

# 2008 Draft Recommendations Report



Open Space, Recreation  
& Historic Preservation  
Trust Fund

Thomas A. DeGise  
*County Executive*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD

Dear Friends:

It is our pleasure to present the 2008 Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund Recommendations Report. This year the Hudson County Open Space Advisory Board received 30 applications for funding. The Board hosted presentations from each applicant and conducted site visits at the locations for each project.

The Board found that while many of the projects were worthy of funding, there was not enough money to go around. In fact, the Board received requests for over \$18 million in funding in contrast to the \$7.4 million which was available this year. The board employed a rigorous point system to score and rank the proposals. Successful applications were "project ready," exhibited strong local support, and fit within the Open Space Trust Fund formula (minimum of 50% for open space acquisition and 50% for both park improvements and historic preservation).

Enclosed is a copy of the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund 2008 Draft Recommendations Report. The Board will conduct a public hearing at 6:30 pm on June 25, 2008 in the Lincoln Park Administration Building in Jersey City, NJ. The public hearing will give members of the general public and applicants an opportunity to comment on the "Draft" report. The Board will then vote to forward the report to the County Executive and Board of Chosen Freeholders for their respective consideration.

Sincerely,



Joseph Liccardo  
Chair



Henry Sanchez  
Vice Chair



## OUR MISSION

On June 26, 2003, the Hudson County Executive requested, and the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders approved a resolution authorizing the placement of a public question (referendum) on the general election ballot for the establishment of a County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Preservation Trust Fund. On November 4, 2003, the ballot question was approved by a two-to-one majority of County voters.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders, by resolution dated December 23, 2003, voted to establish the Hudson County Open Space, Recreation & Historic Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is funded through a property tax dedicated to acquire land for conservation, open space purposes, recreation facility enhancements, and historic preservation.

Entrusted by the County Executive and Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Hudson County Open Space Trust Fund Advisory Board, has the duty to review, prioritize and recommend projects for open space, recreation and historic preservation funding that meet the goals and objectives outlined in the Hudson County Open Space & Recreation Plan.

## PROGRAM STATEMENT

### Eligible Projects Under the County's Trust Fund

- Acquisition of land for conservation and recreation purposes
- Development of land existing or acquired for recreation and/or conservation purposes
- Preservation of historic properties, including acquisition of such properties for historic purposes

### Who's Eligible?

- Hudson County
- The Hudson County Improvement Authority
- Any of the twelve (12) municipalities in Hudson County
- Local entities, non-profit corporations and qualified charitable conservancies located within Hudson County that have received tax exemption under section 501(c)3 of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code

### Trust Fund Advisory Board

The Trust Fund Advisory Board consists of 9 members appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, who participate in the approval process by reviewing, prioritizing and recommending projects for funding. Advisory Board members are representatives of county government and conservation, environmental, historic preservation, parks and recreation and business communities.

### Trust Fund Allocation

The Trust Fund is funded through a property tax assessment determined annually by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, at a rate not to exceed one cent (\$0.01) per \$100.00 of total County equalized valuation. All money collected through the property tax assessment will be deposited into the Trust Fund and shall be apportioned approximately in the following manner:

- No less than 50% for Land Acquisition Projects
- No more than 50% for Park Development/Redevelopment, Improvement for Recreation or Conservation, and Historic Preservation Projects



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## 2008 RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

Map



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## APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

2008 Review Schedule	
Mandatory Pre-submission Conference for Interested Parties	January 23
Deadline for Submission of Applications	March 19
Presentations by Applicants to the Open Space Advisory Board	April 7–11
Site Visits	April 28–May 2
Draft Report and Recommendations by Open Space Advisory Board	May 28
Public Hearing and Final Report	June 25
Consideration by Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders	August



## OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

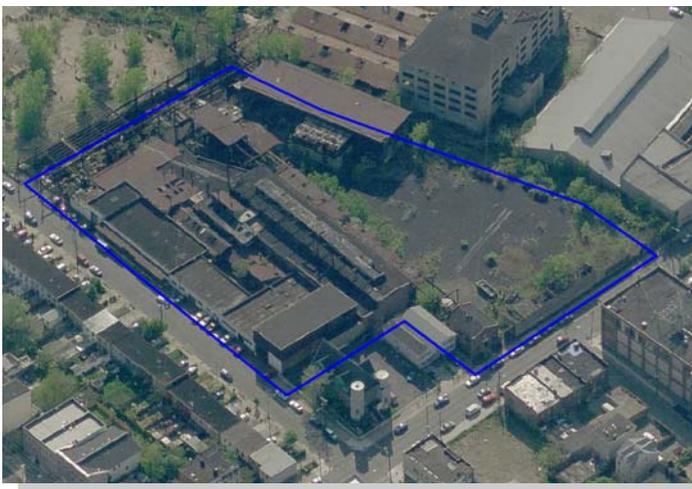


### **COGNIS SITE LAND ACQUISITION, HOBOKEN** APPLICATION NO. OS-06-08

The City of Hoboken proposes to acquire 6 acres at the “Cognis Site” located at the foot of the Palisades at 12th Street and Madison Street for the development of athletic fields and other forms of active and passive recreation.

### **BOYD MCGUINNESS PARK EXPANSION, JERSEY CITY** APPLICATION NO. OS-14-08

The City of Jersey City has targeted two vacant lots adjacent to Boyd McGuinness Park to expand the park with new facilities for the surrounding neighborhood.



### **BERRY LANE PARK EXPANSION, JERSEY CITY** APPLICATION NO. OS-22-08

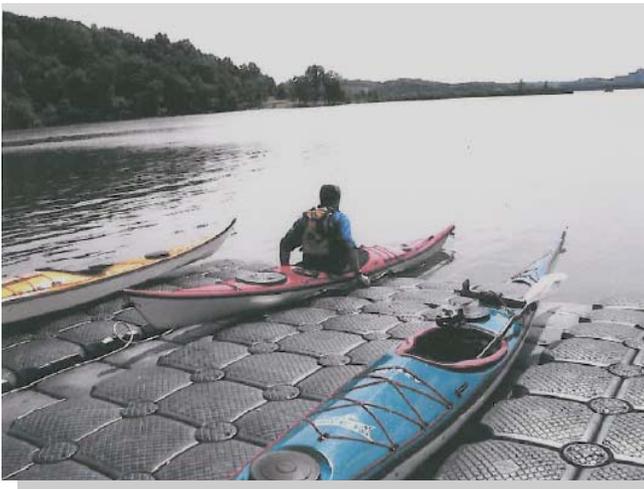
Seeking to expand on the potential for recreation facilities at Berry Lane Park, the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency proposes to acquire land at the “Steel Technologies Site” at the corner of Communipaw Ave and Woodward St. If funded, an additional 3.5 acres would be added to the new park.



# PARK & RECREATION IMPROVEMENT

## CULINARY ARTS PLAZA, JERSEY CITY APPLICATION No. PI-01-08

In 2006, the Hudson County Community College was awarded open space funds to acquire a triangular lot on Sip Avenue adjacent to the Culinary Arts Institute for park land. This application is for development of the site into a new urban plaza park.

