

PREPARED FOR:

**Borough of Bergenfield
Department of Parks & Recreation
198 N. Washington Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ 07621**

PREPARED BY:

**T&M Associates
250 Century Parkway
Suite 225
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054**

**GREEN ACRES GRANT
APPLICATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
REPORT**

Hickory Field Park Green Acres Grant
Hickory Field Park
165 Hickory Avenue
Block 34, Lot 1
Borough of Bergenfield, NJ 07621

**T&M PROJECT NO. BGF-00044
FEBRUARY 2026**



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On behalf of the Borough of Bergenfield Department of Parks & Recreation (“the client”), T&M Associates (“T&M”) is submitting this Environmental Impact Report pursuant to a Green Acres grant application. The client is seeking the grant to assist with comprehensive park improvements within the Hickory Field Park (“Hickory Field”), located at tax block 34, lot 10, located at 165 Hickory Avenue in the Borough of Bergenfield, Bergen County, New Jersey (“the project site”).

The objective of the proposed project is to conduct comprehensive site improvements within Hickory Field. Under the proposed project, the client will install a synthetic turf infield within the park, reconstruct and resize the existing basketball courts to include a high school-sized court, improve the existing splash pad, install a new larger pavilion, and conduct fencing improvements throughout the park. Please see **Attachment A** for figures displaying the project site and **Attachment B** for a collection of color photographs taken within the project site.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Adjacent Land Uses

The project site is bound by Hickory Avenue in the south, 3rd Street in the east, and residential properties to the north and west. The residential properties to the west of the project site are classified as single unit, low density plots; the properties to the north are classified as single unit, medium density plots. The land comprising the project site is classified as urban recreational land (land use data accurate as of 2020; data derived from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [NJDEP] GeoWeb [GeoWeb] natural and cultural resources mapping tool). The project site itself consists of maintained lawn space, paved walkways, a recreational splash pad, a children's playground, a natural turf multi-use sporting field, outbuildings owned and operated by the client, ornamental shrubs, and shade trees. The block and lot comprising the project site is not listed on the NJDEP Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) database.

Vegetation & Wildlife

Vegetation within the project site largely consists of turfgrasses; ornamental, planted shrubs; and scattered tree cover. A desktop review of the project site conducted via street-level satellite imagery indicates that the project site consists of Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*, UPL), striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*, FACU), boxwood (*Buxus* sp., N/A), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*, FACU), English ivy (*Hedera helix*, FACU), and turfgrasses.

Potential wildlife habitat within Hickory Field is limited, as the majority of the site has been developed for recreational use. The project site is regularly subjected to manmade disturbances (i.e., pedestrian visitation, recreational and sporting activities, and adjacent motorist travel along Hickory Avenue and 3rd Street). A review of the NJDEP Landscape v3.4 threatened and

endangered (“T&E”) habitat mapping tool on GeoWeb for the Piedmont Plains Landscape Region, which contains the project site, did not indicate any mapped habitat for T&E species within or directly adjacent to Hickory Field.

Geology, Topography, & Soils

The project site is underlain by the Brunswick aquifer (Rank C, non-Sole Source aquifer). The bedrock geology of the project site consists of the Passaic Formation, which is composed of sandstone and siltstone facies.

A review of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) soil data mapping tool indicates that the project site is underlain by Dunellen-Urban land complex soils with 3%-8% slopes (DuuB); Dunellen-Urban land complex soils with 8%-15% slopes (DuuC); and Udorthents, wet substratum-Urban land complex soils (UdwuB). These soil types are all nonhydric and are classified as “not prime farmland”.

Topographic conditions within the project site are largely uniform with little change in elevation. Elevations within the site only range between approximately 107 to 117 feet above sea level. The natural topography of the broader Borough of Bergenfield is largely flat, with elevations ranging from approximately 50 to 120 feet above sea level.

Water Resources & Hydrology

There are no streams, rivers, State open waters, ponds, lakes, or other waterbodies or watercourses present within the project site. The nearest stream to the project site, identified as Metzler Brook, is present approximately 800 feet to the southeast of Hickory Field.

The project site falls within the Hackensack, Hudson, and Pascack Watershed Management Area, the Hackensack River (below/including Hirshfeld Brook) Watershed, and the Hirshfeld Brook Sub-Watershed. It should be noted that there are no Category 1 waters present within the project site or the broader sub-watershed containing the project site.

