.

Nitrogen Dioxide, NO₂

Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a reddish-brown, highly reactive gas that is formed in the air through the oxidation of nitric oxide (NO). When it reacts with other chemicals, it can form ozone, particulate matter, and other pollutant compounds. NO₂ is generally used as an indicator for the group of gases known as nitrogen oxides (NO_x), which are emitted from the combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles, power plants, home heating and cooking, and industrial processes. NO_x is primarily released by motor vehicles, so concentrations in the air tend to peak during and immediately after the morning and evening rush hour.

NO₂ can aggravate or cause respiratory illness, and prolonged exposure can permanently damage the lungs. NO and NO₂ can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs and cause nausea and tiredness. The environmental effects of NO_x can include:⁸⁷

- Acidification of freshwater bodies.
- Eutrophication of coastal waters.
- Increases in levels of toxins harmful to fish and other aquatic life.

New Jersey began routinely monitoring NO₂ in 1966. The last year in which the annual average NO₂ concentration exceeded standards

was 1974, and it has not exceeded the 1-hour NAAQS since their implementation in 2010. Since 1975, NO₂ concentrations in New Jersey have fallen steadily to around 40 ppb. The Fort Lee Near Road, Elizabeth Lab, and Bayonne stations had the highest 1-hour concentrations, but were never in excess of the 100 ppb NAAQS.

No monitoring sites in New Jersey exceeded NO₂ standards in 2021.

NO₂ concentrations scored well within the NAAQS, but oxides of nitrogen continue to be of concern because of their role in the formation of other pollutants, particularly ozone and fine particles. Because NO_x generally originates in internal combustion vehicles, it may be of particular concern in parts of Teaneck close to major Interstates such as I-95 and I-80, as well as Route 4 which passes through the town.

Particulate Matter

Particulate air pollution consists of any artificial or natural particles suspended in the air, such as dust, dirt, smoke, sea salt, and liquid droplets.⁸⁸ At any size, these particles can affect the environment. The total of all particulates, of whatever size, is referred to as Total Suspended Particulates (TSPs). Particulates less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀) are Inhalable Particulate Matter because they can be inhaled into and accumulate in the respiratory system. Particulates less than 2.5 micrometers (PM_{2.5}), called

Fine Particulate Matter, are believed to pose the greatest health risk, penetrating deep into the lungs, heart, and even bloodstream to exacerbate heart and lung diseases and cause heart attacks. PM₁₀ is considered less dangerous but can irritate the eyes, nose, and throat.

In 2021, all areas of New Jersey were in attainment of the national standard of 150.0 micrograms [one-millionth of a gram] per cubic meter air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) for Inhalable Particulates, PM₁₀. The closest of the three PM₁₀ monitoring stations to Teaneck is Jersey City Firehouse, where the highest 24-hour concentration recorded was 41.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, well in attainment.

All sites in New Jersey also met the annual standard for Fine Particulates, PM_{2.5}. However, the Fort Lee Near Road and Newark Firehouse monitoring stations both exceeded the 35.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 24-hour standard on July 20, 2021. This exceedance can be attributed to wildfire smoke from the west that winds brought over to New Jersey.

Smoke from wildfires can lead to an exceedance of fine particulate matter.

Lead

Lead is a hazard to the health of humans and the environment, whether in the air, in paint, in water, or in soils.⁸⁹ Though action standards are still defined for lead exposure, there is consensus that no level of

lead exposure can be considered safe. Lead has its main impact on the nervous system, particularly in children. Exposure to lead is linked with learning disabilities, mood issues, and lowered IQ. In adults, it can also impact the cardiovascular system and is considered a probable human carcinogen. Lead from the air or water may also accumulate in soil and sediments.

Before the 1970s, lead was a common air pollutant due to its use as an additive in gasoline.

New Jersey no longer has any significant industrial sources of lead, but small airplanes continue to use leaded gasoline and are estimated to release over 4 tons of lead annually into New Jersey's skies as of 2017. In 2008, the NAAQS level was set at 0.15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for a rolling 3-month average. As of 2022, there are 21 areas nationwide that are in non-attainment. The closest location is in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Nationwide, since 1980, phase-out of leaded gasoline has led to a 99% decrease in the average lead air concentration.

