

Plans, Master Plans and Amendments

Report to the Board May 9, 2024, through June 13, 2024

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| Municipality | Borough of Chatham |
| Document | Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) |
| Public Hearing | 6/19/24 |
| Summary | Update to the Borough’s 2012 ERI prepared by the Land Conservancy of NJ. |

- The 2012 ERI was incorporated into the Borough Master Plan in 2016. The current 2024 ERI has been in development since 2019.
- The ERI focuses on the inventory of identified conditions; it does not make recommendations for potential policy changes related to those conditions. The ERI is intended to provide comprehensive knowledge of natural resources “to allow municipal officials and citizens to make informed decisions as they protect the character of the Borough and work to create a sustainable community within its landscape.” The Executive Summary reports that the priorities for the Borough include “the protection of its drinking water supplies and the protection of wetlands and riparian corridors of the Passaic River, which form the backdrop of the municipality, frame its landscape and provide both unique habitat for wildlife and flora, and offer storm water storage during severe weather events.”
- The ERI covers existing environmental conditions including Geology/Topography, Soils, Land Use/Land Cover and Historic Sites, Vegetation, Wildlife/Threatened and Endangered Species, Hydrology, Wetlands/Riparian Areas/Flood Zones, Water Quality, Climate/Air, Climate Change and Known Contaminated Sites.
- Chapters on Climate and Air, Climate Change and Known Contaminated Sites are additions since the adoption of the 2012 ERI.
- The Climate and Air Chapter provides information on annual temperature, precipitation, air quality and air pollutants. A review of temperatures finds that nine of the twelve months have experienced record high temperatures since 2010 (excluding February, October and November). A detailed review of air quality and pollutants for which the EPA has set standards is provided, i.e., ozone, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter and lead.
- The chapter on Climate Change addresses topics including wildfires, carbon storage, urban heat islands, plant hardiness zones and the need to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Much of the information in this section is derived from NJDEP studies.
- Contaminated site information is based on information on Brownfields, the NJ Community Right-To-Know program and Known Contaminated Sites identified by the NJDEP. There are 14 active Known Contaminated Sites in the Borough, all of which are non-homeowner sites.