

VII. PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The City of Bayonne has an extensive and diverse system of parks, athletic facilities and open space to meet the active and passive recreation needs of residents. Bayonne's parks and recreation facilities make a substantial contribution to the quality of life experienced by residents and enhance its reputation as a desirable place to live and work. In addition to providing a recreational outlet, the City's system of parks and recreation facilities provides much needed open space, a gathering place for social and civic events and a refuge from the urban environment found throughout much of Hudson County. Bayonne has made it a priority to preserve existing parks and recreation facilities, and create new parks and recreation facilities in targeted areas, in recognition of their importance to the City.

Bayonne has also entered into an Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement, the first of its kind in the State, with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to enhance the local environment including the provision of parks and open space. One of the goals of this Agreement is to increase parkland in the City by 25 acres over the next 5 years. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan is consistent with this goal and endeavors to provide a framework for future park and open space expansion.

AVAILABILITY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The City of Bayonne has a multi-tiered system of parks and open space consisting of City and County facilities with a total area of almost 163 acres. This amount of parks and open space is considered sufficient for a mid-sized City such as Bayonne, depending upon the standard used. The geographic distribution of parks and open space is uneven, however, with 4 parks on the western and southern waterfronts accounting for 91 percent of all parkland and open space. There is a limited amount of parks and open space on the east side of the City.

As shown in Table VII-1, Bayonne has an adequate amount of parks and open space according to the New York City and New Jersey Balanced Land Use standards. Under the New York City standard, Bayonne should have 153.6 acres of parks and open space based upon a 1990 population of 61,444. According to the New Jersey Balanced Land Use standard, the City should have 108.9 acres of parks and open space based upon a total developable area of 3,631 acres. The City exceeds both of these standards, although it should be noted that Bayonne County Park accounts for more than half of all parkland and open space in the City.