Since 2012, there has been one lead monitoring station in New Jersey, at the Newark Firehouse. The measurements taken in 2021 ranged between 0.001 and 0.003 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, well below the NAAQS level.

Air Toxics

Additional air pollutants that may cause adverse health effects but are not criteria pollutants are referred to as Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) or air toxics.⁹⁰ Almost 200 air toxics have been identified on the list of HAPs maintained by the EPA.⁹¹ The source of air toxics varies by pollutant, but in New Jersey, the majority of all air toxics are produced by internal combustion engines, with non-point sources accounting for most of the rest and heavy industry accounting for only a small portion. Non-point sources include emissions from buildings, pesticide use, consumer products, and various small-scale industrial processes.⁹²

In 2018, Bergen County released more air toxics than any other New Jersey county, with a substantially higher proportion coming from non-point sources in comparison to other counties.

The EPA and other agencies have developed health benchmarks for all HAPs, representing the concentration generally considered safe to breathe on a daily basis. NJDEP calculates a risk ratio by dividing annual average concentrations of each HAP by its health benchmark. Risk ratios greater than one indicate that a given pollutant may be of concern, substantially increasing the risk for cancer or other negative health effects.

NJDEP Air Monitoring Stations closest to Teaneck are at Chester Borough and the City of Elizabeth. Chester's station is considered a baseline. Given that most air toxics come from internal combustion, such as the vehicles on the Interstates I-95 and I-80, Route 4, and the lawnmowers throughout suburban North Jersey, Teaneck may fall between the concentrations observed at Chester and Elizabeth. Chester exceeded health benchmarks for 8 different air toxics, and Elizabeth for 9. These results can be seen in **Table 18**.

The NJDEP also monitors certain toxic metals and elements, most of which fall well below their health benchmark at all stations. However, the Elizabeth station recorded cadmium levels above the health benchmark, and both Elizabeth and Chester recorded chromium levels above the health benchmark.

The two chemicals with the highest risk ratios reported at the Elizabeth site are acrolein and formaldehyde. Acrolein is a colorless or yellowish liquid that is used to make tear gas, drugs, and plastics.⁹³ It is irritating to the eyes, skin, and lungs if inhaled.

Formaldehyde is a colorless gas with a strong odor that is sold commercially in a methanol and water solution.⁹⁴ It is used in making resins and textiles, and as an intermediate in the synthesis of other chemicals. It is also used as a disinfectant, fertilizer, fungicide, and embalming solution. It is a known carcinogen. Both chemicals are listed on the NJ Department of Health's Hazardous Substance List.

Radon

Radon is an invisible and odorless radioactive gas resulting from the breakdown of naturally occurring uranium in soil and rock.⁹⁵ Radon is primarily a concern for indoor air quality. It builds up in homes as it seeps out of bedrock and through any crack or opening in a home's foundation. Radon releases radioactive energy, causing lung damage and lung cancer.

NJDEP estimates of radon risk based on real occurrences of radon contamination place Teaneck in a low-risk category.⁹⁶ This means that within the municipality, at least 25 homes were tested, with less than 5% having radon readings greater than or equal to 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter).⁹⁷ EPA recommends action in homes with a radon level of 4 pCi/L or more, but also notes that there are no safe levels of radon, and action may be appropriate above 2 pCi/L. As a harmful pollutant which builds up in indoor air, the threat of radon exposure varies from home to home. As residents better insulate and seal their homes to reduce energy usage, they may cause elevated levels of radon to accumulate. Although testing for radon is only required at the time a home is sold, improving the structure's insulation or doing foundation work, may change the radon level in a home.⁹⁸

In the United States, radon is the second main cause of lung cancer and kills at least 15,000 people per year.