A review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) map number 34003C0211H panel containing the project site (effective date August 28, 2019) indicates that the project site falls within Flood Zone X, defined by FEMA as an area determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain.

Historic & Archaeological Resources

The project site does not fall within any historic districts or historic archaeological site grids, nor does it contain any historic properties. The nearest historic property to the project site, identified as the Hickory Avenue Elementary School (Program Interest ID 99008247, Status Identified INDV as of 1/1/85), lies south of the project site directly across Hickory Avenue.

Transportation & Site Access

The project site can be accessed through its main pedestrian gate on Hickory Avenue, or by the side gate on 3rd Street, which allows direct entry and egress to the children's playground. There are no designated parking areas within the project site; entry can only occur on foot, using the pedestrian sidewalks that ring the southern and eastern border of the project site. New Jersey Transit operates a public bus stop (Stop ID 11048) at the intersection of Washington and West Johnson Avenues approximately 2,200 feet southwest of the project site; this is the closest source of public transportation to the project site.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Because the project site was previously disturbed during the construction of Hickory Field and continues to experience regular recreational use and other human activity as a public park, no significant adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources are expected as a result of the proposed project. All proposed project activities would take place within the existing project site and would not exceed the existing footprint of Hickory Field. The goal of the proposed project is to improve the condition of Hickory Field through improvements and expansion of existing structures, which would benefit the local and broader community of both Bergenfield residents and outside recreators visiting the project site. While minor impacts to natural resources (i.e., vegetation and soils) may occur as a result of the proposed project, compliance with all municipal, State, and federal regulations will be demonstrated at all phases of the project, and permanent adverse impacts to natural or cultural resources will be avoided or mitigated to the greatest possible degree. Adverse impacts to off-site properties are not anticipated to occur under the proposed project as all project activities are to take place within Hickory Field itself.

Affected Resources and the Significance of Each Impact

Hickory Field is a public outdoor park that provides recreational space for visitors. The project site is primarily used during the spring, summer, and fall when temperatures allow for pleasant outdoor recreation. Given the high population density of the surrounding area, the growing statewide demand for outdoor spaces and recreational opportunities, and the current conditions of Hickory Field, there is a clear need for rehabilitated and enhanced public parks and recreation facilities that can better support community use. The proposed project would help meet this need by improving Hickory Field, thereby expanding opportunities for practice, play, and overall public enjoyment.

Short-Term and Long-Term Project Impacts

No negative long-term impacts are anticipated to occur under the proposed project. The activities associated with the proposed project may generate short-term adverse impacts within the project site, due to construction activities and temporary timing restrictions; however, these short-term impacts are temporary. All construction activities taking place within the project site would cease upon the successful completion of the proposed project.

Anticipated Increase in Recreation and Overall Use

New Jersey is currently trending upwards in both population and demand for outdoor recreation opportunities. Over time, Hickory Field is expected to see increased use. It is therefore necessary that all recreational structures and facilities present within Hickory Field are safe, accessible, and updated to the fullest possible degree to ensure enhanced utilization and long-term use of Hickory Field. The proposed project would help to accommodate this predicted increase in use by providing a fully restored and comprehensively improved recreational area for use by the visiting public.

Adjacent Environmental Features Affected

The proposed project involves impacting previously-disturbed areas of the project site and working entirely within the existing disturbance footprints of Hickory Field. Examples of impacts to previously disturbed areas on site include the installation of the synthetic softball turf infield and expanded pavilion, the improvements to the fencing and splash pad, and the reconstruction of the basketball courts. No impacts on adjacent environmental features are proposed or anticipated. Under the proposed project, the on-site vegetation and soils may be affected by the proposed activities to accommodate new or expanded amenities and re-grading.

Permits Required for Project

A Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) plan and permit is anticipated for the proposed project, which will be obtained from the Bergen County Soil Conservation District. Any tree removal or clearing activities needed to advance the proposed project would require local approval from the Bergenfield Shade Tree Committee, as stipulated by the Borough code Part II Chapter 291 *Trees* § 291-6 *Application for permit*.