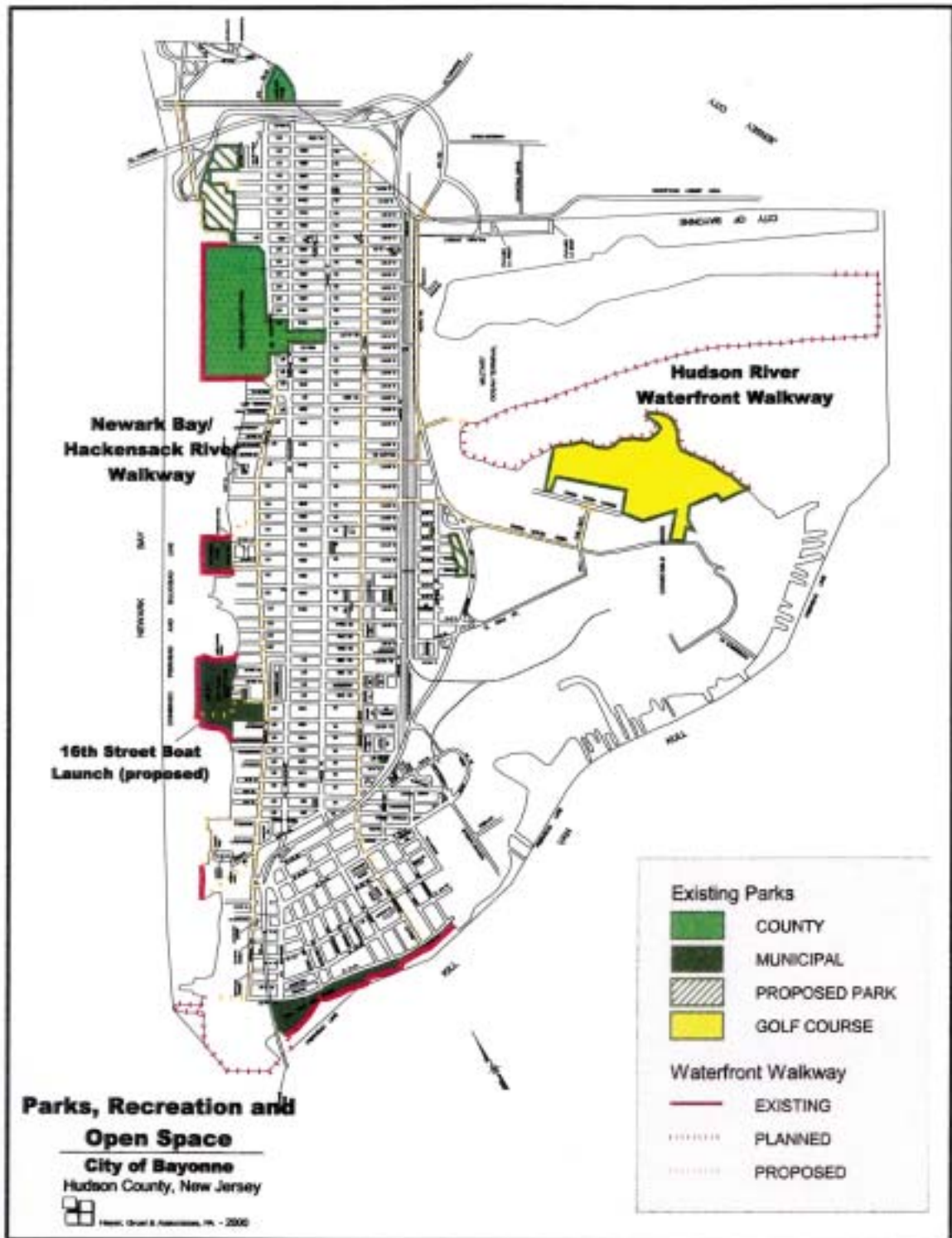
Table VII-1 PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS, 2000 City of Bayonne				
<i>Category</i>	<i>Parks Area Standard</i>	<i>Recommended Park Area</i>	<i>Existing Park Area</i>	<i>Parks & Open Space Surplus/Deficit</i>
New York City	2.5 acres/ 1,000 population	153.6 acres	162.6 acres	+9 acres
N.J. Balanced Land Use	3% of developed/ developable area	108.9 acres	162.6 acres	+53.7 acres
N.J. Green Acres	8 acres/ 1,000 population	491.6 acres	162.6 acres	-329 acres
* The New York City standards consist of 2 acres of active recreation space per 1,000 population and .5 acres of passive recreation space per 1,000 population.				
<i>Source:</i> Open Space Guidelines, New York City Department of Planning; New Jersey Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Plan Summary – 1994 to 1999; Green Acres Program, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.				

Bayonne, in contrast, has a parks and open space deficit according to the New Jersey Green Acres standard. Under this standard, the City should have 491.6 acres of parks and open space based upon 1990 population of 61,444. The Green Acres standard does not reflect conditions in fully developed and densely populated municipalities such as Bayonne. It is better suited to suburban and rural communities with moderate to low population densities and available land for park development. The Green Acres standard should therefore be discounted as a measure of the City's parks and open space adequacy.

The primary issue as it relates to parks and open space in Bayonne is the need for additional facilities to serve the residents of the east side of the City. The core area of the City, especially those neighborhoods west of Broadway, are well-served by parks and open space. There are a variety of parks and recreation facilities to provide residents in these areas with passive and active recreational opportunities. The provision of additional parks and open space on the east side is encouraged, including vest-pocket parks, community parks and the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway.

EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Bayonne has a well-developed system of park facilities that provide recreational opportunities, open space and a gathering place for social as well as civic events. There are currently 22 parks and recreation facilities with a total area of almost 163 acres in the City, as shown in Table VII-2 and detailed on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Map. The facilities vary in size from large County parks that are regional in nature to intermediate-sized parks that serve the City and small parks that are



neighborhood-oriented. They provide a broad range of active and passive recreational amenities including ballfields, playgrounds, pools, sitting areas and waterfront walkways. The City's parks and recreation facilities are intensively utilized for organized and informal recreation on a year-round basis. This reflects Bayonne's urban character, limited open space and the overall good condition of existing facilities. The primary issue with regard to parks and recreation is the need for additional facilities on the east side of the City and achieving the goal of increasing parkland throughout the City by 25 acres over the next 5 years.