Noise

The Noise Control Act of 1971 authorizes NJDEP to regulate noise from stationary industrial, commercial properties and railroads in New Jersey.⁹⁹ Other sources of excess noise are regulated as a public health nuisance enforced by a local public health agency or as a disorderly person's offense enforced by police. Noises are defined as a public health nuisance when they are "unreasonably or unnecessarily loud."¹⁰⁰ State regulations are applicable to noises above 50 decibels from the hours of 10 pm to 7 am and 65 decibels during the day,

Table 18. 2021 Air Toxics Above Their Health Benchmark

Pollutant	Health Benchmark (µg/m ³)	Annual Mean Risk Ratios	
		Chester	Elizabeth
Acetaldehyde	0.45	3	5
Acrolein	0.02	36	45
Benzene	0.13	3	6
1,3-Butadiene	0.033	0.3	2
Carbon Tetrachloride	0.17	3	3
Chloroform	0.043	2	3
Chloromethane	0.56	2	1.8
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.038	1.4	1.3
Formaldehyde	0.08	30	47

Source: [2021 New Jersey Air Quality Report](#)

though individual municipalities may adopt more stringent ordinances.¹⁰¹

Of particular concern in Teaneck is Teterboro Airport, a general aviation airport managed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.¹⁰² The airport does not offer commercial flights and has a weight restriction for aircraft. The airport also has in place mandatory noise limits for departing aircraft and a voluntary restriction on traffic between 11 pm and 6 am.¹⁰³

The airport's most recent **Noise Compatibility Program** was approved in January 2023 by the Federal Aviation Administration and involves mandatory as well as voluntary measures for pilots and airport administration.¹⁰⁴ The airport consults with a committee representing local municipalities, known as the Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee.¹⁰⁵ The committee includes Teaneck as the Township falls within a five-mile radius of the Teterboro Airport.

Runway 24 is the cause for noise as per the 2023 **Noise Monitoring Report** with 52% of departure flights utilizing this runway.¹⁰⁶ As of the first quarter of 2023, there have been 25 complaints.

Odors

The NJDEP classifies odor as air pollution when it is severe enough to unreasonably interfere with the enjoyment of life or property.¹⁰⁷ In many cases, odor is an indicator of chemicals described above, which are regulated separately by the NJDEP. The CDC notes that the best strategy for addressing odor issues is prevention zoning, time of day

operating restrictions, filtering, and emission control.¹⁰⁸

Meteorology and Pollution

Pollution levels are affected by meteorological attributes like wind speed and direction, temperature, and solar radiation.¹⁰⁹ Meteorology is an important factor in the levels of ozone in particular, as it is largely a secondary pollutant created from the chemical reaction of other pollutants in the presence of heat and sunshine.

Chapter 9 outlines climate patterns in Teaneck, which may impact pollution levels. Of particular note is the effect of dominant westerly winds, which carry weather patterns and pollution from west of the state over and across New Jersey. These westerly winds migrate substantially from north to south, bringing different levels of pollution from areas outside the state, causing substantial variation within the state.



Photo: Historic Swing Bridge, Historic New Bridge Landing, Bergen County Historical Society

Chapter 11.

Transportation

Transportation

Modal Split

The U.S. Census Bureau collects data on how workers commute.¹¹⁰ According to their estimates, there were 20,165 workers 16 years or age and older in Teaneck as of 2021. Of those workers:

- 10,864 drove alone.
- 1,356 carpooled.
- 3,677 rode a bus.
- 46 used commuter rail.
- 493 walked.
- 3,362 worked from home.

Roadways

The Federal Highway Administration classifies roadways, based on the Highway Functional Classification system, as arterials, collectors, and local roads. The Township of Teaneck's 2007 Master Plan Circulation Element further divides arterials into primary arterials, secondary arterials.¹¹¹

Primary arterials include Interstate Routes 80 and 95 and New Jersey Route 4. I-80 and I-95 are limited-access highways that carry traffic from one state to another. NJ Route 4 begins in Fort Lee at the George Washington Bridge and runs east to west across Bergen County terminating in Elmwood Park.

Secondary arterials in Teaneck generally carry traffic either north-

south or east-west. North-south arterials include Teaneck Road, Queen Anne Road, Palisade Avenue, Windsor Road, and River Road. Fort Lee Road, DeGraw Avenue, Cedar Lane, Forest Avenue, Tryon Avenue, New Bridge Road, Roemer Avenue, Liberty Road/Ivy Lane, and Hargreaves Avenue are east-west secondary arterials.