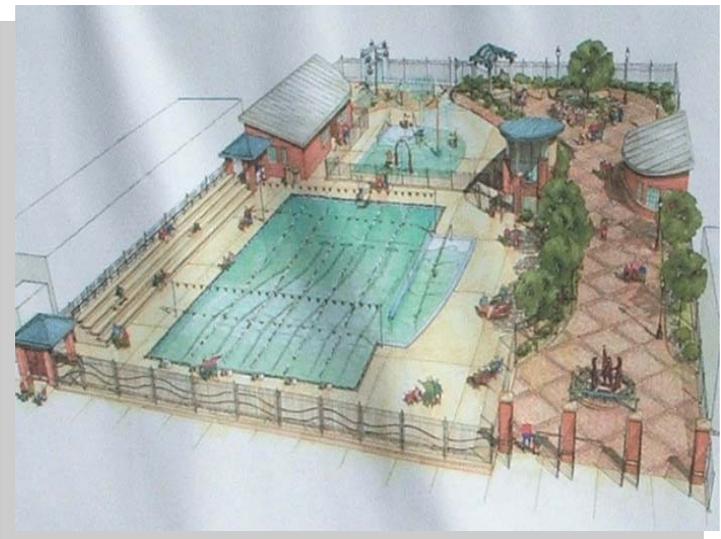


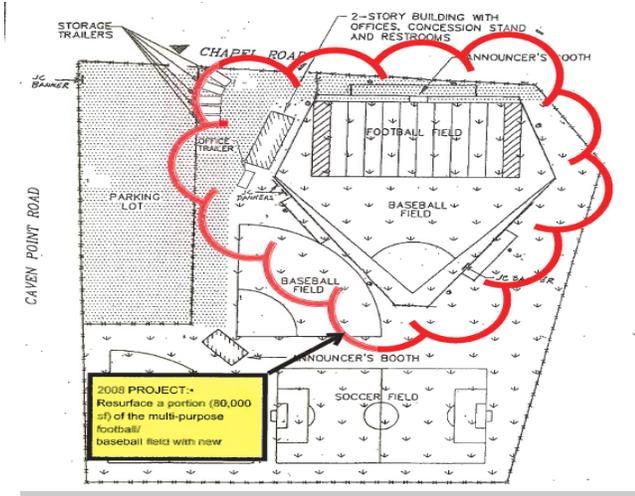
## HACKENSACK RIVER WATER TRAIL STOP, SECAUCUS APPLICATION No. PI-03-08

The Hackensack Riverkeeper proposes to install a floating dock system to facilitate access for canoe and kayak use at Laurel Hill Park in Secaucus. The proposed launch will be one stop on the proposed 21-mile paddle trail along the Hackensack River.

## DORIC PARK IMPROVEMENTS, UNION CITY APPLICATION No. PI-05-08

The City of Union City is seeking funding to assist in the development of the new Doric Park pool complex on Palisade Ave. The expansion of Doric Park will include active and passive elements, including water features, landscaping, handicapped accessibility, benches and lighting.



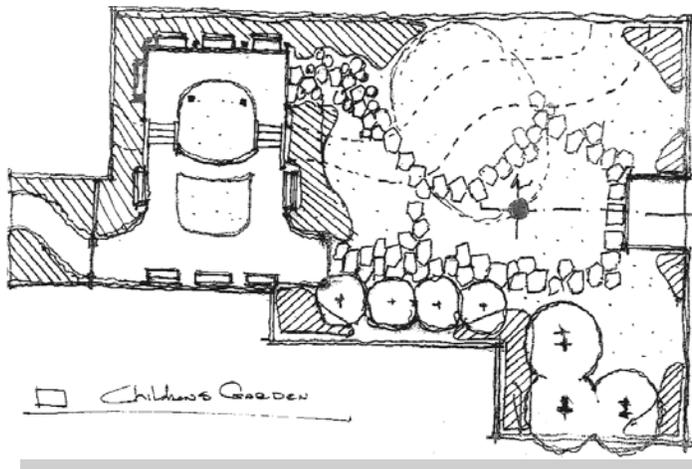
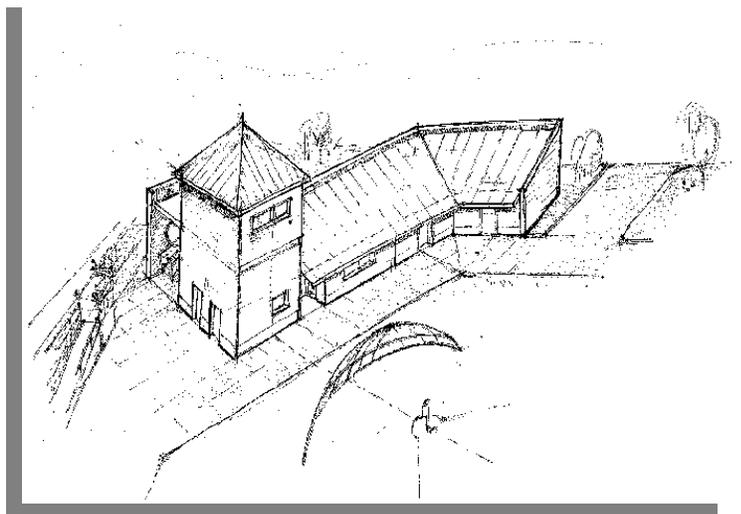


### CAVEN POINT RECREATIONAL COMPLEX, JERSEY CITY APPLICATION No. PI-08-08

The Jersey City Board of Education is in need of replacing the artificial turf at the football field and baseball diamond. The new, proposed surface will support the intense use of the recreational facility as a regional athletic complex.

