

6. A description of how the proposed project for which the disposal or diversion of parkland is proposed, and the proposed compensation, will support the State Development and Redevelopment Plan Goals and be consistent with the State Development and Redevelopment Plan's Policy Map and the Statewide Policies. (N.J.A.C. 7:36 26.9(d)6) NJ Development and Redevelopment Plan, 2001, <https://nj.gov/state/planning/assets/docs/2001-state-plan/stateplan030101b.pdf>)

According to the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan ("SDRP"), "These Statewide Policies are designed to improve both the planning and the coordination of public policy among all levels of government through flexible application." Under Public Facilities and Services, the SDRP states, "New partnerships among government and public and private organizations are combining efforts and resources, and sharing facilities and equipment, to provide public services at lower cost and higher quality."

The joint effort this diversion process represents shows "the "coordination of public policy among all levels of government." Both the use of the Braddock Park site and the North Bergen EMS South building at their inceptions demonstrate different levels of government working together to meet the needs of its residents, whether it be Pre-K children or emergency services. Hudson County, North Bergen, and the NBBOE have continued to work jointly to bring both sites into compliance efficiently and effectively without the unreasonable expenditure of public funds. This joint effort is further shown by the replacement properties that expand and enhance existing open space and recreational opportunities for North Bergen as well as Hudson County. Both the uses of the diverted properties and replacement properties support the SDRP's goals and are consistent with the SDRP's Policy Map and the Statewide Policies. (N.J.A.C. 7:36 26.9(d)6)).

Should the North Bergen South EMS Unit and NB CARES, which share the facility, remain at its current location in the 43rd Street Park, those entities will continue to provide for the health, safety, and well-being of North Bergen's residents without interruption and an unreasonable expenditure of public funds.

As for urban areas like North Bergen and education, the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan (DRD) states the project should advance the need for "[s]chools integrated into community centers ...and other collaborative programs that provide a thorough, efficient, and equal education opportunity for all students." The use of the site at Hudson County's Braddock Park for the North Bergen Pre-K Program makes a full day Pre-K program and district-wide alignment with student -teacher ratios under NJDOE guidelines achievable. There is no doubt that will provide for a "thorough, efficient, and equal education opportunity" for all North Bergen students.

Further, "It is the stated position of the State Planning Commission that the State Plan should neither be used in a manner that places an **inequitable burden on any one group of citizens nor should it be used as a justification for public actions that have the effect of diminishing equity.**" It would be an inequitable burden on the taxpayers of North Bergen should the proposed compensation of the replacement property and requested diversions be found inconsistent.

