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New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

2010 Annual Report



Fostering Economic Growth, Renewable Energy and Environmental Stewardship

Agency Overview

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In 1969 the state Legislature created the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission to become the zoning and planning agency for the 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District, which includes parts of 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson counties.

The NJMC was charged with the significant challenge of transforming a region marred by dozens of illegal garbage dumps into a thriving economic engine while restoring the environment. Over the years the Meadowlands Commission has diligently pursued its mission, attracting billions of dollars of new development and tax ratables to the District while working tirelessly to foster an extraordinary environmental renaissance that has resulted in a cleaner Hackensack River and the rebound of a unique urban wetlands ecosystem that today is home to hundreds of species of birds and fish.

Today the NJMC is embracing an even more business friendly environment by pursuing common-sense business policies and focusing on renewable energy. The Commission's plans include the installation of solar panels on closed landfills to promote the green economy that is so crucial to the state's economic and environmental future.

The NJMC has invested tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements for the region through the years, including the remediation of landfills and floodplain management projects that have benefited businesses, District municipalities, residents and the environment.

The Commission has also provided millions more in grants to District towns, allowing them to build new parks, improve sidewalks and roads, and purchase more than 100 police,

fire and DPW vehicles, improving the quality of life for District residents – all at no cost to taxpayers.

At the same time, the Commission continues to celebrate the environment. Each year tens of thousands of people visit DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, the home of the NJMC, and participate in the Commission's guided bird walks and pontoon boat cruises. In addition, the Commission's educational and public programming, presented in conjunction with Ramapo College, further increase awareness of the importance of the environment and the NJMC's hard work.

Through the efforts of the NJMC, the Meadowlands District has seen great progress over the past four decades and continues on a path toward reaching its full economic and environmental potential.

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Message from the Chairman



The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission share a common goal: to help our communities benefit from all the resources we have to offer. Those resources reduce local tax burdens and improve the quality of life in the Meadowlands District.

The NJMC assists the 14 municipalities of the District and their residents in many ways. The agency boosts the local economy, helps to create jobs, protects a unique urban ecosystem and provides a parks system enjoyed by tens of thousands of visitors each year. Since its inception in 1969, the NJMC has attracted billions of dollars in new development and tax revenue to the region, significantly helping to reduce the cost of local government.

The Commission also offers assistance to local communities pursuing solar power projects and provides a shared heavy equipment pool to help municipalities maintain storm drains and other infrastructure. The NJMC's planning services assist District towns in revitalizing their downtowns and developing sustainability plans. All of these services are free, helping local governments operate more efficiently and cost-effectively.

In addition, the NJMC's environmental and science education programs for Grades K-12 and public programming for all ages increases awareness of the importance of protecting the environment. The agency's guided pontoon boat cruises and bird walks further enhance the quality of life of local residents. Through these initiatives, the NJMC has shown how economic development and environmental protection can go hand in hand.

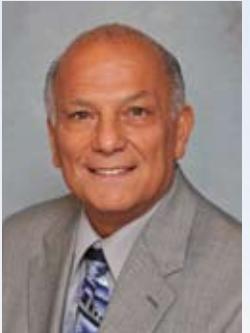
Best of all, because the Meadowlands Commission generates all of its own funding, no state aid and no taxpayer money goes to support our programs and services. In the coming years District municipalities can continue to look to the Commission as a friend and ally.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Grifa".

Lori Grifa
*Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Chairman, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission*

Board of Commissioners

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Executive Team



Robert R. Ceberio
Executive Director

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Contract Compliance
Office of Sustainability
Office of Economic Growth
Public Relations
Community Outreach

Irfan A. Bora
Director of Finance and Management/CFO
Accounting and Finance
Facilities/Operations
Information Technologies
Human Resources and Ethics
Security
Solid Waste Administration
General Services

Sara Sundell
Director of Land Use Management
Planning
Regulatory Review
Project Management
Plan Review
Engineering Support Services
UCC Code Enforcement

Tom Marturano
Director of Solid Waste and Natural Resources
Landfill Operations
Floodplain Management
Parks and Open Space
Wetlands

Dr. Francisco Artigas
Director of Meadowlands
Environmental Research Institute
GIS Programs
Laboratory
Library
Environmental Data Monitoring

Meadowlands Conservation Trust

NJMC Business Accelerator

Message from the Executive Director



Robert R. Ceberio
Executive Director

Since its formation more than 40 years ago, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission has helped transform this unique region from out-of-control dumping ground to economic engine, environmental jewel and educational resource. I am honored to have spent nearly three decades as an employee at an agency that has achieved so much good for the people of this region and this state.

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission had much to be proud of in 2010, including its successful economic growth efforts, which resulted in the addition of new businesses and jobs to the Meadowlands District. We're also proud of our pursuit of solar energy projects to help stimulate the green economy. And we continued our efforts to improve the region's urban wetlands ecosystem and strengthen our educational outreach programs to teach youngsters the importance of caring for the environment.