### IMPROVEMENTS AT VETERAN'S FIELD HOUSE, KEARNY APPLICATION No. PI-09-08

The Town of Kearny is reconstructing the facilities at Veteran's Field. Plans include new restrooms, announcer booth, ADA accessibility, and improved lighting system.



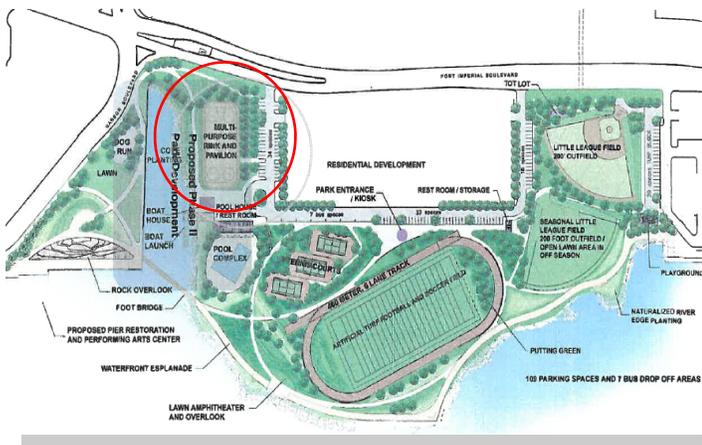
### READING PARK AT KEARNY MAIN LIBRARY, KEARNY APPLICATION No. PI-12-08

Located at the corner of Garfield Ave and Bergen Ave, the Town of Kearny proposes to construct a community reading garden adjacent to the Main Library. Preliminary plans include new landscaping and ADA-compliant access.



**MULTI-PARK IMPROVEMENTS, NORTH BERGEN**  
APPLICATION NO. PI-16-08

The Township of North Bergen is applying for funds to renovate three parks located at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, 82<sup>nd</sup> Street, and 88<sup>th</sup> Street, respectively. Plans are to replace playground equipment and play surfaces with ADA-compliant facilities.

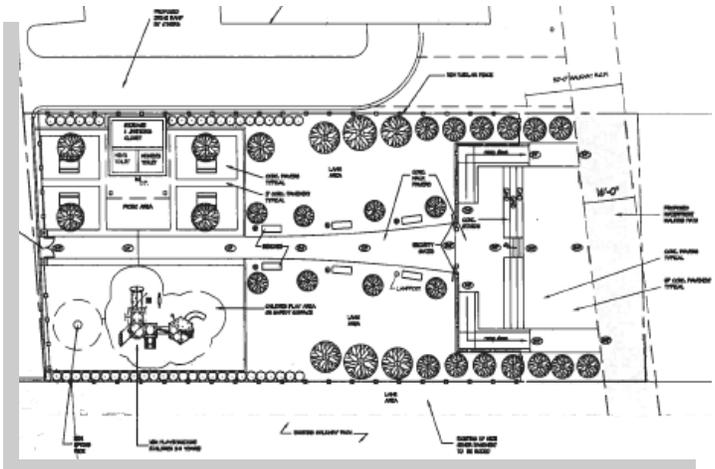


**MULTI-USE WATERFRONT PARK PAVILION, WEEHAWKEN**  
APPLICATION NO. PI-17-08

The Township of Weehawken plans to construct a multi-use park pavilion at the waterfront park on Port Imperial Blvd. Phase II of the development of the waterfront park includes an outdoor ice hockey/skating rink with surrounding deck and pavilion with floor covering for events and basketball.