Collectors in Teaneck carry traffic either north-south or east-west. North-south collectors includes Glenwood Avenue, Van Cortlandt Terrace, Park Avenue, American Legion Drive, Garrison Avenue/Sussex Road, Larch Avenue, Lincoln Place, Elm Avenue, and East Lawn Drive. East-west include Fycke Lane, Lindbergh Boulevard, Beverly Road, Forest Avenue, State Street, Englewood Avenue, West Englewood Avenue, Ward Plaza, Sagamore Avenue, and Grayson Place.

All other roads are considered *local roads*.

Mass Transit

Rail. The closest NJ Transit stations are the New Bridge Landing Station in River Edge and the Anderson Station in Hackensack which has the Pascack Valley Line, with direct service to Secaucus Junction, Hoboken, and other towns in New Jersey and New York's Rockland County. There are over 15 weekday departures and 10 weekend departures in each direction.

Air. The nearest airport, Teterboro Airport, hosts only private services. There are three major public international airports within 40 miles: Newark Airport, John F. Kennedy Airport, and La Guardia Airport, which operates as a domestic airport.

All are accessible by multiple transit via transfers in New York City.

Bus. Teaneck is served by the NJ Transit.¹¹² There are multiple bus routes that run along or intersect major Teaneck roadways connecting to other towns in New Jersey and New York. Rockland Coaches, Inc. (the Red and Tan Lines) also operates a bus service in Teaneck.¹¹³ The 11A route provides service to the Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown Manhattan. The Paterson-New York Jitney service currently exists along Route 4.¹¹⁴

Teaneck is connected to other New Jersey towns and New York via buses served by New Jersey Transit.

Bicycle & Pedestrian

As in many suburban towns, Teaneck's historic thoroughfares were converted into streets designed for higher-speed car traffic, without space for bicycle or pedestrian mobility. In 2011, Teaneck Township with the assistance of the NJ Department of Transportation, Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs, developed a **Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**.¹¹⁵ It included:

- A compatibility assessment of sidewalks, roadways, and intersections using NJDOT guidelines.
- An analysis of reported bicycle and pedestrian crashes.

- The identification of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and trip generators.

These components helped to create on-road bicycle facility improvements and pedestrian facility improvements.

In 2011, Teaneck adopted a **Complete Streets Policy** under direction of the Teaneck Environmental Commission to reach their goal of improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities, improve bicycle and pedestrian accessibility, and develop education initiatives to advance residents awareness of best bicycle and pedestrian practices.¹¹⁶ Examples of Complete Streets improvements include:

- Installation of new sidewalks.
- ADA-compliant crosswalks and curb ramps.
- Pedestrian countdown signal heads other pedestrian safety improvement features along sections of Route 4 and the local roadway system.¹¹⁷

A [study](#) published by the University of Colorado found that building safe facilities for cyclists is one of the biggest factors in road safety for everyone.

Community Transportation Services

Residents of Teaneck can take advantage of four community transportation services:

*Bergen County Community Transportation*¹¹⁸: This is a free curb-to-curb transportation service for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, veterans, and welfare to work residents. It includes transportation for routine medical visits, senior activity centers, shopping,

employment, education, recreation, post-stroke programs, and meals on wheels.

*Access Link (New Jersey Transit)*¹¹⁹: This door-to-door ride service is provided by NJ Transit for people with disabilities who are unable to use a local fixed-route bus. All Access Link rides begin and end within a ¾-mile radius of an eligible bus route or light rail station, excluding commuter buses.

*EZ Ride*¹²⁰: This is a door-to-door ride service provided through a public-private partnership. This service provides direct route transportation that fills the gap between fixed-route/ fixed-schedule services and other expensive, private options.

*Teaneck Senior and Disabled Transportation Services*¹²¹: This is a curb-to-curb ride service provided by the Recreation Department for people with disabilities who are unable to use a local fixed route bus. This service is by appointment and includes transportation for medical appointments in Teaneck, Englewood, or Hackensack as well as grocery shopping.

To schedule Teaneck Senior and Disabled Transportation Services, Teaneck's residents can call the Township's Transportation Coordinator at 201-837-7130 extension 7040 during the hours of 8 AM am to 5:15 pm.



Restoration Report

Photo: Teaneck Creek Conservancy

Chapter 12.