Today the Meadowlands District is a vibrant place, a region that buzzes with economic activity and resonates with the tranquility of visitors enjoying our many parks and nature trails. DeKorte Park, the home of

the NJMC, is the perfect example of the region's transformation. Once slated to become a landfill, the park today is an urban oasis of wetlands, waterways and walking trails that in 2010 attracted tens of thousands of visitors.

But our work is far from finished. In an ever-changing world, the NJMC continues to find new ways to tackle stubborn problems and spur new growth. We've gotten leaner and tightened our belts while still finding ways to expand our public services and programming to benefit District businesses, municipalities and residents.

The strides we have made are the direct result of the dedication, ingenuity and tireless work of the NJMC's staff, the efforts of our commissioners, and our commitment to serving the residents and businesses of the Meadowlands District. We have built a solid foundation from which to move forward and prosper in the years and decades to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert R. Ceberio".

Executive Director, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

Municipal Programs

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Assisting the Municipal District municipalities is of paramount importance to the Commission. The NJMC's shared equipment pool, Municipal Solar Assistance Program and planning services improve residents' quality of life while reducing the tax burden on District municipalities and residents.



Solar Assistance Program

In 2010 the NJMC expanded its pilot Municipal Solar Assistance Program to include all municipalities and school districts in the region. Through this free program the NJMC performs assessments for public bodies to determine whether certain rooftops and open space are suitable for solar panels that can generate clean power and reduce energy costs. The Commission also assists towns and school boards with the procurement of services for the construction and installation of the solar arrays. The NJMC's work on behalf of the municipalities helps to defray the significant solar-energy development costs that would otherwise fall to taxpayers.

Shared Services

The NJMC maintains a pool of heavy DPW equipment that is available to District municipalities for free 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Resources include a camera truck and jet-vac truck to identify and clean clogged storm and sewers lines and catch basins, a high-powered trailer-mounted light tower, and two portable automatic self-priming pump systems. In 2010 the NJMC also leased a pothole-filling machine that was made available to local towns. The municipalities used the NJMC's equipment more than 270 times this year, saving thousands of taxpayer dollars.

In March the NJMC created a shared-services working group to help further reduce local government costs. The panel, consisting of municipal officials and NJMC staff, focuses on municipal issues to determine how the NJMC can further serve District towns through regional programs and how these communities can combine their efforts to provide and find other efficiencies that reduce costs to residents.



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The screenshot displays the homepage of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MERI) website. The header features the MERI logo and the text "New Jersey Meadowlands Commission" and "MEADOWLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE". Below the header, there are links for "About MERI", "Scientific Data", "Laboratory", "Library", and "GIS". A sub-header reads "The scientific arm of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.". The main content area is titled "Interactive Maps" and includes a section for the "GIS Outreach Program". A large button labeled "GRAND NEW MUNICIPAL MAP" is prominently displayed. To the right, there is descriptive text about the new municipal map application, mentioning its purpose for hazard management and emergency planning, and noting that nearly 90% of the Hackensack Meadowlands District is below high water level. At the bottom, there is a map of a coastal area.

Planning Services

The Commission is available to help Meadowlands Municipalities plan downtown revitalizations, and better connections to mass transit through its Sustainable Communities Planning Service, which provides professional staff at no cost to taxpayers. This service provides a useful tool for planners, public officials and business owners seeking to follow smart-growth principles.

Construction Code Plan Review

To assist developers, architects and engineers in meeting various life safety requirements of the State's Uniform Construction Code, the NJMC has implemented an aggressive outreach program. Commission assistance includes free construction code consultation, pre-application meetings and coordination assistance between the NJMC and other state and local code officials.

Digital Maps

The Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute's Geographic Information Systems team develops multi-layered digital maps containing large amounts of crucial data that are provided to local officials to help them better manage municipal assets, plan for improvements, and prepare for and combat emergencies. For example, some of the online maps pinpoint which buildings in each District town hold hazardous materials and also include information on the materials themselves. The maps are frequently updated, and the GIS team offers local officials multiple training sessions to keep them updated on new features.

Economic Growth

Economic Growth

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The NJMC is committed to supporting economic development and job creation in the District. Located just miles from Manhattan, with major highways, rail lines, waterways and airports nearby, the region is an ideal place to do business – and the NJMC’s efforts to foster economic growth have parlayed those advantages into tangible results. The Commission welcomed several new companies to the region in 2010 and several redevelopment projects are moving forward. The Commission is also working to streamline its regulatory and administrative processes and further promote its existing business services to make the District even more business friendly.



Regulatory Reforms

In its efforts to attract future economic development to the District and retain existing businesses, the NJMC is continually working to streamline its regulatory and administrative processes. In 2010, the Commission took steps to reduce permitting fees, increase stakeholder input and amend certain regulations in order to promote further economic growth in the Meadowlands. Regulation revisions include common-sense waivers from strict compliance with some agency regulations. Recognition of the current state of the economy resulted in the Commission reducing some permit fees by nearly 50 percent.

