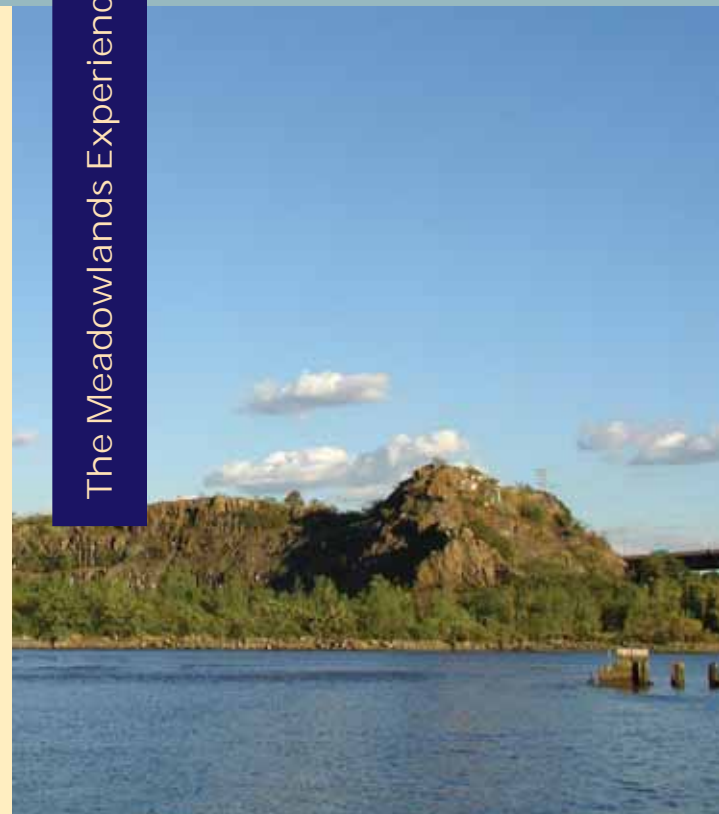




- † Pontoon boat cruises and guided canoe tours
- † Annual Halloween party with spooky walk
- † The Interactive Learning Center
- † The Flyway Gallery
- † Richard W. DeKorte Park Nature Walks
- † The Jill Ann Ziemkiewicz Memorial Butterfly Garden
- † "Earth Spiral" by Elaine Lorenz
- † Public speakers program
- † The Cove's World Trade Center Memorial
- † Field trips for all grades
- † Student convocations
- † Teacher workshops
- † Graduate-level courses
- † Traveling educational programs
- † Laboratory workshops for high school and college students
- † Yearly conservation projects
- † MERI - The Meadowlands Environmental Institute
- † MERI's Digital Meadowlands
- † MERI Library
- † Free trail guides
- † Volunteer opportunities



The Meadowlands Commission, a zoning and regulatory agency for 14 towns along the Hackensack River, has been increasing the number of visitors who explore the Meadowlands each year. The NJMC operates a fleet of canoes and radio-equipped, spacious pontoon boats. All boats are equipped with Coast Guard approved safety devices and several are handicapped accessible. Our expert cruise staff is certified in boating through programs by the U.S. Coast Guard and the State of New Jersey, and certified in first aid and CPR. To register for a canoe tour or cruise, call the NJMC at (201) 460-4640 or download a registration form at www.njmeadowlands.gov.

The 32-square-mile Meadowlands District and its activities are overseen by the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, which is chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs and comprised of six commissioners from Bergen and Hudson counties. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission's mission is to protect the delicate balance of nature; to provide for orderly development; and to provide facilities for the disposal of solid waste.

Governor
Jon S. Corzine

Chairman
Joseph V. Doria, Jr.

Commissioners
James A. Anzevino
Michael J. Gonnelli
Leonard R. Kaiser
Mia M. Macri
Eleanore S. Nissley
Arleen F. Walther

Executive Director
Robert Ceberio



New Jersey Meadowlands Commission
One DeKorte Park Plaza • Lyndhurst, New Jersey • 07071
(201) 460-1700 • www.njmeadowlands.gov

Meadowlands Environment Center
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New Jersey Meadowlands Commission

Come and explore the New Jersey Meadowlands!

The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission invites you to explore the Hackensack River

The thriving marshes and recreational opportunities along the Hackensack River are the best kept secrets of the 32-square mile Meadowlands District.

By continuing to carve places out of our urbanized landscape for parks and walkways, purchasing open space for preservation and launching pontoon boat cruises and guided canoe tours every summer into hidden waterways, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is doing its part to get the word out and celebrate another of New Jersey's unique places.

We extend an invitation to the traveling family who will find a new destination for fun and discovery, to the office employee who can end the workday with the surprising light cast on Manhattan's skyscrapers while Egrets travel homeward, and to the photographer who can capture a rare photo of secretive birds hiding in the reeds.

It is a chance to learn surprising history and gritty legends hidden in an urban oasis.

Though it is many experiences to many people, we hope there is one common feeling that unites all: a desire to appreciate and preserve the thriving wonders of the Meadowlands region.



