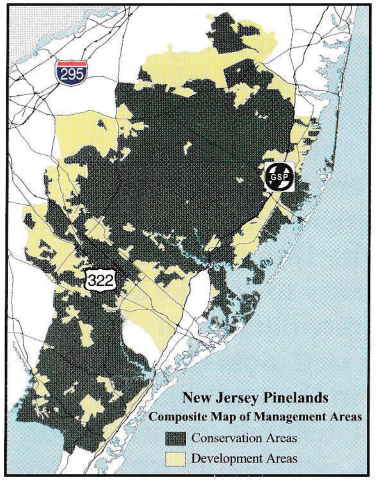
Partnerships. . .

The Pinelands Plan forges a public-private partnership that protects the region's natural resources while permitting development and industry in long established communities and designated growth areas. Fifty-three municipalities join in the effort to guide the location and amount of Pinelands development, protect wetlands, and safeguard water quality by preparing master plans and zoning ordinances consistent with the regional Plan. Development proposals are then reviewed locally and monitored by the Pinelands Commission.



Over 40 percent of the Pinelands is publicly owned and our state's Department of Environmental Protection continues to work with the Commission to acquire environmentally-sensitive lands with federal and state funding. Other important areas are protected through the Pinelands Development Credit program, the first regional development transfer program in the United States. By purchasing development rights from owners of valuable farmland and natural areas, developers are able to increase the number of homes to be built in less sensitive areas on the region's periphery.

The Commission...

Federal legislation to help New Jersey protect the Pinelands was passed in 1978. The state's Pinelands Protection Act, one of the most unique land use laws in the nation, followed in 1979. The 15-member Pinelands Commission, consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor; seven appointed by each of the Pinelands counties (Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Ocean) and one member appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior then prepared the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan. The Plan went into effect on January 16, 1981, following its approval by the Governor and U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

In addition to implementing the Pinelands Plan, the Commission and its staff work with interested citizens, organizations, academic institutions, and public officials. Important Pinelands research is conducted, education and interpretation programs are carried out, and Pinelands protection policies are reflected in many state environmental and building programs.

Annette M. Barbaccia is the Commission's Executive Director and Jerrold L. Jacobs is the Commission's Chair.

Public Information. . .

For more information about Pinelands protection, curriculum guides, audio-visual aids, and other Pinelands educational materials, write to the

Pinelands Commission
P.O. Box 7, 15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, New Jersey 08064
or telephone 609/894-7300

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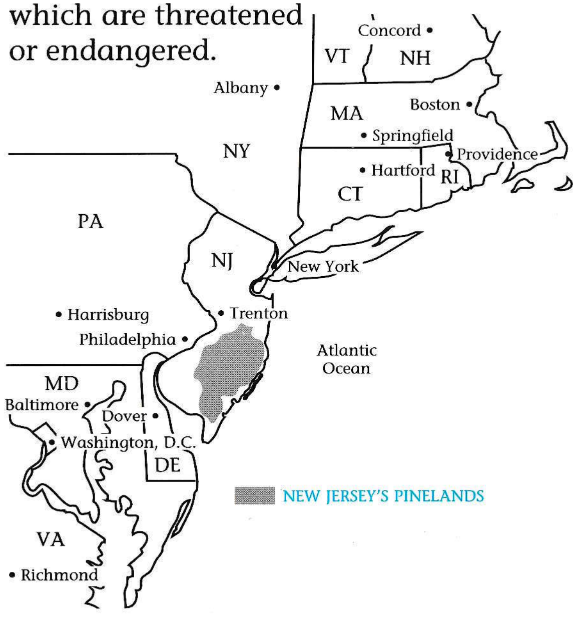
NEW JERSEY'S PINELANDS

Our Country's First National Reserve

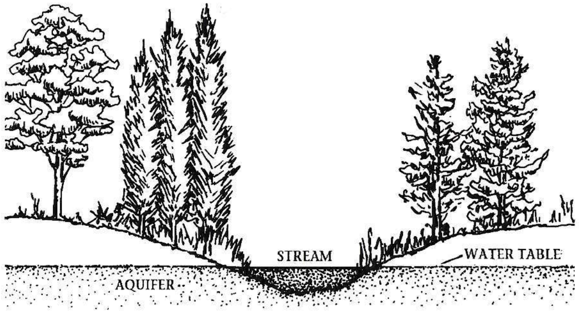
A Million Acres in Size. . .

