

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Executive Summary

The intent of this plan is to encourage the municipality and its residents to:

1. Recognize their responsibility to protect themselves and their property from wildfires.
2. Determine and prioritize fire protection options available.
3. Implement the selected methods to reduce their exposure to the threat of wildfire.

The NJ Forest Fire Service and Howell Township (CWPP team) completed a comprehensive review of the Township's wildfire fighting capabilities, fire risk, fuel hazard classifications and past fire occurrences. Evaluating these factors and others that contribute to wildfire risk in a spatial format allowed the team to develop a cooperative plan targeting specific issues requiring action. The CWPP is designed to be a working document available for modification when warranted and the efforts and priorities that are identified can be changed, rearranged added to or dropped depending on current needs.

The municipality is committed to implementing the listed priority projects within the review period of this plan, and will reassess and renew this process to continue to reduce the severity and threat from wildfires.

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan, required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Stafford Act, directs that a CWPP will be developed for all Municipalities within the wildland/urban interface within NJ. The Stafford Act requires states to provide all-hazard mitigation planning, including wildfires, with the State of NJ focusing these all-hazard plans at the county level. From single homeowners or neighborhood support of Firewise concepts, municipal CWPP infrastructure planning, property maintenance codes, and other efforts, to all-risk hazard planning at the county and state levels, a continuum of methods to protect the citizens of NJ will be developed that can reduce the damage and risk of wildland fires.

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan was adopted by Howell Township on (12//2016), and will be review and updated as needed or every 5 years.



Prescribed burning in Monmouth Battlefield State Park



Stakeholders

The following plan is a collaborative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

Community Representatives

Name **Mayor**
William Gotto

Township Manager
Jeff Mayfield

OEM Coordinator Cell: 732-567-4301
Jeffrey Morrell

Chief Howell Fire Bureau
Robert H. Lewis

Address 4567 Route 9 North
PO Box 580
Howell, NJ 07731

Phone Number 732.938.4500

Fire Departments

Name **Squankum Fire Department, Station 19-1, District 1**
Chief Mike Silvani

Address 271 Squankum Rd
Farmingdale, NJ 07727

Phone Number (P) 732-496-2794

Name **Adelphia Fire Department, Station 19-2, District 2**
Chief: Mike Banasz

Address	Location Station 1: 925 Adelphia Road Mailing Address: PO Box 125 Adelphia, NJ 07710-0125	Location Station 2: 993 Highway 33 Station 19-2 District 2
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Phone Number (P) 732-904-2470

Name **Southard Fire Department #1, Station 19-3, District 3**
Chief: Dan Ryan

Address 4611 Route 9 North
PO Box 2
Howell, NJ 07731

Phone Number (P) 732-688-1105

Name **Ramtown Fire Company , Station 19-4, District 4**
Chief: Jim Eadicicco

Address 88 Ramtown-Greenville Road
Howell, NJ 07731

Phone Number (P) 732-489-0281



Stakeholders

The following plan is a collaborative effort between various entities. The representatives listed below comprise the core decision-making team responsible for this report and mutually agree on the plan's contents.

Fire Department:

Name **Freewood Acres** Station 19-5 District 5
Chief: William Donahue

Address 10 Bass Place
Howell, NJ 07731

Phone Number (P) 732-496-9899

Name **Farmingdale (mutual aid company)**

Chief: Mike Heaton

Address P.O. Box 132
Farmingdale NJ 07727

Phone Number 732-615-7880

Police Department:

Name **Police Department**
Chief: Andrew Kudrick

Address 300 Old Tavern Rd
Howell, NJ 07731

Phone Number 731-938-4575 xt 2870

NJ Forest Fire Service : Eugene White, Section Forest Firewarden B-8,
Name Cell: 609.209.2729

Address PO Box 239, New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Phone Number 609.726.9010

Other Contact Information Fax: 609.726.1624,

Name Greg McLaughlin, Assistant State Forest Firewarden

Address PO Box 404 501 East State Street, Trenton NJ, 08625-0404

Phone Number 732.833.4847

Other Contact Information Cell: 609.649.3611



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The following federal, state and other interested parties were consulted and involved in the preparation of this report.

Name	Organization
Maureen Brooks	USDA-FS, Community Fire Planner
Tom Fobes	Superintendent, Monmouth County Parks Commission, Manasquan Reservoir
Inga Gabliks	Superintendent, Allaire State Park

Background: Howell is a township in Monmouth County, New Jersey comprising 61.2 square miles. As of the 2010 United States Census, the township's population was 51,075, reflecting an increase of 2,172 (+4.4%) from the 2000 Census. Howell Township was incorporated as a township by an Act of the New Jersey Legislature on February 23, 1801, from portions of Shrewsbury Township.

Howell Township operates within the Faulkner Act form of municipal government under Council-Manager. The township is governed by a mayor and a four-member Township Council who are elected in partisan elections to four-year terms of office on a staggered basis, with either three council seats or one council seat and the mayoral seat up for election in even years. At an annual reorganization meeting held after each election, the council selects a deputy mayor from among its members.

The Howell Township Public Schools serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Schools in the district are nine K-5 (or PreK-5, as noted) elementary schools: Adelphia School (393 students), Aldrich School (577), Ardena School (444), Greenville School (PreK-5; 500), Griebeling School (516), Land O' Pines School (484), Newbury School (415), Ramtown School (466) and Taunton School (485); and three intermediate schools serving grades 6-8: Memorial Middle School (420) Middle School North (595) and Middle School South (633). Depending on their home address, students in public school for grades 9-12 attend either Howell High School, Freehold Township High School or Colts Neck High School, as part of the Freehold Regional High School District.

Wildfire History: Howell Township has an extensive wildfire history and the NJ Forest Fire Service has records dating back to 1926. Since 1926 Howell has experienced 30 wildfires each a minimum of 100 acres in size.

1. The 1920's saw 4 major fires that burned more than 7335 acres.
2. The 1940's had 5 fires that burned more than 2851 acres.
3. The 1960's saw 6 major fires that burned more than 1660 acres

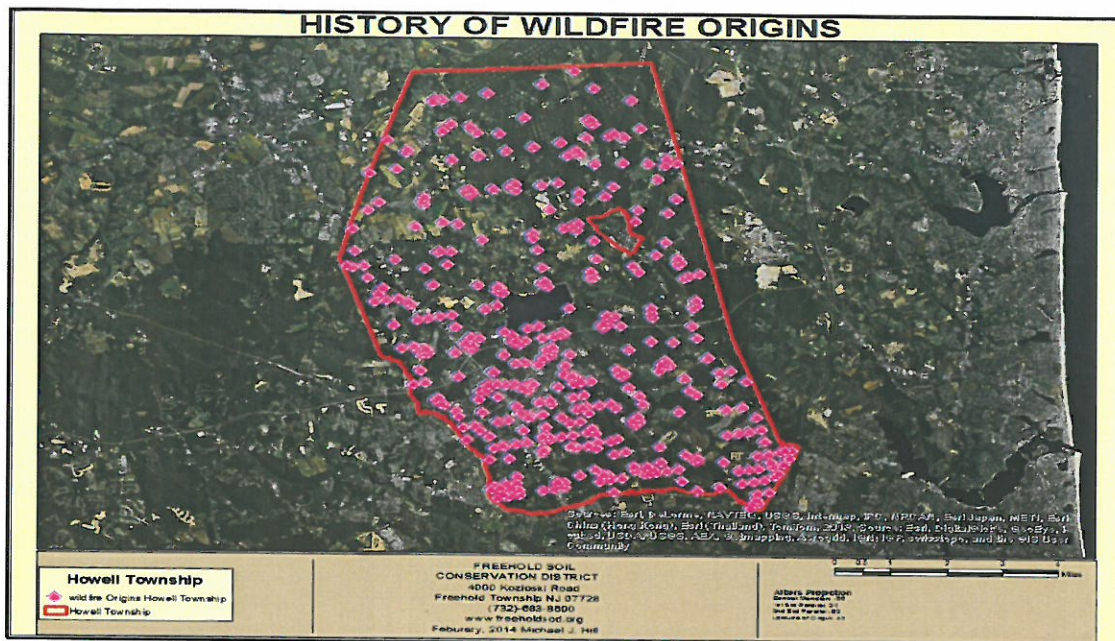
Ignition Frequency: The number of forest fires in Howell of all sizes over the past 48 years has been steadily declining with no recorded "large fires" since 1977 when 169 acres burned.. This trend can generally be attributed to increased efforts to raise fire safety awareness. However, it should also be pointed out that almost all wildfires (estimates are as high as 99%) that occur within the project area, and elsewhere, are ignited as a result of human activity, underscoring the need for sustained education efforts.



The NJ Forest Fire Service is committed to assisting as many towns as possible with completing a Community Wildfire Prevention Plan and providing seed funding to begin to implement the priorities expressed in those plans.

