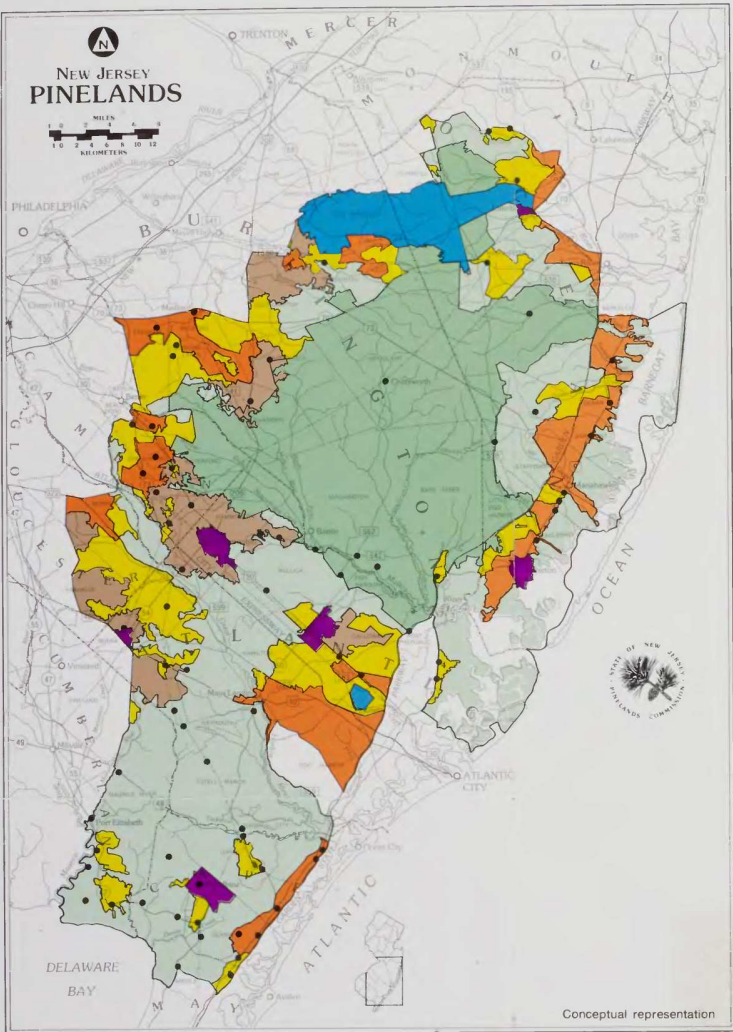


Comprehensive Planning for New Jersey's Pinelands



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.

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.

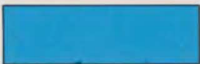
Pinelands Towns



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.

Highlights of the Pinelands

SIZE: Approximately a million acres in southern New Jersey; 20 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 contain 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 extensive range overlap 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 (243,000 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 Pinelands are home to the Great Horned Owl which raises these young in sheltered woodlands.

GEOGRAPHY/GEOLOGY: The Pinelands are located in the Atlantic Outer Coastal Plain, 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, and feeding the streams of the Pines. 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 manmade 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 contribute 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: 400,000 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 940,000 acres in 92 municipalities. Under the state legislation, the Pinelands are further divided into the Protection Area (564,000 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.



Cranberry growers harvest the colorful fruit from Pinelands bogs in the fall of the year.

For more information about recreational opportunities, contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 1390, Trenton, NJ 08625, and the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625.