TABLE VII-2 EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES, 2000 City Of Bayonne			
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Size (acres)</i>	<i>Amenities</i>
<i>County</i>			
Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg County Park	Avenue C between West 40th St. and West 41st St.	97.9	Ballfields, tennis courts, football field, track/exercise course, spray pool, playground, picnic area, community center, waterfront walkway
Mercer County Park	John F. Kennedy Blvd. & West 63rd St.	6.4	Baseball/football field, volleyball court, basketball courts, tot lot, picnic area
<i>Municipal</i>			
Dennis P. Collins Park	1st Street & Kill Van Kull	20.10	Ballfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, volleyball court, bocce, playground, wading pool, waterfront walkway
G. Thomas DiDomenico Park/16th Street Park	West 16th Street	19.50	Ballfields, soccer field, basketball courts, tennis courts, handball court, playgrounds, pool, rest rooms, docks, waterfront walkway
Don Ahern Veteran's Memorial Park	West 25th Street	11.20	Ballfield, football stadium, soccer field, track, playground, wading pool, waterfront walkway
Terry Collins Park	East 5th Street & Isabella Avenue	1.80	Playground, sitting area
Francis G. Fitzpatrick Park	Avenue C between West 26th St. & West 27th St.	.90	Playground, wading pool, rest rooms, sitting area
Sister Miriam Theresa Park	Gregg Lane & 23 rd Street	.80	Sitting area
Russell Golding Park	Avenue E between East 49th St. & East 51st St.	.77	Basketball courts, playground, wading pool, sitting area
11th Street Park	Avenue E & East 11th St.	.77	Ballfield, playground, sitting area
Edward F. Clark Park	Avenue C & West 9th Street	.60	Basketball courts, playground, sitting area
Cottage Street Playground	Cottage St. & Hobart Ave.	.40	Basketball court, playground, sitting area

North Street Mini-Park	Avenue A & North St.	.23	Playground, wading pool, sitting area
TABLE VII-2 (cont'd) EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES, 2000 City Of Bayonne			
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Size (acres)</i>	<i>Amenities</i>
28th Street Park	Avenue F & East 28th St.	.19	Basketball court, playground, sitting area
Al Slootsky Park	Juliette St. between Avenue A & John F. Kennedy Blvd.	.19	Basketball court, wading pool, playground, sitting area
40th Street Playground	Avenue E and East 40th St.	.18	Playground, sitting area
Dr. Morris Park	Broadway & West 47th St.	.17	Sitting area
19th Street & Avenue C Mini-Park	Avenue C between West 18th St. & West 19th St.	.15	Playground, wading pool, sitting area
24th Street Playground	John F. Kennedy Blvd. & West 24th St.	.15	Playground, sitting area
John H. Donohoe Park/World War I Memorial	East 5th St. and Dodge St.	.01	Monument
East 5th Street Park	East 5th St. & Ingham Ave.	---	Ballfield
Total Park and Open Space Area		162.63 Acres	
<i>Source:</i> Bayonne Department of Public Works, Parks and Recreation.			

City Parks and Recreation Facilities

Bayonne has 20 municipal parks and recreation facilities located in neighborhoods throughout the City as shown in Table VII-2. The parks and recreation facilities range in size from Dennis P. Collins Park, which is 20.10 acres in size, to John H. Donohoe Park/World War I Memorial, which is .01 acres in size. They contain extensive amenities such as ballfields, playgrounds, wading pools, sitting areas and waterfront walkways. The size and mix of amenities determines how each park and recreation facility is used as well as the service area it covers. The larger parks, which are located on the western and southern waterfronts, have significant amenities and serve the entire City. The smaller parks, which are dispersed throughout the City, have limited amenities and primarily serve the neighborhoods in which they are located. Overall, the municipal park and recreation system functions well and is adequate to meet the current needs of residents. The larger parks are the foundation of the system, providing diverse recreational opportunities, while the smaller parks complement them, providing specialized recreational opportunities.