See the local wildlife

More than 260 bird species have been reported in the Meadowlands, from metallic blue Tree Swallows perched on nest boxes to Snowy Egrets wading along the shoreline. Watch for Double-crested Cormorants on top of tide gates and Osprey waiting under highway bridges to dive into the river and come back up with a fish. Listen to the song of the Marsh Wren coming from the reeds. Check out Fiddler Crabs digging in along the riverbank. Diamond-back Terrapin can be seen in



shallow waters, and Muskrat huts rise above the land. With New York City just a few miles away, the Meadowlands is home to some of nature's greatest wonders.



Learn about the region's history

A combination of natural and human actions created today's Meadowlands. Our expert tour staff will tell you about the Wisconsin Glacier that shaped the region, the Lenape Native Americans who first lived here, and

the early Europeans who cleared its Atlantic White Cedar forests to build. Find out how tide gates, the construction of the Oradell Dam and fierce storms all played a role in the region's natural history. Listen to tales of river barges and railroads, pirates hiding out along Carlstadt's Paterson Plank Road, and black snakes scaring settlers away from Secaucus' Laurel Hill. Learn about the NJMC's preservation of parks and wetlands, as well as ongoing efforts to restore the ecosystem to balance.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride

The easy pace and natural serenity of an NJMC pontoon boat cruise offers an unforgettable experience of wetlands

and wildlife. Cruises depart from the River Barge Park and Marina in Carlstadt, and last for about two hours, depending on the tide. For the more adventurous explorer, take to the river one weekend morning for a guided canoe tour. Bring a friend, and bring a camera!



Photo courtesy of Angel Reytor.

The New Jersey Meadowlands Hackensack River.

The Hackensack River is 60 miles long, beginning in Lake Lucille in Rockland County, New York and filtering down to the Newark Bay. The water is a combination of fresh and salt water referred to as brackish.

The Meadowlands District includes 14 municipalities in Hudson and Bergen Counties along the Hackensack River. They are: Little Ferry, South Hackensack, Teterboro, Moonachie, Carlstadt, East Rutherford, Rutherford, Lyndhurst, North Arlington, Kearny, Jersey City, Secaucus, North Bergen and Ridgefield.

1 River Barge Park and Marina (Carlstadt) formerly known as the Barge Club, this site was home to a waterfront bar and restaurant for nearly 30 years. The NJMC will turn the site into the first public marina on the Hackensack River.

2 The Richard P. Kane Natural Area (Carlstadt, Moonachie, South Hackensack). This 587-acre tract of land is owned by the Meadowlands Conservation Trust, which preserves land as habitat for birds and wildlife.

3 Mill Creek Point Park (Secaucus) Once a site of a sawmill and more recently a restaurant called Tony's Old Mill, the land has now been utilized as a public park with a launch for canoes and kayaks, an area for viewing wildlife and an area for catch-and-release fishing.

4 Mill Creek (Secaucus) This 206-acre area was purchased by the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission in 1999. It was the first wetlands enhancement project the NJMC managed.

5 Secaucus High School Marsh (Secaucus) The marsh will soon be hardwired with equipment providing valuable data to researchers and lessons to high school science classes.

