


# New Jersey Meadowlands Commission *Reclaim, Redevelop, Restore.*



**2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

## AGENCY OVERVIEW



**T**he New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) is the planning and zoning agency for the 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District, which consists of portions of 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson counties. The agency was created by an Act of the Legislature in 1968 and tasked with a three-fold mandate: to protect the delicate balance of nature, to provide for orderly development of the region and to provide facilities for the sanitary disposal of solid waste.

At the time of the NJMC's formation, the Meadowlands District was marred by dozens of illegal garbage dumps. The NJMC's steadfast commitment to carrying out its mission over the past four decades has resulted in an extraordinary economic and environmental transformation. The Meadowlands, once a blighted and polluted wasteland, is now an economic engine, environmental jewel and educational resource.



**T**he NJMC's tireless efforts have helped attract billions of dollars in new development to the area, and the Commission has invested tens of millions more in infrastructure improvements that have benefited District municipalities, residents and businesses. Today, the Commission continues to promote economic growth and development in the region through initiatives that attract and retain businesses. These include pursuing redevelopment opportunities and reviewing rules and regulations to find areas where common-sense changes can be made to reduce the cost of doing business.

Simultaneously, the Commission has preserved thousands of acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands and conducted numerous scientific studies that have helped bring about environmental revitalization and wildlife re-emergence in the District and improvement of water quality in the Hackensack River. The NJMC's efforts in this area have led to the establishment of the Meadowlands District as a

premier ecotourism destination. The District includes 20 parks, several providing access points for waterfront recreation. The NJMC offers pontoon boat and canoe tours and guided nature walks to give visitors an up-close view of the environmental renaissance.

Through the Commission's partnership with Ramapo College of New Jersey, the Meadowlands Environment Center provides environmental science programs to schoolchildren and the general public that increase awareness of the critical importance of environmental protection and stewardship.

Thanks to its hard work and innovation, the NJMC has shown that environmental protection and economic growth go hand-in-hand. While the Commission is proud of its many achievements, its work is not done. Moving forward, the NJMC stands committed to helping the District continue to reach its full economic and environmental potential.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



**RICHARD E. CONSTABLE, III**  
*Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs  
Chairman, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission*

**T**he year 2012 in the Meadowlands and throughout New Jersey will always be remembered for Hurricane Sandy, which took a heavy toll on so many Meadowlands District residents and businesses. Yet the incredible determination and strength of character exhibited by the people of this region leave no doubt that the Meadowlands will come back strong.



*A group of volunteers after a clean-up effort at Mill Creek Marsh in Secaucus.*

In keeping with its commitment to the District, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs have been supporting recovery efforts in the region since the storm hit, and will continue to do so. Even before Hurricane Sandy made landfall, the NJMC offered its building inspectors to District municipalities for assistance. The Commission also took action to make it easier for businesses displaced by the storm to relocate to alternate facilities within the District.

Governor Christie has done an incredible job in seeking federal funding so that we can help businesses and homeowners rebuild and improve our infrastructure. The NJMC will play an important role in that rebuilding effort. The Commission, through the DCA, will work to see that the Meadowlands District receives its fair share of critical federal funding.

In addition to conveying how the NJMC responded to and was affected by Sandy, this report looks at the 10 months prior to the storm. During this time the Commission saw several signs of economic recovery in the District, including the groundbreaking for Goya Food's new 615,000-square-foot corporate headquarters and distribution center in Jersey City. The Commission also began the first phase of construction of the Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System for Traffic Reduction (MASSTR) project. This far-reaching initiative entails modernizing 128 signalized intersections throughout the region to significantly improve the flow of commerce by greatly reducing vehicle delays and congestion while benefitting the environment by reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

There is no doubt that 2013 will present many challenges as the Meadowlands continues to recover from Hurricane Sandy. The NJMC's dedicated staff stands ready to continue to assist local, county and State efforts with the rebuilding process.



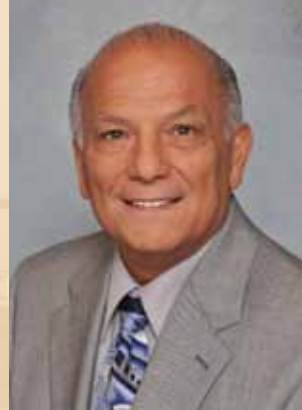
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Chairman,  
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Commission



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**IN MEMORIAM**



*In 2012, the NJMC mourned the passing of former Commissioners Eleanore Nissley and Mia Macri.*

*Eleanore Nissley was a NJMC Commissioner from 1984 to 2010, the longest serving trustee in the agency's history. She died in August.*

*Mia Macri served on the Board of Commissioners from 1999 through 2011. Former Commissioner Macri passed away in March.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## EXECUTIVE TEAM



**MARCIA A. KARROW**  
*Executive Director, New Jersey Meadowlands Commission*

In 2012, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) introduced a new T-shirt with “our” bald eagle and an especially fitting slogan that reads, *The Meadowlands: Only the Strong Survive*. While we realize that Hurricane Sandy’s impact will be felt for months and years to come, I am certain that the Meadowlands District will bounce back from Sandy’s devastation. Even the worst storm in New Jersey history cannot destroy the incredible resilience and spirit that defines the residents and business owners of the District.

The NJMC continues to assist federal, state, county and local officials on the recovery effort. In addition to providing its inspectors to District towns, the NJMC waived application fees and expedited approvals for businesses forced to relocate within and to the District due to storm damage. Moving forward, the NJMC will work closely with the State Department of Community Affairs to do everything it can to see that the necessary portion of federal funding directed to the State is distributed to District municipalities.

In this report you will read not only about how the NJMC assisted District municipalities after the storm and how Sandy damaged the NJMC’s parks, but also about the Commission’s accomplishments in 2012 in its continuing efforts to promote economic development while protecting the environment. These actions include amending the Paterson Plank Road Redevelopment Plan to provide additional business uses and drafting a Redevelopment

Plan for the Koppers Coke Peninsula in Kearny to encourage the transformation of underutilized property into a thriving home for industry.

In 2012, the Commission also saw the grand opening of the NJMC’s River Barge Park in Carlstadt, the District’s latest natural jewel. The park provides the first public access to the Hackensack River from its western banks in southern Bergen County in decades and is one of many examples of how the Commission is establishing the Meadowlands region as a premier ecotourism destination.

Over the past 40 years the NJMC has helped build the foundation for a prosperous economic and environmental future in the Meadowlands. As we recover from Hurricane Sandy, the Commission looks forward to continuing to reclaim, redevelop and restore this vital and vibrant region.



*Harrier Meadow, North Arlington*



**BERNARD M. NANGLE**  
*Deputy Executive Director for Facility Operations and External Affairs*  
CEO, Meadowlands Conservation Trust  
Facility Operations  
Security  
Community Outreach

**EDWARD H. BULMER**  
*Director of Finance / CFO*  
Accounting and Finance  
Purchasing  
General Services  
Escrow Operations  
Municipal Shared Services

**CHRISTINE SANZ, ESQ.**  
*Director of Legal Affairs / Chief Counsel*  
Legal Services  
Contract Compliance  
Renewable Energy

**SARA SUNDELL, P.E., P.P.**  
*Director of Land Use Management/Chief Engineer*  
Site Plan Review  
Planning  
Transportation  
Construction Code  
Plan Review/UCC Code Enforcement

**THOMAS MARTURANO, P.E., P.P.**  
*Director of Solid Waste and Natural Resources*  
Landfill Operations  
Enforcement  
Parks and Open Space  
Stormwater  
Wetlands / Natural Resources  
Facility Maintenance

**FRANCISCO ARTIGAS, PH.D**  
*Director of Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI)*  
GIS Programs  
Laboratory  
Library  
Environmental Data Monitoring  
Information Technologies

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

Harmon Cove in Secaucus and Hackensack River on the left.



**A**ny summary of economic growth in the Meadowlands District in 2012 is made with the realization that Hurricane Sandy drastically altered economic conditions and the financial outlook of many companies and industries throughout the region. In the aftermath of the storm, the NJMC expedited zoning and building code approvals to help speed the recovery efforts of District businesses affected by Hurricane Sandy. In order to further ease the burden to property owners and tenants throughout the District who found it necessary to relocate to alternate spaces due to Sandy-related damage, the Commission also, on an emergency basis, waived application fees for Continued Occupancy Certifications and Zoning Certificates for a Change in Use. The NJMC extended these actions to out-of-District companies that relocated to District office and warehouse space.