Greg McLaughlin - Division Forest Fire warden





Community Base Maps

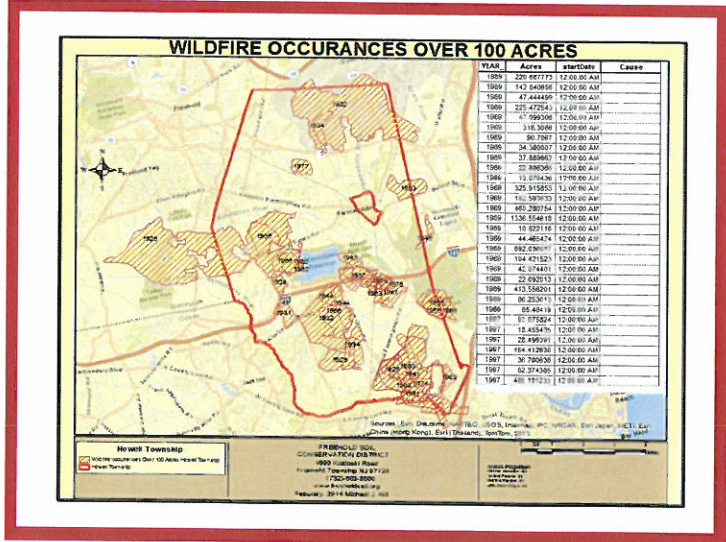
Included in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is a series of maps highlighting specific data collected and analyzed by the NJ Forest Fire Service as well as maps depicting infrastructure and ongoing and planned future mitigation efforts.

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Map</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	Fuel Hazard	This figure depicts forest fuel ratings that determine the ease of ignition and resistance to control efforts.
2	Wildfire Occurrence (>100 acres)	This figure depicts the locations of known fires boundaries >100 acres within Howell Township from 1926– 2010
3	Road Infrastructure 600/500 Series County Roads and larger	This figure depicts major roadways
4	Property Ownership	This figure shoes the different types and extent of property ownership
5	Water Infrastructure and Sources	This figure depicts the extent of water purveyors and the location of water sources.
6	History of Wildfire origins	This figure depicts wildfire starts within Howell Township
7	Emergency Services Locations	This figure depicts the locations of Fire, Police and Medical Emergency services



Goals and Objectives of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- I. Collaborate in the development of the plan with applicable local, county and state agencies.
 - Open community debate regarding wildfire threats and mitigation options
 - Integrate wildfire protection into other federal, state, county and local planning initiatives
- II. Assess the Wildfire Hazards and Risks within the forested and wild-land urban interface areas of the community.
 - Estimate the likelihood and severity of a wildfire, and the impact to neighborhoods, structures or areas of concern.
 - Perform a comprehensive assessment of municipal infrastructure to ensure it is geared to support wildfire defense including;
 - ◊ Roadway heights and widths
 - ◊ Bridge weight limits
 - ◊ Street identification signing
 - ◊ Hydrants or other water sources
 - ◊ Interoperable emergency communication networks
 - ◊ Fire-wise parks and open space
- III. Identify areas requiring hazardous fuels reduction and recommend types and methods of treatments that will protect one or more communities at risk and essential infrastructure.
 - Coordinate with fuel reduction initiatives sponsored by State, State Authorities or other local governments
 - Merge the goals and objectives of the landowners (public and private) with the needs and expectations of the community regarding reduction of wildfire hazards and risks
- IV. Identify and recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of homes and structures throughout the community.
 - Coordinate fire protection strategies across property/municipal boundaries and with NJ Forest Service Officials and NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.
 - Turkey Swamp WMA - Pete Winkler
 - Colliers Mills WMA - Pete Winkler
 - Forest Resource Education Center - John Burkle
 - Foster the recognition by homeowners of their responsibility to protect their homes from wildfire
 - Address the issue of builders/developers responsibility regarding fuel-break installation.
 - ◊ Timing for completing work
 - ◊ Attaching fuel-break work to bonding of infrastructure
 - ◊ Determine municipal department/positions responsible for implementing
 - Address the conservation easement/fuel-break conflict. Can a fuel-break be installed within a conservation easement?
- V. Increase individual and community awareness of wildfire hazards, risks and related issues as well as promote wildfire mitigation and community protection initiatives.
 - Provide for an educational component to remind residents of their responsibility to adopt concepts such as defensible space
 - Integrate and support neighborhood Fire-wise Communities goals
- VI. Prioritize hazardous fuel reduction, structural ignitability reduction, and community awareness projects within the community and assist in their implementation.
 - Coordinate grant funding with local, county and state government program budgets to achieve the most effective results with available funding
 - Use as a mechanism for the municipality to focus land use, development, building codes and property maintenance ordinances to enhance opportunities for existing homes and safer future development.



Howell Township: Fuel Hazard



Municipal Hazard & Risk Assessment

A thorough assessment of historic wildfire occurrence, fire suppression capabilities and ranking of the survivability of a community, structure or area at risk of a wildfire was undertaken for the municipality. The following summary table identifies the associated wildfire hazards and risk as viewed by this municipality for the communities, structures or areas listed.

Table 1:

Community, Fire District Structure or Area at Risk	Fuel Hazard	Risk of Wildfire Occurrence	Structural Ignitability	Firefighting Limitations	Overall Threat
Fire District 1 Squankum Fire Co.	4	3	3	3	13
Fire District 2 Adelphia Fire Co	3	3	3	3	12
Fire District 3 Southard Fire Co.	5	4	4	4	17
Fire District 4 Ramtown Fire Co.	4	4	3	3	14
Fire District 5 Freewood Acres Fire Co.	4	4	3	3	14

¹ **Fuel Hazard** – The rank of the wild-land fuels that burn in and around the community, structure, or area.

² **Risk** – The measure of what causes a wildfire and the impact that it has.

³ **Structure Ignitability** – The rank of a structure's ability to resist the threat from a wildfire as determined by an assessment that meets or exceeds NFPA .

⁴ **Firefighting Limitations** – An assessment of the equipment, organization, training, communication, mutual-aid agreements, and water supply available and in place.

* Undeveloped property. If/when the property is developed, ratings may change.

Summary: Table 1 depicts the areas/communities in Howell Township that are most at risk for Wildfire pursuant to the factors listed in the table above. Although a wildfire can occur throughout Howell Township, the communities listed above shared a rating of high when all four criteria were examined and evaluated.

Community Rating System:

1-Low

3-High

5-Extreme

2-Moderate

4-Very High

Overall Threat (summary) Rating System

1-4 -Low

9-12 -High

17-20 -Extreme

5-8 - Moderate

13-16 -Very High



NJ Forest Fire Service personnel using prescribed fire to reduce fuel loads in Monmouth Battlefield State Park

Photo courtesy of NJ Forest Fire Service, Section B-10



This Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies the communities, structures, or areas that would benefit most from threat reduction activities. Table 2 lists recommended fuel reduction, and community education projects, and Table 3 lists recommended options for reducing structural ignitibility.

Fuel Hazard Mitigation Options

Based on the results of the community hazard and risk assessment, priority ratings have been assigned to projects where the reduction of wildland fuel hazards would be effective. Several project activity types and methods of treatment for reducing the surrounding vegetation may be listed for each community, structure or area. These projects and their related priority rankings are listed in the following table.

Table 2:

Community, Structure or Area at Risk	Recommended Fuel Reduction Project Activity	Treatment Methodology	Overall Priority
Fire district #1 Squankum Fire Co.	Fuel Break Establishment	Prescribed burning and Mechanical thinning	1
Fire district #2 Adelphia Fire Co.	Fuel Break Establishment	Prescribed burning and Mechanical thinning	2
Fire district #3 Southard Fire Co.	Fuel Break Establishment	Prescribed burning and Mechanical thinning	3
Fire district #4 Ramtown Fire Co.	Fuel Break Establishment	Prescribed burning and Mechanical thinning	4
Fire district #5 Freewood Acres Fire Co.	Fuel Break Establishment	Prescribed burning and Mechanical thinning	5

Summary: Table 2 identifies the specific wildfire mitigation strategies determined to be the highest priority actions that can be undertaken to reduce the risk of wildfire in Howell Township. These specific mitigation actions were then evaluated against one another and priorities were assigned by the NJ Forest Fire Service.



Recommendations to Reduce Structural Ignitability

Methods to reduce structural ignitability are numerous. The following table provides a number of options available to reduce the risk of a wildfire ignition, its severity, and impact to structures.