As the NJMC amends future rules, the local business community, municipal officials, environmental groups and other stakeholders will be invited to the table for input as part of its Regulatory Advisory Group. Together, these positive steps will continue to strengthen and further enhance the vitality of the Meadowlands District’s economy.



New Business

The NJMC welcomed several new businesses to the region in 2010 and continues to work hard to attract future investment.

Now open for business in the Meadowlands:

- Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands
- Babies R Us
- Bob's Discount Furniture
- Kerasotes Theater
- LA Fitness
- Sports Authority
- TJ Maxx
- Toys R Us

Coming soon

- Dessert Service Inc., retailers of the Bindi line of desserts (*64,000 square feet*)
- ProLogis Park warehouses (*345,000 square feet*)
- Macy's Design Studio (*71,500 square feet*)
- Atlantic Hoisting and Scaffolding (*Up to 200 new jobs*)

Secaucus Transit Village Redevelopment Area

The second residential building in the Xchange at Secaucus Junction development opened in March 2010, adding 178 new residential units for a current total of 482 units, as well as adding 27,934 square feet of accessory retail space to the development. Zoning approval was also granted for the third residential building, adding 318 more residential units, with construction anticipated in 2011. Eventually, the complex will provide more than 1,800 residential units near the Secaucus Junction rail station.



Teterboro/Industrial Avenue Redevelopment Area

The NJMC has issued zoning approval for the Teterboro Landing project, located within the Teterboro/Industrial Avenue Redevelopment Area. The approved project proposes a mix of uses on the 63-acre former Honeywell complex, including 425,000 square feet of retail and restaurants, 100,000 square feet of office space, a six-story hotel and 250,000 square feet of industrial space. These amenities will benefit from the site's proximity to major roadways, NJ Transit's Pascack Valley Line and Teterboro Airport. The project's developer, Catellus, a ProLogis company, is currently remediating the site.



Business Programs

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Protecting our environment and economy in the Meadowlands District is one of the NJMC's most vital commitments. The Commission was created more than four decades ago with a mission to foster development in the region while protecting the environment, and the agency has worked hard to maintain this balance. Today, the NJMC's support of the green economy and renewable energy projects continues to show how economic development and environmental preservation can not only co-exist but complement one another.



NJMC Business Accelerator

The NJMC Business Accelerator provides the resources that entrepreneurial, early-stage companies focused on green technologies and services need to grow their ideas into successful businesses, right in the heart of the Meadowlands. The Accelerator was created in Fall 2008; in its first year of operation accelerator clients generated \$850,000 in revenue and \$2.1 million in third-party investments. The Accelerator continued to grow in 2010 and now includes 19 clients. Located in Lyndhurst, the Accelerator offers support services that include one-on-one mentoring, business plan development, grant writing support, marketing assistance and networking opportunities – as well as providing professional and affordable office space. Several Accelerator clients have been honored and recognized for their accomplishments by industry associations.

Pre-Application Meetings and ZOD Program

The business community, developers, and their professionals are encouraged to take advantage of pre-application meetings with NJMC staff to discuss concepts, questions or issues and to review NJMC regulations relating to potential development, in an effort to save time and resources for the business community.

In addition, the NJMC has an established Zoning Officer of the Day program, which assigns a member of the Land Use Management Division staff on a daily basis to respond to any phone calls, emails, faxes and walk-in inquiries from the business community related to land uses, planning, redevelopment and application procedures within the Meadowlands District.

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Meadowlands Challenge

The NJMC's Meadowlands Challenge is a competition designed to promote energy efficiency and increase recycling efforts among Meadowlands-area companies. Forty-one businesses have taken on the challenge since it was launched in 2009. The program encourages companies to determine ways to use less energy and water, to generate less trash, to recycle more, and to use more eco-friendly cleaning products. Companies that meet the minimum sustainability requirements and share their green strategies with other businesses are publicly recognized as green leaders.

Renewable Energy and Sustainability

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The NJMC has worked hard to fulfill its mandate to clean up a region that was once defined by garbage. The Commission has protected thousands of acres of environmentally sensitive open space and found creative ways to utilize its resources, such as converting methane gas from landfills into electricity. Today the Commission is pursuing the use of solar power to promote the green economy and help the environment.



Landfill Solar Project

In 2010 the NJMC advanced its plan to install a solar energy facility at the closed 35-acre 1-A Landfill in Kearny. Construction of the solar array is scheduled to begin in late 2010 and is estimated to create approximately 180 jobs. The NJMC is leasing the landfill space to a contractor selected through a public RFP process. This vendor will own, operate and maintain the facility, and the solar panels will generate up to 3 megawatts of clean, low-cost power. The project is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2011. The NJMC was awarded an \$8.5 million federal stimulus grant to be used toward this project.

Solar Canopy

The Commission has awarded a contract for the construction of a solar energy carport over its administrative building parking lot. The solar panels will supply approximately 20 percent of the electricity used at the NJMC's headquarters, reducing the Commission's energy costs and its carbon footprint.