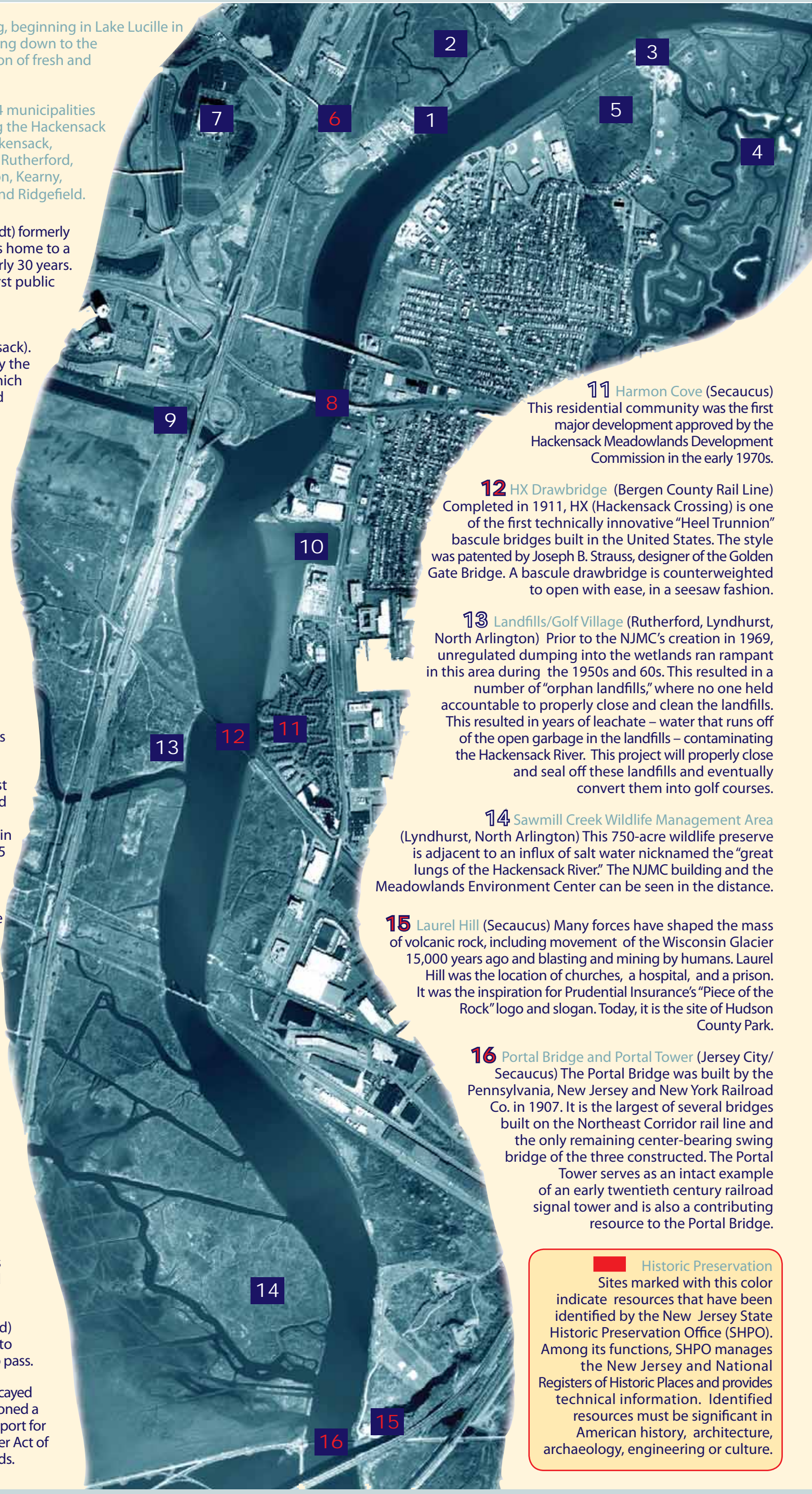
6 Paterson Plank Road (Carlstadt, East Rutherford) The now heavily-trafficked industrial artery was once one of the longest wood-surface turnpike roads in the state of New Jersey. It stretched 15 miles, connecting Paterson to Hoboken via a swing bridge across the Hackensack River. In East Rutherford, an exposed portion of the road where it meets the western shore of the river has been identified as a historic resource.

7 Continental Airlines Arena (East Rutherford) The building, along with Giants Stadium, the Meadowlands Racetrack and the future Xanadu complex, is on property owned and administrated by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

8 Route 3 Bridges (East Rutherford, Secaucus) The bridge to the south, constructed in 1931, rose high above the Hackensack River to offer motorists a quick commute between Manhattan and the suburbs. It now only services east bound traffic. A second bridge was constructed later, servicing west bound traffic.

9 Berry's Creek Canal (East Rutherford) In 1908, the Erie Railroad dug a canal to deepen waters and allow large boats to pass.

10 Mud Flats (Secaucus) Formed by decayed phragmites, Curtiss Wright once envisioned a large section of mud flat shoreline as a port for seaplanes. Under the federal Clean Water Act of 1977, the area is now preserved wetlands.



11 Harmon Cove (Secaucus) This residential community was the first major development approved by the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission in the early 1970s.

12 HX Drawbridge (Bergen County Rail Line) Completed in 1911, HX (Hackensack Crossing) is one of the first technically innovative "Heel Trunnion" bascule bridges built in the United States. The style was patented by Joseph B. Strauss, designer of the Golden Gate Bridge. A bascule drawbridge is counterweighted to open with ease, in a seesaw fashion.

13 Landfills/Golf Village (Rutherford, Lyndhurst, North Arlington) Prior to the NJMC's creation in 1969, unregulated dumping into the wetlands ran rampant in this area during the 1950s and 60s. This resulted in a number of "orphan landfills," where no one held accountable to properly close and clean the landfills. This resulted in years of leachate – water that runs off of the open garbage in the landfills – contaminating the Hackensack River. This project will properly close and seal off these landfills and eventually convert them into golf courses.

14 Sawmill Creek Wildlife Management Area (Lyndhurst, North Arlington) This 750-acre wildlife preserve is adjacent to an influx of salt water nicknamed the "great lungs of the Hackensack River." The NJMC building and the Meadowlands Environment Center can be seen in the distance.

15 Laurel Hill (Secaucus) Many forces have shaped the mass of volcanic rock, including movement of the Wisconsin Glacier 15,000 years ago and blasting and mining by humans. Laurel Hill was the location of churches, a hospital, and a prison. It was the inspiration for Prudential Insurance's "Piece of the Rock" logo and slogan. Today, it is the site of Hudson County Park.

16 Portal Bridge and Portal Tower (Jersey City/Secaucus) The Portal Bridge was built by the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York Railroad Co. in 1907. It is the largest of several bridges built on the Northeast Corridor rail line and the only remaining center-bearing swing bridge of the three constructed. The Portal Tower serves as an intact example of an early twentieth century railroad signal tower and is also a contributing resource to the Portal Bridge.

Historic Preservation

Sites marked with this color indicate resources that have been identified by the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Among its functions, SHPO manages the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places and provides technical information. Identified resources must be significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture.