

*[Detailed Information for the Borough WebSite]*

**ONLY 9 YEARS TO GO! Vision 2020: What has been accomplished?**

In 2005 we began a comprehensive study to determine what residents think Upper Saddle River should be like in the year 2020. A town-wide survey was conducted, and committees with 38 representatives of organizations throughout the Borough developed their recommendations to add to the survey results. In addition, various experts were called on for advice.

This combined effort covered a wide range of topics and yielded recommendations on Preservation of our Semi-rural Character, Safety, Environment, Taxes, Quality of Life, and Government Services. Out of this, 22 major recommendations were submitted to the Mayor and Council. A majority of these have been implemented, several are in process, a few have yet to be addressed. The original Vision 2020 Report is available as a PDF on this website.

Here is a summary of where we are.

**Vision 2020 Recommendations Implemented as of 2010**

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Status</u>
Preserve our Historic Homes	A Historic Preservation Ordinance was adopted in 2008 and a Historic Preservation Commission established. To date 19 of 42 historic homes and sites have received recognition in the form of plaques. Ongoing publicity has been done to promote the importance of Historic Preservation. A display will be mounted in the library. The Commission received the Bergen County 2010 Historic Preservation Commendation Award for Leadership.
Retain the rural look of Elmers	The new Elmers, when completed, will be reminiscent of the old barns. It will also include a seating area with table space. This can serve as a gathering place for the community.
Protect our River and Environment.	A river assessment program was implemented by the Environmental Committee in 2006 and water quality is monitored several times each year including visual, biological and chemical assessments.  A Clean Water Act Suit is in progress to protect our rivers from pollution coming from across the state line.

The Environmental Committee has launched a number of programs including: Use of Pesticides, Composting, Electric Conservation, Cancelling Catalogs, Recommendations for Landscapers and Lawn Services.

Green Team has been formed to work toward Sustainable Jersey certification.

Upper Saddle River has been named a New Jersey Healthy Town sponsored by the Board of Health as part of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

#### Improve Traffic Patterns

A cutout on West Saddle River Road was installed to ease backups when cars and busses are turning left into the schools. New traffic patterns at the schools have been installed.

In addition, traffic changes at the corner of West Saddle River Road and Lake St. have been completed to ease congestion and allow emergency vehicles faster egress during high volume hours.

Signage has been installed along 25 mph streets to deter speeding and stricter enforcement has been instituted.

#### Install Fire Hydrants

Hydrants and water lines are being installed a road work is being done. So far 20% of the Borough, including the schools, is covered.

#### Improve Services

Twice a week garbage pick up in the winter has been put in place. Web site has been expanded and improved. See also "Strengthen recreation facilities" below."

#### Communicate OEM Plan

Plan is now on Borough website: [www.USRToday.org](http://www.USRToday.org)

#### Strengthen Shade Tree Ord.

Ordinance has been updated and strengthened. Adopted Oct. 2010. Septic ordinance has been revised to include tree preservation.

#### Provide Adequate Staff and Equipment for Emergency Services

Fire Dept.: New fire truck and squad truck purchased. By-laws updated.

Ambulance: Paid day time staff has been added.

Police: Headquarters building renovated. State certification applied for. By-Laws updated.

Strengthen Recreation Facilities

Lions Field renovation and field house, with rest rooms, completed. Lighting along the parking lot to be installed. Well installed to limit water bills. New events: tennis clinics for adults, soccer and basketball clinics for special needs children, biathlon for women, walking program for all ages, and free school play for seniors. Walking path improvement in process. Parking improved at Lions Park. Open Space grant for tennis court upgrades and rest rooms at Hess Court applied for.

Promote Volunteerism

Lists of volunteers and volunteer opportunities have been established. Volunteer information and publicity appears regularly in the Borough Bulletin. Plan is to replace volunteer events sign at corner of West Saddle River Rd. and Lake St.

Hire a Grant Writer

Borough Engineer is grant writer and has written several applications.

Develop Rt. 17 Corridor

Developed. Only one parcel remains

### **Vision 2020 Recommendations in Process**

Control the Size and Bulk of new Homes

Under discussion by the Planning Board

Share Services

Being explored with neighboring communities

Strengthen Noise Ordinance

Air traffic noise addressed. Environmental Committee investigating ordinances in nearby towns.

Resolve Mt. Laurel Obligation

Submitted plan for Round 3. Waiting on new guidelines from Trenton.

Form Water and Waste Task Force

Working with NWBRHC.

Control School Costs

Update Ordinances

Several have been updated: Shade tree, building, septic.

**Vision 2020 Recommendations to be Addressed**

Provide Incentives for Seniors  
to stay in Town