Table 3:

Community, structure or area at risk	Structure Ignitability Reduction Options	Completed Yes/No
Howell Township	<p><u>1. Fire Preparedness</u></p> <p>a. Dry hydrants/cisterns</p> <p>b. Label hydrants</p> <p>c. Wildfire exercises</p> <p>d. Mutual aid agreements</p> <p>e. Fire Depts. to support Hazard Mitigation work</p> <p><u>2. Rules & Regulations</u></p> <p>a. Enforcement of Pinelands Fire Safety regulations</p> <p>b. Property maintenance ordinances</p> <p>c. Enforce local zoning rules</p> <p>d. Conservation easement/fuelbreak conflict</p> <p><u>3. Community Preparedness</u></p> <p>a. CERT teams</p> <p>b. Reverse 911 notifications</p> <p>c. Infrastructure improvements</p> <p>d. Evacuation routes</p> <p>e. Local government to support hazard mitigation work</p> <p>f. Home address visibility</p> <p>g. Develop a municipal fire safety council</p>	<p>a. No</p> <p>b. No</p> <p>c. No</p> <p>d. No</p> <p>e. No</p> <p>a. No</p> <p>b. No</p> <p>c. No</p> <p>d. No</p> <p>a. Pending</p> <p>b. Yes</p> <p>c. Yes</p> <p>d. Yes</p> <p>e. Yes</p> <p>f. Yes</p> <p>g. No</p>
Fire District 1 Squankum Fire Company #1	<p><u>1. Firewise Communities/USA</u></p> <p>a. Home & structure assessments</p> <p>b. Community clean-ups</p> <p>c. Firewise landscaping</p> <p>d. Firewise Committee established?</p> <p><u>2. Fire Preparedness</u></p> <p>a. Fuelbreak maintenance</p> <p><u>3. Homeowner Preparedness</u></p> <p>a. Home and yard Firewise maintenance and clean ups</p> <p>b. Firewise landscaping</p> <p>c. Home escape & evacuation plans</p> <p>4. Ready, Set, Go outreach</p>	<p>a. No</p> <p>b. No</p> <p>c. No</p> <p>d. No</p> <p>a. No</p> <p>a. No</p> <p>b. No</p> <p>c. No</p> <p>a. Pending</p>
Fire District 2 Adelphia Fire Department	<p><u>1. Firewise Communities/USA</u></p> <p>a. Home & structure assessments</p> <p>b. Community clean-ups</p> <p>c. Firewise landscaping</p> <p>d. Firewise Committee established?</p> <p><u>2. Fire Preparedness</u></p> <p>a. Fuelbreak maintenance</p> <p><u>3. Homeowner Preparedness</u></p> <p>a. Home and yard Firewise maintenance and clean ups</p> <p>b. Firewise landscaping</p> <p>c. Home escape & evacuation plans</p>	<p>a. No</p> <p>b. No</p> <p>c. No</p> <p>d. No</p> <p>a. No</p> <p>a. No</p> <p>b. No</p> <p>c. No</p>
		a. Pending



Recommendations to Reduce Structural Ignitability (cont'd)

Community, structure or area at risk	Structure Ignitability Reduction Options	Completed Yes/No	Overall priority
Fire District 3 Southard Fire Department #1	<u>1. Firewise Communities/USA</u> a. Home & structure assessments b. Community clean-ups c. Firewise landscaping d. Firewise Committee established? <u>2. Fire Preparedness</u> a. Fuelbreak maintenance <u>3. Homeowner Preparedness</u> a. Home and yard Firewise maintenance and clean ups b. Firewise landscaping c. Home escape & evacuation plans 4. Ready, Set, Go outreach	a. No b. No c. No d. No a. No a. No b. No c. No a. Pending.	
Fire District 4 Ramtown Fire Company	<u>1. Firewise Communities/USA</u> a. Home & structure assessments b. Community clean-ups c. Firewise landscaping d. Firewise Committee established? <u>2. Fire Preparedness</u> a. Fuelbreak maintenance <u>3. Homeowner Preparedness</u> a. Home and yard Firewise maintenance and clean ups b. Firewise landscaping c. Home escape & evacuation plans 4. Ready, Set, Go outreach	a. No b. No c. No d. No a. No a. No b. No c. No a. Yes	
Fire District 5 Freewood Acres Fire Company #1	<u>1. Firewise Communities/USA</u> a. Home & structure assessments b. Community clean-ups c. Firewise landscaping d. Firewise Committee established? <u>2. Fire Preparedness</u> a. Fuelbreak maintenance <u>3. Homeowner Preparedness</u> a. Home and yard Firewise maintenance and clean ups b. Firewise landscaping c. Home escape & evacuation plans	a. No b. No c. No d. No a. No a. No b. No c. No	

Summary: Table 3 is a comprehensive assessment of Howell Township and wildfire reduction options for specific sections/communities within the Township. Each section was evaluated for each of the options, and the status of each option was identified as completed or pending.

The priorities for implementing the wildfire mitigation options were assigned by the committee that developed the plan.



Outreach Recommendations

While all activities considered should include some degree of community outreach, such outreach is often an option on its own. The following outreach options were identified for the community, structure or area listed.

1. Howell Township:
 - a. Community cable channel, channel 77
 - b. Lobby display
 - c. Tax day display
 - d. Howell Day
2. Include Wildfire prevention, Firewise and Ready, Set, Go messages at these events.
3. Install Smokey Bear/Firewise signage at each Fire Station and at the Municipal Building
4. Include Wildfire Awareness at Fire Company Open Houses.
5. Link Firewise/Ready, Set, Go and Defensible Space education materials to the Howell Township and Fire Company Website
6. Include Wildfire awareness and Ready, Set, Go at Fire
7. Develop a Firewise Community
8. Form a Municipal Wild Fire Safety Council
9. Incorporate a CWPP, Ready, Set, Go, Firewise and a Municipal Fire Safety Council to participate in Sustainable Jersey

Resources Available:

1. From the NJ Forest Fire Service
 - a. Fire Danger and Awareness Signs
 - b. Statewide Fire Restriction Information <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/fire/firedanger-restrictions.html>
 - c. Smokey Bear Website: <http://www.smokeybear.com/>
2. Firewise Communities
 - a. <http://www.firewise.org/>Firewise Learning Center: http://www.firewise.org/fw_youcanuse/learningcenter/index.htm

Note: Refer to pages 18-25 for more information on CWPP's , Ready, Set, Go, Firewise, and Municipal Fire Safety Councils

"Municipalities that participate in the CWPP process are eligible for funding from the NJ Forest Fire Service to implement their highest priority action(s)," according to NJ Section Forest Firewarden Deale Carey



Implementation Strategy and Action Plan

The following table displays a list of projects considered from the hazard reduction, structure ignitability and outreach options, ranked by priority. Identifying the responsible agency or landowner, the funding source and the estimated completion timetable will help ensure measurable results for each project.

Table 4:

Rank	Project Type	Community, structure or area at risk	Agency/ Landowner	Funding Needs	Funding Source	Time Table
1	Structure Assessments	Howell Township	HOA HOA	N/A	NJFFS	2014
2	CERT Team Training	Howell Township	Howell Township	\$1000	NJFFS	2015
3	Firewise / Ready, Set, Go Website Link	Howell Township (5) Fire Companies	Howell Township	\$1000	NJFFS	2014
4	Clean Up Day Mechanical Thinning	Howell Township	Various at Risk areas	\$3000	NJFFS	2015
5	Install Smokey/ Firewise signs	Howell Township All Fire Stations and Municipal Building	Howell Township	N/A	NJFFS	2015

Implementation and Plan Monitoring:

The municipality has agreed by resolution to implement the top five ranked projects within the review period, and is committed to reassessing and implementing additional top ranked projects in the future. These additional projects will be displayed in an updated appendix to this plan.

Resource Materials:

Available at www.njwildfire.org

- Preparing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, A Handbook for Wildland-Urban Interface Communities, (NACo, NASF, SAF, WGA) March 2004.
- Field Guidance by National Association of State Foresters, June 27, 2003
- Leaders Guide Supplement, International Association of Fire Chiefs



Community Wildfire Protection Plan Certification and Agreement

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan was developed for/by Howell Township; was collaboratively developed. Interested parties and state land management agencies managing land in the vicinity of Howell Township have been consulted.

- This plan identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous wildland fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect Howell Township.
- This plan recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

The following entities mutually agree with the contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan:




Mayor, Howell Township;



Fire Official, Howell Township

NA

Fire Official, Howell Township



NJ State Forest Firewarden



**Appendix A
Updated Project List
2014**

The following table lists the projects completed within the past review period, the projects yet to be completed, and new projects proposed.

