

The Pinelands

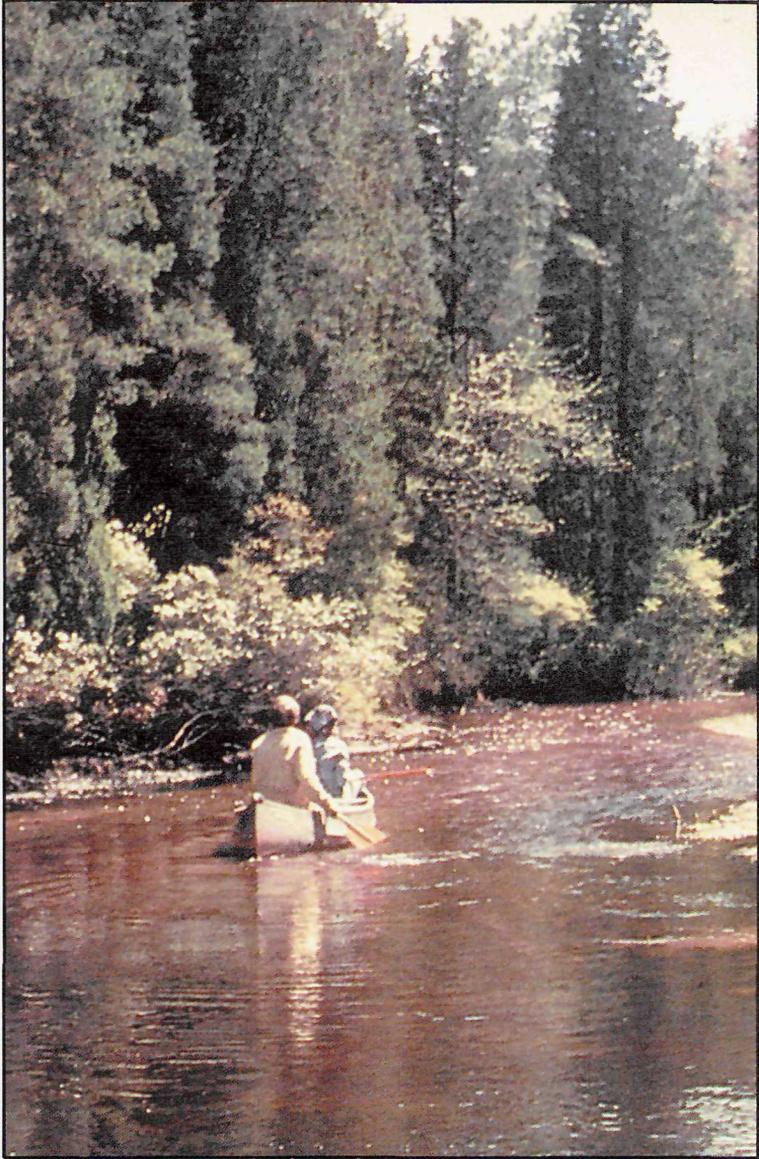


Photo by Robert Hastings

of New Jersey

THE NEW JERSEY PINELANDS—truly a special place. Its vast unbroken forests of pine, oak, and cedar make the Pinelands the largest tract of open space on the mid-Atlantic coast. Here a visitor can search shady cedar swamps for the rare curly grass fern or hike through a forest of “pigmy” pine trees no taller than a man. Slow moving streams fed by a huge underground aquifer supply the marshes and bays of southern New Jersey with some of the cleanest water in the world. In 1978 and 1979 Congress and the State of New Jersey passed legislation to protect the Pinelands and its water resources. In 1983 the United Nations further recognized the importance of the Pinelands by designating the region an International Biosphere Reserve.



Photo by Ted Gordon

The Wading River is one of many Pinelands waterways providing southern New Jersey's estuaries with clean water.

THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Comprehensive Management Plan for the Pinelands provides an overall framework for future growth in the region and protection of its resources. The Plan is guided by both federal and state legislation. In keeping with the New Jersey Pinelands Protection Act, the Plan recognizes an inner Preservation Area and a surrounding Protection Area. In the Preservation Area, the Plan is designed to preserve a large, contiguous tract of land in its natural state and to promote compatible agricultural, horticultural, and recreational uses. In the Protection Area, the Plan's goal is to maintain the essential character of the existing Pinelands environment while accommodating needed development in an orderly way.

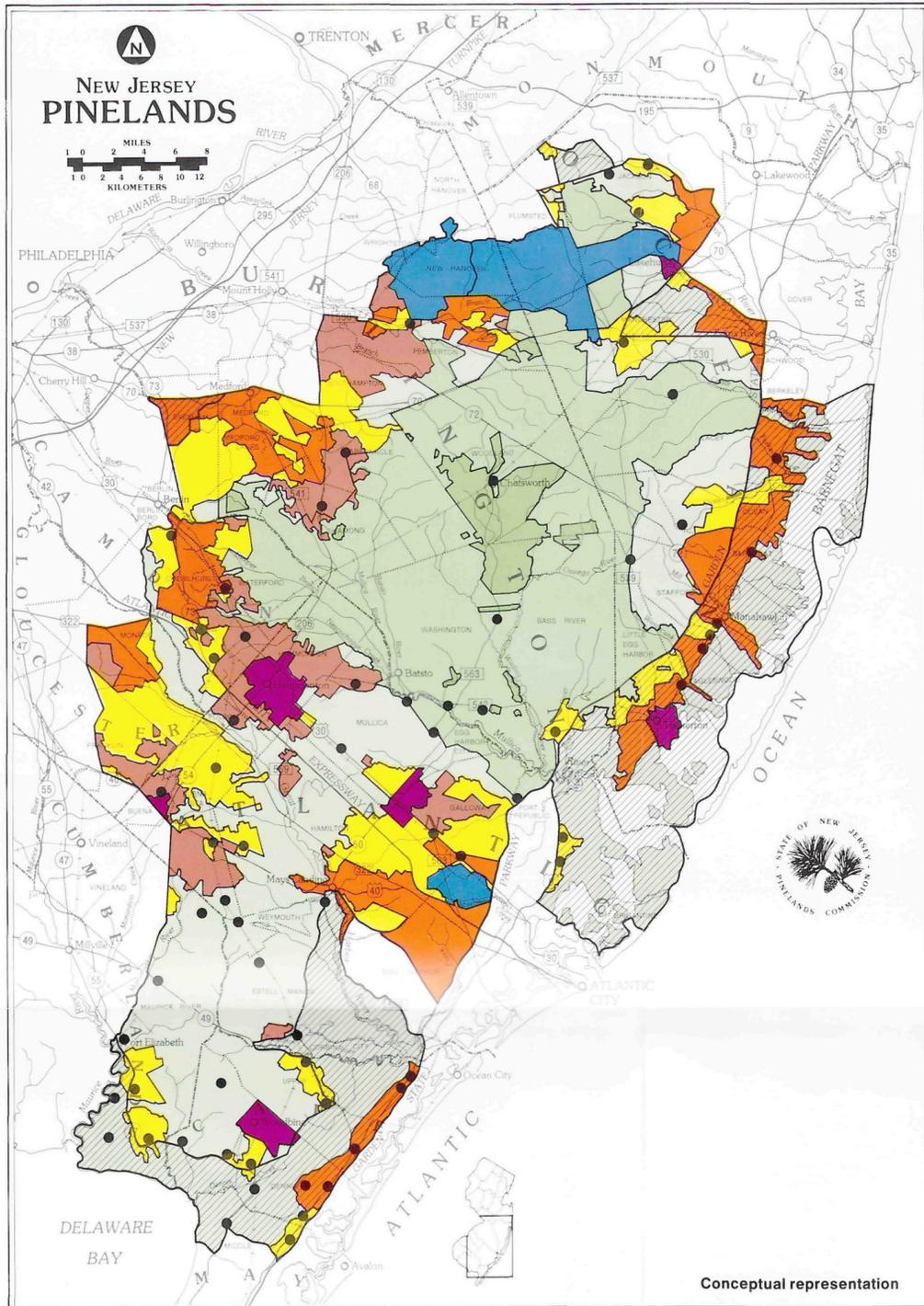
Public lands within the Pinelands will increase by approximately 100,000 acres under the Plan's acquisition program. These acquisitions will add valuable acreage to state parks, forests, and wildlife management areas. The emphasis for future acquisition will be on protecting a number of “critical areas” identified during the Pinelands planning process. Funds for acquisition are provided under the National Parks and Recreation Act (\$23 million). They will be supplemented with monies from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and New Jersey's Green Acres Program.

