



2009 Plan Conformance Grant Program
Module 7.
Bloomsbury Borough Self-Assessment Report

Prepared by the State of New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council in Support of the Highlands Regional Master Plan

November
2009

MODULE 7: BLOOMSBURY BOROUGH SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

**PLAN CONFORMANCE GRANT PROGRAM
MODULE 7: MUNICIPAL SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Bloomsbury Borough, Hunterdon County



1. Modules 1 and 2: Highlands Municipal Build-Out Report

The final Highlands Municipal Build-Out Report and supporting documents and files were prepared by the Highlands Council, provided to the municipality, and posted on the Highlands Council website. The Report may be incorporated by reference in the petition. The Highlands Council is providing these reports, so the status in the MSA Report Checklist is complete except where this report is still in development. If relevant, provide comments in the narrative to supplement the final Report.

Status: Bloomsbury Borough completed Modules 1 and 2 and has received the Municipal Build Out reports from the Highlands Council and no additional comments are being prepared for the Municipal self-assessment at this time.



2. Module 3: Housing Element and Fair Share Plan

The Highlands Council has developed a timeline for the preparation and submission of petitions for substantive certification based on the COAH deadline extension of June 8, 2010. At minimum, the December 8, 2009 petition must include the following: a. Summary of Housing Obligations, b. Summary and Consistency Review of Proposed Prior Round Sites, and c. Housing Partnership Program narrative (including proposed participation in the Regional Affordable Housing Development Partnership Program or RAHDPP, where applicable). The Module 3 Instructions provide narrative on these submission requirements. The municipality should provide status comments in the narrative to supplement submission items a. through c. as appropriate. [NOTE: Additional submittals are required as of March 1, 2010 (due: draft Housing Element and Fair Share Plan) and June 8, 2010 (due: final versions of each), resulting in submittal of an adopted Housing Element and completed Fair Share Plan by the latter date.]

Status: Bloomsbury Borough has not previously participated in COAH. The Borough plans to prepare a Housing and Fair Share Plan in order to conform with the Highlands Conformance process and COAH. The Borough has provided the items necessary as part of Basic Plan Conformance and COAH's submission requirements for the December 8th, 2009 Deadline regarding the Borough's Fair Share Plan.. The items are found in the Module 3 section of the petition.



3. Module 4: Highlands Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

The requirements for Basic Plan Conformance include supplementing a municipality's existing ERI to include all Highlands resource information (or adopting a new ERI if none exists). The Highlands Council provided a model Highlands ERI along with tabular data, which may be used as either a supplement to an existing municipal ERI or as a stand-alone ERI, where the municipality has not previously adopted one. Please indicate in the narrative below whether the Highlands Model will be incorporated into an existing ERI or Natural Resource Inventory, or will be used as a stand-alone document. For municipalities that have already submitted a draft ERI, please

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indicate whether Highlands Council staff comments and edits have been addressed in the final draft ERI or if outstanding issues need consideration.

Status: Bloomsbury Borough has completed the Draft Highlands ERI and has received comments from Highlands staff in response to the initial draft submitted in June 2009. The Borough has revised the Draft ERI in response to these comments and is submitting the revised draft as part of the Submission Petition. The Borough intends to utilize the existing Borough ERI which was prepared in 2007.



4. **Module 5: Highlands Element of Municipal Master Plan**

The requirements for Basic Plan Conformance include revisions to municipal master plans that will bring them into alignment with the Highlands RMP. The Highlands Council provided a Model Municipal Master Plan “Highlands Element” to assist municipalities in addressing the mandatory master plan requirements necessary to achieve Basic Plan Conformance. The Highlands Element is intended to be used as a supplement to existing municipal master plans for application to land use and development in that portion of the municipality for which Plan Conformance is sought. Each section of the Highlands Element is referenced below, and it is noted in the narrative if requirements are for Basic or Full Plan Conformance. For municipalities that have already submitted a draft Highlands Element, please indicate whether Highlands Council staff comments and edits have been addressed in the final draft Highlands Element or if outstanding issues need consideration. [NOTE: Under 4.a through 4.i below, where an item is listed as a “Basic Plan Conformance requirement” all of the necessary information has already been provided to the municipality as part of the Model Highlands Element prepared by the Highlands Council. Inclusion of the text in the draft municipal Highlands Element submitted with the petition constitutes completion of the requirement.]