Known Contaminated Sites

Soil and groundwater contamination are tracked by the state and federal governments.¹²² This review and monitoring includes the following:

- **Brownfields:** Per N.J.S.A. 58:10B-23.d, they are “any former or current commercial or industrial site that is currently vacant or underutilized and on which there has been, or there is suspected to have been, a discharge of a contaminant.” Generally, brownfields are properties that are abandoned or underutilized because of either real or perceived contamination.
- **Community Right to Know (CRTK) Program:** Collects, processes, and disseminates

the chemical inventory, environmental release, and materials accounting data required to be reported under the New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act and the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986.

- **Known Contaminated Sites:** Point source occurrences which are specific and limited.¹²³

As of 2021, the NJDEP Site Remediation Program maintains a list of 14,461 sites with 11,205 of those sites listed as active cases managed by a New Jersey Licensed Site Remediation Professional.

Sites that have been confirmed as contaminated and are undergoing remedial investigation, cleanup, or awaiting assignment of a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) include private residences, active/abandoned manufacturing/commercial properties, and gas stations.¹²⁴ The list does not include sites that have been successfully remediated.

Brownfields

The State of New Jersey encourages municipalities and counties to redevelop their brownfields as part of Smart Growth initiatives. According to NJDEP's NJ-GeoWeb website, no brownfield sites were identified within in Teaneck Township.¹²⁵

Community Right to Know

The CRTK program is responsible for collecting and disseminating data on hazardous substances produced, stored, or used at companies in New Jersey.¹²⁶ Companies or organizations storing certain hazardous substances in levels above specific threshold amounts are required by state and federal law to file annual reports.

The Release and Pollution Prevention Report (RPPR) collects information for the NJDEP CRTK and Pollution Prevention programs. It gathers data on toxic chemicals from multi-media environmental releases, on-site waste management, and off-site transfers, collectively known as material accounting.

The Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) is a federal regulation that establishes requirements regarding emergency planning and

Community Right-to-Know reporting on hazardous toxic chemicals to increase public knowledge and information about chemical uses.

There were 28 CRTK sites identified by the NJDEP in Teaneck Township. Of these, three are exempt, and two are EPCRA (**Table 19**).

Known Contaminated Sites

The Known Contaminated Sites (KCS) list includes those sites and properties within the state where contamination of soil or groundwater has been confirmed at levels equal to or greater than applicable standards. KCS may include:

- *Active Sites* are those with confirmed contamination that have one or more active cases and any number of pending and/or closed cases;
- *Pending Sites* are those with one or more pending cases, no active cases, and any number of closed cases; and
- *Closed Sites* are those with only closed cases and no active or pending cases.

The KCS list was produced in response to the **Brownfield and Contaminated Site Remediation Act** (N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.16-17). It also satisfied obligations under the **NJ New Residential Construction Off-Site Conditions Disclosure Act** (N.J.S.A. 46:3C1 et seq.). Sites included can undergo a wide variety of remedial activities. The sites with complex contamination issues can have several sources, which can affect both soil and groundwater.