Long ago melting glaciers and ocean waters washed sand and gravel over New Jersey's Pinelands or Pine Barrens, as some call them. The forces of nature slowly created a relatively level landscape crisscrossed by winding streams and rivers in this million acre region. Through the centuries, sandy soils, acidic water, and frequent fires formed a unique environment. Only plants and animals adapted to these conditions were able to live here.

Today the Pinelands includes portions of seven southeastern New Jersey counties and is inhabited by about 277,000 people. Designated as a National Reserve in 1978 and an International Biosphere Reserve in 1983, it contains towns and villages; farms; vast unbroken forests of pine, oak, and cedar; and the Pine Plains, the most extensive pygmy forest of its type in the country. More than 1,200 plant and animal species are found here, 85 of which are threatened or endangered.



Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer...



Beneath the surface of New Jersey's Pinelands is a vast quantity of water in the sand. This sand formation, called the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer System, contains 17-trillion gallons of water and is replenished annually by approximately 45-inches of rainfall. Rain percolates through the predominantly sandy soil to replenish the groundwater below. The aquifer supplies Pinelands communities with some of the purest drinking water in the world. It also feeds the rivers and streams of the Pinelands.

Where underground water reaches the surface, "wetlands" are found. Wetlands that cover about one-quarter of the Pinelands, include rivers, streams, bogs, hardwood and cedar swamps, and pitch pine lowlands.

Wetlands provide habitats for 80 percent of the Pinelands rare plants and animals, maintain water quality, and affect life in the marshes and bays of southern New Jersey's coast where the food chain begins. Pinelands river water flows into these areas where countless millions of fish, crabs, clams, and other ocean creatures start their lives.

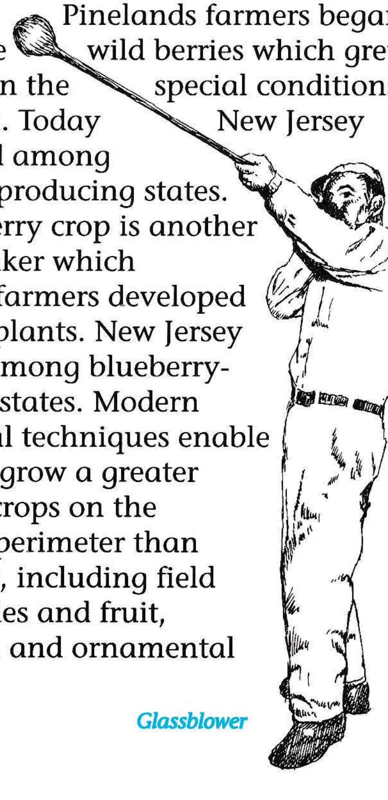
The People. . .

Indians first came to the region ten thousand years ago. They traveled across New Jersey's Pinelands to gather shellfish from the bays and hunted, fished, and trapped in the forest.

In the early seventeen hundreds, Europeans began to settle here. They saw the sand, water, and forests as raw materials for making a living and started thriving industries related to the natural resources.

By 1800, the shipyards of southern New Jersey supplied vessels needed for commerce in the Philadelphia area. Later, in the 18th and 19th centuries, company towns like Batsto and Estellville were the sites of prosperous iron and glass industries.

Starting in the late eighteen hundreds, Pinelands farmers began to cultivate wild berries which grew naturally in the special conditions of the area. Today New Jersey ranks third among cranberry-producing states. The blueberry crop is another money-maker which Pinelands farmers developed from wild plants. New Jersey is second among blueberry-producing states. Modern agricultural techniques enable farmers to grow a greater variety of crops on the Pinelands perimeter than ever before, including field crops, berries and fruit, vegetables, and ornamental plants.



Glassblower