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Energy & Environment Council



Photos courtesy of Steve Doll

International Solar Conference

The NJMC hosted an international solar energy conference in May at its Meadowlands Environment Center in Lyndhurst. The event, sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce, brought more than 150 people together to discuss the American and European solar energy markets and business opportunities in the Meadowlands District for emerging German and American companies. Participants included representatives from PSE&G, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, the German Solar Energy Association and more than a dozen American and German businesses.

Solar Incentives

The NJMC's solar initiatives extend to the private sector. Developers and existing businesses who use sustainable building practices, such as solar power, in their development and expansion projects are eligible for financial incentives and priority review. In 2010, Genzyme Biosurgery, a biotechnology company located in Ridgefield, constructed a 49,699-square-foot building addition that received LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Overall, more than 4 Megawatts of solar photovoltaic systems were installed on District businesses this year, the equivalent of enough electricity to power approximately 500 homes.

Office of Sustainability

The NJMC Office of Sustainability offers assistance to companies seeking to make their businesses more environmentally and socially responsible. The Office's areas of expertise include sustainability planning, green products and services, and green purchasing and housekeeping policies.

Floodplain Management

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Floodplain management in the Meadowlands District is a top priority for the NJMC. With much of the District falling within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's special flood hazard area, flooding presents a challenge that the Commission is diligently confronting by building new tide gates, clearing drainage ditches and maintaining healthy marshes to absorb storm water runoff. These efforts include a project to help manage flooding on Route 17 in Rutherford and East Rutherford – the largest floodplain management effort in the NJMC's history. The project has resulted in reduced highway closures in 2010 on one of the state's busiest commercial arteries.



Route 17 Project

Work continued in 2010 on a \$5.5 million infrastructure upgrade to reduce flooding along Route 17 near the Rutherford/East Rutherford border. The NJMC and the state Department of Transportation helped clear a three-quarter-mile drainage ditch to effectively convey storm water runoff from Route 17 and neighboring properties to newly installed tide gates. The work followed the installation of two massive tide gates in Rutherford and East Rutherford in 2009 to help minimize tidal and storm surges from flowing upstream to the highway.



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Tide Gates

In June the Commission installed new tide gates at Moonachie Creek and Bashes Creek in Carlstadt to help better manage flooding in the region, including the industrial area along the east side of the borough. The project will help address tidal surges that cause flooding at businesses located east of Washington Avenue. The tide gates are outfitted with high-tech, solar-powered sensors that allow NJMC scientists to remotely monitor the gates' daily operations from their desktop computers.

Flood Warning Systems

Working with NJMC engineers, the Commission's Geographic Information Systems team has designed and rolled out an email-based early warning flood alert system that provides timely information 24/7 to emergency responders regarding flood scenarios, tide gate operation, water quality and other metrics collected by NJMC researchers. Warnings include a set of maps for each town in the Meadowlands District, showing exactly what streets and properties – down to the block and lot – would be flooded by a 2-foot, 4-foot, 6-foot or 8-foot tidal surge. The system also includes an automatic warning to all emergency responders in the District in the advent of a major, 6-foot flood. MERI has also initiated plans to add real-time text message alerts to further enhance the system's effectiveness.

FEMA Discounts

The NJMC's floodplain management efforts in 2010 literally paid off for District property owners, who were eligible for 15 percent flood insurance savings through the Federal Emergency Management Agency when they renewed their policies or purchased new ones. FEMA recognized the NJMC for exceeding national flood control standards – making municipal, residential, commercial and industrial property owners eligible for the insurance discounts.



Transportation

Transportation



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The ability to transport people and goods safely and efficiently is vital to the success of the Meadowlands District's economy and residents' quality of life. The Meadowlands region is a hub of transportation; it includes such major roadways as the New Jersey Turnpike and Routes 1 & 9, 3, 46, and 17, as well as numerous freight and passenger rail lines. By working to connect these arteries with local communities and businesses, and to upgrade and improve traffic systems, the NJMC is paving the way for a smooth ride for commerce and commuters.

MASSTR

In 2010, the NJMC was awarded a \$10 million federal grant to advance a project that will help improve traffic flow in and around the Meadowlands District by upgrading existing traffic signals. The Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System for Traffic Reduction will use advanced technology to reduce traffic congestion, fuel consumption and green house gas emissions, helping the environment and allowing commerce to flow more freely. The project is expected to begin in 2011 with improvements to 14 traffic signals and will eventually upgrade 128 signalized intersections throughout the Meadowlands region.

Shuttle Bus

The NJMC's shuttle bus program debuted in November 2007 with the Lyndhurst Corporate Shuttle Bus route, which links participating businesses in the Meadowlands Corporate Center and Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands to the Kingsland train station in Lyndhurst and major NJ Transit bus routes. The route and schedule were revamped in May 2010 to include the Rutherford train station while also increasing the frequency of the service. The shuttle has since increased in popularity with average ridership exceeding 90 passengers daily and 2,000 passengers monthly.