**DEVELOPMENT OF WATERFRONT PARK, GUTTENBERG**  
APPLICATION NO. PI-18-08

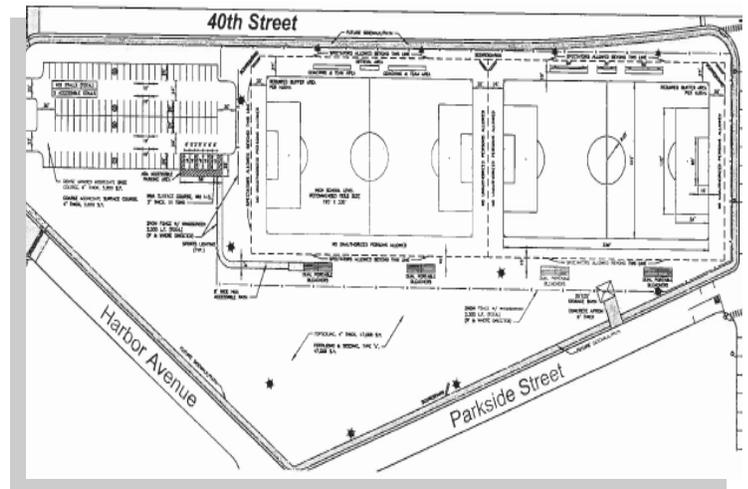
In 2006, the Town of Guttenberg acquired land along River Road on the Hudson River for the creation of a waterfront park. This application for the ADA-compliant park development includes an amphitheater, playground, landscaping, restrooms, and an extension of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway.





**COMMUNITY SOCCER FIELDS, BAYONNE**  
APPLICATION No. PI-20-08

The Bayonne Local Redevelopment Agency plans to construct two community soccer fields at the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor. The high school level fields will replace existing fields that are no longer available due to the redevelopment of the Peninsula.



**URBAN FORESTRY INITIATIVE, HUDSON COUNTY**  
APPLICATION No. PI-24-08

As the most densely populated and urbanized county in New Jersey, Hudson County has a shortage of shade trees and forested areas. This proposal aims to replenish the urban forest and woodlands by planting the appropriate types of trees along County roads, parks, and public property.



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION



### RESTORATION AT CITY HALL, UNION CITY APPLICATION NO. HP-04-08

The City of Union City is requesting funding assistance to restore elements at City Hall to preserve the historic nature of the building. Eligible for the NJ and Federal Registers of Historic Places, the renovations of the entrance lobby, staircase, and ceiling will be consistent with the historic designations.

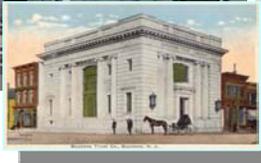
### WINDOW RESTORATION AT CITY HALL, JERSEY CITY APPLICATION NO. HP-13-08

The City of Jersey City is continuing the restoration of City Hall on Grove Street with replacement of the historic window structures. The first phase includes replacement of windows on the front and north sides of the building.



### RESTORATION AT BAYONNE COMMUNITY MUSEUM, BAYONNE APPLICATION NO. HP-19-08

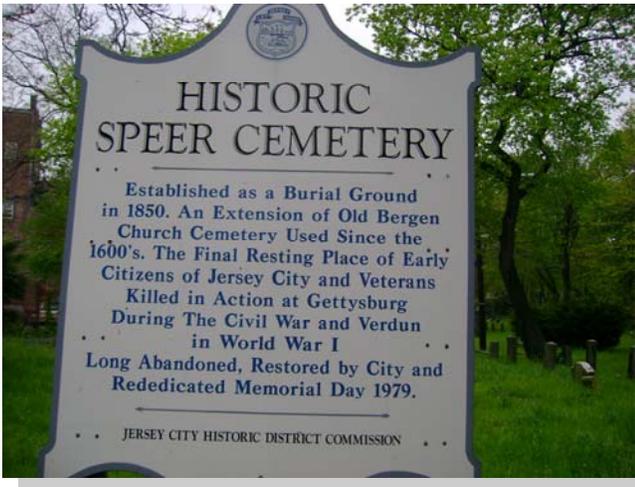
The restoration of the former Bayonne Trust Company building continues with roof repair, wall and ceiling restoration, stained glass skylight, marble stairs, and ADA-compliant restrooms and entrance ramp.





