

SJ Application, May 2024

Brownfields Assessment & Investigation

Site 1: HITCO/ Former Hardware and Industrial Tool Company, 1328, Rte 38, abandoned by HITCO in 1995 and acquired by township through tax foreclosure in 2000. The site had groundwater and soil contamination. The most recent resolution confirms Robert Britton of Matrix NewWorld as LSRP as of 2018 and he is ongoing in this role. Documentation attached includes the original CID, PA-SI NJDEP Form and the most recent 2022 award of HDRSF money for an RI. Remediation is ongoing. Although we do not have the requested documents for a PA-SI or RI in the time frame required, this is simply because of the stage the project is at. Hainesport has been working hard to remediate this site since acquisition and we would appreciate recognition of this fact.

Site 2: Former Paul's Tank Cleaning Service site at 1225 Industrial Boulevard. The cleanup site operated from 1962 to 1982 as an industrial tank cleaning facility that cleaned out residual waste from tanks at schools, factories, and ships that operated on Philadelphia's waterfront. Today, the site is a relatively flat and vacant parcel contaminated with PCBs, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, tetrachloroethene, and heavy metals. The township has been awarded a \$500,000 clean up grant and has retained an LSRP who has performed the PA-SI attached.

Create Green Team

Committeewoman Anna Evans presented a cost/benefit analysis of participating in the Sustainable Jersey program at the Township Meeting in February 2023 and a Resolution to participate was passed a month later. The Ordinance establishing the Green Team was passed in August 2023 and the Green Team members were appointed in January 2024. Their first meeting occurred on January 16th 2024. The Green Team's brief is to document existing actions that have previously benefitted the community and identify then move forward with new actions that will both benefit the community and lead to certification. [Note to reviewer: we are a 'young' Team! However, we are enthusiastic and hope that our newness will not stop us from achieving these points!]

Community Equity & Diversity Profile

The Community Equity and Diversity Profile was completed by the Green Team over the last 5 months as part of its initial audit of Hainesport Township. The demographic data was obtained from the census links provided and the Overburdened Communities Mapping tool used for the first map. The Policy Map was used for the second maps. An ethnic mapping shows that the block group identified by the Overburdened Communities Map contains the most non-white residents. Using the Age Demographic, Policy Map also identifies a specific block group of Hainesport as having 44% of its residents over 75. While this block group does contain Hainesport's Active Older Adult (55+) community, it also contains Rancocas Heights and suggests this area also contains a vulnerable population. We also ran the NJADAPT Municipal

Snapshots Vulnerable Populations Report (see attached). The 5 vulnerable groups we identified are: 1. Older, Indian-American immigrants with limited English language proficiency

2. 75+ lifelong Hainesport residents in older housing

3. Residents of Hainesport's mobile home communities: Haines Mobile Home Park, 1476 Rte 38 & 1365 Rte 38.

4. Residents of Davenport Village

5. Disabled residents

More details are available in the attachments.

Next steps were to identify the Communications Networks and come up with a set of specific recommendations the Township can do in the short term to reach these vulnerable groups.

These are attached both in worksheet form and in the form of the report that has been submitted to the JLUB and to the Mayor for inclusion on the next month's agendas.

Unfortunately these meetings are both after the May 10 deadline.

Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach

Hainesport Township has been accepted into the Sustainable Jersey- PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program. The introductory meeting with our outreach team and Sustainable Jersey (SJ) staff has been scheduled for May 9th. We will be focusing on a Residential Energy Efficiency Outreach Campaign track. The primary objective of this track is to encourage residents to take advantage of PSE&G's residential energy efficiency incentives to help them save money and improve the energy efficiency and comfort of their house or apartment. Green Team member Janice Ludden will serve as the primary contact for SJ during the course of the outreach campaign. The plan is to establish an outreach team; work with SJ to develop an outreach campaign plan; attend a virtual kick-off event and a minimum of two additional virtual meetings; make a good faith effort to initiate a campaign within six months of receiving funding; and offer educational outreach on the PSE&G Residential Program for residents. [Note to reviewer: this is a work in progress]

Building Healthier Communities

Since January 2021 Hainesport has been part of the NJ statewide initiative known as the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. This coordinates programs throughout the year that are designed to promote healthy activities and well-being in the Hainesport community. The goal of this campaign is to increase opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in education and physical activity with the long term goal of improving health. In 2023 Hainesport was awarded a Mayor's Wellness Grant by the NJ Health Care Quality Institute and used that to fund programs for Seniors, Youth, Employees and Residents that enabled us to apply for designation as a 2023 Healthy Town from the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. We were not awarded the designation, so I have done my best to summarize the various health & wellness programs on the worksheets provided.

Bicycle (and Pedestrian) Audit

The 2022 Master Plan Reexamination Report reasserts the need for bicycle and pedestrian routes in the community consistent with the 1987 Master Plan Circulation Map which includes proposed roads and proposed bikeways (attached). It is proposed to pick this project back up for inclusion in the 2025 budget and grant application processes.