As the project activities are expected to disturb more than one acre of land, the proposed project would be classified as a "Major Development" under the N.J.A.C. 7:8 Stormwater Management Rules. Therefore, the project would require stormwater management design calculations for Water Quantity, Water Quality, and Groundwater Recharge. This determination will be confirmed during the final design phase of the proposed project.

Natural Heritage Data Request Form

The proposed project would take place entirely within a previously developed location that is currently an active operating public park. As discussed above under *Vegetation & Wildlife*, an initial review of the GeoWeb Landscape v3.4 mapper for the Piedmont Plains landscape region indicated that no T&E habitat exists within the project site. As such, a Natural Heritage Data Request form was not required.

If/How the Project May Be Impacted by Sea Level Rise

The proposed project is unlikely to be impacted by sea level rise. As discussed above under *Water Resources & Hydrology*, the project site falls within Flood Zone X (e.g., an area determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain) and lies entirely outside the coastal zone, with no Tidelands Claim Lines present within or immediately adjacent to the project site. The nearest tidally-influenced waterway to the project site, the Hudson River, lies approximately 3.3 miles east of the project site. Therefore, there are no tidally-influenced natural resources within or near the project site, and it is not expected that the proposed project will be impacted by sea level rise.

Alternatives and Mitigative Measures

No alternatives are proposed for the proposed project. The proposed project can only take place within the project site, as the amenities proposed for improvement and/or expansion under this project are only present within Hickory Field. The proposed project activities are necessary to increase the recreational potential and overall public enjoyment of Hickory Field. As such, the only alternative for the proposed project is a “no build” option, which would not address the issue at the center of the proposed project and would leave Hickory Field in its existing, unimproved state. The proposed project is encouraged by the Borough and would represent a positive change for the visiting public that has the potential to increase patronage to and utilize Hickory Field.

CONCLUSION

Based upon a review of the Green Acres Program for Park Development grant application requirements, the proposed project complies with regulations pertaining to urban development and renovation at Hickory Field. As with any form of development, however, certain unavoidable impacts will occur. The project team has designed the proposed project to avoid generating these impacts wherever possible, and to minimize and mitigate these potential unavoidable impacts whenever they may occur.

Attachment A - Site Figures



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 Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
 Phone: (856) 722-6700



Landscape v3.4 Piedmont Plains Map
Hickory Field Green Acres Grant Application
165 Hickory Avenue
Block 34, Lot 10
Borough of Bergenfield
Bergen County, New Jersey

Prepared by: CTD, 01/26/2026
 Source: 2025 Google Aerial Satellite Imagery
 File Path: G:\Projects\BGFD\00044\GIS\Projects\Final\Landscape Map.aprx

NOTE: This map was developed using New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by NJDEP and is not State-authorized.