Rank	Project Type	Community, structure or area at risk	Agency/ Landowner	Funding Needs	Funding Source	Time Table	Project Complete
1	Structure Assessments	Howell Township	HOA HOA	N/A	NJFFS	2014	
2	CERT Team Training	Howell Township	Howell Township	\$1000	NJFFS	2015	
3	Firewise, Ready, Set, Go Website Link	Howell Township Fire Companies	Howell Township	\$1000	NJFFS	2014	
4	Clean Up Day Brush Removal	Howell Township	Various	\$3000	NJFFS	2015	
5	Install Smokey/ Firewise signs	Howell Township All Fire Stations and Municipal Building	Howell Township	N/A	NJFFS	2015	

The following entities mutually agree with the updated contents of this Community Wildfire Protection Plan update:

[insert a name and identify the applicable local government here– add as many lines as necessary]

[insert a name and identify the applicable local fire department here – add as many lines as necessary]

(Insert Firewarden's name here), (Insert Title here)
New Jersey Forest Fire Service



(Brush clean-up day, Conduct wildland/urban interface structure assessments, Purchase & install fire prevention signs, Install fire hydrants/dry hydrant systems, Install cisterns, Install street signs, Label hydrants, Adopt property maintenance ordinance, Initiate & support Firewise Communities, Purchase & distribute educational materials, Negotiate fire mutual aid agreements, Start a Citizen's Emergency Response Team (CERT), Plan a wildfire exercise, Provide a reverse 911 system, Improve emergency response communication systems, Improve community infrastructure needs to combat wildfires, Enforce construction, land use and property maintenance regulations, Post prevention signs, Educate law enforcement on wildfire cause & origin investigations, Provide municipal equipment for projects that promote and develop defensible space, Require Firewise landscaping materials, Assess municipal structures prone to wildfire, Sponsor Educational and Awareness Programs, Create Defensible Space, etc.)

NEW JERSEY FOREST FIRE SERVICE -WILDFIRE DEFINITIONS

July 2007

Available Fuel: That portion of the total fuel that would actually burn under various environmental conditions.

Defensible Space: The area around the perimeter of wildland structures or developments which are key points of defense against encroaching wildland fires, or escaping structure fires. Defensible space provides the room for firefighters to safely conduct protection operations. Defensible space may include a firebreak as well as a fuelbreak within 3 Defensible Space Management Zones.

- Zone 1: An area of maximum modification in which all flammable vegetation is removed (i.e. a firebreak).
- Zone 2: A transitional area of fuel reduction between zones 1 & 3 where the continuity and arrangement of vegetation is modified (i.e. a fuel break).
- Zone 3: An area of management designed to increase forest health and productivity by reducing the amount of overcrowding and related weakened and diseased trees, and thereby reducing the fuel loading.

Firebreak: A natural or constructed barrier used to stop or check fires that occur, or to provide a control line from which to work. A firebreak shall consist of non-flammable type materials such as gravel, sand, or paved roads, irrigated lawns, gardens and orchards, or ponds, lakes, and other watercourses that meet a specified width. This width is to be measured outward 1-1/2 times the height of fuels available to burn directly adjacent to the object. When used in conjunction with a fuelbreak, the size of the firebreak may be reduced.

Firelane: An existing cleared path that needs continuous maintenance to a minimum of 10 feet in width, which is used to gain access for emergency traffic.

Fireline: The part of a containment or control line that is scraped or dug to mineral soil. This may be used for a wildfire or prescribed burn.

Fire Hazard: A fuel complex, defined by volume, type condition, arrangement, and location that determines the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control.

Fire Risk: The chance of a fire starting, as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents. In New Jersey, the primary causative agent is humans.

Fuelbreak: A natural or manmade change in fuel characteristics that affect fire behavior so that fires burning into them can be more readily controlled (or managed). When used in conjunction with a firebreak, the following fuelbreak standards will be used;

- In moderate fire hazard areas, a minimum fuelbreak of 30 feet is recommended as measured outward from the object.
- In high fire hazard areas, a minimum fuelbreak of 75 feet is recommended as measured outward from the object.
- In extreme fire hazard areas, a minimum fuelbreak of at least 100 feet (200 feet if it protects a community of 100+) is recommended as measured outward from the object.

The fire hazard classification is based on *NJDEP Land Cover/Land Type* GIS data. The recommended modification within the fuelbreak should consist of an average 50% reduction of canopy cover across the treatment and up to a 100% reduction in understory fuels. This fuel modification must be maintained over time.

Fuel Loading: The amount of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight per unit area. This may be available fuel (consumable fuel) or total fuel and is usually dry weight.

Fuel Modification: Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling, and burning).

Fuelbreak System: A series of modified strips or blocks tied together to form continuous strategically located fuel breaks around land units.

Wildland/Urban Interface: The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.





NJ Wildfire Preparedness Guide: Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)



What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)? A CWPP is a mechanism for municipalities to address their wildfire risk in a comprehensive manner. Development of the plan and the planning process are designed to promote collaboration between the Forest Fire Service (FFS) and local officials.

A CWPP should address wildfire concerns across a broad area and provide an outline for wildfire mitigation activities including: management of hazardous fuels, outreach and awareness, training and preparedness. A CWPP identifies Ready-Set-Go and ~~Emergency~~ program needs, which helps to strengthen wildfire preparedness among residents, ultimately leading to safer and more effective wildfire response. CWPPs are developed collaboratively with the municipal government and local fire departments, with guidance and technical input from the FFS and other state and federal partners as needed. At its core, the CWPP identifies and defines the Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI). Issues related to wildfire protection in the WUI can also be addressed such as: communications, response capability, zoning regulations, building codes, development standards, fuel treatment and restoration, water and road infrastructure and ecological considerations.

Why is completing a CWPP important to a Section Forest ~~Firewarden~~?

CWPPs are a plan to reduce wildfire fire risk first to the firefighter and then residents. It is designed to identify problem areas, pinpoint needs, recommend actions and implement improvement actions. To this end, all completed CWPPs are supported by a grant of up to \$5,000 reimbursable to the municipality for costs associated with implementing the CWPP. As part of the plan a Section Forest ~~Firewarden~~'s priorities can be identified and fixed.

What are the advantages of a CWPP to the Section Forest ~~Firewarden~~?

1. The plan is a vehicle that brings the FFS and municipal ~~officials~~ closer, which builds cooperation and directly benefits incident management and response.
2. The plan will capture the important players that may be ~~involved~~ in managing an incident within the municipality and brings them into the planning process.
3. Fuel mitigation activities are identified and limitations to ~~fire~~ burning as a result of: lack of water, access, bridge limits etc.
4. The plan identifies areas of the municipality where structures may be more susceptible to wildfire as a result of their construction, landscaping, limited access and/or other factors. Having all that information together in a room with the decision-makers makes it much easier to determine the priorities and therefore the action(s) needed to fix that priority need. Available grant funding helps to ensure implementation of identified mitigation projects as well as to foster a good relationship locally.



What is my responsibility in the CWPP process?

1. **Identification:** The Section Forest ~~Firewarden~~ is responsible for identifying wildfire risks in municipalities and communities within their respective coverage area. The availability of resources and funding to develop CWPP's is limited, therefore Forest ~~Firewarden~~ should first make a list that prioritizes the areas within their section with the highest risk.
2. **Prioritization:** Contact should then be made through written and/or verbal communication to all municipalities within the coverage area to determine their interest in participating in development of a CWPP for their municipality. The priority list should be recalculated with input from CWPP Program Managers and, based on "risk/priority" and local input, at least one municipality will be identified for development of a CWPP.
3. **Coordination:** Once it is decided to target a municipality for development of a CWPP, an introductory "briefing" meeting is scheduled, which should include, at minimum:
 - a. Mayor and/or Business Administrator
 - b. OEM Coordinator
 - c. Local Fire Chief(s)
 - d. DFW Director
 - e. Public landowners: NJF&W, NJ Parks, USFWS, County Parks, etc.
 - f. CWPP Program Manager
 - g. Division ~~Firewarden~~

This meeting is designed to introduce the CWPP process and to begin identification of wildfire risks and other related issues. If time allows, this meeting may also be used to conduct a "CWPP Walk-Through."

4. **Planning:** Continue to facilitate planning meetings to complete the components of the CWPP. During this Step the Section Forest ~~Firewarden~~ contributes to the development of the CWPP by helping to identify needs, limitations, ~~R&R~~ burn areas, and by suggesting means of increasing awareness of wildfire risk to the residents. This Step includes identification of potential ~~Firewarden~~ Communities.
 - a. **Collaboration:** The CWPP Program Manager, and other Forest ~~Firewarden~~ will help to guide the municipality through the process and be responsible for the development of the plan and capturing the comments made at the meetings.
5. **Adoption:** Once all parties agree to the plan content, goals and implementation priorities, then it is adopted through Resolution at the township or signed by the Mayor, and State or Division ~~Firewarden~~ and the Local Fire Chief. Each of the respective signers (Municipality, NJF&S and Fire Company) get original signed copies of the CWPP.
6. **Implementation:** The priority action that was determined during the CWPP planning process is proposed and 50% of the cost of that priority action is funded up to \$5,000.

Q.4. How does a CWPP benefit the Section Forest ~~Firewarden~~?

A.4. Through development of the CWPP partnerships are formed with local emergency service personnel. These relationships have proven useful in response and management of wildfire emergencies.

2. What is YOUR biggest fear in fighting wildfires as a Section ~~Firewarden~~?

Loss of property, loss of life! Being proactive and utilizing the preparedness tools available like CWPP's allow you to identify these needs and become proactive in fixing them. This protects you as the responsible party and the residents in your "At-Risk Municipality."





NJ Wildfire Preparedness Guide: Firewise Communities/USA



This guide is designed to support a Section Forest Firewarden in their delivery of the Firewise Communities/USA program to local communities in their coverage area.

