Navigational Path Template

Navigational Path – 5 additional points – A required component of the Municipal Water Story for municipalities pursuing the Gold Star Standard in Water is the preparation of a Navigational Path. Using this Navigational Path Template, a municipality will identify at least two additional actions and any further steps it will undertake to address the highly-ranked water issues identified in the Municipal Water Story. Each Navigational Path is specific to the municipality and responsive to the water issues it has determined are most pressing. Municipalities will evaluate the actions and develop a timeline for their completion and seek municipal endorsement of the next steps outlined in the Navigational Path. Identification of additional actions and further steps will demonstrate a municipality's commitment to steady progress towards a sustainable water system. Completion of a Navigational Path will serve as a pledge by the municipality to guide their work in water over the next certification cycle.

Municipalities will submit this Navigational Path template as part of their Municipal Water Story. To see the additional requirement for municipalities interested in Water Gold, see the Sustainable Jersey website - Gold Star Standard in Water. The Navigational Path and Municipal Water Story are required components of the Gold Star. Municipalities are encouraged to submit their documentation for this action as well as the other three required actions for review by the first certification cycle deadline, typically in June, to allow for a complete review.

Step 1 – Select actions to solve water problems: The first step to completing this Navigational Path template is to refer to the list of priority water issues identified in completing the Municipal Water Story. With these issues in mind, consult Figure 1 which contains common water issues and actions to address them. For each highly ranked water issue identified in the Municipal Water Story – identify a Sustainable Jersey action the municipality should consider undertaking and/or identify other approaches to solving your local water concerns. Complete Table One by entering the highly ranked issues (at least two) in the left column and the corresponding actions (at least two) in the right column the municipality will undertake in the next two years to address its water challenges. For example, if in the process of completing the Municipal Water Story, residents identified concerns about the quality of private well water as an important concern, then list the Private Well Outreach and Testing action as one for consideration. Not all water issues identified by a

Figure 1: Water Issues and list of Sustainable Jersey actions *(by action category)* to address them

Concerns about drinking water quality	Removing Lead in Drinking Water (*Health*) - encourage outreach; testing and if testing – required action Private Well Outreach and Testing (*Health*) – analyze existing well data, educate and promote regular testing of private drinking water wells
Areas of repetitive flooding after heavy rain	Green Infrastructure Planning (*Land Use & Transportation*) – locate and quantify impervious surfaces and develop a plan with short and long-term goals and projects to reduce impervious cover. Green Infrastructure Implementation (*Land Use & Transportation*) – undertake and complete projects towards achieving short- and long-term goals to reduce impervious cover Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance (*Land Use & Transportation*) –adopt a model ordinance to go beyond state minimum requirements for managing stormwater
Concerns about water supply	Water Conservation Education Program (*Natural Resources*) - educate the local community on the ways and importance of reducing water use Water Conservation Ordinance (*Natural Resources*) – limit outdoor irrigation and require smart meters
Urban flooding and pollution due to combined sewer overflow	Green Infrastructure Planning (*Land Use & Transportation*) – locate and quantify impervious surfaces and develop a plan with short and long-term goals and projects to reduce impervious cover. Green Infrastructure Implementation (*Land Use & Transportation*) – undertake and complete projects towards achieving short- and long-term goals to reduce impervious cover Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance (*Land Use & Transportation*) –adopt a model ordinance to go beyond state minimum requirements for managing stormwater
Impaired surface water quality	Enhanced Stormwater Management Control Ordinance (*Land Use & Transportation*) –adopt a model ordinance to go beyond state minimum requirements for managing stormwater Community Forestry Management Plan and NJUCF Accreditation (*Natural Resources*) - achieve and maintain accreditation with the New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Program (NJUCF) as trees play a role in as water filtration and management.
Equity Issues related to public access to water	Open Space Plan (*Natural Resources*)- promote the development of a comprehensive plan for opens space based on analysis of need, and access to recreational and natural resources including bodies of water.

municipality will have a corresponding Sustainable Jersey action, therefore, consider the development and submission of an Innovative Community Project action. If developing an innovative project ensure it meets the action requirements such as: the approach is not outlined in another water action; demonstrates an impact on sustainability; serves as a model that is replicable in other towns; and ideally contains a corresponding educational component.