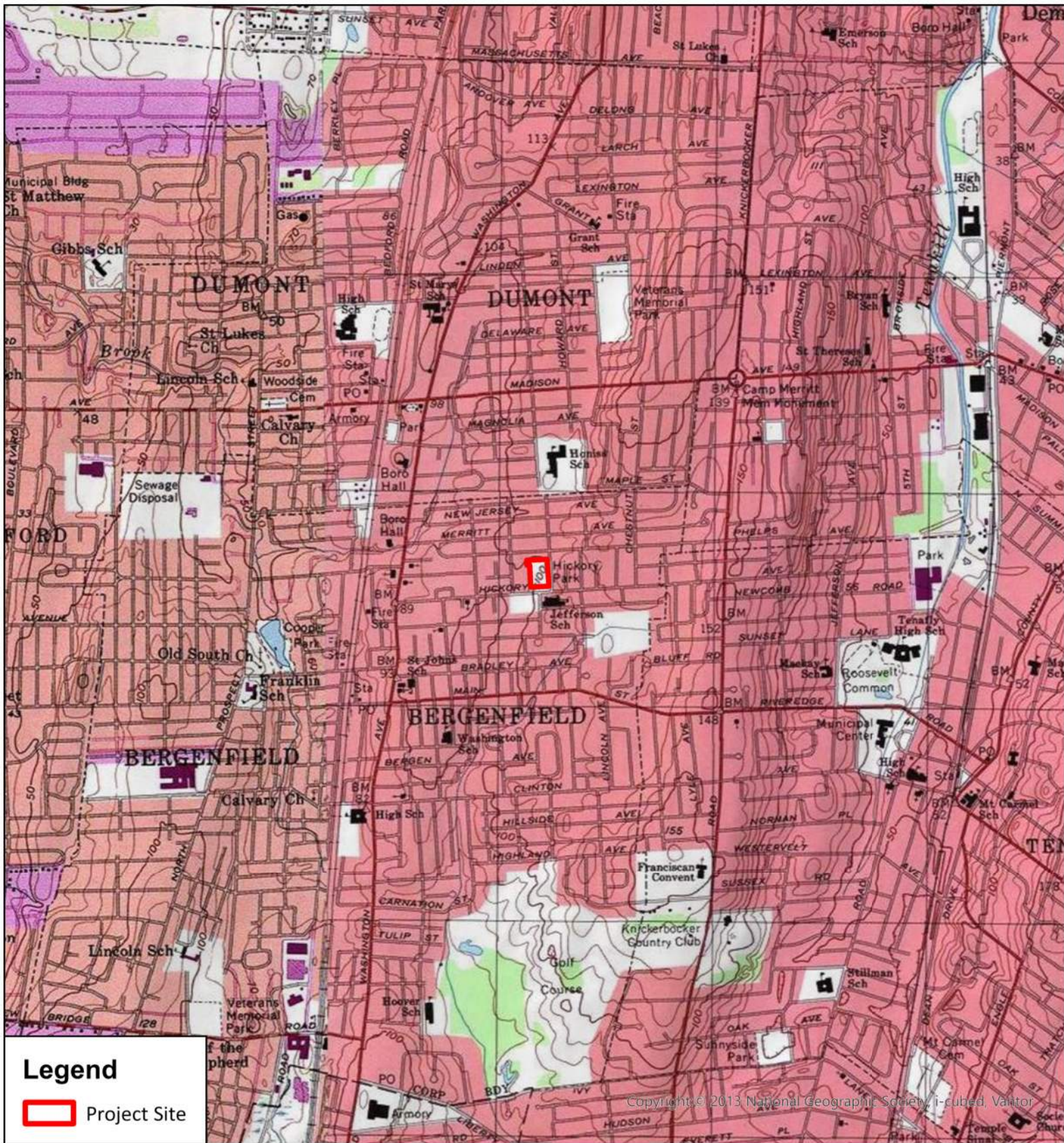
250 Century Parkway, Suite 225
 Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
 Phone: (856) 722-6700



Aerial Site Map
Hickory Field Green Acres Grant Application
165 Hickory Avenue
Block 34, Lot 10
Borough of Bergenfield
Bergen County, New Jersey

Prepared by: CTD, 01/26/2026
 Source: 2025 Google Aerial Satellite Imagery
 File Path: G:\Projects\BGFD\00044\GIS\Projects\Final\Aerial Site Map.aprx

NOTE: This map was developed using New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by NJDEP and is not State-authorized.



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USGS Topographic Map
Hickory Field Green Acres Grant Application
165 Hickory Avenue
Block 34, Lot 10
Borough of Bergenfield
Bergen County, New Jersey



Prepared by: CTD, 01/26/2026
 Source: USGS Topographic Maps
 File Path: G:\Projects\BGFD\00044\GIS\Projects\Final\USGS Topographic Map.aprx

NOTE: This map was developed using New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by NJDEP and is not State-authorized.