Firewise Communities/USA: The USDA Forest Service provides funding to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to administer a national Firewise Communities/USA program. From the national program guidance, the state Forest Fire Service agency is responsible for developing a program tailored to their state. In New Jersey, the Forest Fire Service (FFS) is responsible for delivery of a Firewise Communities Program to interested communities that are at risk of wildfire. This program is considered "grass-roots" in that it is designed to provide residents with the training, tools and funding to become better prepared in the event of a wildfire.

The Benefits of Becoming a Firewise Community:

The Firewise program is a foundational building block for several other wildfire preparedness programs such as Fire Adapted Communities (FAC), Ready, Set, Go, and Community Wildfire Protection Planning (CWPP). Municipalities with designated Firewise Communities are also eligible for Sustainable Jersey points. To save lives and property from wildfire, the program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses. This in turn, allows firefighters safer areas to work from and lessens the burden on coordinating local actions during an emergency.



How to assist a community in becoming a recognized Firewise Community/USA:

The process of becoming a recognized Firewise Community/USA is straightforward and simple. First, identify areas that are fire-prone and/or that are at risk of wildfire. Next, contact residents in the community and host an information session about community preparedness, wildfire prevention and Firewise. If the community is interested in getting involved, then ask for volunteers to form a Firewise Committee. Schedule a follow up meeting with the committee to discuss the details of participation.

Using a five-step process, neighborhoods and communities develop an action plan that guides their residential risk reduction activities, while engaging and encouraging their neighbors to become active participants in building a safer place to live.

The five steps of Firewise recognition include:

1. Obtain a Wildfire Risk Assessment as a written document from your state forestry agency or fire department.
2. Form a board or committee to represent the community and oversee the program.
3. Create a Firewise Action Plan based on wildfire risk. Plan is valid for five years.
4. Conduct a "Firewise Day" event annually.
5. Annually, invest a minimum of \$2 per capita in local Firewise actions.
6. Submit an application to your NJ Firewise Liaison by December 31st.
7. Renew your application annually online at www.firewise.org

In addition, if funds are available, 50/50 matching sub-grants are available to communities who implement actions toward become a designated Firewise Community/USA.

www.firewise.org

How the Firewise Communities/USA Program Help Me?

1. "At-risk" wildfire communities that participate in Firewise understand the importance of creating proper Defensible Space, which will make you safer when responding to a wildfire.
2. Better prepared residents are more knowledgeable about wildfire and know what actions to take in the event of a fire. This helps keep everyone safer.
3. Engaging and teaching residents about wildfire will lead to more support for you in carrying out your day-to-day job responsibilities.





The Section Firewarden's Guide to Ready-Set-Go



READY, SET, GO! THE NATIONAL PROGRAM

www.wildlandfirersg.org

The Ready, Set, Go program, managed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), seeks to develop and improve the dialogue between fire departments and the residents they serve. The program helps fire departments teach individuals who live in high risk wildfire areas - and the wildland urban interface (WUI) - how to best prepare themselves, their families, and their properties against fire threats.

READY: Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of wildland fire so your home is ready in case of a fire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire safe construction measures. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action.

SET: Pack your emergency kit. Know how to receive and stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire department, and public safety officials.

GO: ACT EARLY: Follow your personal wildland fire action plan. Doing so will not only support your safety, but will allow firefighters to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

Program resources are at your fingertips. Upon joining RSG (at no charge), the department will receive a tool kit of resources for outreach and have access to the program's documents from the web site. The resources are customizable and free.

Why is READY, SET, GO! important to a Section Warden?

- 1) RSG increases resident's wildfire awareness by partnering with fire departments (volunteer and career). RSG is a complete outreach resource package, from the RSG action guide to pre-done letters to HOA's and township officials. NJFFS can increase residents wildfire awareness by promoting RSG to fire departments in fire prone areas. Thru RSG the fire departments will reach more people, and give them an understanding of the dangers of wildfire and what they can do to take personal responsibility for their own safety.
- 2) RSG increases resident's awareness of what to do and where to go during a wild fire. Thru fire department outreach residents are taught what radio stations to listen to and how to sign up for Nixal and reverse 911 for the latest information. During an evacuation, if residents know what routes to take and where to go, thru emergency messaging, it will make it easier for fire crews to get to the fire.
- 3) Residents are taught how to make their homes more resistant to fire with some simple steps such as keeping gutters clean, keeping fire wood off decks, and making sure they



have enough defensible space. By residents following a few simple steps for home safety, Section Fire Wardens will be less likely to lose homes in a major incident.

What are the advantages of READY, SET, GO! to the Section Warden?

- 1) Working with each fire department in a section can grow outreach exponentially. Getting fire departments to buy in to RSG is not hard. There are so many perks from IAFC that it makes it hard for a department to say no, including easy to write grants for outreach. Once a department is signed up they can do as much outreach and type they want. Each fire department becomes an independent voice for RSG.
- 2) RSG can help develop a stronger partnership between the section fire warden and the local fire departments.

What's my job in the READY, SET, GO! process?

- 1) Discuss the positive aspects of RSG with fire department leaders in your section, let them know the perks associated with RSG.
- 2) Give department's pre-packaged information from IAFC. (this will be the same as the package you received).
- 3) Follow up with departments to make sure each department has made contact with IAFC to sign up for RSG. Keep in mind the sign up is free and gives them access to all the resources IAFC offers as outlined in your packet.

Other outreach resources are also available. For more information contact the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), at 703-273-0911 or www.wildlandfireRSG.org

1) NFPA resource: <http://www.nfpa.org/>

2) U.S. Fire Administration resources: <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

3) The Nature Conservancy:

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/newjersey/index.htm>

Why Get Involved in Ready, Set, Go!?

Getting "at risk" communities and local fire companies involved with Ready-Set-Go can help make your job easier by allowing others to spread the wildfire preparedness message.

Local fire departments spread a multi-level message to residents about wildfire safety.

All information and guidance are provided to the local fire departments by the IAFC.

Once a department signs up for RSG they become an independent voice to carry the wildfire safety message.





Wildfire Preparedness Guide: Sustainable Jersey – Wildfire Actions



What is Sustainable Jersey?



Sustainable Jersey (SJ) is a nonprofit organization operated as part of the Center for Sustainability at The College of NJ. The SJ program has a well-defined and rigorous format for certification of municipalities that participate in SJ. This program provides tools, training and financial incentives to support municipal level sustainability programs. For example, municipalities that take measures to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, plant trees, reduce wildfire risk and improve environmental equity are eligible for Sustainable Jersey certification. SJ's goal is to empower communities to build a better world for future generations.

Sustainable Jersey certification is a prestigious designation for municipal governments in New Jersey. Municipalities that achieve the certification are considered by their peers, by state government and by the experts and civic organizations in New Jersey, to be among the leading municipalities and some of the great places to live. The certification process is meaningful and comprehensive, whereby all actions taken by municipalities to score points toward certification must be accompanied by documentary evidence and is reviewed. The certification is free and completely voluntary.



Of New Jersey's 566 Municipalities 434 of them are participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program.

The NJFFS along with the NJ Fire Safety Council worked with Sustainable Jersey for more than a year to develop a suite of Wildfire Preparedness Actions. These new actions have been approved by the SJ Board and are now available to municipalities.

<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/actions-certification/actions/>

Why has the NJFFS Partnered with Sustainable Jersey?

The NJFFS has partnered with Sustainable Jersey in order to reach a new audience, in the environmental community. This is a new target area for wildfire prevention and



preparedness messaging that will aid the Division and Section Firewarden in carrying out their responsibilities for the protection of life and property from the threat of wildfire. Given, that a municipality can now receive points toward SJ certification through its participation in one of the FFS's sponsored programs is a boon for the municipality as well as the FFS.

For more than a year, the FFS met with Sustainable Jersey staff to develop several "Certified Actions" that municipalities could take to reduce their wildfire risk AND receive "points" towards their bronze, silver or gold certification. Those wildfire preparedness actions are:

1. **Firewise Communities** - Communities seeking to take wildfire reduction actions within a Municipality can gain points towards Sustainable Jersey by becoming a Firewise Community. A Community can gain additional points by "mentoring" another community and guiding them through the Firewise Community process. Everything a Community needs to know to enroll in the Firewise Programs is available on the Sustainable Jersey website.
2. **Ready, Set, Go!** - Fire Companies that stage a RSG awareness event receive points towards Sustainable Jersey Certification. If there are more than one fire company in a Municipality they may receive up to 15 points for multiple fire company participation.
3. **Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)** - Municipalities seeking a comprehensive review of their wildfire risk through the CWPP planning process receive 10 points under the Sustainable Jersey program. Funding to complete 8 CWPP's that come to the NJFFS through the Sustainable Jersey Program has been ear-marked as an incentive. A \$5,000 grant to implement the highest priority action identified in the CWPP process is also part of that earmark.
4. **Wildfire Safety Council** - Municipalities seeking to coordinate their wildfire preparedness efforts through a local Wildfire Safety Council will be rewarded with Sustainable Jersey points towards certification. Municipalities that form a local Fire Safety Council will be responsible for keeping the CWPP up to date and will receive a \$1,000 grant towards building capacity of the local council by holding a Wildfire Awareness event.