THE PLAN divides the Pinelands into nine management areas, each designed to accommodate compatible land uses in a manner consistent with the protection of natural resources. A map showing the management areas is contained on the inside page of this brochure.

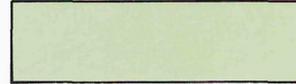
The Comprehensive Management Plan also sets forth sixteen management programs governing the protection of air and water quality, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, scenic and cultural resources, agriculture, and other characteristics of the Pinelands environment. These programs are designed to ensure that growth in the area will occur without adversely affecting the Pinelands' natural resources. An innovative Pinelands Development Credit program allows landowners in more restricted areas to transfer development opportunities to Regional Growth Areas, with users being allowed to build at higher densities.

Municipal and county governments play major roles in the Pinelands protection effort by implementing Comprehensive Management Plan standards and programs through local master plans and zoning ordinances.

Comprehensive Planning for New Jersey's Pinelands



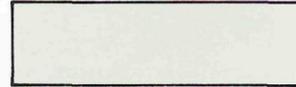
Preservation Area District



"The heart of the Pines"

Uses here include cranberry and blueberry agriculture, forestry, recreation, and fish and wildlife management

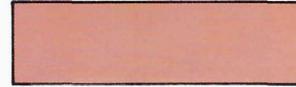
Forest Areas



Environmentally sensitive lands that display many qualities similar to the Preservation Area

Uses include low density residential and commercial development, agriculture, forestry, recreation, and resource extraction

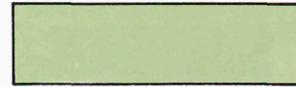
Agricultural Production Areas



Larger concentrations of conventional agricultural lands

Uses are primarily restricted to agriculture and related commercial and residential activities. Municipalities may nominate additional areas

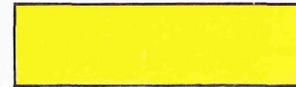
Special Agricultural Production Areas



Lands devoted to cranberry and blueberry agriculture

Uses are largely limited to cranberry and blueberry farming or native horticulture

Rural Development Areas



Already semi-developed

Uses include new residential development at 200 units per square mile and other uses compatible with the Pinelands environment. Municipalities may designate a "municipal reserve" to accommodate future growth pressures in such areas

Regional Growth Areas



Adjacent to already developed portions of the Pinelands

Uses may be determined by municipalities to achieve an assigned average growth density

Pinelands Towns



Traditional communities primarily outside of regional growth areas

Municipalities may determine future land uses which are compatible with the existing character of the town

Military and Federal Installation Areas



Federally owned lands

Uses are consistent with national defense and federal requirements as determined by memoranda of agreement with the Commission

Pinelands Villages



Settlements with cultural and historical ties to the Pinelands

Municipalities may designate land uses which are compatible with the existing character of the village