The majority of Bayonne's parks and recreation facilities are concentrated in the core area of the City west of Avenue E. This includes the largest parks in the City, which are Dennis P. Collins Park, G. Thomas DiDomenico Park and Don Ahern Veteran's Memorial Park. They are located on the Kill Van Kull and Newark Bay waterfronts, providing extensive waterfront access and outstanding views of the harbor. The parks also contain numerous amenities such as ballfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, playgrounds, sitting areas and waterfront walkways. They are significant community assets that provide a unique combination of recreation, open space and access to the waterfront. The remainder of Bayonne's parks and recreational facilities are relatively small, less than 1 acre, and are located in neighborhoods throughout the City. This includes Francis G. Fitzpatrick Park in mid-town near City Hall, Russell Golding Park uptown along Avenue E, 28th Street Park on Avenue F in the east side and Al Sloatsky Park under the Bayonne Bridge in Bergen Point. The parks provide an active and passive recreational outlet for the neighborhoods they are located in and contain amenities such as playgrounds, basketball courts, wading pools and sitting areas. They are an important local source of recreation and open space for residents, especially those with limited mobility such as senior citizens and children.

The major recreation issues in Bayonne are the limited amount of parks and open space as well as the lack of City-owned facilities. Municipal parks are intensively utilized for a variety of active and passive recreational activities and there is significant demand upon existing facilities. The City is fully developed, however, and there is limited opportunity for the creation of additional parks and open space. This problem is most acute on the east side of the City, especially those areas east of the former Central Railroad of New Jersey right-of-way. The development of additional facilities such as neighborhood parks and vest pocket parks in this area should be encouraged.

Bayonne's Division of Parks has also identified the lack of City-owned and operated facilities as an issue. The City often borrows facilities from the Board of Education to meet the demand for recreation programs. This problem is most acute during the winter when the City and Board of Education must share the limited number of indoor facilities that currently exist. Consideration should be given to the development of an indoor facility for municipal recreation programs, preferably in a central location accessible from all points in the City.

County Parks and Recreation Facilities

Bayonne has two Hudson County parks and recreation facilities located in the northern portion of the City that supplement the municipal park system. As shown in Table VII-2, the County parks are Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg Park and Mercer Park. They are large regional facilities that provide a broad range of active and passive recreational opportunities for residents of the City as well as the County. The parks contain numerous amenities such as ballfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, picnic areas, sitting

areas and waterfront walkways. Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg Park is a major source of recreation and open space by virtue of its large size, extensive amenities and relatively central location. Mercer Park is an important but secondary source of recreation and open space because of its relatively small size, limited amenities and isolated location. Both have been recently rehabilitated and are in good physical condition. The primary issues concerning the Hudson County parks are coordinating with the County to preserve and maintain facilities, enhancing links to the municipal park system and increasing access to Mercer Park.

Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg Park is the largest recreational facility in the City with a total area of 97.9 acres and almost a half-mile of waterfront access. The park is located on Newark Bay between West 37th Street and West 48th Street. It is accessible from West 37th Street, West 48th Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard as well as Avenue C between West 40th and West 41st Streets. The park contains the full spectrum of active and passive recreational amenities including ballfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, track, spray pool, playground, tot lot, walking/running trails, picnic area, sitting area, community center and waterfront walkway. As a result, it functions as a regional park that is used by County residents, a community park that is used by City residents and as a venue for organized activities such as softball and soccer leagues. In addition, Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg Park's extensive waterfront access makes it an exceptional recreation and open space asset that is unique in the County. Future connections to other waterfront parks in the City, such as Don Ahern Veteran's Memorial Park at West 25th Street and the proposed "North 40" park immediately to the north, should be considered to enhance access to Newark Bay and connect to the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway.