While the storm looms as a large footnote, the NJMC did see success in 2012 as it continued its efforts to foster business development and economic growth within the District. These included sponsoring “Destination Meadowlands” business recruiting and retention workshops in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Main Street New Jersey Programs, adopting amendments to existing redevelopment plans, drafting a new redevelopment plan, and reviewing the NJMC Master Plan. The District also saw several new businesses open in the region and important business expansion.

### DESTINATION MEADOWLANDS

In both April and October, the NJMC and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Main Street New Jersey Program hosted day-long “Destination Meadowlands” workshops designed to provide businesses, business district leaders and municipal officials with valuable information regarding retail recruitment and the branding of business districts. Experts in the field led the programs. “Destination Meadowlands” is part of the New Jersey Downtown Revitalization & Management Institute (DRMI), which is operated by the Main Street New Jersey program. These workshops were particularly timely as business districts and municipalities prepare for high-profile sports and entertainment events that are projected to bring hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Meadowlands over the next few years.

Bindi USA, Kearny



### BUSINESS GROWTH

The NJMC’s dedication to spurring economic recovery in the Meadowlands District saw tangible results in 2012. In August, a groundbreaking was held for the construction of Goya Foods’ new 615,000-square-foot headquarters/distribution center in Jersey City. Goya, the largest Hispanic-owned food company in America, will maintain its 240,000-square-foot facility in Secaucus, also within the District.

In addition, a number of companies and attractions began operations in the commercial and industrial portions of the District. Field Station Dinosaurs, an attraction featuring more than 30 life-sized, realistic dinosaurs on 18 acres in Secaucus, opened in May and drew 130,000 visitors from 47 states and overseas. The park is open from May through October.

Secaucus also welcomed a 242,000-square-foot Equinix Data Center, and Prologis completed two state-of-the-art warehouses totaling 345,000 square feet. Dessert maker Bindi USA opened a 46,850-square-foot warehouse/distribution and office facility in Kearny.

The following facilities are anticipated to open in 2013: a 30,600-square-foot Wal-Mart addition in Kearny, North Jersey’s first Wawa (Kearny) and Quick Chek (Carlstadt) convenience stores and fueling stations, a 154-room Residence Inn Hotel (Secaucus), and the International Longshoremen’s Association world headquarters 9,700-square-foot addition (North Bergen).

**TETERBORO/INDUSTRIAL AVENUE REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

Remediation activities continued at the 63-acre former Honeywell industrial facility located within the Teterboro/Industrial Avenue Redevelopment Area adjacent to Teterboro Airport.

The general aviation airport is the busiest in the country, with nearly 200,000 departures and arrivals per year.

Developer Catellus' proposed redevelopment received a significant boost when it was awarded a multi-million-dollar State tax incentive through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. The redevelopment plan permits a mixed-use development including retail and restaurants, office space, hotels, and industrial space. Visitors and employees will benefit from the site's proximity to NJ Transit's Pascack Valley Rail Line, the airport and major highways, including Routes 17, 46 and 80.

**AMENDMENT TO PATERSON PLANK ROAD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

In keeping with its commitment to promote economic growth and development in the Meadowlands District and Governor Christie's directive that State agencies be more responsive to businesses, the NJMC adopted an amendment to the Paterson Plank Road Redevelopment Plan at the request of property owners and businesses.

The original plan was updated in 2004. The amendment adds additional uses and streamlines rules that encourage business attraction and retention by providing new and existing businesses with more flexibility for investing and expanding in this centrally located area within the Boroughs of Carlstadt and East Rutherford near the Meadowlands Sports Complex. It is envisioned that the future land uses in the redevelopment area will complement the new and proposed facilities at the sports complex and become a part of this important international destination.

**MEADOWLANDS GREEN RESTAURANT INITIATIVE**

In October, the NJMC received a US EPA grant to implement the Meadowlands Green Restaurant Initiative to assist the region's food and beverage industry in implementing sustainable, cost-saving and environmentally beneficial green initiatives. The program will concentrate on addressing four of EPA's national focus areas for Pollution Prevention: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of the use of hazardous materials, reduction of water usage and cost savings. The grant will also fund workshops, training and audits to be utilized in case studies, and the creation of a Meadowlands green restaurant information database and guidebook that can be used as a model for other municipalities throughout New Jersey.



**SUSTAINABILITY INCENTIVES**

The Commission offers incentives to companies and developers whose projects include aspects of sustainable building practices such as the use of solar power, recycled materials and energy-efficient heating and lighting systems. Benefits include reduced fees for zoning certificate and plan review applications as well as priority reviews. To date, approved solar installations within the District will generate approximately 32 megawatts of renewable energy upon completion of construction, enough to power approximately 5,000 average-sized homes.

**KOPPERS COKE PENINSULA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

In 2012, the NJMC began drafting a Redevelopment Plan for the Koppers Coke Peninsula in Kearny in order to encourage the transformation of 74 underutilized properties spread across a 367-acre industrial area into a thriving home for industry. There are several sites within the study area that are currently undergoing environmental remediation, including the 25-acre former Standard Chlorine property owned by the Town of Kearny. The Hudson County Improvement Authority owns a total of 175 acres within the redevelopment area, including the 170-acre Koppers Coke site, which was formerly home to the Koppers Seaboard Coke and By-Products plant.

The redevelopment area is strategically located off of many major roadways, including the New Jersey Turnpike, Route 280, and the Newark and Belleville Turnpikes. The NJMC's initiative to spearhead redevelopment in the Koppers Coke Peninsula is expected to help advance private cleanups of contaminated sites so that property owners will be able to take advantage of the opportunity to convert these neglected areas to productive uses while bringing ratables to the municipality.



*Koppers Coke Peninsula Redevelopment Area*

**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

In the Secaucus Transit Village Redevelopment Area, the third residential building opened at the Xchange at Secaucus Junction, consisting of 318 rental units, including 48 units designated as affordable housing. Two residential buildings and more than 14,000 square feet of accessory retail space have already been rented at the transit-oriented development, which takes advantage of close proximity and easy access to NJ Transit's Secaucus Junction Rail Station. Also in Secaucus, Osprey Cove, a 116-unit rental development, including 24 units designated as affordable, opened in August.

In Lyndhurst, the Meadow Crossing residential development received zoning approval for a 296-unit multi-building project, including 60 units set aside as low and moderate income. The first phase is projected to open in 2013. Equinox 360, a 316-unit residential development in East Rutherford, also received zoning approval. This site, located on the Route 3 Service Road, is set to include 32 affordable housing units.



*Xchange at Secaucus Junction*

## LANDFILL MANAGEMENT

Keegan Landfill, Kearny

### MASTER PLAN UPDATE

■ In 2012, the Commission held stakeholder meetings to gather input for its update of the NJMC Master Plan, which was last revised in 2004.

■ Anticipated amendments will reflect the Commission's renewed commitment to promoting economic growth while protecting the environment.

■ These amendments will set the stage for:

- Revitalizing the Meadowlands District's older industrial and commercial areas.
- Satisfying some of the regional demand for state-of-the-art warehouse and distribution space in proximity to Port Newark and the New York City metropolitan area.
- Encouraging the establishment of innovative and emerging industries to encourage job growth.
- Promoting the development and use of cost efficient energy sources.
- Strengthening the Commission's partnerships with the development community.
- Continuing the NJMC's commitment to preserving the District's vital wetlands and open space.
- Encouraging eco-tourism by expanding the District's network of trails and other recreation elements.
- Protecting and recognizing the District's unique historical, architectural and archaeological resources.

### PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

As a customer-service-oriented agency that supports business growth, the NJMC provides professional staff free of charge to meet with developers and businesses throughout the development application process.

Pre-application meetings are always encouraged. Various NJMC professionals – including engineers and planners – are available to consult with businesses and property owners at no charge regarding land use, planning, renewable energy, sustainability, construction code and other topics that relate to development in the Meadowlands District.