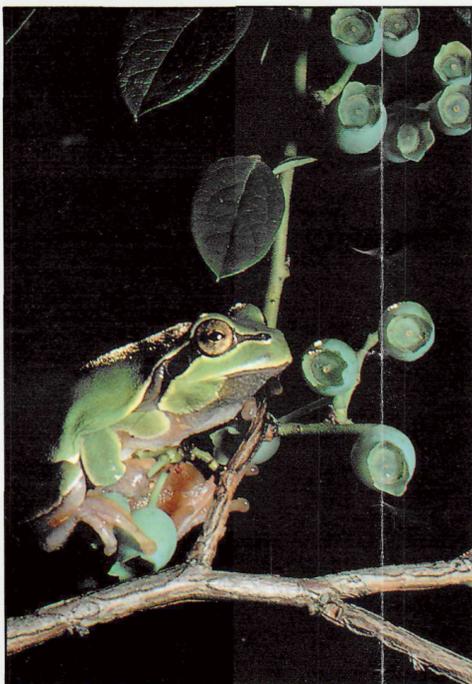
Within Pinelands National Reserve but outside state designated Pinelands Area

Highlights of the Pinelands

SIZE: Approximately a million acres in southern New Jersey; 23 percent of the state's total land area. Includes portions of seven counties—Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean.

FLORA AND FAUNA: Low, dense forests of pine and oak, ribbons of cedar and hardwood swamps bordering drainage courses, pitch pine lowlands, and bogs and marshes combine to produce an expansive vegetative mosaic unsurpassed in the Northeast. The Pinelands also contains over 12,000 acres of "pygmy forest," a unique stand of dwarf pine and oak smaller than 11 feet; 850 species of plants and over 350 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians; and rare plants and animals such as the curly grass fern, broom crowberry, and Pine Barrens treefrog. The area contains unusual range overlaps where species of 109 southern plants and 14 northern plants reach their respective geographic limits. Development of the unique flora and fauna of the region is closely related to the occurrence of fire.

OWNERSHIP: 1/3 publicly and 2/3 privately owned; public lands are concentrated in the Preservation Area. State-owned lands (275,000 acres) include parks and forests such as Wharton, Lebanon, Island Beach, and Colliers Mills. Federal properties (75,000 acres) are predominantly military installations (Fort Dix, McGuire Air Force Base and Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Center), but include the wildlife refuges of Brigantine and Barnegat.



The rare Pine Barrens treefrog lives in bogs and swamps.

GEOGRAPHY/GEOLGY: The Pinelands is located in the Atlantic Outer Coastal Plan, a geological formation characterized by gently rolling terrain and sandy soils. Underlying much of the Pinelands is the Cohansey Aquifer. This formation of unconsolidated sand and gravel functions as a vast underground reservoir estimated to contain over 17 trillion gallons of pure water. The water in this shallow aquifer frequently lies at or near the surface, producing bogs, marshes, and swamps. The streams of the Pines are fed by this aquifer. Organic contents leaching out of the soils are responsible for the dark tea color of these streams.

RIVERS AND LAKES: Miles of rivers course through the Pinelands, the major ones being the Mullica, Great Egg Harbor, and Toms. Lakes are man-made rather than natural phenomena and have generally been created by the damming of streams and other wetlands. The best-known lakes are Lake Lenape (Mays Landing), Harrisville (site of 19th century paper town), and Lake Oswego.

ECONOMY: Agriculture, including blueberries and cranberries as well as row and field crops, is extremely important. New Jersey is 2nd in the nation in blueberry production and 3rd in cranberries. The Pinelands contributes approximately 25 percent of the state's agricultural income. Other major industries are recreation, resource extraction, construction (mostly on the periphery), shellfishing, and public service (government).

POPULATION: 450,000 year-round residents. Municipal densities range from 10 persons per square mile in parts of the interior to over 4,000 persons per square mile in towns such as Medford Lakes and Lakehurst.

PLANNING BOUNDARIES: The federal planning area (Pinelands National Reserve, established by Section 502 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978) covers 1.1 million acres, or 1,700 square miles, in 56 municipalities. The state planning area established by the Pinelands Protection Act of 1979 covers 933,000 acres in 52 municipalities. Under the state legislation, the Pinelands are further divided into the Protection Area (565,000 acres) and the core Preservation Area (368,000 acres).