For more information about the Sustainable Jersey Wildfire Preparedness Suite of Actions, follow the link:

<http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>

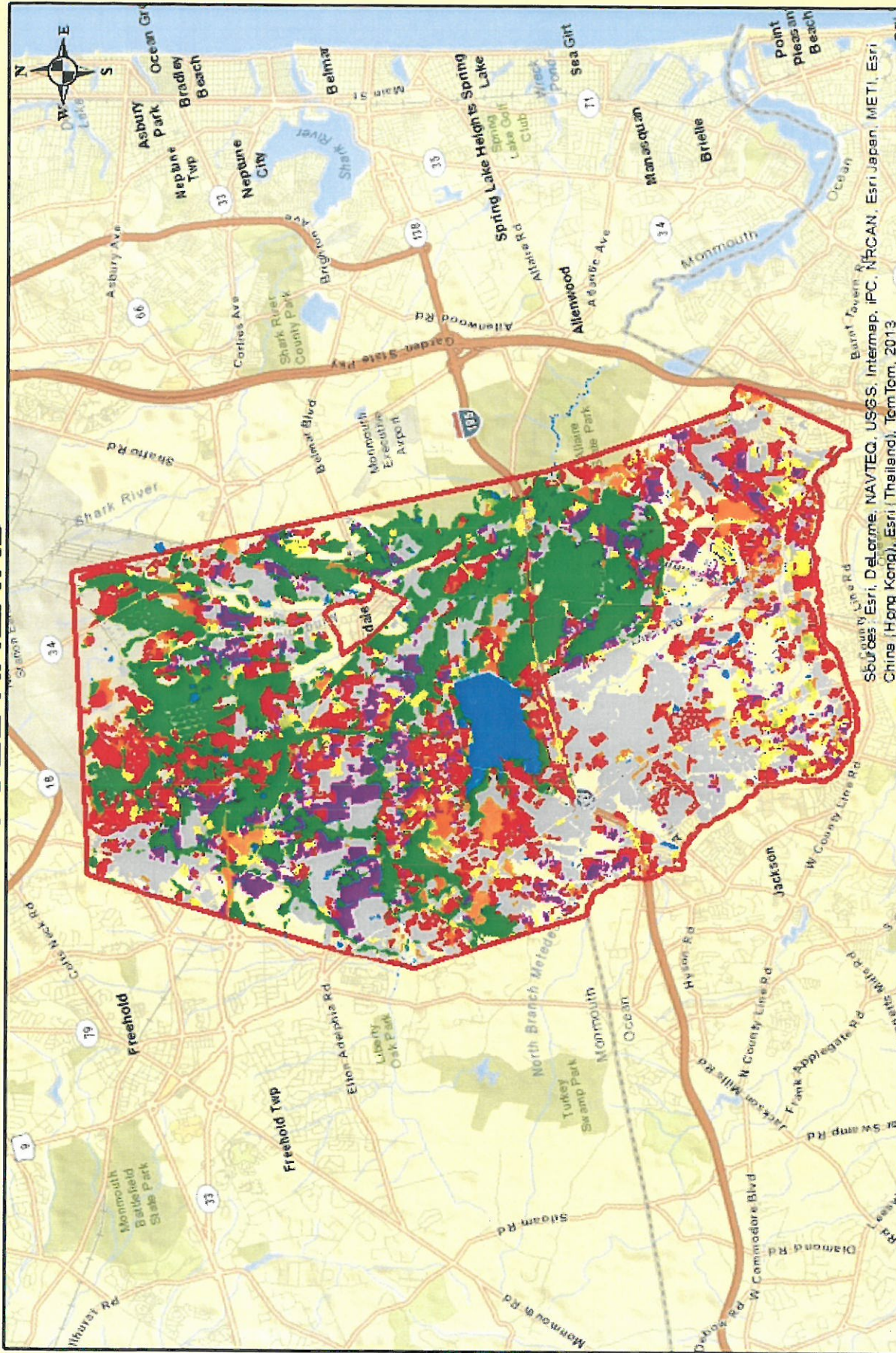
Why Get Involved in Sustainable Jersey?

1. Studies have shown, that municipalities that are better prepared for natural disaster, suffer few losses and recover more quickly. There is less risk to firefighters and other emergency service personnel that work in these areas.
2. Getting "at-risk" communities involved with Firewise, RSG! and seeking a CWPP on their own and then applying these principles keeps them invested which will make a firefighter's job safer and easier.



FUEL HAZARD

Figure 1



Howell Township

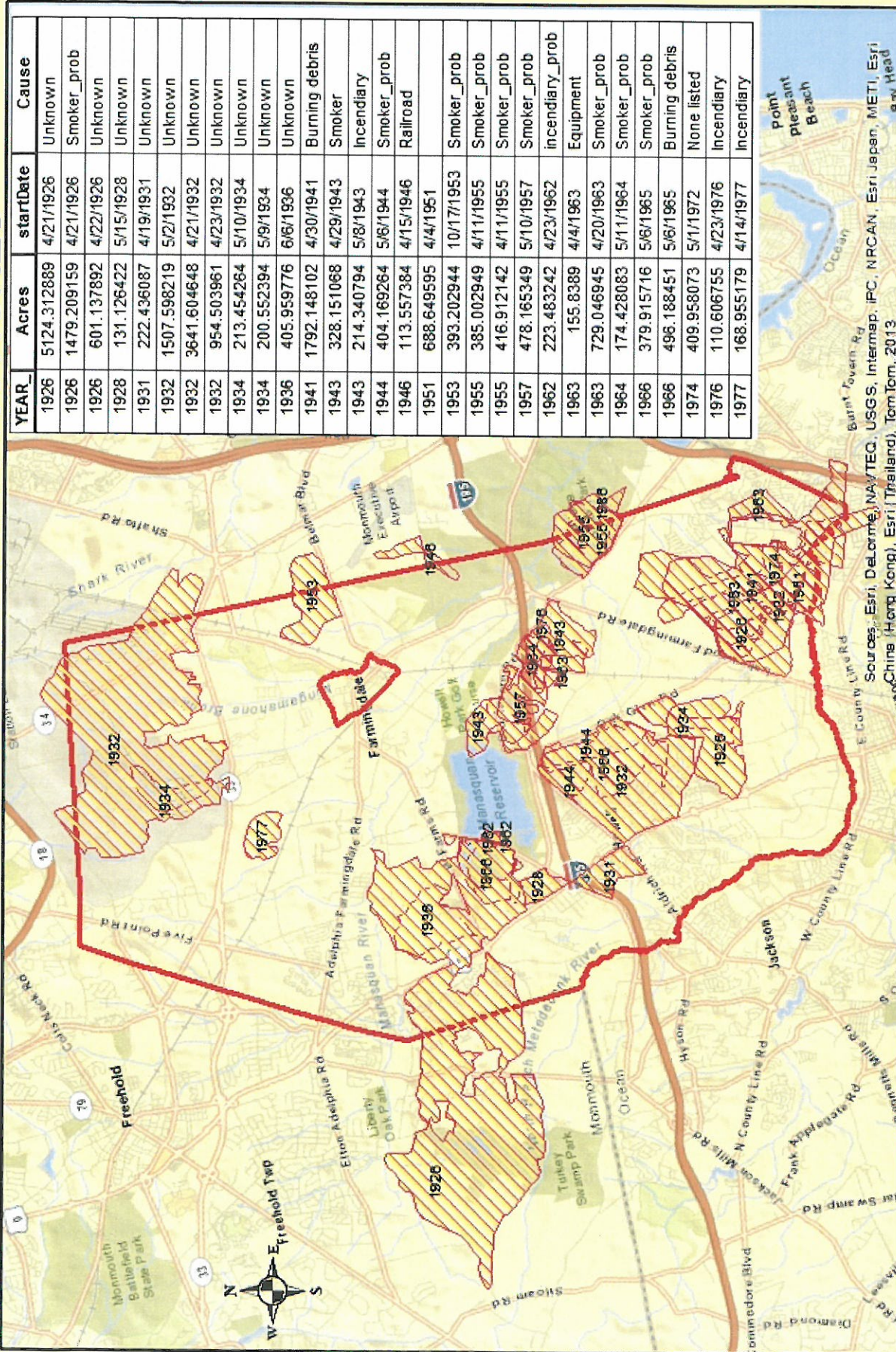
- Low
- Medium
- High
- Very High
- Extreme
- Unlabeled Land

FREEHOLD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
 4000 Kozloski Road
 Freehold Township NJ 07728
 (732) 683-8500
www.freeholdscd.org
 February, 2014 Michael J. Hill