Parks and Preservation

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Throughout the years the NJMC has helped to preserve more than 3,400 acres of open space, including hundreds of acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands. The Commission also works with the Meadowlands Conservation Trust and other groups to preserve additional land. The NJMC has improved residents' quality of life by helping to build 21 parks and natural areas in the District, including more than 10 miles of hiking trails. Each year tens of thousands of visitors enjoy these facilities, which are maintained by a variety of public agencies.



River Barge Park and Marina

In 2010 the NJMC completed the first phase of construction at the River Barge Park and Marina site in Carlstadt. Work included the installation of a new bulkhead, a 30-slip marina, a boat ramp, and kayak and rowing launch points. The marina will offer the first public motorized boat access to the Hackensack River in Bergen County in decades. The project's second phase, which began in fall 2010, includes landscaping work, construction of a winter boat storage house, a pavilion for educational programs, a promenade above the riverbank and a parking area. The park is scheduled to open in late summer 2011.



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DeKorte Park

In 2010 nearly 60,000 people visited DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, the headquarters of the NJMC. The one-square-mile urban oasis of walking trails, water views and wetlands is a great spot for birding and enjoying nature in general. In January, Birder's World magazine, a national publication, named DeKorte Park among the country's top "Birding Hotspots." DeKorte is also the site of the Meadowlands Environment Center's school and public programs, the Center for Environmental and Scientific Education, and the William D. McDowell Observatory. This year the Commission published new trail and butterfly guides of the park and, with Ramapo College educators, installed information kiosks that tell the visually impaired where they are, what they're hearing and what their surroundings look like.



Kane Tract

In May the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, a public land trust in but not of the NJMC, broke ground on an initiative to restore and enhance approximately 235 acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands in the Richard P. Kane Natural Area in Carlstadt and South Hackensack. The project is designed to reestablish the marsh's wildlife and plant habitats and its natural ability to absorb floodwaters and help reduce pollution. The property was leased to a private company to establish a mitigation bank, allowing public transit agencies to purchase credits to offset wetlands loss caused by construction work done elsewhere in the Meadowlands. A portion of the Kane Tract is also being integrated into the adjacent River Barge Park.

Public Programs

You Are Viewing an Archived Report from the New Jersey State Library. The NJMC provides residents a chance to better understand the Commission's work and the importance of the Meadowlands District, past and present. These programs include public viewing nights at the NJMC's observatory, guided nature walks and pontoon boat cruises, and educational and cultural workshops for all ages. These and other free or low-cost activities provide fun and affordable ways to learn more about the District.



Eco-Tourism

More than 1,500 visitors participated in the NJMC's eco-tourism programs in 2010, sneaking glimpses of rare birds, experiencing the Hackensack River's renaissance first-hand and taking in the natural beauty of the Meadowlands' unique urban wetlands. The Commission's expertly guided pontoon boat cruises and canoe tours of the river and its marshes run from May through September, offering participants a chance to view and photograph nature up-close while learning about the history and importance of the Meadowlands eco-system

The NJMC continued its partnership with the Bergen County Audubon Society in 2010, providing regular twice-monthly bird walks at DeKorte Park, North Arlington's Harrier Meadow and other Meadowlands locations. The NJMC also hosted several special nature events this year, including a Butterfly Day in July that drew nearly 300 people to DeKorte. Other highlights included a day's worth of birding workshops, photography seminars and bird walks with renowned nature photographer Kevin Karlson in August, as well as the Seventh Annual Meadowlands Festival of Birding in September.



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The Meadowlands Nature Blog

A celebration and exploration of the natural wonders of North Jersey's 304 square mile Meadowlands District

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Nature Blog

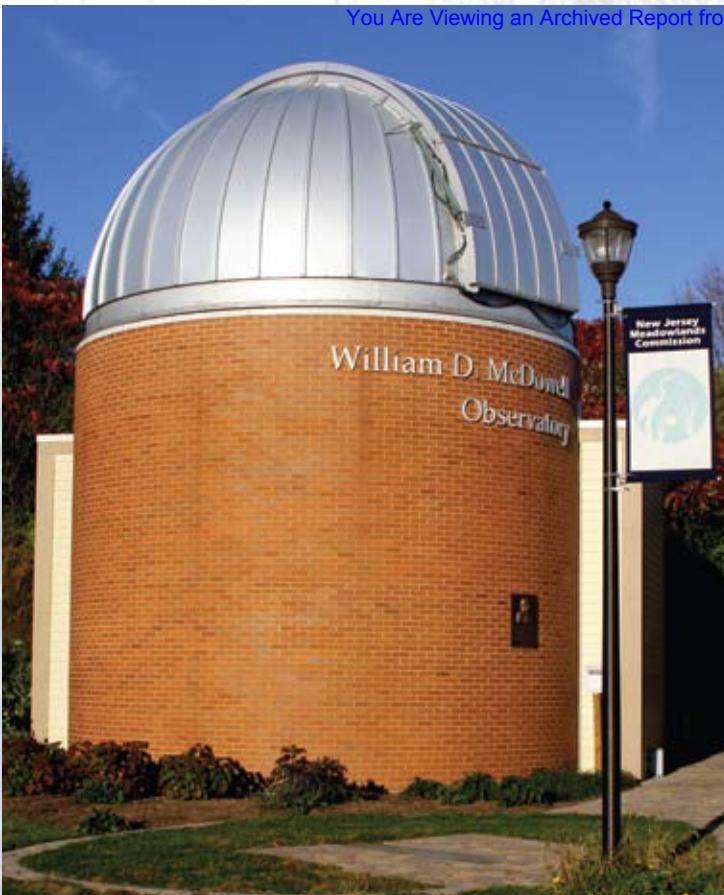
The NJMC's Nature Blog, meadowblog.net, kept readers informed of the latest rare bird sightings, posted amazing photos captured by local birders and provided updates on the agency's nature-related events. In November the two-year-old blog reached a milestone 200,000 page views.