RECREATION: Opportunities for a varied recreational experience in the Pinelands are unsurpassed in the region. Ranging from the exploration of old abandoned towns and the restored Batsto Village to hiking a serene woodland trail, the Pinelands experience is appreciated by all. Boating on the Mullica River, canoeing the multitude of winding streams, and swimming and fishing interior waters or the Atlantic Ocean are enjoyed by thousands each year. Camping in the vast acreage of the state park system, hunting, and even dog sledding are popular activities. The variety of vegetation and unique woodland settings make the Pinelands a photographer's paradise. The recreational resources of the Pinelands are available to millions of residents in the most heavily urbanized region of the country. It is an area where one may escape to enjoy the State of New Jersey as it was in the past—a woodland environment, traversed by clean waters and a myriad of sandy trails.

For more information about recreational opportunities, contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, CN 402, Trenton, NJ 08625, and the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism, One West State Street, CN 826, Trenton, NJ 08625



Cranberry growers harvest their fruit from Pinelands bogs each fall.

THE PINELANDS COMMISSION

In 1978 the Congress of the United States established the Pinelands National Reserve and called upon the State of New Jersey to create a planning agency to preserve and protect the area's natural resources from burgeoning development pressures. In February 1979 then-Governor Brendan Byrne, by executive order, established the Pinelands Commission and instituted a moratorium on development while a plan for the Pinelands was being prepared. In June 1979, the New Jersey Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, the Pinelands Protection Act. The Act is perhaps the strongest land use legislation in the country. It conferred upon the Pinelands Commission, in partnership with all levels of government, a mandate to preserve and protect the Pinelands.

The Pinelands Protection Act authorized the Commission to devise a Comprehensive Management Plan for the 1.1 million acre Pinelands National Reserve. On November 21, 1980, the Commission adopted the Plan after extensive deliberation and the involvement of local government officials, organizations, and interested citizens. The Plan was subsequently approved by the Governor of New Jersey, and on January 16, 1981, by the Secretary of the Interior.

All counties and municipalities within the Pinelands are required to revise master plans and zoning ordinances so they will be in conformance with the Comprehensive Management Plan. The Pinelands Commission acts as the certifying authority in the conformance process. This process allows local governments to adapt Plan standards and management areas to local conditions.

THE COMMISSION monitors development in the state-designated Pinelands Area which includes all or portions of 52 of the 56 municipalities in the Pinelands National Reserve. Four of the 56 National Reserve municipalities and portions of others lie entirely outside the Pinelands Area. The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Coastal Resources is responsible for implementing the Pinelands Plan in these areas.

The Pinelands Commission consists of fifteen members. Seven are appointed by the Governor. Seven represent, and are appointed by, each of the counties within the Pinelands. One member is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The Commission works closely with local government officials, organizations, and interested individuals to help them understand and implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Management Plan. The Commission encourages your comments and questions.



State of New Jersey
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Commission Members
Franklin E. Parker, *Chairman*
Brian McFadden, *Vice-Chairman*

Candace McKee Ashmun
Alan Avery
Joan Batory
William J. Brown
B. Budd Chavooshian
James W. Coleman, Jr.
Thomas B. Darlington
Michael J. Hogan,
James Hyres
Stephen V. Lee, III
Gary Sawhill
Vicki Snyder
John E. Vaughan
Terrence D. Moore, *Executive Director*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PINELANDS?

A self-contained audio-visual program on the Pinelands produced by the Pinelands Commission is available at libraries and schools throughout the state. This 17 minute slide-tape program is appropriate as an introduction to the Pinelands for adult groups and grades six through 12. The narrated show consists of 80 color slides in a carousel and is accompanied by Pinelands music and natural sounds. The program presents an overview of the ecology and history of the Pinelands and describes measures being taken to protect it.

If you would like to know where to borrow this slide program in your area, or if you would just like more information about the Pinelands, please write or call the Commission's Public Programs office.

PINELANDS COMMISSION
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Telephone (609) 894-9342

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