- a. **Statement of Policies, Goals and Objectives:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement.
- b. **Land Use Plan Element:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement. However, an up-to-date Land Use Inventory (inventory) is not a requirement for Basic Plan Conformance. The municipality should submit their most current inventory. If the inventory requires updates it will be a Full Plan Conformance requirement. If an up-to-date inventory has been completed and submitted with the petition; it should be noted as “Full” in the level of preparation column in the MSA Report Checklist.
- c. **Housing Plan Element:** Included in the Module 3 submission.
- d. **Conservation Plan Element:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement.
- e. **Utility Services Plan Element:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement.
- f. **Circulation Plan Element:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement. This Plan supplements an existing municipal Element, as applicable to goals and objectives for the Highlands Area. Where no Plan exists; one will be developed and adopted as a Full Plan Conformance task.
- g. **Land Preservation and Land Stewardship Plan Element including updated preserved land inventory and map:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement. This Plan supplements an existing municipal Element, as applicable to goals and objectives for the Highlands Area. Where no Plan exists; one will be developed and adopted as a Full Plan Conformance task. The updated preserved land inventory and map is a Full Plan Conformance task.
- h. **Agriculture Retention/Farmland Preservation Plan Element including updated preserved land inventory and map:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement. This Plan supplements an existing municipal Element, as applicable to goals and objectives for the Highlands Area. Where no Plan exists; one will be developed and adopted as a Full Plan Conformance task. The updated preserved farmland inventory and map is a Full Plan Conformance task.

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- i. **Community Facilities Plan Element:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement. This Plan supplements an existing municipal Element, as applicable to goals and objectives for the Highlands Area. Where no Plan exists; one will be developed and adopted as a Full Plan Conformance task.
- j. **Sustainable Economic Development Plan Element:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement.
- k. **Historic Preservation Plan Element:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement. This Plan supplements an existing municipal Element, as applicable to goals and objectives for the Highlands Area. Where no Plan exists; one will be developed and adopted as a Full Plan Conformance task.
- l. **Relationship of Master Plan to State/Regional/Local Plans:** Basic Plan Conformance requirement.
- m. **Development Transfer Plan Element:** Optional

Status: The Borough has submitted the Draft Highlands Master Plan Element after a public meeting and review. The Borough has not received any comments on the draft from the Highlands Council as of the date of this petition. Bloomsbury intends to review and respond to any comments provided by the Highlands Staff. The Borough will provide an up-to-date Land Use Inventory during the Full Conformance Process and use the information provided to the Highlands Council during Module 1 and 2 to complete the inventory. The Borough's original Master Plan was prepared in 1979, with reexamination reports prepared in 1990, 1997 and 2003. In 2007, the Borough prepared an Environmental Resource Inventory, which will be utilized during Full Plan Conformance. The 1979 Master Plan included a Conservation Plan, Utility Plan, Circulation Plan, Recreation Plan and Community Facilities Plan. The Borough will review and incorporate any necessary information into the revised Master Plan Elements during Full Plan Conformance. Other Master Plan elements that have not been prepared by the Borough, and will need to be prepared during Full Plan Conformance which includes a Land Preservation and Land Stewardship Plan, Agricultural Retention/Farmland Preservation Plan, Sustainable Economic Development Plan element and Historic Preservation Plan Element.