Mercer Park is one of the larger recreation facilities in Bayonne with a total area of 6.4 acres and a variety of amenities. These include ballfields, volleyball courts, basketball courts, tot lot, picnic area and sitting area. The park is located in the northernmost section of the City on John F. Kennedy Boulevard near the intersection with West 63rd Street. It is accessible from the Boulevard as well as Avenue C, which connects to Merritt Street in Jersey City for access to the park from the east. Mercer Park is separated from the core area of Bayonne by the New Jersey Turnpike Hudson County Extension, Conrail Lehigh Valley Line and LeFante Highway/Route 169. This results in physical isolation that limits park use primarily to residents of northern Bayonne and southern Jersey City. Consequently, the park functions as a community park for the northern section of the City and a regional park for the southern section of the County. Increasing the utilization of Mercer Park has been identified as a key goal by the City. Improvements that enhance the physical and visual connections between Mercer Park, the core area of Bayonne and Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg Park are recommended in order to increase its use.

PLANNED PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Bayonne has established the goal of increasing parkland by 25 acres in its Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). In order to achieve this goal, the City has plans to develop 5 additional parks and recreation facilities as shown in Table VII-3. They consist of the “North 40” park, 16th Street Park boat launch, MOTBY park, a park at the southeastern tip of the Port Jersey peninsula and a buffer park between Avenue F and LeFante Highway/Route 169. According to the City’s agreement with the NJDEP, the initial emphasis of park development is on the creation of passive recreation facilities such as the “North 40” site. In addition to the recreational benefits of this approach, it will have the added benefit of increasing open space and reclaiming unused or contaminated land. The planned facilities will be used for a variety of passive and active recreation, as follows:

Table VII-3 PLANNED PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES, 2000 City of Bayonne		
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type of Facility</i>
“North 40” Park	On Newark Bay, north of Bayonne Park, south of Route 440, LeFante Highway/Route 169 and west of John F. Kennedy Boulevard	Passive recreation
16th Street Park Boat Launch	Southwest portion of 16th Street Park on Newark Bay	Active recreation
Military Ocean Terminal (MOTBY) Park	MOTBY peninsula	Active and passive recreation
Port Jersey Park	Southeastern portion of Port Jersey peninsula	Passive recreation
Buffer Park	East side of Avenue F between homes and LeFante Highway/Route 169	Passive park
<i>Source:</i> City of Bayonne; Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement between the City of Bayonne and NJDEP, 1999.		

The “North 40” site consists of approximately 40 acres of waterfront land along Newark Bay that is planned for passive recreational use. The site is bordered by LeFante Highway/Route 169 and Route 440 to the north, Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg County Park to the south, Newark Bay to the west and properties fronting on John F. Kennedy Boulevard to the east. It is jointly owned by Bayonne, the NJDEP and the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT). The City has entered into a 99 year lease with the NJDOT to incorporate their property into the planned park. The City is also negotiating for NJDEP to use their property within the site for parkland. It is anticipated that successful negotiations will be completed by the end of the year. The primary purpose of the park is to provide passive recreational opportunities, enhance and expand wetlands and serve as a location for environmental education. A

system of trails, natural areas and informational markers is proposed. Every effort should be made to link the “North 40” site to Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg County Park in the south and the Jersey City waterfront in the north.

The 16th Street Park boat launch consists of ramps and a staging area for recreational boating in the southwestern corner of 16th Street Park on Newark Bay. The facility would increase waterfront access by enabling residents to trailer their boats to the existing 16th Street Park and launch them into Newark Bay. This facility is expected to facilitate waterborne recreation including fishing, sailing and exploration of the Newark Bay and Upper New York Bay estuaries.

Bayonne is planning to utilize a portion of MOTBY for parks and open space as part of the mixed-use redevelopment of the site. The long-term redevelopment plan is still being formulated, however, a portion of the MOTBY peninsula has been reserved for recreational use. According to the City’s Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement with the NJDEP, the northeastern portion of the peninsula will be developed as a park in order to capitalize on the site’s outstanding waterfront access and views of the harbor. The planned parkland would be designed for passive and active recreation. Additional land at the western edge of the MOTBY peninsula may be developed for active recreational use subject to the review and approval of the City and Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA).