The NJDOT Bicycle Map of Southern New Jersey indicates that Hainesport has on-road only bicycle routes which are measured for suitability for the average adult cyclist to provide guidance on the level of comfort or challenge a bicyclist might experience on a given roadway. The map illustrates the following:

1. A small portion of Creek Road from Chase Road to Easton Way is classified as mostly suitable for on-road cycling.
2. Marne Highway and Hainesport Mt. Laurel Road are classified as moderately suitable for on-road cycling.
3. The remainder of the county routes are classified as least suitable for on-road cycling.

The continued development and connection of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure remains a high priority for the Township to provide complete streets and transportation alternatives.

Green Infrastructure Implementation

Project 1) In September 2023, a 165 sq. ft. rain garden was installed next to the municipal pavilion. Efforts were led by Committee Member and EC member, Bruce Levinson. The garden was designed and installed with significant help from the Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA). Signage at the site and articles in the Hainesport Newsletter (attached) and October e-newsletter (attached) were designed to educate the residents on the importance of stormwater management. A page (PDF, see attached) was added to the EC section of the website to provide on-going information and resources in hopes that residents will want to install rain gardens on their own properties. During a rain storm, water from a portion of the pavilion roof is directed into the rain garden which allows significantly more water to be absorbed than the patch of grass that was there previously. The municipal rain garden, which will be maintained by our Public Works department, is meant to be a model for our residents in the hopes that home owners will join the effort to keep our water clean. Further rain gardens are planned in two other Hainesport locations. The first one will be implemented in The Glen (Hainesport's 55+ Community) where there is an area that suffers from boggy conditions.

Project 2) Installation of Poured-In-Place surface material in all four fitness stations located throughout the municipal park. This wet pour rubber surface replaced the previous shredded rubber tire material which was a barrier to access for individuals with accessibility challenges. It also has the benefit of being fully porous allowing better stormwater drainage.

Natural Resource Inventory

A comprehensive Natural Resource Inventory was undertaken in 2004 as part of a Master Plan amendment (attached). After discussions with the Township Planner The Environmental

Commission has volunteered to take on this project and will be discussing it at their meeting on May 30, 2024. Clearly the updated NRI will not be available before the May 10 deadline.

Environmental Commission

The Environmental Commission, created in 1998, consists of five members appointed by the Mayor. One member is also a member of the Joint Land Use Board. The Commission is responsible for: conducting research for the potential use of open land areas in the municipality; advertise, prepare, print, and distribute charts, plans, and pamphlets concerning environmental issues; maintain an index of all open areas publicly or privately owned in order to provide information on the proper use of such areas; make recommendations to the Joint Land Use Board plans and programs for inclusion in the municipal Master Plan; and, study and make recommendations regarding open space preservation, water resource management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance, resources and protection of flora and fauna. Here is a link to the online code directory concerning the Ordinance:

<https://ecode360.com/10204311?highlight=commission,environmental%20commission&searchId=21676690791819355#search-highlight-10204311-0>

Tree Protection Ordinance

According to the most recent Master Plan re-examination, conducted in 2022, Hainesport has 937.6 acres of open space or 24.3% of our area. Community goals identified by the plan include:

- Retain valuable open space, scenic vistas, trails, corridors, open waters, and agricultural lands, promoting community health, cultural values, educational opportunities, and local agricultural products and employment.

- Continue to obtain, coordinate, and develop open space, greenways, flood prone properties, and recreation opportunities and facilities satisfying the open space and recreational needs of current and future residents.

- Foster sustainability, which promotes the health and balance of economic needs, cultural values, and environmental requirements for generations. A sustainable community supports high quality of life through conservation of energy, water, agricultural and environmentally sensitive land, and resources. These efforts support our community through the incorporation of energy conservation features in the design of new buildings to reduce energy consumption; materials reduction, re-use, and recycling; alternative energy programs and facilities; stormwater and agricultural best management practices; and auto-dependency and fleet energy reductions.

In addition the report reinforces the 2008 re-examination, which states that "preservation and protection of woodlands, wetlands, habitat corridors, viewsheds, flood mapping, and buffers are a priority." For these reasons, and also to "reduce stormwater runoff and pollutants and to promote infiltration of rainwater into the soil," Hainesport is passing a Tree Removal and Replacement Ordinance, see attached. The Ordinance received its First reading at the April reading and will be adopted at the May meeting, unfortunately after May 10.

Municipal Communications Strategy

The inventory of the Township Communication channels was part of the initial audit done by the Green Team in January 2024. The Township already has a recently redesigned and updated website that is an effective communication tool. In May 2022 Hainesport Township launched a new mobile app, Hainesport Mobile, developed by MyDowntown Mobile. The app enables residents and businesses to connect with Hainesport Township and each other. It is available for download in the App Store and Google Play online stores. In the app, residents will find: Business Directory, Local Business Deals, Recreation events, Mayors Corner, Links to the website, News and updates, Citizen reporting, Local Parks.