The Commission's Zoning Officer of the Day program ensures that a Land Use Management Division staff member is always available to field questions from businesses, property owners and the public regarding land use, zoning, planning, construction code review, redevelopment and application procedures.



Providing facilities for the disposal of solid waste is one of the NJMC's three founding mandates and the underpinning for the region's cleanup. By creating sanitary areas for garbage disposal, the NJMC has provided a home for county and municipal solid waste, including construction and demolition debris and certain non-hazardous industrial waste. The Commission also collects leachate at former and current District landfills, preventing the release of contaminated water into the district.

In 2012, the NJMC collected more than 200 million gallons of leachate for treatment at a sewage treatment plant, preventing the waste from polluting waterways. The Commission also provides a local outlet for municipal, county and commercial entities to deposit leaves, grass and brush which are eventually processed into mulch and compost.

Post-Hurricane Sandy, the NJMC extended the operating hours of its Keegan Landfill for more than a month to help accommodate the significant amount of waste left in the storm's wake. In the month of November, the landfill took in 39 thousand tons of waste, up 33 percent from November 2011.

The Commission also entered into an agreement with Union County to accept their solid waste for disposal.

Keegan averaged 26,000 tons of waste per month for all of 2012.

NJMC Jet-vac Truck



NJMC Camera Van



**T**hrough its Municipal Assistance Programs, the Commission provides several additional resources to District towns that help to reduce the cost of local government, benefit the environment and improve residents' quality of life. The NJMC's Municipal Solar Assistance Program, shared heavy equipment pool, state-of-the-art digital mapping program and other services provide numerous economic and environmental benefits throughout the region.

The commitment to help Meadowlands District municipalities proved especially beneficial in the weeks following Hurricane Sandy when District towns used the Commission's highly popular camera van and jet-vac trucks to identify and clean clogged storm and sewer lines and catch basins. The NJMC also made its code inspectors, planners and engineers available to assist District municipalities after the storm.

**MUNICIPAL SOLAR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Through its Municipal Solar Assistance program, in 2012 the NJMC facilitated the formation of a solar power purchasing cooperative between the Borough of Little Ferry, the Town of Secaucus and their respective Boards of Education. The Commission provided the initial resources required to establish the cooperative at no charge, including energy advisors and rooftop assessments. There are no upfront capital costs for the entities. The solar developer finances the project and sells the electricity generated to the cooperative at a reduced cost.

Thanks to the program, in August, Little Ferry completed the installation of rooftop solar panels on its Municipal Building, Library and Senior Center. The Little Ferry projects, in total, are rated at 72.5 kilowatts and include 1,400 photovoltaic panels. In Secaucus, solar projects advanced at Town Hall, Secaucus High School/Middle School, Huber Elementary School and the Secaucus Skating Rink. These installations are expected to achieve a combined power rating of 870 kilowatts.

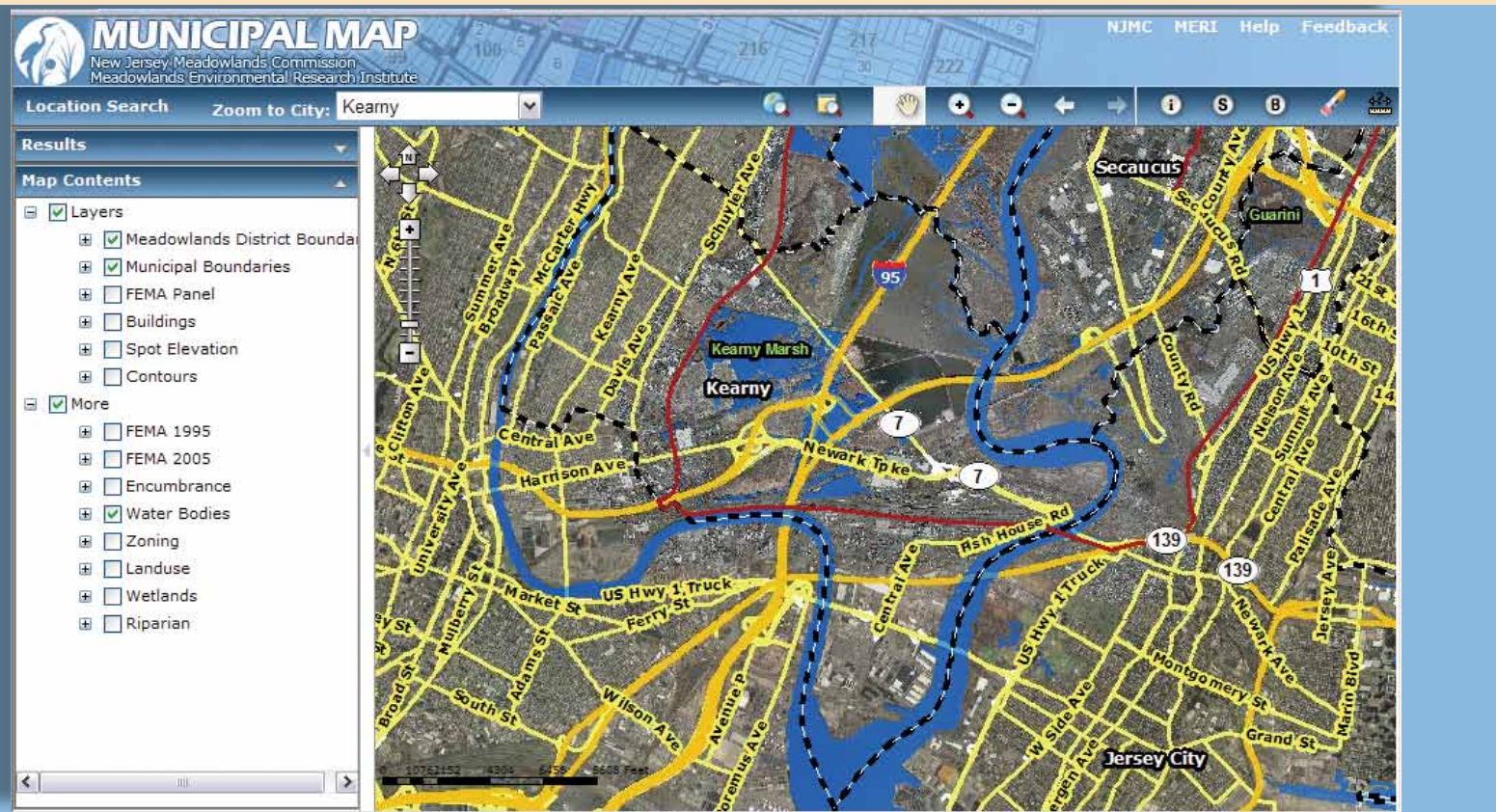
**HEAVY EQUIPMENT POOL**

The NJMC maintains and operates a heavy equipment pool that is available for free to District municipalities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The most popular resources are the Commission's camera van and jet-vac truck. Renting a camera van or jet-vac truck would cost towns upwards of \$2,000 per day.

Additional equipment includes two portable automatic self-priming pump systems and a trailer-mounted light tower. The NJMC in 2012 funded the heavy equipment pool at a cost of \$18,619.00.

**POTHOLE KILLER**

In March, for the third consecutive year, the NJMC leased a pothole-filling truck to help District municipalities work more efficiently. The Pothole Killer uses a non-hazardous spray-injection patching system that can increase the number of ruts filled in an average day. One NJMC staffer operates the Pothole Killer from its cab, compared to a crew of four or five public works employees using conventional equipment on the road. This helps to free up municipal DPW workers for other jobs.



**DIGITAL MAPS**

The NJMC's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team creates, maintains and updates comprehensive, web-based digital maps and mapping tools for every property in each Meadowlands District municipality. The GIS team is part of the Commission's Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI), the science and technology arm of the NJMC.

The user-friendly maps include critical information that benefits District municipalities by helping first responders better prepare for and combat emergencies. With the click of a mouse, first responders can obtain precise information on hazardous materials stored in warehouses and the contact information for managers of these facilities. In addition, they are able to determine the locations of the nearest fire hydrants, turn-around space for heavy firefighting equipment and other valuable information.