Meadowlands Environment Center

The Meadowlands Environment Center, a NJMC facility operated by Ramapo College of New Jersey, offers a variety of educational public programming, providing an important connection between the NJMC and residents. The MEC presents an array of low-cost and free programs for all ages, from hands-on environmental education workshops for youngsters and teens to art and history lectures and classical, big band, and jazz performances for adults and seniors.

The MEC facility includes an Interactive Learning Center which highlights the Meadowlands' ecology, the Tideland Treasures gift shop and the Flyway Gallery – which features environmentally themed exhibits by local artists.

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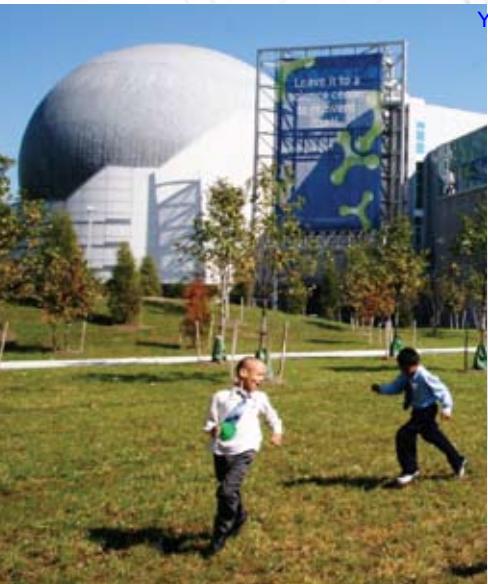
William D. McDowell Observatory

The public is welcome to view the night sky for free every Monday and Wednesday night, weather permitting, at the NJMC's William D. McDowell Observatory. In 2010 more than 2,500 people visited the Observatory, which features a 20-inch research grade telescope. Observatory staff help visitors locate constellations, planets and other celestial bodies. Public astronomy lectures are held on Tuesday nights, with registration and a small fee required. Astronomy clubs, scout troops and other groups can arrange for special viewing sessions. Ramapo College educators use the observatory as a teaching tool as part of lessons taught to school children.

Meadowlands Museum Partnership

Throughout 2010 the NJMC and the Meadowlands Museum partnered to expand and enhance the MEC's historical education events. The two entities co-presented several programs at the Environment Center, including genealogy workshops and lectures related to Meadowlands District history. The Rutherford-based Meadowlands Museum houses an extensive collection of artifacts documenting the cultural, economic and social history of the Meadowlands over the past 200 years.





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Liberty Science Center Collaboration

In May the MEC announced a joint-membership program with Liberty Science Center in which families who join the MEC are eligible for free membership at the Jersey City-based Science Center, providing a savings of up to \$140 per family. Ramapo educators have developed new educational programs between the two organizations, including school field trip science programs, expanded summer camps, joint activities for students and adults with disabilities, and programs focusing on the interconnectedness of the Hackensack and Hudson rivers.



Green Living Programs

The NJMC sponsors a series of free Green Living programs to help the public better understand ways that they can conserve resources, protect the environment and lead a more sustainable lifestyle. The practical, hands-on workshops are held at libraries, stores and other locations in and around the Meadowlands District. In 2010, the NJMC partnered with the Bergen County Utilities Authority and Hudson County Improvement Authority to offer information sessions for the public on Earth Day. Topics included recycling, green landscaping and green shopping.

Flyway Gallery

The NJMC continued this year to spotlight the talents of local artists at the MEC's Flyway Gallery. The gallery was created to help foster the cultural and artistic identity of the Meadowlands District. Highlights of this year's shows included several individual nature photography and watercolor exhibits, as well as works by members of a Lyndhurst-based support group that serves children with autism and other special needs.

Education

Informing the public of the importance of the Meadowlands District and its environment is a vital part of the NJMC's work. In addition to its public programs, the NJMC has partnered with Ramapo College to offer school programs at its LEED-platinum certified Center for Environmental and Scientific Education. The state-of-the art education center, complete with wet labs, gives students a unique, hands-on learning experience. More than 13,000 children from 70 school districts participated in programs at the education center during the 2009-10 school year.