Table 19. Community Right to Know Sites in Teaneck Township

PI Number	Facility Name	Physical Address	Status
00000004025	Peace Health Partners PC	718 Teaneck Road	EPCRA Only
00000009743	GH Gas Supply LLC	1261 Teaneck Road	CRTK/RPPR
00000021288	Teaneck Ignition Service LLC	1188 Teaneck Road	CRTK/RPPR
00000022643	Pasmel Property Inc.	738 Cedar Lane	CRTK/RPPR
00000065671	Nathan Turner Landscaping Serv.	126 Copley Avenue	CRTK/RPPR
00000069817	McElroy Therapeutic Intervention	283 Woodbine Street	CRTK/RPPR
00000071311	F Y Guevarra Motorworks Inc.	738 Cedar lane	CRTK/RPPR
00000070594	EP Supply Inc.	455 Alfred Avenue	EXEMPT
00000071378	On the Spot Auto Service LLC	58 Fycke Lane	CRTK/RPPR
00000073549	Teaneck Express Lube, Auto Care	762 Palisade Avenue	CRTK/RPPR
00000077026	AT&T -USID48701	250 Colonial Court	CRTK/RPPR
00000077106	All Terrain Global Logistics Inc.	300 Beech Street	CRTK/RPPR
00000077145	Perl Pigments LLC	757 Wintrop Road	EXEMPT
00000077336	Picklelicious LLC	384 Cedar Lane	CRTK/RPPR
00000077353	Travel Auto Bag Co., Inc.	944 Columbus Drive	EXEMPT
00585211167	Public Service Electric & Gas	1103 Palisade Avenue	CRTK/RPPR
23397000000	Golddel Inc	419 Cedar Lane	CRTK/RPPR
31680000008	Fairleigh Dickinson University	1000 River Road	CRTK/RPPR
31734700000	Holy Name Medical Center	718 Teaneck Road	CRTK/RPPR
40433600000	Ramapo Consultants Inc.	1451 Teaneck Road	CRTK/RPPR
44892300000	The Community School Inc.	11 W. Forest Avenue	CRTK/RPPR
53720700000	Teaneck Texaco Inc.	209 Cedar Lane	CRTK/RPPR
68456700000	Noah Auto Repair Shop LLC	351 Queen Anne Road	CRTK/RPPR
70032000000	NJ Energy Corp.	228 Teaneck Road	CRTK/RPPR
70826600000	Michaels Service Station Inc.	468 Teaneck Road	CRTK/RPPR
76383200001	Teaneck Road Gas LLC	457 Teaneck Road	CRTK/RPPR
91708400000	Fuel 4	1510 Teaneck Road	EPCRA only
95964400000	Ramapo Consultants Inc.	1456 Teaneck Road	CRTK/RPPR

Note: The information in this table, and the ones which follow, are subject to change based upon the NJDEP. The source information at the NJDEP should be checked to confirm site status. It is also likely that the facility name may not be current for the same reason.

Source: [NJDEP Data Miner \(Accessed June 2023\)](#)

The **Site Remediation Reform Act**, N.J.S.A. 58:10C-1 et seq. (SRRA), enacted in 2009, has helped to speed up the remediation process. Active sites are rated with B, C1, C2, C3, or D depending on the type of severity of the contamination:

- B: Remedial level associated with emergency response, simple removal activities of contaminants usually no impact to soil or groundwater.
- C1: Remedial levels are associated with simple sites, one or two contaminants localized to soil and the immediate spill or discharge area.
- C2: Remedial levels are associated with more complicated contaminant discharges such as multiple site spills and discharges, or more than one contaminant, with both soil and groundwater impacted or threatened.
- C3: Remedial levels are associated with highly complex and threatening sites. These sites can have multiple contaminants, some at high concentrations with unknown sources continuing to impact soils, groundwater, and possibly surface waters and potable water resources. These sites are dangerous for direct contact with contaminated soils.
- D: Same conditions as C3 except that D levels are also usually designated Federal Superfund Sites.

Sites with documented groundwater contamination may also contain a **Classification Exception Area (CEA)**, defined by NJDEP as “an area within which one or more constituent standards and designated uses are suspended.”¹²⁷ A CEA is an institutional control prohibiting the use of groundwater for a defined period of time.

Table 20, Table 22, and Map 15 identify the Known Contaminated Sites within the Township, noting the status (active, pending or closed) and whether the site is a homeowner property. There are 23 non-homeowner sites on the KCS list.

PFAS

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, commonly referred to as PFAS, are synthetic chemicals that have been globally utilized in industry and consumer products since the 1940s.¹²⁸ They have found application in the production of nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, certain cosmetics, specific types of firefighting foams, as well as items designed to resist grease, water, and oil.

The most extensively researched PFAS compounds include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). Additionally, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) have also received considerable attention. In the United States, the production and use of PFOA and PFOS have been phased out.

Throughout their production and utilization, PFAS have the capacity to migrate into the soil, water, and air. The majority of PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, exhibit a remarkable resistance to breaking down, thus persisting in the environment. Given their widespread use and enduring presence in the environment, PFAS are detectable in the bloodstreams of both humans and animals across the globe. Additionally, they are present at trace levels in various food products and within the environment. Certain PFAS compounds can accumulate in living organisms with repeated exposure over time.

Numerous scientific studies have been conducted to examine the effects of PFAS exposure on health. While establishing direct causation between substances and health conditions in humans can be challenging, these studies have suggested potential links between environmental PFAS exposure and adverse health effects in both humans and animals.