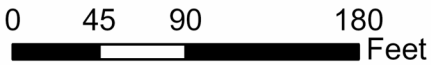


Legend

- Project Site
- Tax Parcels
- Historic Properties - Identified INDV



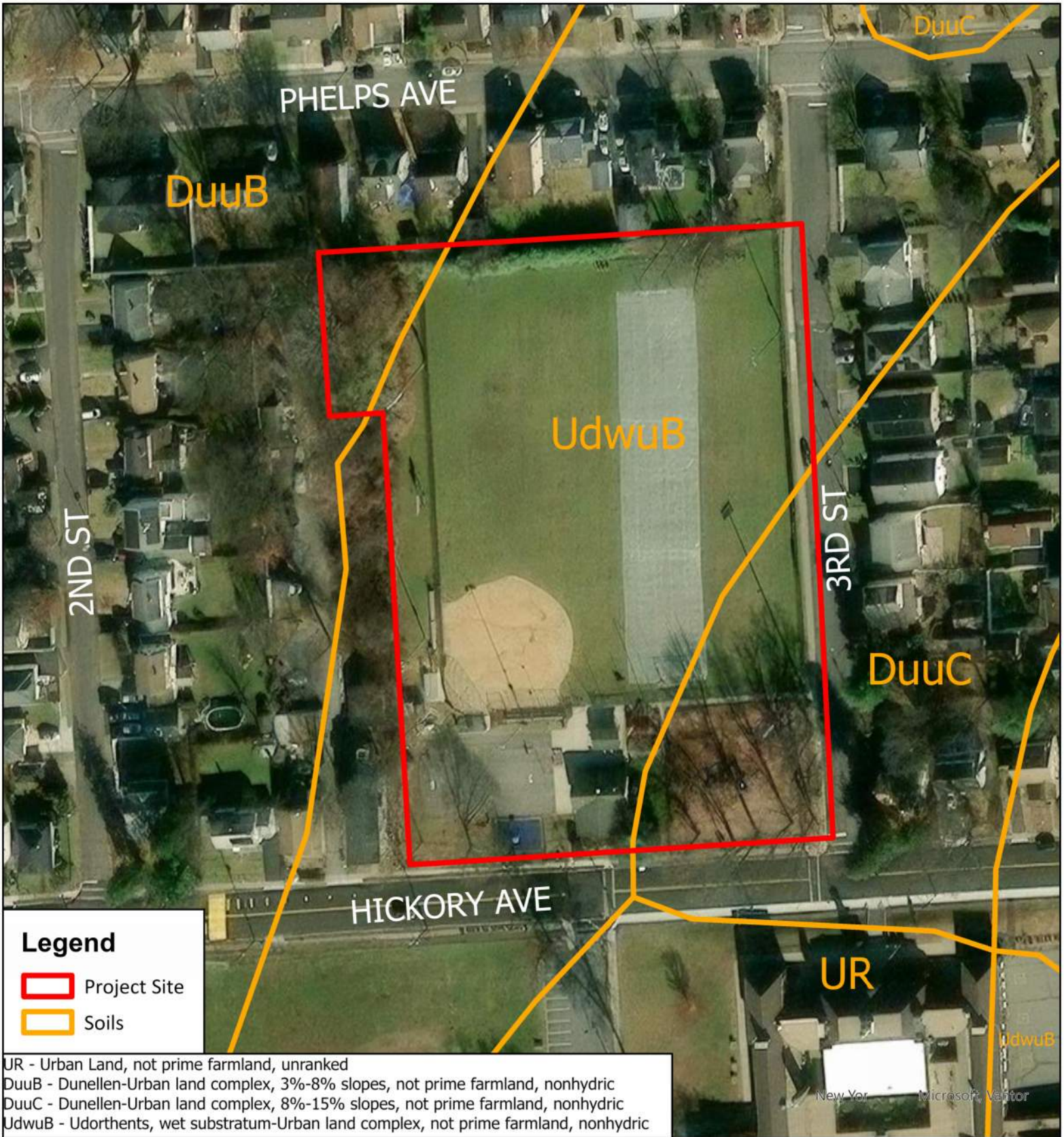
250 Century Parkway, Suite 225
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Phone: (856) 722-6700



Historic Resources Map
Hickory Field Green Acres Grant Application
165 Hickory Avenue
Block 34, Lot 10
Borough of Bergenfield
Bergen County, New Jersey

Prepared by: CTD, 02/02/2026
Source: 2025 Google Aerial Satellite Imagery
File Path: G:\Projects\BGFD\00044\GIS\Projects\Final\Historic Resources Map.aprx

NOTE: This map was developed using New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by NJDEP and is not State-authorized.



