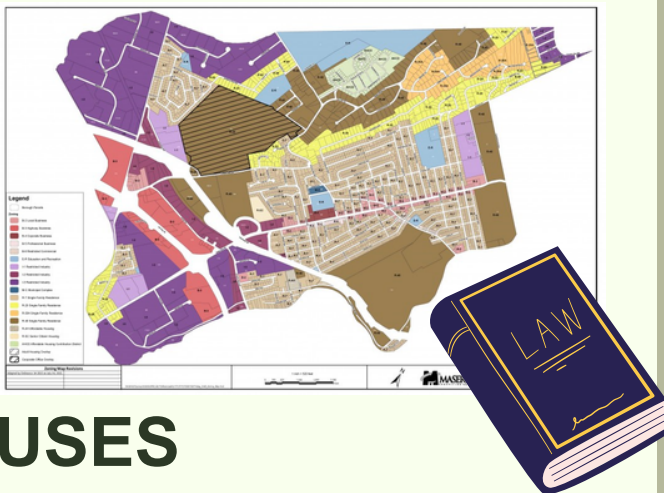


# ARE ERIs REQUIRED?

While nothing in New Jersey law requires a municipality to prepare an ERI, the Municipal Land Use Law states "Whenever the environmental commission has prepared and submitted to the planning board and to the board of adjustment an index of the natural resources [ERI] of the municipality, the planning board or the board of adjustment shall make available to the environmental commission an informational copy of every application for development submitted to either board." (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-27b).

Thus, preparing and submitting an ERI is one way to ensure that the environmental commission receives copies of development proposals, so that it can review site plans and comment to the planning board or board of adjustment.



## USES

As part of the master plan, the ERI can provide the foundation and documentation for master plan updates, ordinances, legal defense, open space or agricultural protection plans, protection of water resources, and many other municipal functions.

## QUESTIONS?

- ✉ [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org)
- 🌐 <https://anjec.org/>
- 📘 [@anjecpage](#)
- 📺 [@anjecviews5871](#)



## Environmental Resource Inventory

An ERI provides baseline documentation for measuring and evaluating resource protection issues. It includes an objective index and description of features and their functions, rather than an interpretation or recommendation. An ERI can also be referred to as a natural resource inventory (NRI).

The ERI is an important tool for governing bodies, environmental commissions, open space committees, planning boards and zoning boards of adjustment. The planning board should adopt the ERI as part of the municipal master plan, either as an appendix or as a part of a master plan conservation element.



## WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED AT A MINIMUM?

The ERI should be incorporated into the Master Plan and be reviewed at minimum every 10 years. It should include information and mapping (to the greatest extent possible) for the following:

- geology
- geography/topography
- climate
- climate change
- air
- hydrology
- soils
- wetlands
- vegetation
- wildlife (including threatened and endangered species habitat)
- existing land use
- transportation maps
- regional relationships



## RESOURCES

### ANJEC ERI Resource Paper

<https://anjec.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/ERI-2013.pdf>

**NJDEP GIS Maps** [www.nj.gov/dep/gis/](http://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/)



### NJDEP Geoweb

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/geoweb splash.htm>

**NJ Geographic Information Network** <https://njgin.nj.gov/>

### NJ Conservation Blueprint

<https://www.njmap2.com/blueprint/>

**Highlands Council (Highlands Region interactive ERI maps)**

<https://www.highlandseri.com/>

**NJ Pinelands Commission (Pinelands region)**

<https://www.nj.gov/pinelands/home/maps/interactivemap/>

**NJMap2** <https://www.njmap2.com/>

NJ MAP is an interactive atlas for ecological resources, environmental education and sustainable communities.



## SAMPLE ERIs

Manchester Township (Ocean County)

<https://tinyurl.com/2sw3f8ch>

New Brunswick (Middlesex County)

<https://tinyurl.com/3tpethnn>

Newark (Essex County)

<https://tinyurl.com/4e2hsf5m>

Ocean Township (Monmouth County)

<https://tinyurl.com/mr2ys9au>

Roselle Park (Union County)

<https://tinyurl.com/y4suwj4h>

Woolwich (Gloucester County)

<https://tinyurl.com/vbfpnfr>