

Plans, Master Plans and Amendments

Report to the Board – Nov 30th, 2012 through March 13th, 2013

Municipality	Borough of Madison
Document	Environmental Resource Inventory
Public Hearing	March 7, 2013
Summary	Update of the 2001 ERI to incorporate recent and detailed information and GIS based mapping.

- The Borough of Madison has prepared a new Environmental Resource Inventory (draft dated December 2011) to replace the existing 2001 Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI). The new document addresses the following major topic areas: History, Geology, Hydrology, Air Quality, Climate, Soils, Vegetation, Wildlife, Open Space, Household Recycling and Regional Relationships.
- The ERI includes very detailed data and extensive discussion of the topic areas and includes new GIS mapping to illustrate existing resources. Maps include: Aerial, Road, Land Use/Land Cover, Topography, Surface Geology, Wellhead Protection and Contaminated Sites, Surface Waters, Flooding, Soils, Groundwater Recharge, Hydric Soils, Prime Agricultural Soils, Vegetated Lands, Wetlands, Tree Canopy, Open Space, Land Use Change (2002-2007), and Impervious Surface.
- The document notes that there have been “innumerable changes locally and globally in the past 10 years” and that “changing weather patterns, more prevalent natural disasters, and a dwindling supply of natural land areas,” makes the “importance of how land is used more evident than ever.”
- The document suggests the Borough institute smart growth development techniques such as redevelopment and transit-oriented development to protect remaining open spaces and encourage continued economic growth. The document recommends adoption of a Sustainability Plan as an element of the Borough’s Master Plan. It is suggested that the Plan include recommendations pertaining to green building ordinances, citizen committees to oversee environmental programs and the creation of incentives to encourage sustainable practices (i.e., green roofs, community gardens, native plants on lawn, walk to school programs, etc.)
- *Note: the Borough of Madison holds a “Bronze” certification from Sustainable New Jersey that was obtained in November 2010. Municipalities are certified at either a bronze or a silver level based on a variety of actions they have successfully completed. Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward communities that pursue sustainability programs.*