The maps are also a useful tool for municipal officials who use property data to manage municipal assets and plan for infrastructure and other improvements. Information stored on each facility or residential property includes owner, block and lot, easements, address, zoning and land

use, acreage, and building footprint. Building code and tax officials can generate property boundaries utilizing a buffer tool, which can save time in notifying residents of variance requests or other proposed changes to surrounding properties.



The GIS team offers year-round refresher and training courses on the mapping tools for municipal officials and first responders. In 2012, GIS staff spent more than 30 hours providing training for municipal officials from throughout the District.

In 2012, the GIS team began mapping blueprints of buildings to provide even more crucial data in an easily accessible format to emergency service crews. In addition, GIS is preparing online forms for emergency officials to store additional information and for incident reports made before and after emergencies occur. A pilot program with East Rutherford and Rutherford began in 2012. The towns are currently populating the data forms.

GIS also rolled out updated District flood maps in the fall; the data had last been updated in 2009. The maps were derived from existing topographic data that enabled the NJMC to create sea surge inundation maps for areas in the District. Prior to Hurricane Sandy, the maps indicate areas with potential for flooding according to sea surge elevations reported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Prior to Hurricane Sandy the maps were provided to the Bergen and Hudson County Departments of Emergency Management and made available to the municipalities through the MERI website

**EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES**

Starting the day after Hurricane Sandy, NJMC staff was made available to all District municipalities which requested assistance. Through its mutual aid agreement with the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management, the NJMC's licensed construction code officials, engineers and planners are readily available to assist Bergen County and local municipalities with emergency inspections during disaster events, saving these entities time and money.



**GREEN LIVING**

NJMC planners give green living presentations to municipal organizations and Green Teams, many of which are involved in Sustainable Jersey, a certification program that provides access to grants and identifies existing and new funding opportunities for municipalities that want to go green. NJMC presentations count for points toward Sustainable Jersey Certification. In 2012, the Commission gave talks at green fairs in Carlstadt and Secaucus and made a presentation to Rutherford residents and officials.



## RENEWABLE ENERGY

NJMC 1A Landfill Solar Project, Kearny



Solar Carport Canopy, NJMC Administration Office in Lyndhurst



**T**he NJMC continues to establish itself as a regional leader in the promotion of solar power. Major recent projects include a ground-breaking, large-scale solar farm built on a former landfill plus a solar carport canopy. The solar arrays bring environmental benefits to the region by reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and its accompanying carbon footprint. Governor Christie has highlighted the NJMC's solar projects as part of his vision for a cleaner and more affordable energy future which includes an emphasis on converting landfills to solar farms.

### NJMC 1A LANDFILL SOLAR PROJECT

In December 2011, the NJMC completed the construction of the first solar farm on a State-owned landfill, an innovative approach to finding a productive use for a landfill that has been closed for 30 years. The 3-megawatt installation at the NJMC 1A Landfill in Kearny includes 12,506 photovoltaic panels mounted on 13 acres atop the 35-acre landfill that supply electricity directly to the electric grid. The energy generated by the solar farm is enough to power approximately 500 average-sized homes. The project is a joint effort between the Commission, SunDurance Energy, the State Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G).

### SOLAR CANOPY

In January 2012, the Commission unveiled a 120-kilowatt solar carport canopy built over its administration building parking lot. The 504 solar panels on the canopy provide approximately 20 percent of the electricity needs of the Commission's headquarters.



## TRANSPORTATION

Secaucus Junction Train Station



Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus



### MASSTR PROJECT

In 2012, the NJMC began the first phase of construction for the Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System for Traffic Reduction project (MASSTR). The far-reaching initiative entails modernizing 128 signalized intersections throughout the region by using adaptive traffic signal control software, vehicle detection devices and wireless communication.

Using an intricate network of technology, including traffic signal controllers, detection devices, radio transmitters, antennas and computer servers, NJMC transportation engineers program traffic signals to continuously adjust timings based upon the changing flows of traffic in real-time and are able to make adjustments from the Commission's administration building. MASSTR is the first adaptive signal system of its kind in New Jersey and the largest system to be implemented at one time in the country.

The state-of-the-art project is expected to reduce vehicle delays by 1.2 million hours per year, gasoline consumption by more than 1.2 million gallons per year and harmful greenhouse gas emissions by more than 11,000 tons per year. The system is scheduled to go online in early 2013 at 29 signalized intersections in Secaucus. The remainder of the project is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

The majority of MASSTR is funded by a \$10 million federal grant awarded to the NJMC in 2010. The Meadowlands District Transportation Planning District fund is providing the remaining \$2.5 million.

### COMMUTER SHUTTLES

The NJMC co-sponsored Lyndhurst Corporate Shuttle program provides a valuable service on many levels. By making mass transit more accessible in the Meadowlands, the shuttle helps commuters save on fuel costs, expands the job pool for people without other means of transportation and benefits the environment by taking cars off the road and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Average ridership on the Lyndhurst Corporate Shuttle exceeded 130 passengers daily and 2,700 monthly in 2012, up 30 percent and 35 percent, respectively, from 2011.

The shuttle service transfers commuters, residents and students. It stops at the Kingsland Train Station in Lyndhurst, the Rutherford Train Station, several NJ Transit bus stops in each town, the Lyndhurst Corporate Center, the Lyndhurst campus of Bergen Community College, and the Meadowlands Environment Center and the Avalon Bay residential complex, both in Lyndhurst.

In 2012, the Carlstadt/Moonachie and Secaucus/North Bergen Corporate Shuttles were each awarded three-year Federal Transit Administration (FTA) CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) 75 percent matching grants to run services beginning in late 2013. The Meadowlands District Transportation Planning District fund will provide the matching funds.



Lyndhurst Corporate Shuttle

**T**he smooth flow of traffic and commerce is crucial to the success of the Meadowlands District's economy. More than 700,000 private, public and commercial vehicles travel daily through the region on vital commercial corridors including the New Jersey Turnpike and Routes 1&9, 3, 46 and 17. The NJMC's Meadowlands Adaptive Signal System for Traffic Reduction project (MASSTR) will play a key role in improving the flow of traffic and air quality throughout the region. The Commission co-sponsored Lyndhurst Corporate Shuttle is also boosting the economy and the environment by taking cars off the road and making jobs in the Meadowlands more accessible to a wider range of the population.

*NJMC Administrative Building Court Yard after Hurricane Sandy.*



*Photo courtesy of Eugene Casiere*

*Hurricane Sandy overwhelms a trail near DeKorte Park's Lyndhurst Nature Reserve.*



*Photo courtesy of Marco Van Brabant*

**O**ver the past four decades the NJMC has preserved more than 3,500 acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands and overseen or helped to improve more than 10 parks throughout the Meadowlands District.

Hurricane Sandy inflicted severe damage to the NJMC's parks and natural areas, including DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst, the home of the NJMC, Mill Creek Marsh in Secaucus, the Harrier Meadow Natural Area in North Arlington and River Barge Park in Carlstadt. In Sandy's wake the parks were strewn with downed trees and debris – 400 tons of debris was carted from DeKorte Park alone. The parks were forced to close for several weeks following the storm for emergency repairs and cleanups.

**HURRICANE SANDY**

The good news is that part of DeKorte Park and all of the Mill Creek Marsh trail system reopened by early December. Harrier Meadow is open once again for guided walks. River Barge Park is expected to open by early March. The Commission was able to bring the majority of its parks back online

thanks to a tremendous effort by its landscaping staff and dozens of volunteers who donated 269 hours of their time during five organized cleanup days.

Disasters bring out the best in us, and the NJMC cannot thank its wonderful

volunteers enough for helping make these incredible natural resources available to the public once again. Tens of thousands of people visit Commission parks each year, and we understand the importance of these natural resources to the public.



*Left and center, Harrier Meadow Cleanup, North Arlington*

*Marsh Discovery Trail, DeKorte Park*



**SNIPES PARK**

In the spring, the NJMC partnered with the Town of Secaucus and Hartz Mountain Industries to upgrade a 3-acre portion of Snipes Park, which is jointly owned by the NJMC and the Town of Secaucus. The NJMC provided concept design and coordinated efforts to remove overgrown vegetation and resurface trails in the park, located near the Hackensack River.