**RESTORATION AT ELLIS ISLAND, JERSEY CITY**  
APPLICATION No. HP-23-08

The Save Ellis Island organization wishes to complete the rehabilitation of the first floor interior of the Laundry/Hospital Out building of the Ellis Island. Upon completion, it will be the first building from the hospital complex to be restored and complete the “gateway” that enables visitors to physically access the New Jersey portion of Ellis Island.



**PRESERVATION OF SPEER CEMETERY, JERSEY CITY**

APPLICATION No. HP-25-08

Speer Cemetery on Vroom Street in Jersey City traces history back to at least 1704, making it one of the oldest cemeteries still in existence in New Jersey. The Jersey City Parks Coalition is sponsoring an application to secure the area with fencing and repair hazards within the confines of the cemetery.

**LIGHTING RESTORATION AT HUDSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE,  
JERSEY CITY**

APPLICATION No. HP-29-08

Hudson County is moving forward with the restoration of lighting at the Brennan Courthouse with phase III. Replica light fixtures are being manufactured and installed in the fourth floor courtrooms, exterior wall-mounted fixtures, and wall sconces in the public corridors.





**RESTORATION AT LOEW'S JERSEY THEATRE, JERSEY CITY**  
APPLICATION NO. HP-30-08

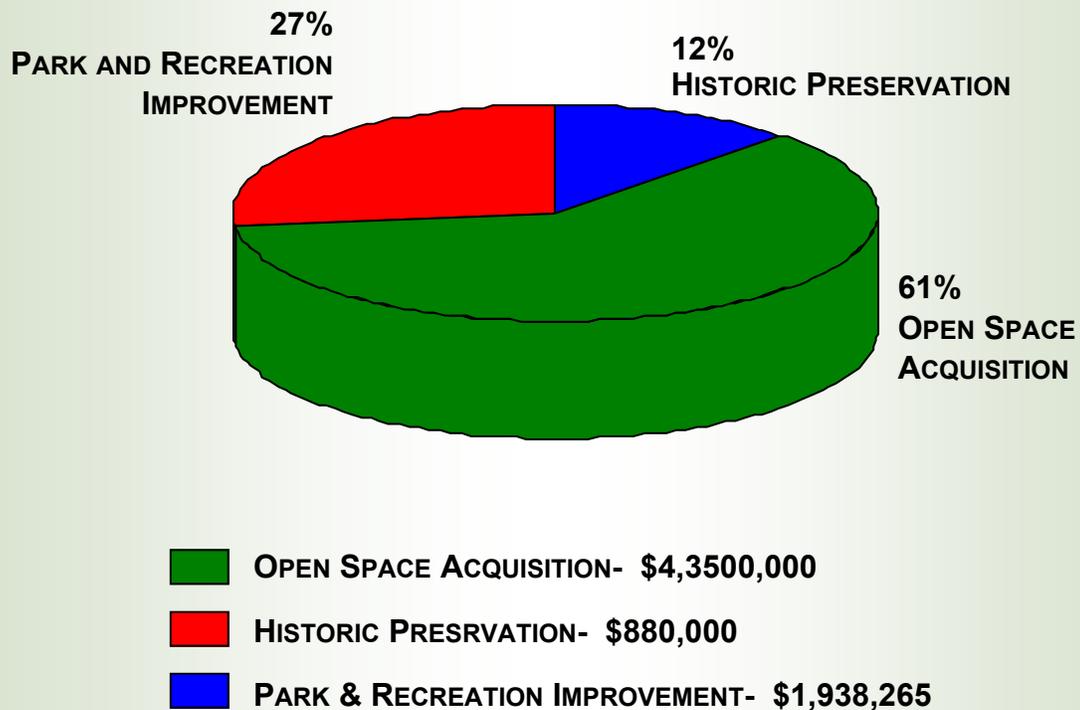
The Loew's Jersey Theatre in Jersey City requires repair to the exterior fire stairs and emergency doors to enable the theater to operate at full capacity.



## 2008 RECOMMENDED FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

This year, a total of \$5.6 million was collected through the countywide tax levy for the 2008 Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust. Of that, \$2.8 million was dedicated for open space acquisition projects plus an additional \$1.8 million reprogrammed from acquisition projects not completed in previous years. The Open Space Advisory Board received six applications requesting funding to assist in open space acquisitions. Of those six, application no. OS-11-08 for the Acquisition of 941 Passaic Avenue in Kearny was deemed not eligible for acquisition funding. The request was for remediation costs only and not for the purchase or deed restriction of the site.