On March 14, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the proposed **National Primary Drinking Water Regulation** (NPDWR) concerning six PFAS compounds, which include perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).

The **NJDEP Drinking WaterWatch** offers insights into PFAS contamination in both

public and private water systems.¹²⁹ As of the most recent testing conducted on August 2, 2023, the data pertaining to Hackensack's public water system which provides water and serves as the reference point for Teaneck, indicates compliance with the NJDEP Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). This signifies that the PFAS concentrations in the public water system fall below the established thresholds for contamination (**Table 21**).¹³⁰

Category	Status			Total
	Active	Pending	Closed	
Homeowner	2	34	484	520
Non-Homeowner	23	5	83	111
Total	25	39	567	631

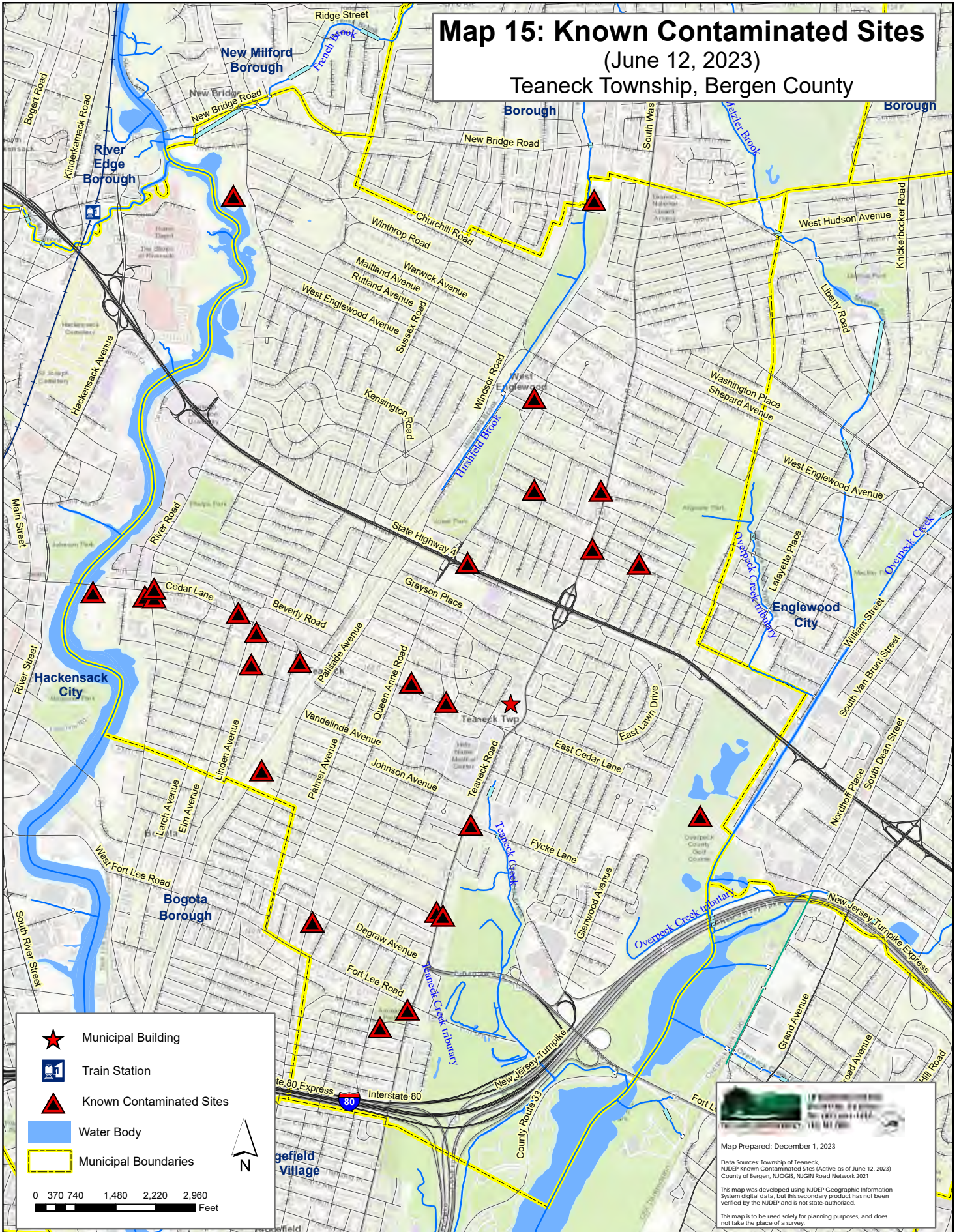
Source: [NJDEP Site Remediation Program](#)