Table One - Issues and Actions:

Water Issues:	**Corresponding Action Date**
List at least two highly ranked water concerns with a brief description as identified in the Municipal Water Story:	*List at least two Sustainable Jersey Action, or other innovative community project approaches to address the water concerns identified.*

Step 2 – Evaluate potential actions**:** From the list of potential actions, the municipality will select at least two to undertake to maintain the gold star in water and complete for submission by the next municipal re-certification in the Sustainable Jersey program. As a municipality evaluates potential actions, consider capacity either in staff and or volunteers, time available, importance of the issue or other criteria. In addition, consideration should be given to insure the municipality is completing actions that balance – planning for changing and making change as listed in Figure 2 - below. Finally, to ensure steady progress towards a sustainable water approach, municipalities will be asked to demonstrate they are working on actions that addressing the Sustainable Jersey water goal and address the five indicators shown in Figure 3 below. This is especially important when applying for recertification for the Water Gold Star, as over time, municipalities will need to demonstrate they are working on actions that address each of the five indicators to measure the water goal.

Figure 2: Focus of actions
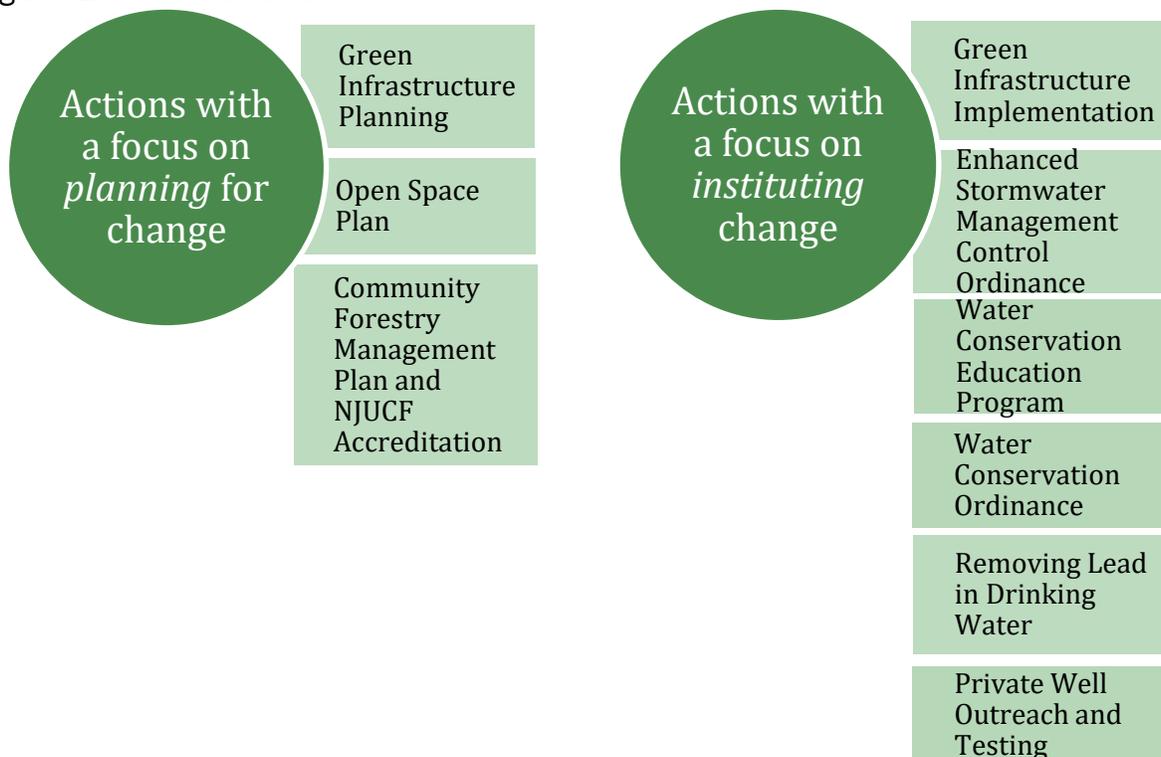
Figure 3 – Sustainable Jersey Water Goal

Sustainable Jersey's Water Goal: *New Jersey's water system provides an adequate and affordable supply of clean and safe drinking water for everyone, while also safeguarding water sources to ensure sufficient quality and supply to support healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.*

Source: The New Jersey State of the State Report, 2018, Sustainable Jersey

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*Sustainable Jersey has identified **five indicators** for measuring progress towards our water goal:*

1. *Drinking water from wells and public water systems is clean and safe for human consumption.*

2. *Water quality in streams, lakes, and wetlands is sufficient to support native species and ecosystem functions, and safe for human recreation and fish consumption.*

3. *Water supply, including stream flow and groundwater recharge, is sufficient both for human uses (household, agricultural, and recreational) and for ecosystems, providing for healthy aquatic and riparian habitat and biodiversity.*

4. *The water system, including infrastructure for water supply, stormwater and wastewater, provides adequate capacity and functions at needed standards. It is resilient to climate change, taking future demands and vulnerabilities into account.*

5. *Access for all New Jerseyans to water resources for all necessary uses is universally affordable and fairly distributed now and across generations.*

Step 3 – Develop an action work plan**:** With at least two additional actions identified, the municipality will then develop a work plan for completing the actions. The work plan will identify the action, proposed steps for undertaking the action, lead individual or organizations involved in completing the work and timeframes for completion. Sharing a draft work plan with organizations involved in implementation or subject matter knowledge experts can assist in refining the work plan and potentially solicit assistance in its completions. With a work plan in hand, the final step is to secure municipal support for the Navigational Path.