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School Programs

Ramapo College educators operate a full schedule of programs for students in grades K-12 at the NJMC's education center. Classes, which comply with New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, cover a variety of science and environmental subject matter including ecology, chemistry, biology, physics, astronomy and natural history. Students experiment inside the classroom and explore DeKorte Park, the home of the NJMC, where they gather water samples, micro-organisms and other specimens to analyze back at the lab. In addition to housing classrooms, the education center is used as a teaching tool, as educators incorporate its green features into their lesson plans. The MEC has also formed partnerships with more than a dozen local school districts, allowing Ramapo educators to work with district staff to fine-tune their science curriculums.



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Summer Camps

The summer of 2010 saw the MEC welcome children from area recreation programs, YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs and 4-H groups to DeKorte Park. More than 400 children participated in camps on estuaries, ecology and astronomy, plus a survival challenge that encouraged healthy living.



MarshAccess

Work continued in 2010 on the National Science Foundation funded MarshAccess for Adults program, in which the MarshAccess project team developed and provided an array of informal science-based programs for adults with a variety of disabilities.

The project culminated in March with a three-day national conference hosted by MarshAccess educators at the MEC in DeKorte Park. The conference, attended by 54 informal science educators from 23 states, disseminated the project's findings and best practices by combining informational presentations with hands-on demonstrations of field-tested tools and techniques for working with adults with disabilities.

Meadowlands Research

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The Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute is the scientific and technological arm of the NJMC. MERI scientists develop technology that promotes the regional sharing of resources, and then transfer that technology to District towns. MERI scientists also monitor environmental conditions and wildlife populations and conduct research to address environmental issues within the Meadowlands District. Their work has helped to improve the health, safety and environment of Meadowlands District area residents, as well as improving the ecosystem. MERI's research has also fostered the restoration of the Hackensack River and its marshes, leading to a significant return of all sorts of wildlife to the area. The institute plays an important role as the NJMC develops policies to move the region forward.



Natural Resource Studies

In June, MERI shared in a \$300,000 National Science Foundation grant to continue measuring the capability of the Meadowlands District's urban, tidal wetlands to capture and contain harmful greenhouse gases. The funding allows NJMC researchers to continue gathering carbon sequestration data for the next three years. The study could lead to marsh enhancements designed to further reduce greenhouse gases from the atmosphere that contribute to global warming as well as the flooding and other problems that can result.

A joint MERI-Princeton University study continued in 2010 to measure how man-made wetlands acquire the functionality of natural wetlands. The study brings researchers closer to understanding the chemistry and processes in natural wetlands that successfully remove heavy metals from the food chain and to find ways to replicate these same processes in constructed wetlands.



Wildlife Studies

In 2010, Commission naturalists continued their population study of diamondback terrapins in several marshes throughout the District. Terrapins were captured using commercial crab traps, then measured, weighed and tagged with electronic monitoring chips – before being returned to the marsh at their capture locations. The goal of the study is to determine the basic ecology of the Meadowlands' diamondback terrapins. The study also will help determine the health of the marshes; an increasing or stable terrapin population indicates a healthy marsh. The field study will continue in 2011.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2009

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Revenues

Lease Payments	\$ 4,301,667
Solid Waste Overhead Contribution	2,777,873
AHA Reimbursement for legal services	2,500,000
Fees & Charges	1,319,071
Property Acquisition Reimbursement	1,051,800
Grants	414,114
Kingsland Redevelopment Reimbursement	314,786
Revenues from Composting Operations	272,347
Interest Income	224,328
Other Income	162,025
Royalties from Sale of Methane Gas	125,000

Total Revenues **13,463,011**

Operating Expenditures

Commission Operations	\$ 8,932,079
Environment Center Operations	2,678,818
Business Accelerator	708,021
Capital and Maintenance	322,462
Reimbursable Grant Expenditures	283,429
Other Expenditures	95,972

Total Expenditures **13,020,781**

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures prior to Non-operating Costs **442,230**

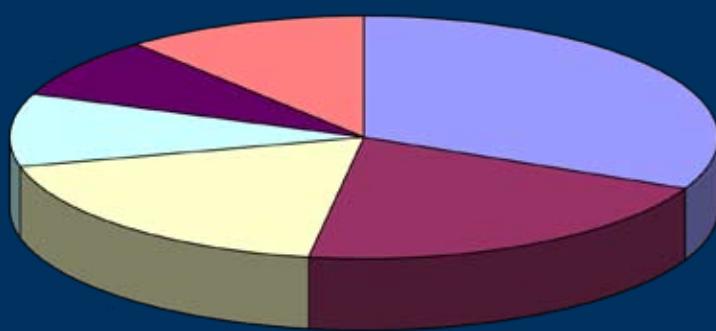
Non-Operating Expenditures

MAGNET Grants	4,569,940
Amounts expended against prior year revenue allocations	1,304,288

