Welcome to the design process for the Van Buskirk Island County Park. On November 19, 2009, Oradell Township hosted a Design Charrette. These ideas are developed by the Van Buskirk Island County Park development team and the Rutgers Landscape Architecture design team in developing visions for the future park. Over the next few weeks, you will be working with you to reshape the Hackensack Water Works.

Functioning as a collection, purification and delivery site for the water of the Hackensack River, the Water Works was the pivotal point of changing a natural resource into a huge, complicated water delivery system. The man-made water works system and finally as clean drinking water delivered through pipes to the community, is how the Hackensack Water Works altered the growing Bergen County.

The Hackensack Water Works, with its scenic historical landscapes and buildings, incorporates layers of cultural and industrial history. The park will provide visitors with educational experiences as well as passive and active recreation.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION & EDUCATION
The visions that are being developed for the future Van Buskirk Island County Park are contextual and inclusive of the way-of-the-water, where gallons of water once were hauled to water faucet. The restored canal starts visitors on the way-of-the-water, where gallons of water once began the journey from river to water faucet.

IDEAS
The design team welcomes ideas and suggestions of what you like and what you don’t like. For information, go to the following website: www.cues.rutgers.edu

VISION FOR THE VAN BUSKIRK WATER WORKS IN ORADELL
AT THE HACKENSACK WATER WORKS IN ORADELL

OUTDOORS CLASSROOM
Individuals and classes can experience and explore the history of the site, the science of water and the environment.

RAIN GARDENS
Responsibility to mimic clean aquatic conditions, the Hackensack River will be an important consideration in creating Van Buskirk Island County Park. To minimize and treat storm water runoff, a system of channels and rain gardens will clean water as it moves through the basin and gardens.

TUNNEL ACCESS
How to gain access to the basin will provide a direct link for visitors.

PLAYGROUND
From swings to giant slides, the playground at the Van Buskirk Island County Park will be a fun place for children to play and for parents to relax.

BIRD BLIND
This river site is a rich bird habitat. This black-crowned Night Heron is a frequent visitor. A bird blind will provide visitors to the river with a way to watch its avian visitors.

BUILDING PRESERVATION
The historic buildings will be preserved and new life will bring new life to them.

PIPE SYSTEM
The complex network of pipes will be open at this spot, giving the visitors a look at a small part of this huge, complicated water delivery system.

INTAKE CANAL
The intake canal starts visitors on the way-of-the-water, where gallons of water once began the journey from river to water faucet.

CANOE LAUNCH
Combined efforts of Bergen County, the Hackensack Riverkeeper and the National Parks Service will open the entrance to the Hackensack River Trail. This point will connect with other county parks and the Hackensack Meadowlands Conservation and Wildlife Area.

WORKERS’ HOUSING
Parks will guide visitors through the site of the former workers housing, relaying the lives of those who lived and worked at the plant.

SENSORY GARDEN
The plan’s inspiration of the former flocculation provides an opportunity for small garden rooms to be enjoyed by visitors seeking a sensory experience.

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GREEN ROOF
The governing principal in the movement of water through the facility is a network of channels and rain gardens that will clean water as it moves through the basin and gardens.

COMBINED SERVICES
Combined efforts of Bergen County, the Hackensack Riverkeeper and the National Parks Service will open the entrance to the Hackensack River Trail. This point will connect with other county parks and the Hackensack Meadowlands Conservation and Wildlife Area.