A waterfront park has been proposed by Bayonne for the southeastern portion of the Port Jersey peninsula on the periphery of the Northeast Auto Marine Terminal. This relatively small area is unused at present and offers outstanding waterfront access as well as views of the harbor. It would be designed for passive recreational use and would complement the proposed park at the northeastern tip of MOTBY across Port Jersey Channel. The park would also complement the elevated viewing platform that is located nearby on the north side of Port Jersey Boulevard. This park is still in the proposal phase and there are significant issues to be addressed including funding, access and negotiations with Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Bayonne also plans a linear passive park between Avenue F and LeFante Highway/Route 169. The park is to be developed along an abandoned rail right-of-way from East 29th Street to East 25th Street. It will buffer homes on Avenue F from the highway.

HUDSON RIVER WATERFRONT WALKWAY AND NEWARK BAY/HACKENSACK RIVER WALKWAY

The City of Bayonne has extensive waterfront area due to its unique geography as a peninsula surrounded by water in three directions. The City is bordered to the east by Upper New York Bay, to the west by Newark Bay and to the south by the Kill Van Kull. The waterfront represents a potentially important source of recreation and open space, however, access has historically been limited by the use

of waterfront areas for industry and transportation. The barriers to waterfront access in the City have gradually decreased as manufacturing activity has declined, freight railroads and shipping lines have reduced operations and waterfront redevelopment has grown. Bayonne has a strong foundation for increased waterfront access and the development of a waterfront walkway due to the presence of several large parks on Newark Bay and the Kill Van Kull. Pending redevelopment projects offer the opportunity to link existing waterfront parks and provide public waterfront access where none currently exists. Foremost among these are the redevelopment of MOTBY, Texaco, the former City land-fill and the "North 40" site. The implementation of these projects is encouraged since they will greatly expand the existing Hudson River Waterfront Walkway and form the basis for a similar walkway on Newark Bay and the Hackensack River.

Hudson River Waterfront Walkway

The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway is a planned linear park spanning the entire length of Hudson County from the George Washington Bridge in the north to the Bayonne Bridge in the south. It is intended to create uninterrupted access to the Hudson River and Upper New York Bay, provide active and passive recreational opportunities and link the waterfront communities of eastern Hudson and Bergen Counties. In Bayonne, the Walkway is largely unbuilt with the exception of Dennis P. Collins Park on the Kill Van Kull and a small section on the east side of LeFante Highway/Route 169 adjacent to MOTBY. The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway is on the verge of a significant expansion, however, as pending redevelopment projects are implemented over the next several years. These redevelopment projects will trigger the NJDEP's Hudson River Waterfront Walkway regulations, which require parallel access to the waterfront and the provision of a walkway within a 30 foot wide easement. Foremost among the projects are the redevelopment of MOTBY, Texaco and the former City land-fill.

The largest and most significant redevelopment project in Bayonne is the planned redevelopment of MOTBY. A mix of uses is currently planned for the site including parks and open space. The Hudson River Waterfront Walkway will be a major component of the parks and open space element. The Walkway will provide extensive waterfront access, passive and active recreational opportunities and pedestrian links to the interior of the site. Careful planning is necessary to ensure that the section of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway at MOTBY connects to the core area of the City and future Walkway sections to the south. Issues to be addressed include Walkway alignment, length and design.

The Texaco site in Bergen Point on the Kill Van Kull is located at the southern terminus of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway. Current plans for the redevelopment of the site include waterfront access and a waterfront walkway. When completed, it will connect to Dennis P. Collins Park and provide the City with approximately 10,000 linear feet of uninterrupted access to the southern waterfront along the Kill Van Kull. The Texaco site is unique because it contains a 700 foot long pier that is a potentially significant

recreational amenity for boating, fishing, walking and passive recreation. Consideration should be given to retaining all or part of the pier, subject to a structural evaluation and a determination about the extent of rehabilitation needed. Outstanding issues include negotiating with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for a connection under the Bayonne Bridge to Dennis P. Collins Park and providing an adequate link to the existing waterfront walkway on Newark Bay at the A&P site several blocks to the north.