Albers Projection
 Central Meridian: -76
 Standard Parallel: 30
 Second Standard Parallel: 40
 Latitude of Origin: 40

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

WILDFIRE OCCURRENCES OVER 100 ACRES



Howell Township
 Wildfire occurrences Over 100 Acres Howell Township
 Howell Township

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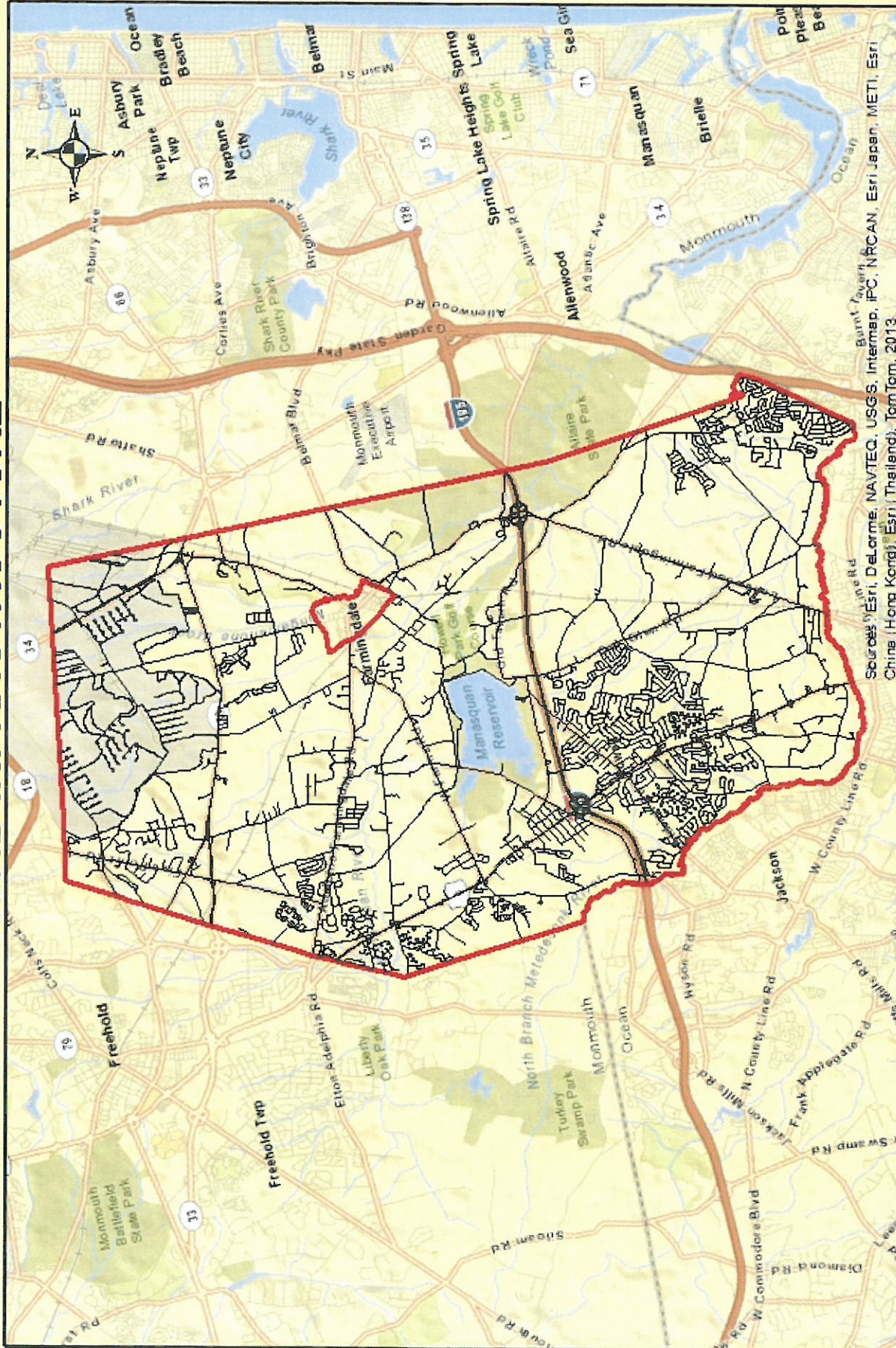
0 0.5 1 2 3 4
 Miles

Albers Projection
 Central Mercator
 NAD 83
 2nd Spheroid: 60
 Latitude Origin: 40

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, IPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri
 China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Fig. 3.4



Howell Township
 — Howell Township Road_Centerlines_NJ
 □ Howell Township

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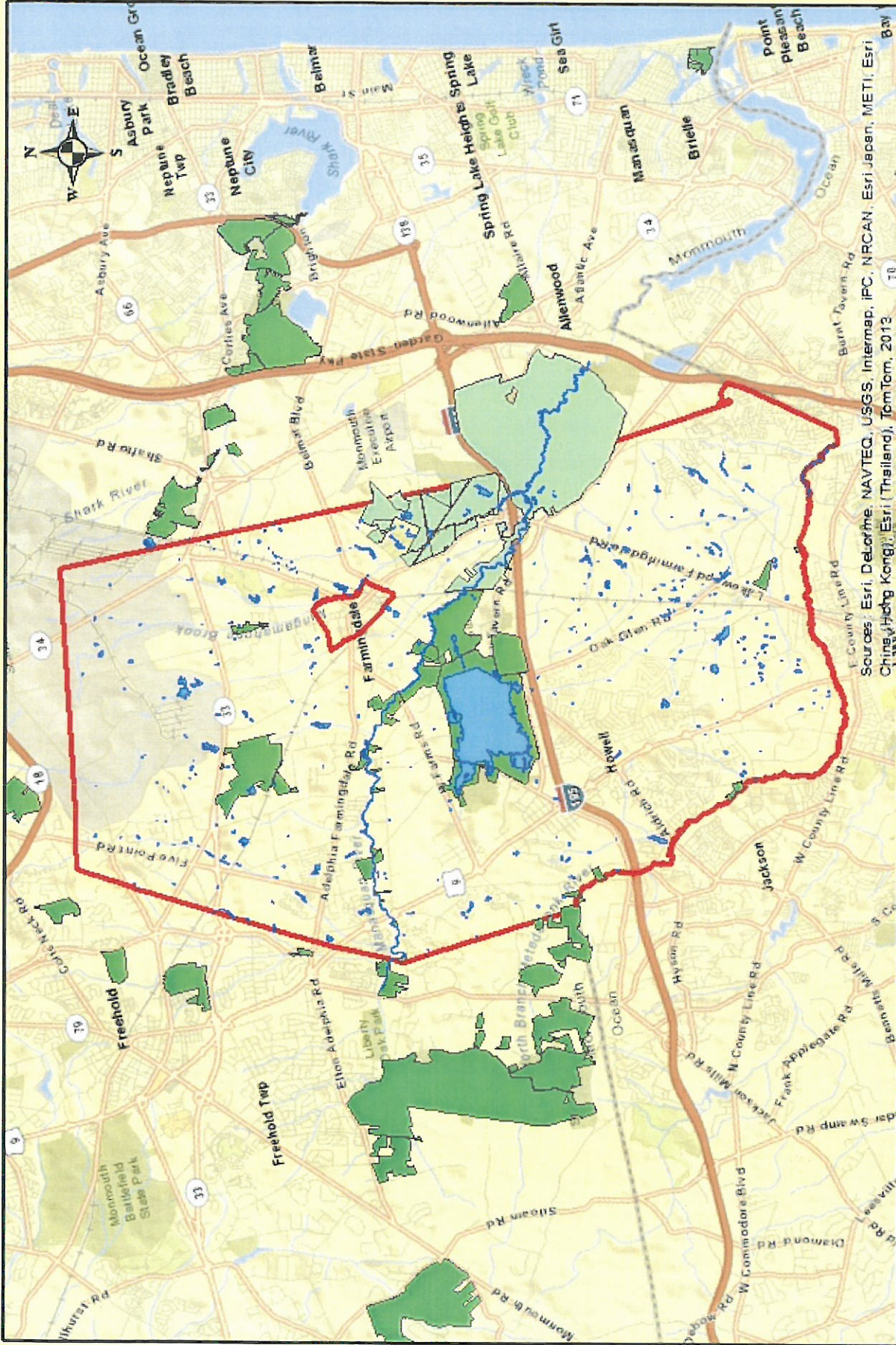
Albers Projection
 Central Meridian: 38
 Standard Parallel: 30
 Second Standard Parallel: 40
 Latitude of Origin: 40



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri
 China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

Figure 6



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, IPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

- Howell Township
- Howell Township Waterbodies
- County Park Boundaries
- Howell Township State Lands
- Howell Township

