

PINELANDS INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT  
PROJECT SELECTION AND FUNDING LEVELS  
PC-19-\_\_

## Background

The Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund (PITF) was created through the Pinelands Bond Act of 1985. Originally, sale of bonds authorized by P.L. 1985, Chapter 302 raised \$30,000,000 for the purpose of providing grants and loans to local units of government for infrastructure projects necessary to accommodate development in Regional Growth Areas of the Pinelands. The Pinelands Commission then prepared and adopted the Pinelands Infrastructure Master Plan and an Infrastructure Financing Plan.

Loans repaid from previous funding rounds, along with the sale of additional bonds, has replenished the PITF. Currently, approximately \$15,890,000 is available for projects approved through the PITF process. Amendment of the Master Plan is necessary to identify and recommend infrastructure projects for funding.

A Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund (PITF) Master Plan amendment was adopted by the Pinelands Commission in February 2019. The amendment updated the criteria for ranking proposed infrastructure projects and identified the funding structure as a balance of 50% loans, 40% grant and a minimum of 10% local matching funds. Subsequently, the Commission directed that a request for project proposals should be issued.

A request for proposals was issued on March 12, 2019 and distributed to all Pinelands counties, municipalities, and utility authorities with Pinelands Regional Growth service areas. Ten project proposals were received in response to the request for proposals. Projects ranged from water distribution lines and wastewater collection lines, to transportation improvements and underground storage tank removal. The total cost of all projects submitted was \$34,060,215, far exceeding the amount of money currently available through the PITF. All projects are described below, with funding recommendations in a subsequent section.

Loans and grants are administered by the Infrastructure Bank pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:22 – 6 and 7 relative to the PITF. Subchapter 6 sets forth the grant and loan procedures. Subchapter 7 defines allowable costs for the projects. The procedures and allowable costs are not the subject of this PITF Master Plan Amendment.

## Objectives

The resources available for use in the PITF are approximately \$15,890,000. That amount includes existing funds and \$6,750,000 in bond issues. The funding must be appropriated through legislation. Appropriations refer to the Pinelands Infrastructure Master Plan priority list. This Pinelands Infrastructure Master Plan amendment supports the appropriations of PITF through achievement of the following objectives:

- To establish an updated priority list of infrastructure projects for funding through the Pinelands Infrastructure Bond Act
- To select and rank proposed infrastructure projects against criteria established through the Pinelands Infrastructure Master Plan Amendment completed February 2019
- To adopt the priority list into the Pinelands Infrastructure Master Plan
- To forward the priority list to NJDEP for legislative appropriations and administration of grants and loans

## **Project Descriptions and Rankings**

All project proposals were evaluated against the ranking criteria of the Pinelands Infrastructure Master Plan amendment adopted in February 2019. The ten projects are briefly described, below, and are listed in order of their ranking.

### 1. Pemberton Township – Burlington County Institutions Water System Improvements

This project would install improvements to an existing water supply system. The proposal is to rehabilitate distribution and storage facilities that form the sole source of public water supply for a portion of the Township’s Regional Growth Area recently designated for redevelopment. The project was evaluated based on two redevelopment plans certified by the Commission on June 14, 2019. Projected demand for 85 full PDCs (340 rights) is based upon a maximum of 1,430 dwelling units in the Rowan College at Burlington County Redevelopment Area and an additional 80 dwelling units in the Former Burlington County Minimum Security and Work Release Center Redevelopment Area. The large number of dwelling units, large mandatory PDC use, residential density, and a lower cost per dwelling unit all contributed to the highest rank for this project.

### 2. Manchester Township and Jackson Municipal Utilities Authority – Water and Sewer Main Extensions

The project would serve Regional Growth Areas in Manchester Township and Jackson Township. Sewer main would be extended approximately 2 miles along Ridgeway Road and South Hope Chapel Road from a connection in Manchester Township (service by Ocean County Utility Authority). Additionally, water mains would be extended from Jackson Township connection into Manchester Township resulting in interconnection of the municipal water systems. Water system interconnection is expected to reduce usage of an existing Cohansey aquifer public supply well. A portion of the area to be served by the sewer and water extensions is subject of a Pinelands development application with a recent Certificate of Filing (App. No. 1983-5386.002.) Based upon municipal zoning, the project would support potential use of 85.5 PDCs (342 rights) and allow for a total of 1,369 dwelling units (789 in Manchester Township and 580 in Jackson Township.) The large number of dwelling units, mandatory PDC use, residential density, higher local matching funds, and environmental benefit of reduced demand on the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer all contributed to the high ranking of this project.

### 3. Monroe Township – Williamstown Square Transportation Improvements

This project supports a redevelopment area in the Regional Growth Area with road intersection signalization, road widening, and controlled access for a mixed-use development. The project is planned to serve 350 dwelling units and generate mandatory use of 21 PDCs (84 rights). Design is intended to accommodate multiple modes of transportation including auto, bicycle and foot traffic. The redevelopment plan calls for achieving a “Sustainable Neighborhood” through encouragement of LEED silver certification. Also, the development is intended to maximize green space through green roofs, green walls, architectural design, rain gardens and woodlands. The number of dwelling units, mandatory PDC use, moderate cost per dwelling unit (in PITF funding) and green design elements contributed to the ranking of this project. The ranking is based upon the Commission’s anticipated certification of a revised version of the Williamstown Square Redevelopment Plan, adopted by the Township in May 2019. Eligibility for funding may not be met without Pinelands certification of the redevelopment plan.