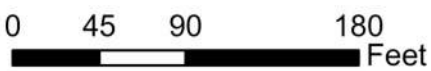
Legend

- Project Site
- Soils

UR - Urban Land, not prime farmland, unranked
 DuuB - Dunellen-Urban land complex, 3%-8% slopes, not prime farmland, nonhydric
 DuuC - Dunellen-Urban land complex, 8%-15% slopes, not prime farmland, nonhydric
 UdwuB - Udorthents, wet substratum-Urban land complex, not prime farmland, nonhydric



250 Century Parkway, Suite 225
 Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
 Phone: (856) 722-6700



Prepared by: CTD, 01/26/2026
 Source: 2025 Google Aerial Satellite Imagery
 File Path: G:\Projects\BGFD\00044\GIS\Projects\Final\Soils Map.aprx

Soils Map
Hickory Field Green Acres Grant Application
165 Hickory Avenue
Block 34, Lot 10
Borough of Bergenfield
Bergen County, New Jersey

NOTE: This map was developed using New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by NJDEP and is not State-authorized.

NOTES TO USERS

This map is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program. It does not necessarily identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage sources of small size. The community map repository should be consulted for possible updated or additional flood hazard information.

To obtain more detailed information in areas where **Base Flood Elevations (BFEs)** and/or **floodways** have been determined, users are encouraged to consult the Flood Profiles and Floodway Data and/or Summary of Datawater Elevation Tables contained within the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report that accompanies this FIRN. Users should be aware that BFEs shown on the FIRN represent rounded whole-foot elevations. These BFEs are intended for flood insurance rating purposes only and should not be used as the sole source of flood elevation information. Accuracy of flood elevation data presented in the FIS report should be utilized in conjunction with the FIRN for purposes of construction and/or floodplain management.

Coastal Base Flood Elevations shown on this map apply only to landward of 0.2 North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). Users of the FIRN should be aware that coastal flood elevations are also provided in the Summary of Datawater Elevation Tables in the Flood Insurance Study report for the jurisdiction. Elevations shown in the Summary of Datawater Elevation Tables should be used for construction and/or floodplain management purposes when they are higher than the elevations shown on the FIRN.

Boundaries of the **floodways** were computed at cross sections and interpolated between cross sections. The floodways were based on hydraulic considerations with regard to requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Floodway widths and other pertinent floodway data are provided in the Flood Insurance Study report for the jurisdiction.

Certain areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be protected by flood control structures. Refer to Section 2.4 "Flood Protection" of the Summary of Datawater Elevation Tables in the Flood Insurance Study report for information on flood control structures for this jurisdiction.

The projection used in the preparation of this map was New Jersey State Plane 2000 zone. The horizontal datum was NAD 83. Differences in datum, spheroid, projection or State Plane zones used in the production of FIRNs for adjacent jurisdictions may result in slight positional differences in map features across jurisdiction boundaries. These differences do not affect the accuracy of this FIRN.

Flood elevations on this map are referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988. These flood elevations must be compared to structure and ground elevations referenced to the same vertical datum. For information regarding conversion between the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 and the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, visit the National Geodetic Survey website at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov> or contact the National Geodetic Survey at the following address:

NGS Information Services
NOAA NIMS12
National Geodetic Survey
SSM/C-3, #9202
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-2882
(301) 713-3242

To obtain current elevation, description, and/or location information for **launch marks** shown on this map, please contact the Information Services Branch of the National Geodetic Survey at (201) 713-3242, or visit its website at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov>.

Base map information shown on this FIRN was provided in digital format by the State of New Jersey Office of Information Technology. This information was derived from digital orthophotos produced at a scale of 1:2400 with a 1-foot pixel resolution from photography dated 2012.

This map reflects more detailed and up-to-date stream channel configurations than those shown on the previous FIRN for the jurisdiction. The floodways and floodways that were transferred from the previous FIRN may have been adjusted to conform to these new stream channel configurations. As a result, the Flood Profiles and Floodway Data tables in the Flood Insurance Study Report (which contains authoritative hydraulic data) may reflect stream channel distances that differ from what is shown on this map.

Corporate limits shown on this map are based on the best data available at the time of publication. Because changes due to annexations or de-annexations may have occurred after this map was published, map users should contact appropriate community officials to verify current corporate limit locations.

Please refer to the separately printed **Map Index** for an overview map of the county showing the layout of map panels; community map repository addresses; and a listing of Communities table containing National Flood Insurance Program data for each community as well as a listing of the panels on which each community is located.

