



**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS**  
**MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2022**  
22 Snug Harbor Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732  
Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 7:00 PM

---

The June Report is as follows. All constructions dates are weather permitting:

- Construction Updates
  - **Off Leash Dog Run @ Popamora Point** – Opened on 6/6. A big thank you to Monmouth County.
  - **Matthews & King Streets** - Work started in April. Completed 6/14.
  - **North St pump upgrades** – Elevated shed is completed. Waiting for a breaker panel.
  - **Municipal Building** – June updates include beginning the installation of: underground water retention system, concrete retaining wall, building excavation & footings.
  - **South Bay & Hillside Ave** - The improvements will include sanitary sewer, storm sewer, concrete improvements and repaving. Work to start in July and be substantially complete in August.
  - **I-Bank large sanitary sewer project for Waterwitch Area Phase 1** - Mark outs on Bay Ave 6/7, work to start in July.
  - **Waterwitch Pump Station** – Replace structure, update electric. Awarded to Shorelands 6/15.
  - **Snug Harbor Park Updates** - Playground area, basketball & tennis courts. Work to start in August after camp is over. Funding includes \$125,000 Monmouth County Open Space Grant, awarded 12/5/2018.
  - **Skate Park** - Construction Drawings to be submit to CARFA in June, review approx. 90 days.
- Upcoming Projects
  - **Twin Lights/Hillside Drainage** – Bids due 6/22. In Attorney review.
  - **Update Ederle Park** – Bids due 6/22. In Attorney review.
  - **Marine Pl Elevated Walkway West [Snug Harbor]** – Design is with Engineering. CDBG grant \$179,000.
  - **171 Bay Ave EV Charging Station** – Waiting for BPU contract. DEP grant \$75,000.
  - **Update Frank Hall Park** – Joint venture with the Open Space, Lions Club and Green Team.
  - **Update Vets Park** - Plans are with Engineering. Local Recreation grant from DCA \$75,000.
  - **Create Overlook Park [empty lot on NJSH 36]** - Plans are with Engineering.
- Regionalization Update
  - All 3 School Districts & 3 Municipalities passed their resolutions to ask permission from the Commissioner of Education to regionalize.
  - Sea Bight Council unanimously passed a resolution on 6/21<sup>st</sup> indemnifying the 3 towns and 3 boards. The 3 Mayors have signed the indemnification agreement. To date, 7/1, the boards have not signed.
  - Public Question to be sent to the Commissioner in July.
  - Funding formula to be set in July.
  - Approved Public Question to be sent to the Monmouth County Clerk by 8/19.
- AINR Update – No updates at this time.
- Grants/Funds Update – Awarded \$551,842 so far this year.
  - **Boards of Public Utilities Community Energy Plan** – Awarded \$10,000 on 6/10.
  - **NJDEP Community Based Arts Grant** climate impacts in coastal areas, due 7/8.
  - **Community Development Block Grant** – Elevated walkway East [Sea Drift] on Marine Pl, due 7/22.
  - **NJDEP Natural Climate Solutions Grant** for the natural solutions to water issues, due by 8/15.
- Coming up in July
  - Concerts at Veterans Park at 6pm on Thursdays.
  - Summer Camp starts July 5<sup>th</sup> and runs until August 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Detail on long-term Projects

- **2019 Waterwitch and Bay Avenues Sanitary Project** Replace sanitary mains, laterals and paving.
  - **Phase 1:** the entirety of Waterwitch Ave [from R36 to Marine Place], North St, Gravelly Point Rd, Ralph St, William St, Ocean Ave, Beach Blvd, Linden Ave, Bay Ave. \$3,600,000 in grants and low int loans.
  - **Phase 2:** Snug Harbor Ave, Bedle Pl, Marine Pl, Washington Ave, Huddy Ave, Recreation Pl, Cheerful Pl, Barberie Ave, Sea Drift Ave. CME preparing I-Bank grant documents.
- **2021 Flood Mitigation Resiliency Plan** - This comprehensive plan targets four major areas. Each project can be constructed independently, and some will happen sooner than others due to complexity and funding.
  - **North Street Pump** Upgrade the electrical for the station, raise the equipment to BFE, and replace the old floats and upgrade the backflow prevention sluice gate system to reduce interior flooding during moon-tides. Later work includes, roughly 60-ft of Borough-owned bulkhead, as well as 60-ft of a private owner's bulkhead needs to be replaced/raised, to a minimum elevation of 8.50.
  - **Marine Place Steel Bulkhead** – The bulkhead to be cleaned and coated with a 3-coat system rust-proofing paint to slow the aging process of the steel. Cap replacement and street side coating happening first. Waterside will happen after funding is secured.
  - **Veteran's Park** – Living Shoreline & Bulkhead, a combination composite bulkhead and living shoreline to reduce flooding and sustain the shoreline. The living shoreline would extend into the water abutting the bulkhead. In moderate storm events, the living shoreline would provide the protection necessary for wave action mitigation and shifting of sands.
  - **Snug Harbor Avenue Pump Station** – A regional storm water pump station to be installed at Snug Harbor, adjacent to Bay Avenue, inside the top end of the man-made canal. This will eliminate the need for gravity outfall pipes that have been known to be a factor in the flooding of this area.
  - This plan will include the following grant submissions:
    - US Department of Defense Readiness & Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI) – pre-proposal submitted 11/22/21 for joint Monmouth University, Highlands & Aberdeen. Pre-application accepted 12/21/21. Full sent 3/21/22. – We were not awarded this grant.
    - FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) – FY2021 submitted to NJOEM 11/15/21, NJOEM sent to FEMA on 1/31/22.
    - FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) – This is a reimbursement grant.
    - NJDEP Shore Protection Program – submitted 11/10/21.
- **Waterwitch Pump Station** – Replace existing structure with new, elevated one with updated electric and controls out of the flood zone. This project work order has been with FEMA since 2013.
- **Skate Park Grants**
  - Submitted Green Acres 7/12/21, awarded 10/21/21 \$449,260 in low interest loan + \$149,753 in a grant.
  - Submitted Monmouth County Open Space 9/16/21, \$200,000 awarded on 12/9.
  - Submission of letter of intent to the Skatepark Project on 1/11 (aka the Tony Hawk Foundation).
- **Address runoff issues from Monmouth Hills** - On-going discussions with Monmouth Hills HOA, State, County and Middletown officials. Monmouth Hills HOA hired an engineering firm to study the area and we look forward to working on a solution together. Grant writers working on DEP grant.
- **Enter the Community Rating System [CRS] program for lower flood insurance** - Named CRS Coordinator to be Gregory R. Valesi, PE, PP, CME, CFM of CME on 11/10/21. The next step is for FEMA to conduct a visit or contact the Borough to review National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

All the best to you and yours.

Mayor Carolyn Broullon