### 4. Galloway Township – Pinehurst Sewer Extension

The project proposes to extend 26,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer main to connect with the Atlantic County Utilities Authority system in the Pinehurst section of Galloway Township. The project would allow the development of approximately 938 dwelling units and the use of 41.25 PDCs (165 rights) if the Planned Unit Residential (PURD) standards of the municipal ordinance are applied. The number of dwelling units, a lower cost per dwelling unit (in PITF funding), and residential density raised the ranking of this project. Optional, rather than mandatory, use of PDCs also affected the ranking. Ranking of this project presumed that future development would occur at the permitted PURD density. That density could not be achieved absent public sanitary sewers.

### 5. Winslow Township – Water and Sewer Main Extensions

This project would design and construct 4,275 linear feet of water main and 4,095 linear feet of sewer main to support a recently designated redevelopment area in the Regional Growth Area. The parcel to be served by the sewer and water extensions is subject of a Pinelands development application with a recent Certificate of Filing (App. No. 2008-0014.002.) Based upon municipal zoning, the parcel to be served has potential for 145 dwelling units and mandatory use of 9.25 PDCs (37 rights). Mandatory PDC use and larger local match funding contribute to the ranking of this project.

### 6. Monroe Township – Black Horse Pike Water and Sewer Main Extensions

The project would extend water and sewer to a mix of commercially zoned and residentially zoned sections of the Township adjacent to the Black Horse Pike. Approximately 13,000 LF of sewer force main, 8,960 LF of sewer main, and 15,315 LF of water main would be installed to serve commercial development and an estimated 421 dwelling units. Based upon the municipal zoning, there is potential for mandatory use of 21.25 PDCs (85 rights). Although the area to be

served is in a Regional Growth Area, the majority is zoned for commercial development. Ranking of this project reflects mandatory PDC use and residential density, where applicable, but also predominance of commercial development to be served.

#### 7. Egg Harbor Township – Tremont South Sewer Extension

The proposal includes approximately 13,100 LF of sewer main extensions to serve a residentially zoned area where PDC use is optional. The project is estimated to generate 150 dwelling units and potential demand for 12.5 PDCs (50 rights). The lower level of service along with optional PDC use, low residential density, and minimum local match affected the ranking of this project.

#### 8. Atlantic County Utilities Authority – Underground Storage Tank Replacement

This project would remove underground fuel tanks located at five existing pump stations and replace them with above ground storage tanks and containment structures. The five pumping stations serve existing wastewater collection systems in Hamilton Township and Egg Harbor Township. There is no specific development proposed or associated with this maintenance project, although such projects may be necessary to support future development in the sewer service areas of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority. The lack of specific information about potential residential units, PDC use, and other factors related to bonus criteria led to a lower rank for this project.

#### 9. Atlantic County Utilities Authority – Pump Station Upgrades

The project proposes structural, mechanical and electrical upgrades to extend the operation of five pump existing wastewater pump stations. The five pumping stations serve existing wastewater collection systems in Hamilton Township and Egg Harbor Township. There is no specific development proposed or associated with this maintenance project, although such projects may be necessary to support future development in the sewer service areas of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority. The lack of specific information about potential residential units, PDC use, and other factors related to bonus criteria led to a lower rank for this project.

#### 10. Evesham Municipal Utilities Authority

The project would construct an elevated water storage tank to serve existing customers along Hopewell and Kettle Run Roads in Evesham Township located in a Pinelands Rural Development management area, along with an unspecified Regional Growth Area. The application noted that no PDCs will be used for any development served by the proposed water tank. As the service area is in a Rural Development Area and no Regional Growth Area is proposed to be served and no PDC demand is generated by the project, it is ineligible for funding through the PITF.

## Project Priority List and Recommended Funding

Given available funding and the rankings described above, five projects are recommended for PITF funding. The table below summarizes the recommended funding levels. Final funding levels will be determined by the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank through administration of NJAC 7:22 – 6 and 7.

Priority Number	Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	PITF grant	PITF loan	PITF Sum
1	Pemberton	BCI Water system improvement	\$2,929,000	\$1,171,600	\$1,464,500	\$2,636,100
2	Manchester Twp/ Jackson MUA	Water & Sewer	\$7,192,035	\$2,745,011	\$2,745,011	\$5,490,022
3	Monroe	Williamstown Square Transportation	\$3,962,000	\$1,426,320	\$1,782,900	\$3,209,220
4	Galloway	Pinehurst sewer extension	\$3,493,440	\$1,397,376	\$1,746,720	\$3,144,096
5	Winslow	Water & Sewer	\$1,728,940	\$705,281	\$705,281	\$1,410,562
Totals			\$19,305,415	\$7,445,588	\$8,444,412	\$15,890,000