**MILL CREEK POINT PARK**

In the fall, the Commission expanded pedestrian circulation at Mill Creek Point Park in Secaucus by better connecting the existing promenade to the Secaucus High School Boardwalk along the Hackensack River. The work was funded by an award to the NJMC by the State Department of Environmental Protection through the National Recreational Trails Program. The Commission designed and built Mill Creek Point Park in 2004.

The park is now owned by Secaucus, which is working on modifications to the existing trail, stabilizing erosion, rebuilding a granite curb and creating planting beds. The NJMC designed the improvements and oversaw construction at no cost to the town.

**DEKORTE PARK**

Some 60,000 people visited DeKorte Park in 2012, the home of the NJMC. The one-square-mile park includes several nature trails, lined by native plants, that offer impressive views of wetlands and waterways framed by the New York City skyline.

As of this report's writing, the park's Kingsland Overlook Trail and Shorewalk Trail, with its great views of the waterfowl that inhabit DeKorte's Shorebird Pool and the birds soaring overhead, were reopened to the public. The Marsh Discovery Trail, which suffered major damage during Hurricane Sandy, and the adjacent Transco Trail, remain closed for repairs.

This year the NJMC upgraded entrances to DeKorte's buildings and planted a new butterfly garden at the AMVETS Carillon adjacent to the North Arlington Scenic Overlook. This will help accommodate the growing crowd at the NJMC's Annual Butterfly Day.

DeKorte Park is a testament to the continuing revitalization of the Meadowlands' unique urban eco-system. In 2010, the park was named by Birder's World, a national publication, as one of the country's top "Birding Hotspots." People from across New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut flock to DeKorte to see a wide array of birds throughout the year. Some 280 avian species have been seen in the District, including 34 on the State's Threatened, Endangered and Species of Special Concern lists.



DeKorte Park Walkways damaged by Hurrican Sandy



Mill Creek Marsh after Hurricane Sandy (top) and post cleanup (bottom)

**MILL CREEK MARSH**

This 209-acre site – once slated for more than 2,700 townhouses – includes ancient Atlantic White Cedar stumps, wonderful views of the Manhattan skyline and a 1.5-mile-long trail system popular with joggers, walkers, birders and other nature-lovers. The site was purchased by the NJMC in 1996; the Commission remediated the site and created the park. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, thanks to the hard work of NJMC landscaping crews and volunteers, the park was reopened in less than a month.



### RIVER BARGE PARK

In May, nearly 400 people attended River Barge Park Day, the grand opening of the 5.5-acre park and marina along the Hackensack River in Carlstadt. The majority of the event was funded by a \$7,000 grant awarded to the Commission by the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

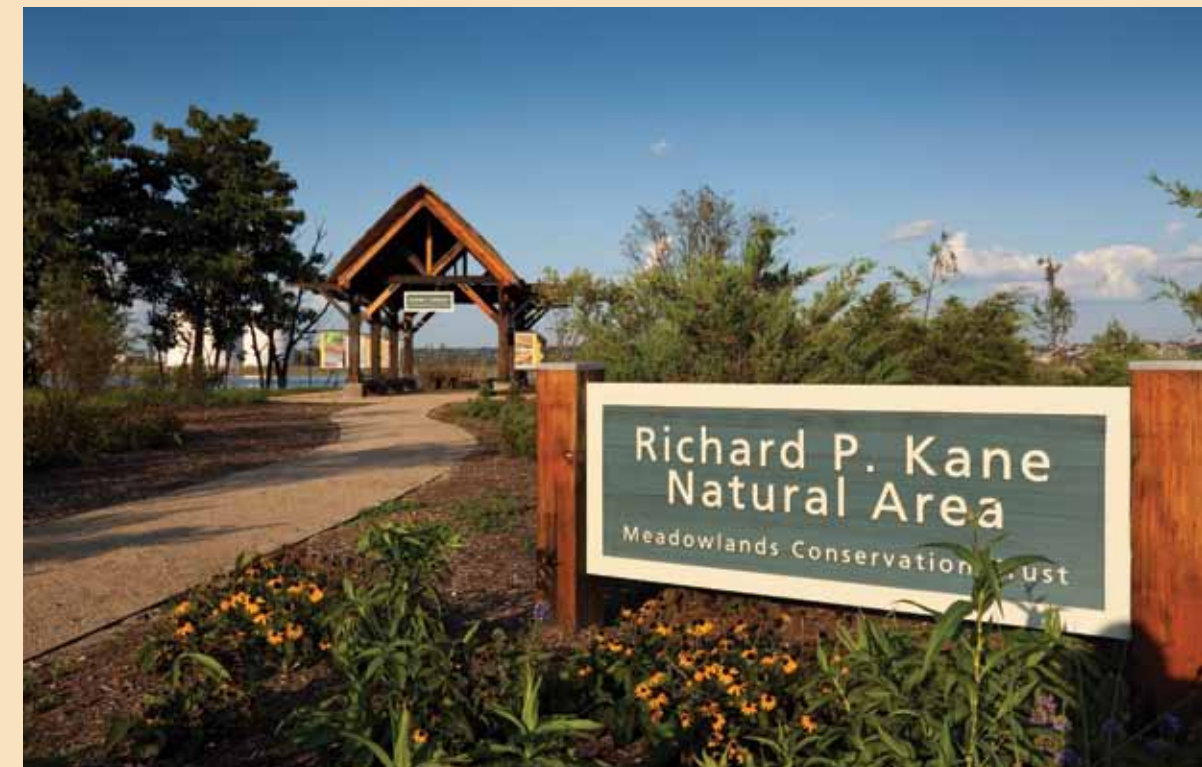
River Barge Park provides the first public access to the Hackensack River from its western banks in southern Bergen County in decades. The NJMC preserved the park property, which was once slated for residential development. Funding partners included The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and The Meadowlands Conservation Trust (MCT).

#### **The park's amenities include:**

- 30-foot by 120-foot boat ramp
- Rowing dock
- Canoe launch
- 30-slip marina
- Riverfront promenade
- Park trail
- Environmental education pavilion
- Storage buildings for NJMC pontoon boats and canoes
- Dock for catch-and-release fishing
- Wetland enhancement and native plantings
- Restored nautical artifacts
- Interpretive signage
- Handicapped-accessible docks
- Car and trailer parking



In October, the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Landscape Architects (NJASLA) awarded the NJMC a Chapter Award in Landscape Architecture – its highest honor - for its design of River Barge Park. Specifically, the Commission was honored for creating an ecologically sustainable site design by integrating strategies for storm water management, habitat restoration, reclaimed timber and energy efficient elements into the park's design. This marked the 28th time that the NJMC has received a NJASLA Design Award and the third time it has received a Chapter Award.



## ECOTOURISM



**T**hrough its ongoing efforts to promote the amazing natural beauty and wildlife found throughout the Meadowlands District, and the region's continuing environmental renaissance, the NJMC is establishing the Meadowlands as a premier ecotourism destination for people throughout New Jersey and beyond. The Commission's guided pontoon boat and canoe tours continue to grow in popularity, and year-round bird walks and special events help raise the District's profile while providing great natural escapes and educational experiences for all ages. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the NJMC is confident that people's desire to connect with nature through our exciting and educational ecotourism programs remains undiminished.



### PONTOON BOAT CRUISES AND CANOE TOURS

More than 1,200 people enjoyed up-close views of the Hackensack River and its marshes on the NJMC's guided pontoon boat cruises and canoe tours, with attendance up 20 percent from 2011 and 40 percent from 2010. The leisurely, two-to-three-hour excursions are led by experienced NJMC staff who discuss the region's human and environmental history and point out birds and other wildlife along the way. NJMC pontoon boat and canoe tours run from May through September.

### GUIDED BIRD WALKS

The NJMC and the Bergen County Audubon Society (BCAS) offer twice-monthly, free guided bird walks at locations throughout the Meadowlands District, including DeKorte Park, Laurel Hill County Park in Secaucus, Losen Slote Creek Park in Little Ferry and Harrier Meadow in North Arlington, a site that is normally closed to the public.



The wide array of birds to be seen in the Meadowlands range from Bald Eagles and migratory shorebirds in the spring and summer to Rough-legged Hawks and Canvasbacks in the winter. Rare bird sightings in 2012 included a Tricolored Heron, six Least Bitterns and several Soras at DeKorte Park. They attract birdwatchers from throughout the tri-state area eager to catch a glimpse and snap a photo of the elegant heron and the elusive bitterns and Soras.

### BACK TO FOOTBALL NATURE WALK

In September, the NJMC and the BCAS held a National Football League (NFL) "Back to Football Nature Walk" at DeKorte Park. Participants who were the first to spot a bird species with the same name as a pro football team received autographed helmets and footballs provided by the NFL. The bird species included cardinals, ravens, falcons, eagles and seahawks (Osprey). For the occasion, the Commission and BCAS honored the Super Bowl champion Giants by including the Giant egret and Giant blue heron on the list. The walk was selected by the NFL for its "Back to Football Week" programming and the League's initiative to promote the 2014 Super Bowl at MetLife Stadium.



**The Meadowlands Nature Blog**

New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

A celebration and exploration of the natural wonders in North Jersey's 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District

January 26, 2013

**Marco Van Brabant's Spectacular Sunrise**

Mill Creek Point Park (Secaucus)  
 Richard P. Kane Natural Area, Carlstadt, South Hackensack  
 Richard W. DeKorte Park (Lyndhurst)  
 River Barge Park and Marina (Carlstadt)



Butterfly Day at DeKorte Park attracted nearly 700 visitors



Kevin Karlson Shorebird Day at DeKorte Park brought out more than 100 birders

**NATURE BLOG**

The Commission's Nature Blog, [www.meadowblog.net](http://www.meadowblog.net), promotes ecotourism and environmental conservation by providing the public with daily photos of the region's breathtaking fauna and flora and information about upcoming NJMC events. Residents are encouraged to share their photos and report their observations from around the District. The blog has become a go-to resource for nature lovers, with many people checking for updates several times a day. The blog now averages 12,000 page views per month and in January 2013, hit a milestone of 500,000 page views.

**BUTTERFLY DAY**

Nearly 700 people attended the NJMC's Third Annual Butterfly Day at DeKorte Park in July, a record number. Visitors, the majority of which were families, marveled at the plethora of winged wonders to be seen at the Jill Ann Ziemkiewicz Memorial Butterfly Garden and along the park's trails. Twenty-one species were seen in all, including the first sighting of a Meadow Fritillary at DeKorte Park. The Jill Ann Ziemkiewicz Memorial Butterfly Garden honors the memory of a 23-year-old Rutherford resident who was the youngest member of the flight crew on TWA Flight 800, which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean in July 1996.

**KEVIN KARLSON SHOREBIRD DAY**

In August, the Commission hosted the fourth annual Kevin Karlson Shorebird Day. Karlson, a noted shorebird expert and nature photographer, led bird walks, presented birding tips and talked about his latest books. The day also included a wildlife photography workshop. More than 100 birders attended the event.



**"THE LOST BIRD PROJECT"**

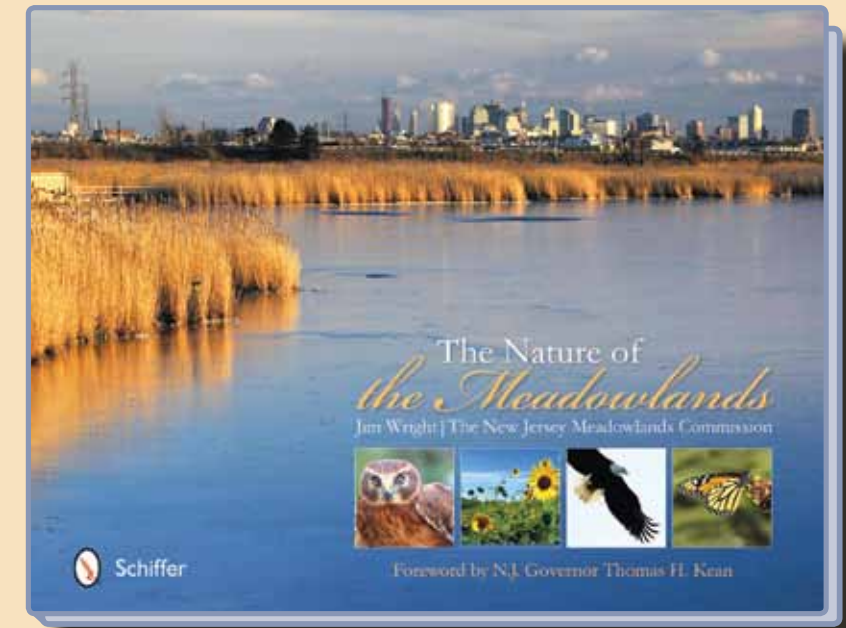
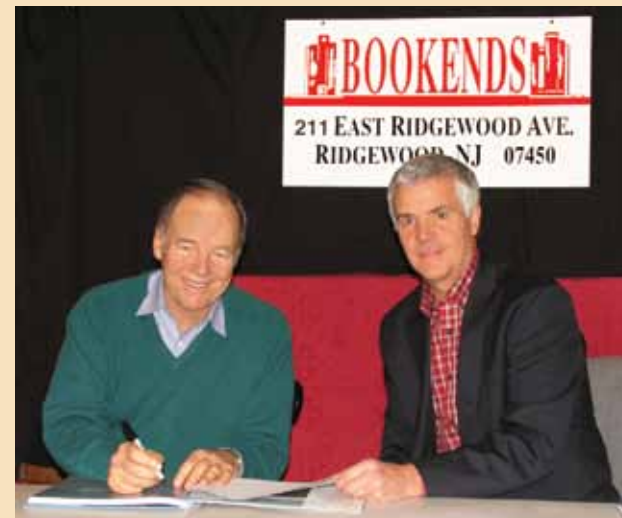
In September, more than 120 people attended a special screening at the NJMC of "The Lost Bird Project." The acclaimed new documentary chronicles the stories of five birds driven to extinction in modern times and sculptor Todd McGrain's project to memorialize them.

**"THE NATURE OF THE MEADOWLANDS"**

The NJMC's new coffee-table book, "The Nature of the Meadowlands," written by staffer Jim Wright, was published in October. Governor Thomas H. Kean wrote the foreword to the lavishly illustrated, 128-page chronicle of the region's natural and unnatural history — including its darkest days of a half-century ago and its inspiring environmental revival. The Commission hosted a special book talk and signing with Wright and Governor Kean to celebrate its publication. All proceeds from the book benefit the Commission's environmental programs.

"The Nature of the Meadowlands" features dozens of striking images, from present-day nature and landscape photography to rare archival photos. Individual chapters are devoted to birds, butterflies and mammals — with a final photo-essay chapter that captures the essence of the Meadowlands throughout the year.

Governor Thomas H. Kean and author Jim Wright



Lyndhurst Nature Reserve — Photo courtesy of Marco Van Brabant



## MEADOWLANDS RESEARCH

Secaucus High School along Hackensack River



**I**mprovements to the Meadowlands' unique urban ecosystem are supported by the work of the NJMC's Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI) and Natural Resources Department. MERI, the Commission's science and technology arm, conducts ongoing monitoring and studies of the region's air, soils and water. The Natural Resources Department conducts surveys on area wildlife and looks for ways to enhance and preserve the environment by protecting native plants and species and finding ways to eliminate or reduce the spread of invasive flora and fauna.

Within a month after Hurricane Sandy destroyed several MERI field monitoring stations, the NJMC and its research partners from Rutgers and Princeton Universities received a \$90,000 National Science Foundation Grant to replace the monitoring equipment. The new stations will allow MERI scientists and their partners to study the storm's effect on methane and carbon emissions in the region's wetlands.

Additionally, the new stations are expected to be in place by spring 2013 and will measure the amount of harmful methane and carbon emissions from coastal wetlands that can impact the region's contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. The results will provide a unique baseline to compare the release rates of these greenhouse gases during large storm events and for years to come.

The monitoring stations that were not damaged captured water levels within the District throughout the storm — the NJMC believes this to be the only data collected on Hurricane Sandy in the Meadowlands estuary.



### NATURAL RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

The Commission's ongoing Diamondback Terrapin population study continued to return positive results. In 2012, researchers found that the majority of turtles caught had not been previously tagged, an encouraging sign that points to a large population as a result of a cleaner Hackensack River. Since 2009, naturalists have tagged 900 of the turtles. Diamondback Terrapins

surveyed during the study are marked and released, unharmed, at their place of origin.

The turtle study, which includes collaboration with scientists and students from The Wetlands Institute based in Stone Harbor, and Montclair State University, will help the NJMC answer questions about the life history of terrapins in the Meadowlands, including population size, how far the turtles move within a marsh and their growth rate.

NJMC naturalists also continued to monitor a biological control project using weevils to eradicate one of the District's more invasive weeds, known as mile-a-minute for its rapid growth.

Also, staff continued surveying the diversity, abundance and duration of time that migratory birds use Commission landfills and the Harrier Meadow enhancement site as feeding grounds during their stopovers in the Meadowlands. High-tech microphones and recording equipment are used to track the number of birds that fly over the landfills. Over the past five years the NJMC has surveyed more than 20,000 birds.

Plant surveys were conducted at more than 25 sites throughout the District. Plant diversity and distribution are used as major criteria in evaluating the ecological health of wetlands and play an important role in the success of the NJMC's efforts at ecological enhancement.

### MERI HIGHLIGHTS

In March, MERI upgraded one of its laboratories to federal "Class 100" clean standards, new guidelines that require more stringent laboratory testing methods that can detect mercury and other metals at very low concentrations. The lab is now outfitted with three high-tech air filters that allow scientists to conduct more extensive and reliable metal testing and analysis of water and sediments.

MERI "Class 100" Clean Lab



A study that measures the influence of estuary environmental factors on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by District wetlands that began in 2011 continued throughout 2012. The research is funded by a \$300,000 National Science Foundation grant administered through MERI.

This year, MERI scientists continued their ongoing use of remote sensing hyper spectral imagery to identify endangered plant species and characterize large tracts of land that are difficult to access by foot.

Over the summer, researchers performed deep coring on wetland sediments, extracting several thousand-year-old sediment core samples from District marshes. These will help scientists understand past catastrophic events and how well marshes sequester harmful greenhouse gases.

### MERI LIBRARY

The MERI library holds the collective memory of the Commission. Its collection includes more than 12,000 hard copy and digitalized books, engineering reports, research studies, photographs, maps, newspaper clippings and other current and historical documents related to the Meadowlands District. The library is open to the public.

Marsh Discovery Trail, DeKorte Park



**T**he Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC) offers innovative, hands-on physical and natural science programs for Grades K-12 at the Center for Environmental and Scientific Education (Science Center), an NJMC facility run by Ramapo College. The facility was the first public building in New Jersey to be awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum Certification – the highest rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. The Science Center itself is used as a teaching tool, as instructors explain how its rooftop solar panels, building materials made from recycled products and other aspects of sustainable building benefit the environment.

MEC Science Center



**SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

The MEC’s environmental science programs continue to be in high demand. More than 15,000 students participated in the 2011-12 school year and the same amount registered for 2012-2013. The programs provide an opportunity to teach students from suburban and urban areas about the importance of the Meadowlands’ wetlands and its unique urban eco-system.

Lessons cover a wide array of scientific disciplines, including ecology, chemistry, biology, physics, natural history and astronomy and comply with New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. The MEC currently offers nearly 30 programs. Educators incorporate DeKorte Park into lesson plans, providing children and teens with an up-close introduction to nature and real-world examples of scientific concepts.

Young children visit the salt marshes in DeKorte Park, interact with live creatures and learn about animal adaptations. Grade school and middle school students dip-net for fish in the marsh, perform water chemistry tests, observe aquatic organisms under the microscope and design model green homes based on eco-engineering principles.

High school students examine how different trophic levels affect the ecosystem, study the lifecycle of stars and use water sampling techniques and problem-based learning strategies to decide what is responsible for causing a simulated fish kill.

Other programs focus on the Meadowlands’ archaeological past and the damage done to local habitats by pollutants and the remediation techniques that helped spark the region’s environmental comeback.

**MARSHACCESS**

The MEC MarshAccess program is dedicated to offering an extensive range of environmental education experiences for children and adults with wide-ranging disabilities. The pioneering program, which serves as a nationwide model, provides hands-on and field-based learning for those with developmental, visual, hearing, mobility, learning/cognitive and age-related disabilities. MarshAccess works with several county and municipal organizations, schools and non-profits to provide these services.

Programs are centered upon the Meadowlands’ ecosystem. Participants learn about nature by exploring DeKorte Park through its accessible trails – some of the only paths in the State that are wide enough for wheelchair access. An audio kiosk describes the park’s native plants and animals, and a sensory garden brings a variety of native plants chosen for their tactile features within reach of visitors with limited mobility. State-of-the-art assistive tactile, visual and audio technologies are provided to fit participants’ individual needs.

**TEACHER EDUCATION**

In 2012, the MEC hosted several professional development activities for educators from 13 school districts throughout New Jersey. The third Math/ Science Partnership (MSP) summer institute was held at the MEC in July and August. In May, the MEC hosted “Teach at the Beach,” a statewide program presented by the New Jersey Marine Education Association in which educators learned how to bring the treasures of marine life into the classroom.

*Seining in the Marsh*

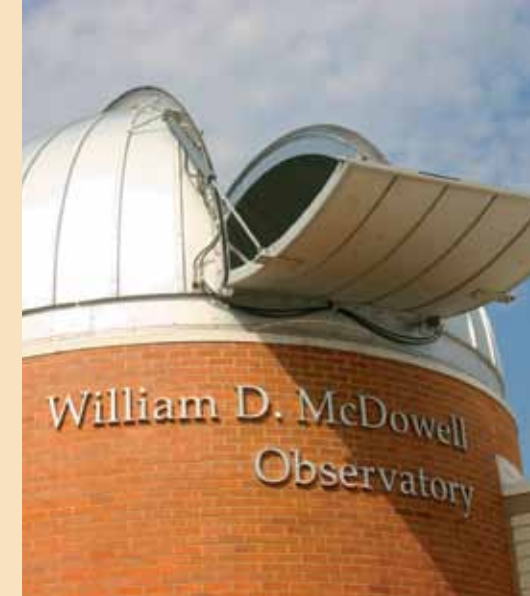


**E**ducational programs and workshops for all ages focused on the Meadowlands' environment, wildlife and history are held year-round at the Meadowlands Environment Center (MEC). The MEC also houses the Flyway Gallery and the newly updated Tideland Treasures Gift Shop. The William D. McDowell Observatory, also located on the NJMC campus, provides free, twice-weekly stargazing all year through a research-grade telescope.

**MEC PROGRAMS**

More than 1,600 people attended MEC educational programs in 2012. A new series, "Family Science Nights," launched in September, provides interactive workshops dedicated to bringing parents and children together to experience the wonders of nature. Topics included "Build an Aquarium" and "Keeping Track," which taught kids how to identify animals based on their footprints. Other fall highlights included a seining adventure in which participants learned how to fish with nets in the marsh. Highlights of the Winter-Spring schedule included programs on hydroponic gardening, fresh-water fishing and an opportunity for children to collect and examine live creatures from the marsh.

The NJMC's annual Summer Senior Program centered on historical talks focused on the geographical and human history of the Meadowlands, including how the ruins of New York's Penn Station were found in the area and a look back at the region's legendary pig farms.



**NJMC WILLIAM D. MCDOWELL OBSERVATORY**

More than 3,000 stargazers viewed planets, constellations and other celestial bodies through the Commission's state-of-the-art telescope at the NJMC William D. McDowell Observatory. The Transit of Venus served as the major astronomical event of 2012. Some 200 people came out to the observatory in June to witness Venus passing between the sun and earth, an occurrence that will not happen again until 2017.

**"RE-FRIEND YOUR TELESCOPE"**

A new program, "Re-Friend Your Telescope," launched in September at the observatory. Participants brought their personal telescopes to the observatory and learned how to best use them to identify celestial objects in the night sky. Observatory staff explained and demonstrated how to properly assemble and align the telescopes and gave maintenance and cleaning tips.