Community Asset Mapping

In the past 5 months, the Green Team has been actively engaged in researching and collaborating with the Township committee and residents across Hainesport. The Hainesport Community Asset Map was compiled through a combination of research and surveys along with interviews conducted at community events like the Hainesport Earth Day celebration.

At the Earth Day event, we provided both paper and online versions of the asset map, chart and survey, facilitating in-person interactions to gather more information from our fellow residents. However, one of our initial challenges was determining the most suitable map provider, considering the amount of options available. After researching and speaking to residents, we settled on Google My Maps for its user-friendly interface and accessibility to residents. We also created a chart with all the mapped locations which include the name, address, and website link for those who may not want to use the map version. Another obstacle we encountered was ensuring the inclusion of all significant locations identified by our community members. This is where the survey and in-person interviews proved invaluable, allowing us to uncover hidden gems like the Little Free Library stations, despite the absence of a traditional library in our town. The Hainesport Community Asset Map and Chart include places such as community centers, green spaces, education centers, bus stops, medical services, pet, and religious centers. Hainesport has the Hainesport Community Asset Chart available on its official website with link to the interactive map at <https://www.hainesporttownship.com/environmental-commission>.

Map is also viewable here:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1NffoHnYjClFPu81AmN_JZMsTfRxcLmU&ll=39.97787209053568%2C-74.8353101&z=13

Recycling & Waste Reduction Education & Compliance

Hainesport enacted a municipal recycling ordinance that incorporates compliance measures in 2010 and the full measure of it is available in our e-code:

<https://ecode360.com/10208859#10208859>. Full details are also available on our website and included in our summer and fall newsletters, mailed to all households. In addition our Township Calendar, mailed to all households, contains information on recycling drop-off, pick-up and

waste reduction. We also send or post various digital communications. We plan to initiate a Backyard Composting and a Grass Cut It and Leave It Educational Program. [Note to reviewer: this is a work in progress]

Community Paper Shredding Day

Hainesport offers a twice yearly Community Clean Up Day which includes a paper shredding event at the Municipal Building partnered with Polar Shredding. The most recent one was on Saturday October 21, 2023 from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The event was staffed by Township Employee Jennifer Koutsouris, Construction Clerk & Recycling Coordinator. She estimates over 100 people attended the paper shredding. (See Tonnage report). The previous one was on April 22nd 2023, also from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. The events are advertised by a postcard mailed to all residents (see sample attached) which is also posted on social media and the Township website. In addition the event is listed in the municipal calendar (see 2024-25 calendar attached, which has the upcoming dates) which is mailed to every household.

Household Hazardous Waste

1) Hainesport has established a convenient and permanent Recycling Drop-Off Center located at 100 Broad Street for Residents only. No contractors. This has 24-hour surveillance for monitoring illegal dumping which also includes contractor dumping. It offers the following 24/7 receptacles:

- Electronics Bin (televisions, computers). These can also be collected on Mondays after residents call township for pick-up and place curbside Sunday evening.
- Paint Bin (oil paint accepted in sealed tin)
- Motor Oil Bin (in a closed container.)

2) In addition, Hainesport offers a twice yearly Community Clean Up Day which accepts various forms of household hazardous waste including paint, car batteries and consumer electronics such as TVs and monitors.

The programs are advertised by flyer, on the township website, in the e-newsletter and on social media.

Non-mandated Materials Recycling

Starting in September 2023, The Hainesport Community participated in a 6 Month recycling Challenge that is through the Company Trex. The Community as a whole collected 1000 lbs. of plastic film and bags. Trex has now donated a high-performance composite bench to our community which will in turn be donated to the school as "Buddy Bench". Use of the Buddy Bench is a very simple concept, created as a way to foster friendships and eliminate loneliness on the school playground. It provides children with the opportunity to understand and practice kindness and inclusion. There were two recycling bins in our community for residents to drop off their plastic bags and plastic film. Those locations were at the Hainesport Township Municipal Complex (For all Residents) and at the Hainesport Township Elementary School. The Buddy Bench was presented to Hainesport School at Earth Day 2024.

In addition, this January Hainesport has begun an annual program to help residents recycle broken Christmas lights rather than consign them to landfill. The program will run in January/February of each year. Residents bring their old lights to a bin at the Municipal building and our Solid Waste Officer will transport them to the Burlington County Resource Recovery Complex, where a permanent electronics disposal center is staffed Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 4:30 PM and Saturdays from 7 AM to 11:30 AM for recycling. The program was advertised by a flyer, on social media, and on the township website, and collected 3 recycling bins full of lights as shown.

Here is a link to an article about the County Program:

<https://www.tapinto.net/towns/bordentown/sections/green/articles/don-t-just-toss-them-out-recycle-your-broken-holiday-light-strands-at-county-complex>