5. Module 6: Highlands Land Use Ordinance

The requirements of Basic Plan Conformance include the regulation of new development through a Highlands Land Use Ordinance. The Highlands Council developed a model Highlands Land Use Ordinance, including language addressing all requirements applicable to Basic Plan Conformance. In accordance with instructions provided for Module 6; the municipality should submit an edited version of the model Highlands Land Use Ordinance and if applicable, may submit existing municipal ordinances that are more restrictive or more comprehensive with respect to certain resources. [Note: Development of additional municipal regulations concerning the prevention of pollution and public health threats from existing land uses will be required as a component of Full Plan Conformance in the years 2010 and beyond. As such, these are not included in the MSA Report Checklist, but do appear in the Highlands Implementation Plan and Schedule.]

Status: The Borough is submitting the edited version of the Preservation Only Draft Highlands Land Use Ordinance as prepared by the Highlands Council. The Borough will continue to review and revise the draft ordinance through the Full Plan Conformance Process.

6. Redevelopment and Rehabilitation Plans (Adopted or Proposed)

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Redevelopment and Rehabilitation Plans are not a requirement of Basic Plan Conformance. The municipality may choose to incorporate narrative on adopted or proposed redevelopment and rehabilitation plans to supplement the Petition for Plan Conformance.

Status: Bloomsbury will continue to investigate the creation of redevelopment sites/areas as a means to provide for development opportunities that are consistent with the Highlands RMP and the vision of future land use in Bloomsbury. Bloomsbury is particularly interested in redeveloping the historic mill site at 27 Church Street (Block 13, Lot 6.01). The mill is a prominent structure at the gateway to the Borough and can be effectively redeveloped to incorporate a variety of uses. Bloomsbury will continue to evaluate the mill and other redevelopment opportunities as part of the Borough's Petition.

7. Management Plans and Ordinances

Management plans and ordinances are not a requirement for Basic Plan Conformance. The municipality may wish to supplement their Petition for Plan Conformance with available draft plans or ordinances, such as a Wastewater Management Plan or a Stormwater Management Plan.

Status: The Borough is not submitting any additional Plans or Ordinances at this time.

8. Discretionary Items, List (Optional)

Discretionary items are not a requirement of Basic Plan Conformance. These are additional materials beyond those required for a Petition for Plan Conformance that the municipality believes will support the petition. For example, a draft or adopted municipal ordinance that supports the Petition for Plan Conformance.

Status: Bloomsbury is submitting the consistency report for the Historic Mill site in an effort to begin the process of identifying the site as a potential redevelopment site.

Draft Highlands Implementation Plan and Schedule Checklist – Full Plan Conformance Tasks

Municipalities shall also include a draft Highlands Implementation Plan and Schedule Checklist, which provides a listing of items from the MSA Report Checklist that are not required for Basic Plan Conformance and are not indicated by the municipality as having been completed. To the extent known, the municipality should insert a brief narrative below indicating the anticipated approach (not including budget estimates) to achieving the tasks listed in the draft Highlands Implementation Plan and Schedule Checklist. For example: preparation of incomplete portions of the Highlands Element will be developed by the municipality's professional planner; conservation management plans will be developed following receipt of guidance from the Highlands Council, with assistance from professionals having specialized expertise in each area. The municipality may prioritize Full Plan Conformance tasks based upon municipal interest and the Highlands Council will work to assist in addressing those priorities.

The actual schedule for Full Plan Conformance will be developed by the municipality and the Highlands Council during the review of the Petition for Basic Plan Conformance.

Status: Bloomsbury has included a draft Highlands Implementation Plan and Schedule (see attached) for consideration by the Highlands Council. The Borough anticipates revisions and updates to the implementation schedule through the Basic Plan Conformance process to determine an ultimate schedule to achieving Full Plan Conformance. Bloomsbury will utilize Borough professionals to prepare and achieve Full Plan Conformance. This included utilizing the Borough Planners to prepare the various Master Plan Elements preparations and revisions, land use ordinances and other planning documents. In addition, the Borough will call upon the

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Borough Engineer for assistance in items such as the stormwater management, septic system maintenance and other related issues. The Board of Health will also be called upon for the preparation of the septic system maintenance ordinances and other water quality related issues unique to their role. Bloomsbury will provide any necessary administrative staff support required to achieve Full Plan Conformance.