Table Two – Water Action Work Plan:

Action:	Proposed Time Frame for Action Completion
List of actions to be undertaken to address water issues as identified in the Municipal Water Story:	*For each action, identify the resources and partners involved and time frame for completing the steps and the overall action.*
New Actions	
Add addition rows as needed:	
Maintaining certification for four water actions:	
Natural or Environmental Resources Inventory (NRI or ERI)	
Municipal Water Story + Navigational Path	
High Impact Action	
Fourth Action	

Add addition rows as needed:

Step 4 -Municipal Endorsement: A presentation to the municipal governing body that includes the rational for selecting and evaluating the actions included in the workplan to secure their support is the final step of the Navigational Path. All municipalities seeking points for the Municipal Water Story are required to present findings from completing the action including the narrative, results of the public engagement and highly ranked actions. Additionally, municipalities pursuing the Gold Star Standard in Water will need to secure endorsement for their continued work in water as described in this Navigational Path template. The presentation of the findings of the Municipal Water Story with the results of the Navigational Path - can be combined into one appearance before the governing body. Figure 4 provides a sample resolution a municipality can use to secure the governing body support of the Navigational Path and to be submitted as part of the Municipal Water Story.

Gold Star Standard Review of Navigational Path: The municipality will submit the completed Navigational Plan template as part of the Municipal Water Story submission for certification by Sustainable Jersey during the regular municipal certification cycle. Key to the Sustainable Jersey review, will be an evaluation of the link between the highly ranked issues identified in the Municipal Water Story and the actions selected by the municipality to address them. To maintain the Gold Star, municipalities will need to update their Navigational Path. Updates to the Navigational Path, will include reporting on completed actions as well as identify new actions or advancement to higher tiers in previously approved water actions to be completed by the next municipal recertification. Municipalities will also need to maintain certification for all of their previously completed water actions.

Figure 4 - Sample Navigational Path Endorsement Resolution:

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Resolution by the [Local Governing Body] Authorizing a submission of a Navigational Path – a requirement of the Sustainable Jersey® Gold Star Standard in Water

WHEREAS, Sustainable Jersey developed a Gold Star Standard in Water for municipalities interested in managing water resources holistically and in a manner that sustains and improves the overall quantity, quality and utilization of water.

WHEREAS, the Gold Star Standard in Water is designed to assist municipalities in their efforts to meet the Sustainable Jersey goal that New Jersey's water system provides an adequate and affordable supply of clean and safe drinking water for everyone, while also safeguarding water sources to ensure sufficient quality and supply to support healthy ecosystems and biodiversity,

WHEREAS, municipalities can be most effective when they work collaboratively across boundaries to solve common issues in their watershed. Yet, each of the State's 565 municipalities faces its own unique water challenges and opportunities.

WHERAS, the Gold Star Standard is designed to provide flexibility for municipalities to develop their own unique path to Water Gold and, in so doing, make substantial progress towards the collective water goals. The completion of the Navigational Path template as part of the Municipal Water Story action is the document municipalities use to express their commitment and chart their path towards improvements in water.

WHEREAS, [Municipality] is eligible to apply for a Gold Star Standard and has completed the four pre-requisite actions including the two required core actions: Natural Resource Inventory (NRI), also known as an Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) and the Municipal Water Story as well as the completion of a [High Impact Action] and an [Additional Action].

WHEREAS, [Municipality] as part of their Water Story has developed a Navigational Path which identifies at least two additional actions the [municipality] will undertake in the next three years to improve water. The Navigational Path outlines an action plan and the steps the [municipality] will take to complete new actions and how it will maintain certification in the four pre-requisite actions as well as any actions in an existing approved Navigational Path.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in order to make substantial progress towards improving water within [Municipality] the [Municipality's Governing Body] endorses the actions and plan outlined in the Navigational Path of [Municipality] and commits the [Municipality] to undertake initiatives and activities to maintain the Gold Star Standard in Water.

[Date Voted]

CERTIFICATION