A total of \$2.8 million was also available for park improvement and historic preservation projects. The Advisory Board received fifteen applications for park improvement projects and nine applications for historic preservation projects. Of the park improvement projects, application no. PI-15-08 for the Construction of the Harrison Riverfront Walkway Project was deemed not complete. The application did not have a specific project area identified and did not contain construction plans. Of the historic preservation projects, application no. HP-21-08 for the Statue at Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. School- P.S. 11 was not eligible for historic preservation funding. The application for funds to commission an artist to design a statue for the school was an ineligible activity under the historic preservation guidelines.





## PROJECT SCORES SUMMARY

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION		MAXIMUM POINTS: 108	
Applicant	Project Name	Score	Percentage Score
City of Jersey City	PJP/Siegel Property Acquisition	59	54%
City of Hoboken	Southwest Park Land Acquisition	43	40%
City of Jersey City	Berry Lane Park Expansion	42	38%
City of Jersey City	Boyd McGuinness Park Expansion	39	36%
City of Hoboken	Cognis Site Land Acquisition	37	34%
HISTORIC PRESERVATION		MAXIMUM POINTS: 77	
Applicant	Project Name	Score	Percentage Score
Save Ellis Island, Inc.	Restoration of Ellis Island Laundry/ Hospital Building	66	86%
Friends of the Loew's, Inc.	Restoration at Loew's Jersey Theatre	51	66%
City of Jersey City	Jersey City City Hall Window Restoration	44	57%
City of Bayonne	Restoration at Bayonne Community Museum	39	50%
County of Hudson	Lighting Restoration at Hudson County Courthouse	38	49%
City of Union City	Union City City Hall Restoration	31	40%
Jersey City Parks Coal- ition	Speer Cemetery Restoration	31	40%
19 Winfield Façade, Inc.	19 Winfield Avenue Façade Preservation	14	18%



PARK AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT		MAXIMUM POINTS: 117	
Applicant	Project Name	Score	Percentage Score
Hackensack Riverkeeper	Hackensack River Water Trail Stop at Laurel Hill Park	89	76%
Town of Guttenberg	Waterfront Park Development	75	64%
Township of Weehawken	Waterfront Multi-Use Pavilion	69	59%
County of Hudson	Urban Forestry Initiative to Plant Shade Trees	68	58%
Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority/ City of Bayonne	Community Park with Soccer Fields at the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor	65	56%
City of Hoboken	Castle Point Park Repair of Collapsed Walkway	59	51%
Jersey City Public Schools	Caven Point Recreational Complex	59	50%
City of Union City	Doric Park Pool Construction	57	49%
Hudson County Community College	Culinary Arts Plaza	57	48%
Town of Kearny	Development/Construction of Field House for Veteran's Field	53	45%
Town of Kearny	Development/Construction of Reading Park at Main Library	52	44%
Township of North Bergen	Multi-Parks Renovation Project at 43rd, 82nd, and 88th Street Playgrounds	44	37%
Town of Kearny	Development/Construction of Brighton Avenue Playground	40	34%
Hudson County Improvement Authority	Academy Street Park	24	20%



## 2008 RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION								
Applicant	Project Name	Location	Total Project Costs	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Recommended % of Total Cost	Amount Recommended % of Requested	
City of Hoboken	Cognis Site Land Acquisition	From Adams to Madison St. and 11th to 14th St.	\$12,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	25%	100%	
City of Jersey City	Boyd McGuiness Park Expansion	91-95 Dun-can Ave.	\$750,000	\$150,000	\$150,000.	20%	100%	
City of Jersey City	Berry Lane Park Expansion	417 Communipaw Ave.	\$2,600,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	46%	100%	