For information on available products associated with this FIRN visit the Map Service Center (MSC) website at <http://www.fema.gov>. Available products may include previously issued Letters of Map Change, a Flood Insurance Study Report, and/or digital versions of this map. Many of these products can be ordered or obtained directly from the MSC website.

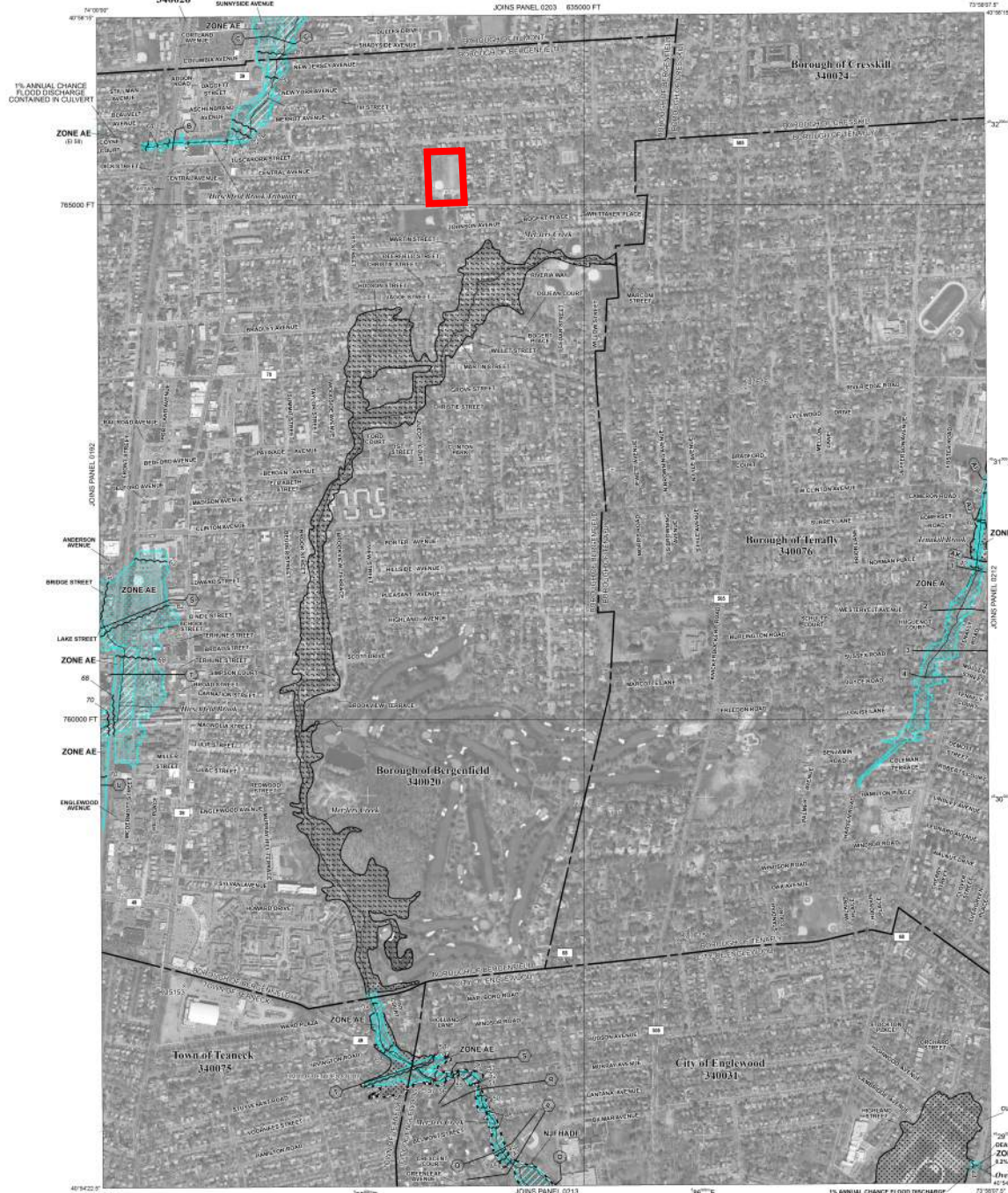
If you have questions about this map, how to order products or the National Flood Insurance Program in general, please call the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2677) or visit the FEMA website at <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>.