Contaminant	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) (µg/L or ppb)	Ground Water Quality Standards (GWQS) (µg/L or ppb)	Test Result (µg/L or ppb)
PFOA	0.014	0.014	0.0104
PFOS	0.013	0.013	0.00397
PFNA	0.013	0.013	0.002

Source: [NJ DEP Ground Water Quality Standards](#), [Drinking WaterWatch](#), [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(ATSDR\)](#)

Map 15: Known Contaminated Sites

(June 12, 2023)
Teaneck Township, Bergen County



★ Municipal Building
🚉 Train Station
▲ Known Contaminated Sites
■ Water Body
 Municipal Boundaries

N

0 370 740 1,480 2,220 2,960 Feet



 Map Prepared: December 1, 2023
 Data Sources: Township of Teaneck, NJDEP Known Contaminated Sites (Active as of June 12, 2023), County of Bergen, NJOGIS, NJGIN Road Network 2021
 This map was developed using NJDEP Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by the NJDEP and is not state-authorized.
 This map is to be used solely for planning purposes, and does not take the place of a survey.

Table 22. Active Sites with Confirmed Contamination (Non-Homeowner)

Site ID	PI Number	PI Name	Address	CEA Status	Remedial Level
11190	519683	STANSON CHEMICAL CORP	520 Palisade Avenue		C2
11197	G000043938	ROURE BERTRAND DUPONT INCORPORATED	1775 Windsor Road	Ongoing	B
11198	007093	MICHAELS SERVICE STATION	468 Teaneck Road	Ongoing	C2
11200	002608	1187 TEANECK RD	1187 Teaneck Road		C2
11201	006450	USAVE STATION	1280 Teaneck Road	Ongoing	C2
11204	008975	EXXON	228 Teaneck Road	Ongoing	C2
11205	000243	TEANECK ROAD GAS LLC DBA ENRITE GAS	457 Teaneck Road		C2
11206	006346	DEGRAW GULF SERVICE STATION	335 Queen Anne Road	Ongoing	C2
11211	001664	DELTA	738 Cedar Lane		C2
11215	011069	TEANECK TEXACO INC	209 Cedar Lane	Ongoing	C2
11218	006298	LARRY'S FRIENDLY SERVICE	520 Cedar Lane	Ongoing	C2
11219	000889	UNITY GROUP LLC	724 Cedar Lane	Ongoing	C2
11223	011664	OVERPECK COUNTY GOLF COURSE	273 E Cedar Lane		
14149	G000041082	1374 QUEEN ANNE ROAD	1374 Queen Anne Road	Ongoing	C2
14152	877886	THOMAS CLEANERS	143 Cedar Lane		C2

Source: [NJDEP Site Remediation Program](#) (Non-Homeowner)

Site ID	PI Number	PI Name	Address	CEA Status	Remedial Level
17806	018366	SUNOCO SERVICE STATION #0006-6340 FORMER	725 Cedar Lane	Ongoing	C2
27365	031390	BCL AUTOMOTIVE INC	101 E Forest Avenue	Ongoing	C2
41358	000058	EMMANUEL AUTO CENTER	635 Teaneck Road	Ongoing	C2
48996	022080	TEANECK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	1600 River Road		C2
51926	018122	ACADEMY OF GREATNESS AND EXCELLENCE	441 North Street		B
57272	032250	HOME TOWN LAUNDRIES INC	713 American Legion Drive	Lifted	C2
85533	G000044835	836 CEDAR LANE IFO	836 Cedar Lane		C1
539819	677132	563 571 CEDAR LANE	563 571 Cedar Lane		C1
Source: NJDEP Site Remediation Program (Non-Homeowner)					

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