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Costs	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Recommended % of Total Cost	Amount Recommended % of Requested
City of Bayonne	Restoration at Bayonne Community Museum	\$3,000,000	\$400,000	\$100,000	3%	25%
City of Jersey City	J.C. City Hall Window Restoration	\$1,227,240	\$400,000	\$100,000	8%	25%
City of Union City	U.C. City Hall Restoration	\$560,000	\$200,000	\$75,000	13%	38%
County of Hudson	Lighting Restoration at Hudson C. Courthouse	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	\$250,000	12%	12%
Friends of the Loew's, Inc.	Restoration at Loew's Jersey Theatre	\$3,962,072	\$497,640	\$180,000	5%	36%
Jersey City Parks Coalition	Speer Cemetery Restoration	\$170,000	\$145,000	\$25,000	15%	17%
Save Ellis Island, Inc.	Restoration of Ellis Island Laundry/Hospital	\$3,322,767	\$350,000	\$150,000	5%	43%



**PARK AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT**

Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Costs	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Amount Recommended % of Total Cost	Amount Recommended % of Requested
Hudson County Community College	Culinary Arts Plaza	\$1,448,116	\$724,000	\$250,000	17%	35%
Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc.	Hackensack R. Water Trail Stop	\$41,265	\$16,265	\$16,265	39%	100%
City of Union City	Doric Park Improvements	\$5,916,350	\$500,000	\$250,000	4%	50%
Jersey City Public Schools	Caven Pt. Rec. Complex	\$800,000	\$400,000	\$250,000	31%	63%
Town of Kearny	Construction of Field House at Veteran's Field	\$367,000	\$97,000	\$97,000	26%	100%
Town of Kearny	Construction of Reading Park at Main Library	\$154,878	\$154,878	\$50,000	32%	32%
Township of North Bergen	N. Bergen Multi-Parks Project	\$616,760	\$462,570	\$250,000	41%	54%
Township of Weehawken	Weehawken Waterfront Multi-Use Pavilion	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	25%	50%
Town of Guttenberg	Guttenberg Waterfront Park	\$869,050	\$491,550	\$250,000	29%	51%
BLRA/ City of Bayonne	Soccer Fields at Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor	\$1,445,000	\$645,000	\$250,000	17%	39%
County of Hudson	Urban Forestry Initiative for 10,000 Shade Trees	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$25,000	8%	25%



<b>2008 FUNDING RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY</b>			
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
All Municipalities	County of Hudson	Urban Forestry Initiative for 10,000 Shade Trees	\$25,000
Bayonne	City of Bayonne	Restoration at Bayonne Community Museum	\$100,000
Bayonne	Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority	Soccer Fields at Peninsula at the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor	\$250,000
Guttenberg	Town of Guttenberg	Guttenberg Waterfront Park	\$250,000
Hoboken	City of Hoboken	Hoboken Cognis Acquisition	\$3,000,000
Jersey City	City of Jersey City	Boyd McGuinness Park Expansion	\$150,000
Jersey City	City of Jersey City	Berry Lane Park Expansion	\$1,200,000
Jersey City	City of Jersey City	J.C. City Hall Window Restoration	\$100,000
Jersey City	County of Hudson	Lighting Restoration at Hudson County Courthouse	\$250,000
Jersey City	Friends of the Loew's, Inc.	Restoration at Loew's Jersey Theatre	\$180,000
Jersey City	Jersey City Parks Coalition	Speer Cemetery Restoration	\$25,000
Jersey City	Save Ellis Island, Inc.	Restoration of Ellis Island Laundry/Hospital	\$150,000
Jersey City	Jersey City Public Schools	Caven Pt. Rec. Complex	\$250,000
Jersey City	Hudson County Community College	Culinary Arts Plaza	\$250,000
Kearny	Town of Kearny	Construction of Field House at Veteran's Field	\$97,000
Kearny	Town of Kearny	Construction of Reading Park at Main Library	\$50,000
North Bergen	Township of North Bergen	Multi-Parks Playground Project	\$250,000
Secaucus	Hackensack Riverkeeper, Inc.	Hackensack R. Water Trail Stop	\$16,265
Union City	City of Union City	City Hall Restoration	\$75,000
Union City	City of Union City	Doric Park Improvements	\$250,000
Weehawken	Township of Weehawken	Weehawken Waterfront Multi-Use Pavilion	\$250,000
<b>Total Recommended Funding Amount:</b>			<b>\$7,168,265</b>



## 2008 OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD

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