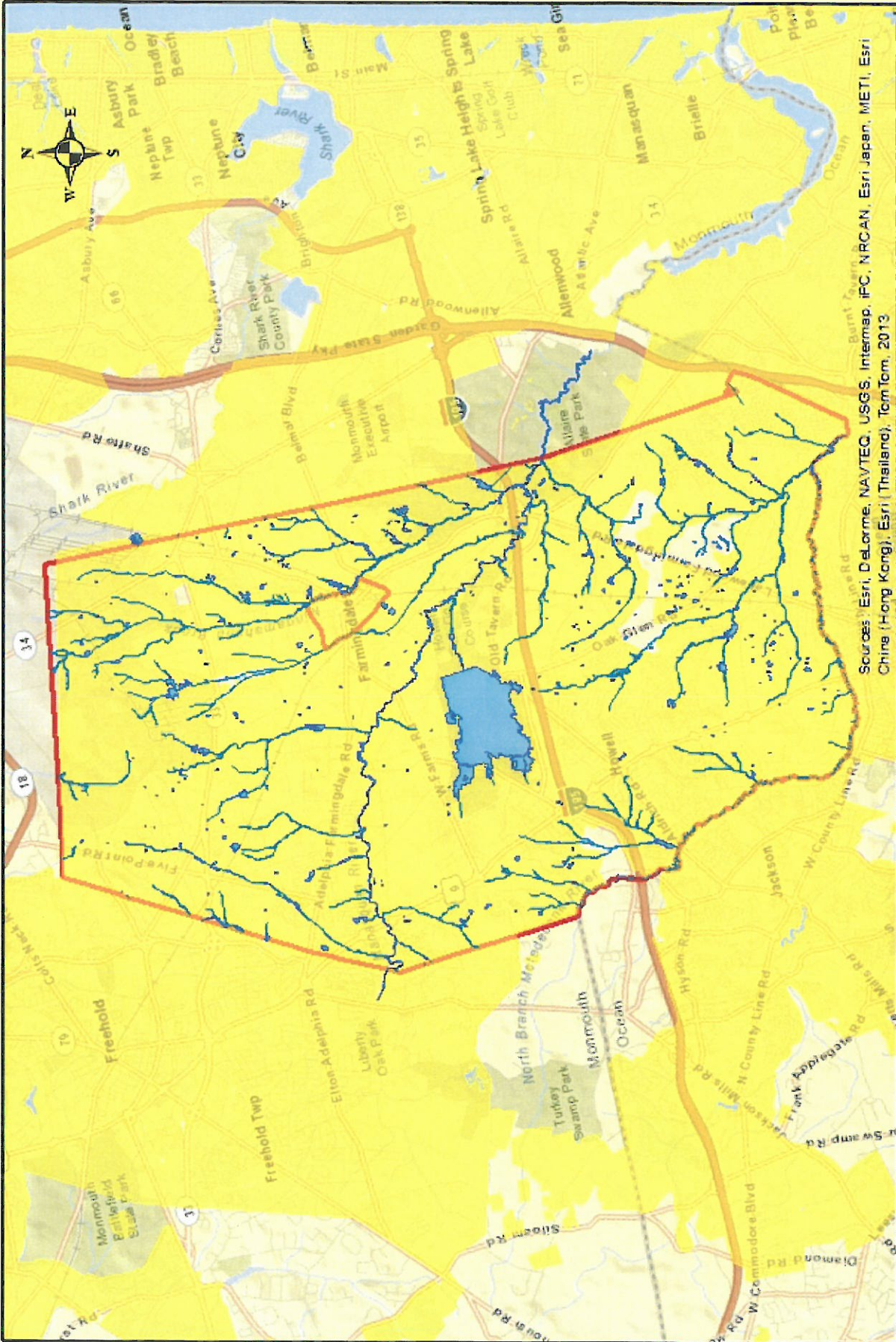
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All Bars Projection
Datum: NAD83
1st Spheroid: 63
2nd Spheroid: 63
Units: U.S. Feet



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOURCES

Figure 5



Howell Township

- Howell Township WaterBodies
- Howell Township Infrastructure
- Sewer Service Area
- Howell Township

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Albers Projection
 Central Meridian: 76°
 Standard Parallel 1: 33°
 Standard Parallel 2: 40°
 Latitude of Origin: 40°

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

HISTORY OF WILDFIRE ORIGINS

Figure 7



Sources: East, Delmas, RAYTEG, USGS, Landsat, IFG, NRS-AD, East Japan, METI, East
Gilles (Hong Kong), East (Thailand), Tomlin, 2013, Douglas East, Digital Data, 2005, 1
East, USGS, USGS, AEL, Schmapp, Astor (1), 1981 USF, 2005, and the USF
Community



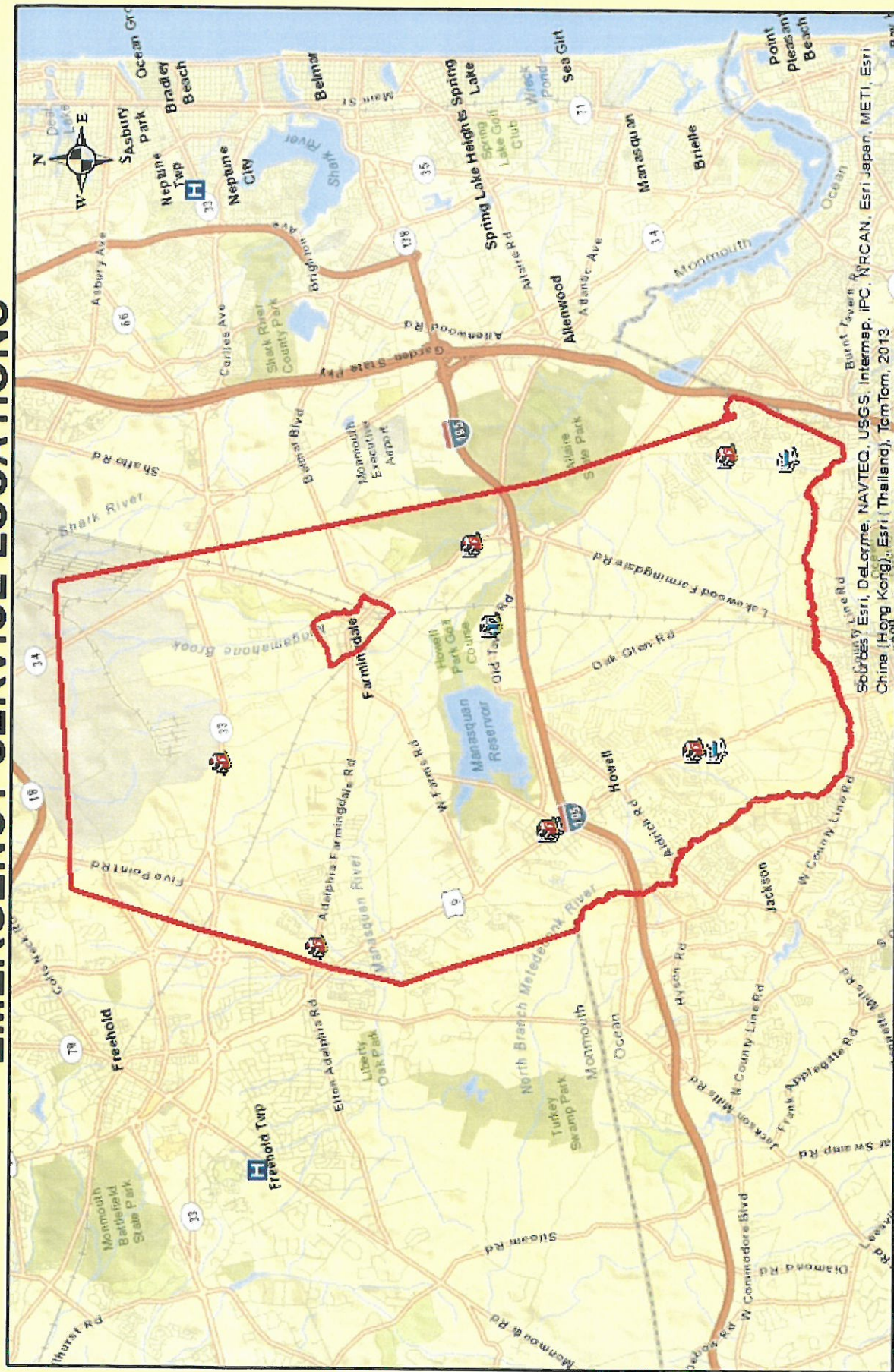
Albers Projection
Central Meridian: 28
Standard Parallel: 20
2nd Standard Parallel: 60
Latitude of Origin: 40

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Howell Township
wild fire Origins Howell Township
Howell Township

EMERGENCY SERVICE LOCATIONS

Figure 8



Freehold Township

2009_09_15_NJ_Emergency_Services_Map_Howell_Township

2009_12_31_NJ_Land_Information_Map_Howell_Township

2009_09_15_NJ_Emergency_Services_Map_Howell_Township

Howell Township

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Albers Projection
Central Meridian: -76
Standard Parallel: 40
False Easting: 40
False Northing: 40
Units: Meter Origin: 40

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles