30 Years of Parks Development Progress on the Tidal Passaic River

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Project Area – East Bank, Lower Passaic River
Passaic River Restoration Project – 1980s Master Plans

- 3 plans, NJDEP grants
- 1982 – Rutherford to Kearny
- 1984 – Wallington and East Rutherford
- 1987 – Garfield and Harrison + updates
- 30+ years of project implementation
- Municipalities, counties and PRC active partners
Success in Garfield
Success in Rutherford and Kearny
Ones That Got Away – In Part

Wallington

Harrison
30 Years On – New Planning

- Demographics
- Environmental Attributes
- Land Value Analysis
- Flood Risks
- Passaic River is the focus of population for all project municipalities
Demographics

![Map showing demographics with categories for median age and 65 years over percentage. The map includes municipalities like Garfield City, Washington Borough, Rutherford Borough, East Rutherford Borough, Lyndhurst Township, North Arlington Borough, and Kearny Town. The legend indicates different shades representing age groups and waterbodies like Passaic River and Other Waterbody.](image)
Median Incomes

- **NJ 2010 Median Household Income**: $81,037
- **Project Area – only Rutherford above NJ**: $85,783
Assessed Land Values
Flood Risks

- FEMA FIRMs
- Also evaluated sea level rise
- Much of the Passaic River has steep banks
- Some flood hazard areas already in parks
Planning Principles

1. Focus on the Passaic River
2. Encourage development benefiting from proximity to river
3. No projects posing threats to the river
4. Priority for projects reliant on the river
5. View river as an entire system
6. Incremental implementation
7. Open ended plan
8. Public access in redevelopment
9. Linear pathway linking nodes of interest
10. Enhance river viewing by landscape design
11. Protect ecological integrity of land, water and interface
12. Use existing spaces, add property when feasible
Complementary Efforts

- Passaic River Canoe and Kayak Trail
- City of Passaic Eastside Neighborhood Project (Passaic River west bank)
- Lower Passaic River Restoration Project (Superfund Site)
- Redevelopment Plans – Garfield, Kearny, Harrison
Linear Pathway – Easy and Hard
Redevelopment and Risks
Linking Business and River
Land Constraints
Accommodating Nature
Next Steps

- Full draft provided to municipalities and counties
- Comments and ideas solicited
- Final plan this year
- PRC has some land acquisition funding
- Other funding sources possible

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