Of the major projects currently being planned in Bayonne, the redevelopment of the former City land-fill on North Hook Road opposite MOTBY is in the most advanced stage of implementation. A firm known as OENJ Cherokee is redeveloping the site and an adjacent property formerly owned by Public Service Electric and Gas as a golf course. The site is located on Upper New York Bay and will include a waterfront walkway spanning the entire length of the property. OENJ Cherokee is currently capping and closing the land-fill and will construct the golf course and waterfront walkway over the next several years. It will connect to a section of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway at the adjacent South Cove shopping center to the west and ultimately to MOTBY. When the golf course and other redevelopment projects in the area are completed, the City will have uninterrupted waterfront access from the eastern end of MOTBY, around South Channel, to the eastern end of Constable Hook. Monitoring of the project is necessary to ensure an adequate connection to the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway at the South Cove shopping center and public access to the Walkway from North Hook Road, including sufficient parking.

During the next several years, Bayonne's portion of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway will be significantly expanded as redevelopment along the waterfront accelerates. After MOTBY, Texaco and the former City land-fill are redeveloped, the primary issue will be linking the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway across industrial areas such as Port Jersey and Constable Hook. Adequate connections north to the section of the Walkway in Jersey City and south to the section of the Walkway along the Kill Van Kull are necessary to provide continuous waterfront access. The implementation of a way-finding sign program and streetscape improvements are recommended if the existing street and highway system is used to provide such connections. Alternative methods of waterfront access, such as elevated viewing platforms, should be pursued with NJDEP to provide access at selected locations in Port Jersey and Constable Hook. The City should also coordinate with Hudson County on the development of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway. The County is developing an initiative to complete the Walkway by constructing missing links and upgrading substandard sections. Since the majority of the Walkway through Bayonne is undeveloped, the County's initiative may be of significant benefit to the City.

Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway

The Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway is a proposed linear park along Bayonne's Newark Bay waterfront from the Bayonne Bridge in the south to the municipal border with Jersey City in the north.

The Walkway would function as an extension of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway and connect to the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission's proposed Hackensack RiverWalk in Jersey City. It would provide the City with additional parkland and open space and be used for a variety of active and passive recreational activities such as walking, jogging, fishing and "people watching." A significant portion of the Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway is already present in the form of existing City and County parks, however, there are missing links that need to be addressed in order to complete the Walkway.

The foundation of Bayonne's Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway consists of the City's West 16th Street Park and West 25th Street Park as well as Hudson County's Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg Park. These parks provide approximately 5,000 linear feet of waterfront walkway and access to Newark Bay. In addition, there is an existing waterfront walkway behind the A&P shopping center on Avenue A between North Street and West 5th Street. Improvements to this section of walkway are recommended since it is in poor condition and lacks amenities such as street furniture, adequate lighting and landscaping. The City's plans to redevelop the Texaco and "North 40" sites include enhanced waterfront access that will expand the proposed Walkway. These sites will serve as the north and south "bookends" of the Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway.

There are four major gaps in the Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway as it is currently envisioned. They are located between Bayonne/Stephen R. Gregg County Park and West 25th Street Park, West 25th Street Park and West 16th Street Park, West 16th Street Park and the A&P site and the A&P site and the Texaco site. Creative planning and sensitive in-fill development is necessary to eliminate the missing links in the Walkway while preserving residential neighborhoods and viable industrial uses. At present, Avenue A is the designated route to connect the existing elements of the Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway. In order to create a physical and visual connection between these sites, improvements such as way-finding signage and streetscape enhancements are recommended. In the long-term, opportunities to develop additional waterfront walkway sections along Newark Bay should be pursued as land and funding becomes available. The area along Newark Bay between West 25th Street Park and West 16th Street Park is a good candidate for the construction of a waterfront walkway because existing development is setback from the water's edge. A recently approved residential development on West 21st Street at Newark Bay includes such a walkway, further reducing the gap in this area.

Other issues to be considered in the development of the Newark Bay/Hackensack River Walkway include providing connections to the core area of the City, ensuring consistent and high quality design and coordinating with the County and State on implementation.