The William D. McDowell Observatory is open year-round on Monday and Wednesday nights to the public for free, weather permitting. An astronomy learning series, "Let's Talk Astronomy," is held on Tuesday nights.

**NJMC FLYWAY GALLERY**

The Flyway Gallery, located in the MEC, was established in 2002 to spotlight local artists whose diverse work brings new and unique perspectives to the environment in and around the Meadowlands. Monthly exhibits feature everything from nature, wildlife and landscape photography and oil and water paintings to multi-media works. Highlights in 2012 included an exhibit of original illustrations from Thomas F. Yezerksi's acclaimed children's book, "Meadowlands: A Wetlands Survival Story," and the Art Association of Rutherford's 65th Annual Open Juried Show.

**TIDELAND TREASURES**

In March, the NJMC celebrated the grand reopening of its Tideland Treasures Gift Shop. The newly updated store now features a wide variety of environmentally themed educational games, science kits, birding books and home and garden décor for all ages. Tideland Treasures' many appealing items range from jigsaw puzzles, Meadowlands T-Shirts and solar-powered robots to mobiles, hand-painted bird baths and feeders.

**SUMMER CAMPS**

Children entering Grades K-6 from local recreational programs took part in fun, educational camp experiences in DeKorte Park, exploring the marsh, food chains, animal adaptations, insects and the solar system. In 2012, nearly 800 children from 18 communities participated in summer camp activities.

*Measuring Water Salinity at DeKorte Park*



**COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
DECEMBER 31, 2011**

**REVENUES**

Solid Waste Overhead Contribution	\$ 2,537,737
Grants	9,731,366
Fees & Charges	1,540,346
AHA Reimbursement for Legal Services	250,000
Revenues from Composting Operations	466,939
Mitigation Trust Reimbursements	448,809
Lease Payments	93,614
Interest Income	125,501
Other Income	355,937
User Fees - NJMCEC	94,158
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$15,644,407</b>

**OPERATING EXPENDITURES**

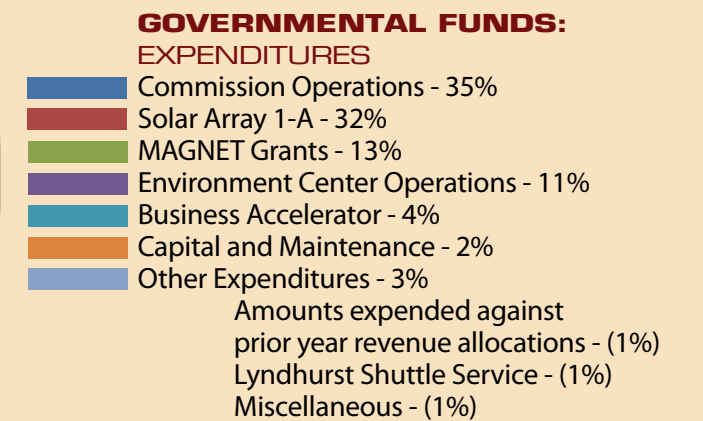
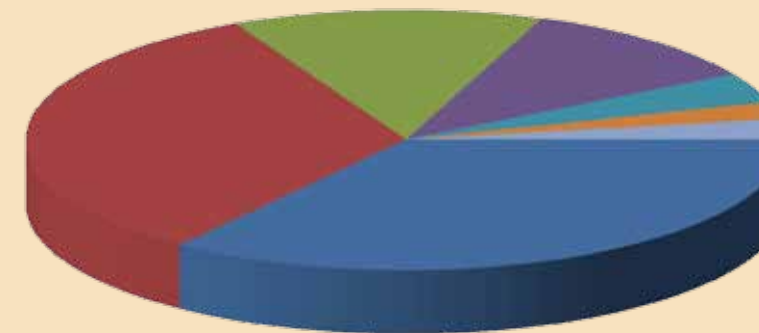
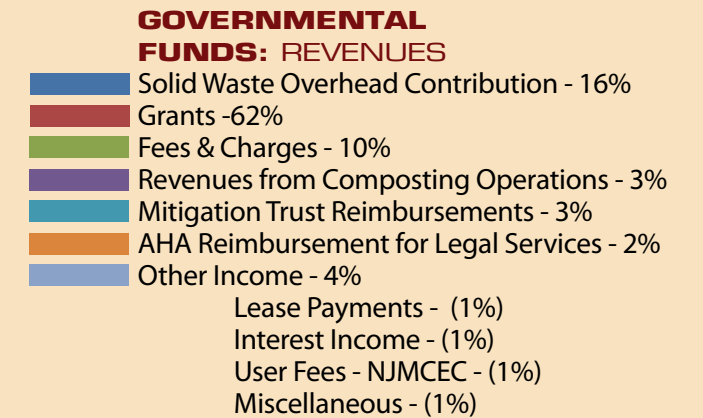
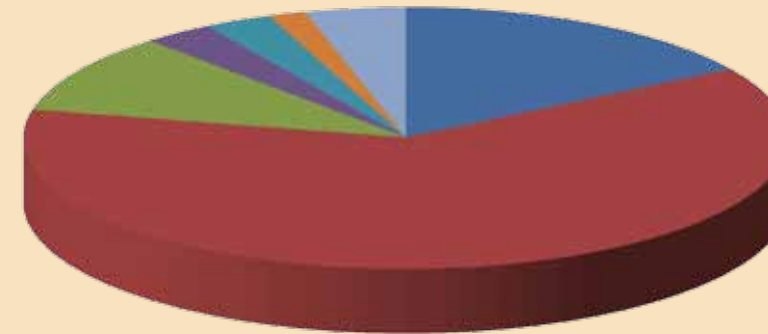
Commission Operations	\$ 7,634,024
Environment Center Operations	2,338,273
Solar Array 1-A	7,063,460
Business Accelerator	821,435
Capital and Maintenance	448,597
Lyndhurst Shuttle Service	57,086
Other Expenditures	199,842
<b>Total Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$18,562,717</b>

Excess of Expenditures over Revenues Prior to Non-Operating Costs	\$ (2,918,310)
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**NON-OPERATING EXPENDITURES**

MAGNET Grants	2,892,448
Amounts expended against prior year revenue allocations	301,685
<b>Total Non-Operating Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,194,133</b>

Net Excess of Expenditures over Revenues	\$(6,112,443)
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## SOME RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS

### STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

#### SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS DECEMBER 31, 2011

##### REVENUES:

Operating Revenue	\$21,249,194
Non-Operating Revenue	2,917,590

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<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$24,166,784</b>
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##### EXPENSES

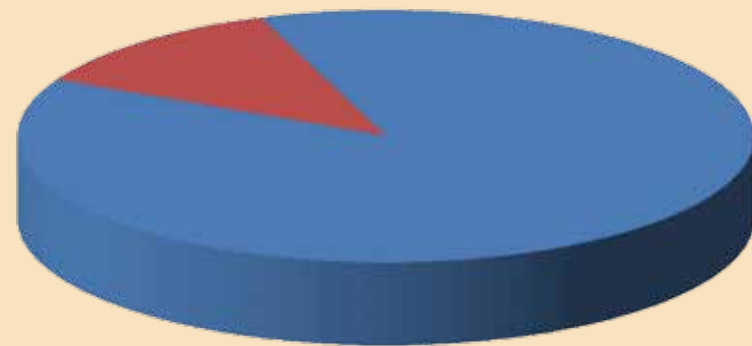
General Operating Costs	\$8,743,231
Landfill Operations	5,461,005
MERI/Laboratory/Parks & Open Space	2,437,488
Payments to County Utility Authority	3,535,815
Closure Expenses	1,679,731
Other Expenses	875,407

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<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$22,732,677</b>
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Net Income	\$1,434,107
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##### SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS: REVENUES

- Operating Revenue - 88%
- Non-operating Revenue - 12%



##### SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS: EXPENDITURES

- General Operating Costs - 38%
- Landfill Operations - 24%
- MERI Laboratory - 11%
- Payments to County Utility Authority - 16%
- Closure Expenses - 7%
- Other Expenses - 4%



Tricolored Heron



Red-breasted Nuthatch



Pine Siskin



Long-eared Owl



Pair of Eagles perch over their nest