This digital FIRN was produced through a unique cooperative partnership between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and FEMA. As part of the effort, NJDEP has joined in a Cooperative Technical Partnership agreement to produce and maintain FEMA digital FIRNs.

NFIPADP is equal to the 1-percent-annual chance flood plus an additional 20% in flow, and not to exceed the 0.2-percent-annual chance flood. NFIPADP boundary is to regulate disturbance to the land and vegetation within flood hazard area of a water body. This regulation is set forth in the State of New Jersey Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules N.J.A.C. 7:13, and is administered by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

**Borough of Dumont
340026**



LEGEND

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS SUBJECT TO INUNDATION BY THE 1% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD

The 1% annual flood (0.2% wave flood), also known as the base flood, is the flood that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The Special Flood Hazard Area is the area subject to flooding by the 1% annual chance flood. Areas of Special Flood Hazard include Zones A, AE, AH, AO, AR, AN, V, and VE. The Base Flood Elevation is the water-surface elevation of the 1% annual chance flood.

ZONE A
No Base Flood Elevation determined.
Base Flood Elevation determined.

ZONE AH
Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponding). Base Flood Elevation determined.

ZONE AO
Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain); average depth determined. For areas of sheet flow, velocities also determined.

ZONE AR
Special Flood Hazard Area formerly protected from the 1% annual chance flood by a flood control system that was inadequately designed. Zone AR indicates that the former flood control system is being retained to provide protection from flood.

ZONE AN
Area to be protected from 1% annual chance flood by a Federal Flood Protection system under construction; no Base Flood Elevation determined.

ZONE V
Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action); no Base Flood Elevation determined.

ZONE VE
Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action); Base Flood Elevation determined.

FLOODWAY AREAS IN ZONE AE
The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachment to permit the 1% annual chance flood to be carried without substantial increases in flood heights.

OTHER FLOOD AREAS

ZONE X
Areas of 0.2% annual chance flood, areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depths of less than 1 foot or with average areas less than 1 square mile, and areas protected by levees from 1% annual chance flood.

OTHER AREAS

ZONE B
Areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.

COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) AREAS

OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS (OPAs)

CBRS areas and OPAs are normally located within or adjacent to Special Flood Hazard Areas.

- 1% annual chance floodplain boundary
- New Jersey Flood Hazard Area Design Flood (NJHFADP)
- 0.2% annual chance floodplain boundary
- Floodway boundary
- Zone boundary
- CBRS and OPA boundary
- Boundary defining Special Flood Hazard Area zones and boundary defining Special Flood Hazard Areas of different base flood elevations, flood depths or flood wave action
- LINE OF MODERATE WAVE ACTION
- Base Flood Elevation line and values within a zone*
- Base Flood Elevation value which uniform within zone; elevation in feet

* Referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988

Close section line
Limited detail cross section line
Truncated line

78°10'N
87°07'45", 32°22'30"

620000 FT
DIXES10 X
MI 1.5

MAP REPOSITORY
Refer to listing of Map Repositories on Map Index

EFFECTIVE DATE OF COUNTYWIDE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP
September 20, 2008

EFFECTIVE DATES OF (PREVIOUS) TO THIS PANEL
September 30, 2004; August 24, 2010 (No reduction of Base Flood to Level in Flood Insurance Study Report)

For community map revision history prior to countywide mapping, refer to the Community Map History table located in the Flood Insurance Study Report for this jurisdiction.

To determine if flood insurance is available in this community, contact your insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-638-6345.

MAP SCALE 1" = 500'
300 0 600 1200
150 0 300 600
FEET
METERS

NFIP PANEL 0211H

FIRM
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

**BERGEN COUNTY,
NEW JERSEY
(ALL JURISDICTIONS)**

PANEL 211 OF 332
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
RECONSTRUCTED BOROUGH OF	34000	0211	H
CHERRY BOROUGH OF	34005	0211	H
INDUSTRIAL CITY OF	34007	0211	H
LAKELAKE TOWNSHIP OF	34015	0211	H
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP OF	34018	0211	H

Notes to User: The Map Number shown below should be used when placing map orders. The Community Number shown above should be used on invoice applications to the legal community.

**MAP NUMBER
340030211H**

**MAP REVISED
AUGUST 28, 2019**

Federal Emergency Management Agency