Total Non-operating Expenditures **5,874,228**

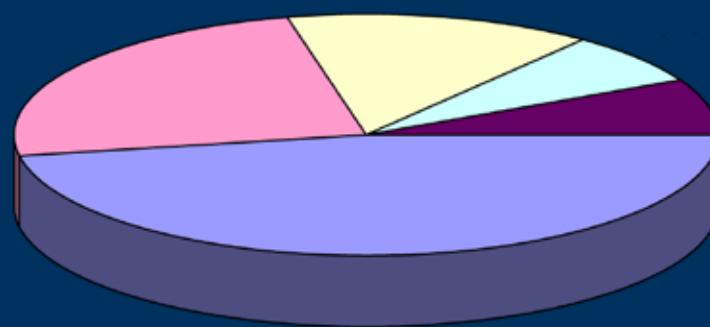
Net Excess of Revenues over Expenditures **(5,431,998)**

Governmental Funds: Revenues



- Lease Payments - 31%
- Solid Waste Overhead Contribution - 21%
- AHA Reimbursement for legal services - 19%
- Fees & Charges - 10%
- Property Acquisition Reimbursement - 8%
- Other Income - 11%
- Grants (3%)
- Kingsland Redevelopment Reimbursement (2%)
- Revenues from Composting Operations (2%)
- Interest Income (2%)
- Royalties from Sale of Methane Gas (1%)
- Miscellaneous (1%)

Governmental Funds: Expenditures



- Commission Operations - 46%
- MAGNET Grants - 24%
- Environment Center Operations - 14%
- Amounts expended against prior year revenue allocations - 7%
- Other Expenditures - 9%
- Business Accelerator (4%)
- Capital and Maintenance (2%)
- Reimbursable Grant Expenditures (2%)
- Miscellaneous (1%)

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS December 31, 2009

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Revenues

Operating Revenue	13,949,190
Non-Operating Revenue	137,415
Total Revenues	14,086,605

Operating Expenses

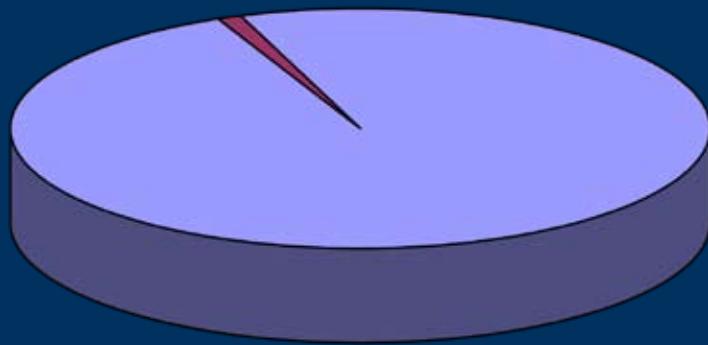
General Operating Costs	7,059,389
Landfill Operations	4,189,753
MERI/Laboratory/Parks & Open Space	2,876,607
Payments to County Utility Authority	1,629,701
Other Expenses	504,573
Keegan Landfill Remediation Costs	497,920

Total Operating Expenses **16,757,943**

Net Income **(2,671,338)**

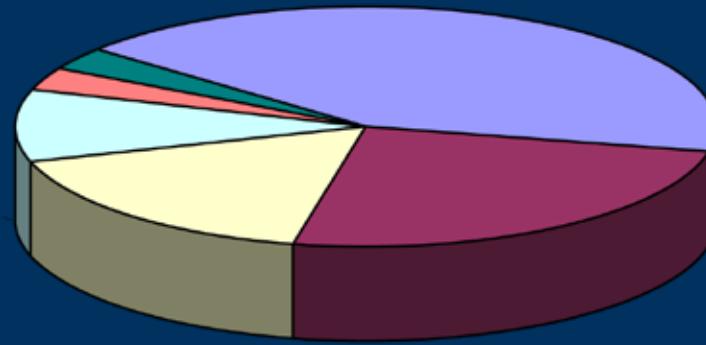
Solid Waste Operations: Revenues

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- Operating Revenue - 99%
- Non-operating Revenue - 1%

Solid Waste Operations: Expenses



- General Operating Costs - 42%
- Landfill Operations - 25%
- MER/Laboratory/Parks & Open Space - 17%
- Payments to County Utility Authority - 10%
- Keegan Landfill Remediation - 3%
- Other Expenses - 3%

Rare Sightings

In 2010, Birder's World magazine named the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's Richard W. DeKorte Park as one of its top places for bird-watching, calling the park "among the premier urban wildlife spots in the country."

Throughout the course of the last twelve months, there have been a fair amount of rare birds visiting the Meadowlands.

Some of the big birding attractions in or near DeKorte Park are shown here. In some cases, they attracted hundreds of birders from across New Jersey.

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Northern Shrike



Northern Wheatear



Glossy Ibis



Little Blue Heron



American Kestrel



Golden Plover



American Avocet



New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

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