



Your Guide & Map of the New Jersey Pinelands

Pine Barrens' sandy soils create acidic, low-nutrient conditions that make the region a refuge for plants and animals adapted to its demanding conditions, while excluding invasive species. The region's soils and water support plant and animal communities that are unique on earth, including species like the Bog Asphodel that have lost their habitats elsewhere but find a haven here. Underlying the Pine Barrens is the vast Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system, the fresh water that is embedded in the sands beneath our feet and sustains all life in the Pine Barrens. The streams we canoe and the ponds in which we swim are simply the aquifer made visible by dips in the land surface. The water that flows out of the Pine Barrens sustains the estuaries that border New Jersey's Delaware and Atlantic coasts.



SEEK THE PINELANDS

The Pine Barrens of New Jersey is a unique, beautiful and fascinating natural treasure. Today, as throughout our history, human beings depend on the health and vitality of the Pine Barrens' ecosystems. Wander through the region's forests and you will find a surprising variety of scenery, habitats and species in this island of biodiversity within the most crowded part of North America. You will find the largest surviving open space on the eastern seaboard between the northern forests of Maine and the Everglades of Florida. Ghost towns, historic sites and legends such as the Jersey Devil preserve the Pinelands' unique culture, telling the many stories of how humans have used and depended on the natural world around them.

The "Pinelands" is an area of 1.1 million acres designated for special growth management rules. It is one of America's foremost efforts to control growth so that people and the rest of nature can live compatibly, preserving vast stretches of forest, rare species of plants and wildlife, and vulnerable freshwater aquifers.

THE PINELANDS

In the 1960s and '70s, citizens, scientists and far-sighted politicians realized that the Pine Barrens was

something special that we needed to save. They understood that the Pine Barrens was threatened by the sprawling development that was eating up New Jersey's open spaces in the great post-World War II expansion.

Their efforts led Congress to pass § 502 of the federal National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 and New Jersey to pass the Pinelands Protection Act of 1979. These laws created the Pinelands National Reserve and the Pinelands Commission. Adopted by the Pinelands Commission in 1980, the Comprehensive Management Plan regulates where development can take place by creating conservation and growth zones and applying stringent environmental standards to all development. The goal is to protect the Pinelands' natural resources while allowing agriculture and urban/suburban development that is compatible with the overriding environmental protection goal.

The Pinelands Commission is an independent state agency overseen by a 15-member board of unpaid volunteer Commissioners. The Commission has the power to override all local land use and development regulations, and municipalities are required by law to conform their local master plans and zoning ordinances to the regional plan.

Protecting the Pinelands is an enormous challenge. As land around the Pinelands, and land in the Pinelands' growth zones, is developed, the pressure only grows to make changes or exceptions to the rules against development of the conservation zones. Even when enforced to the letter, today's rules are not strong enough to save the Pine Barrens from the



The Pinelands is home to the Pine Barrens ecosystem and many of New Jersey's coastal estuaries. The

The New Jersey Pine Barrens,

cumulative impacts of development. In many areas, new and better policies are needed to make the Pinelands the protection ideal succeed over the long run.

THE PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

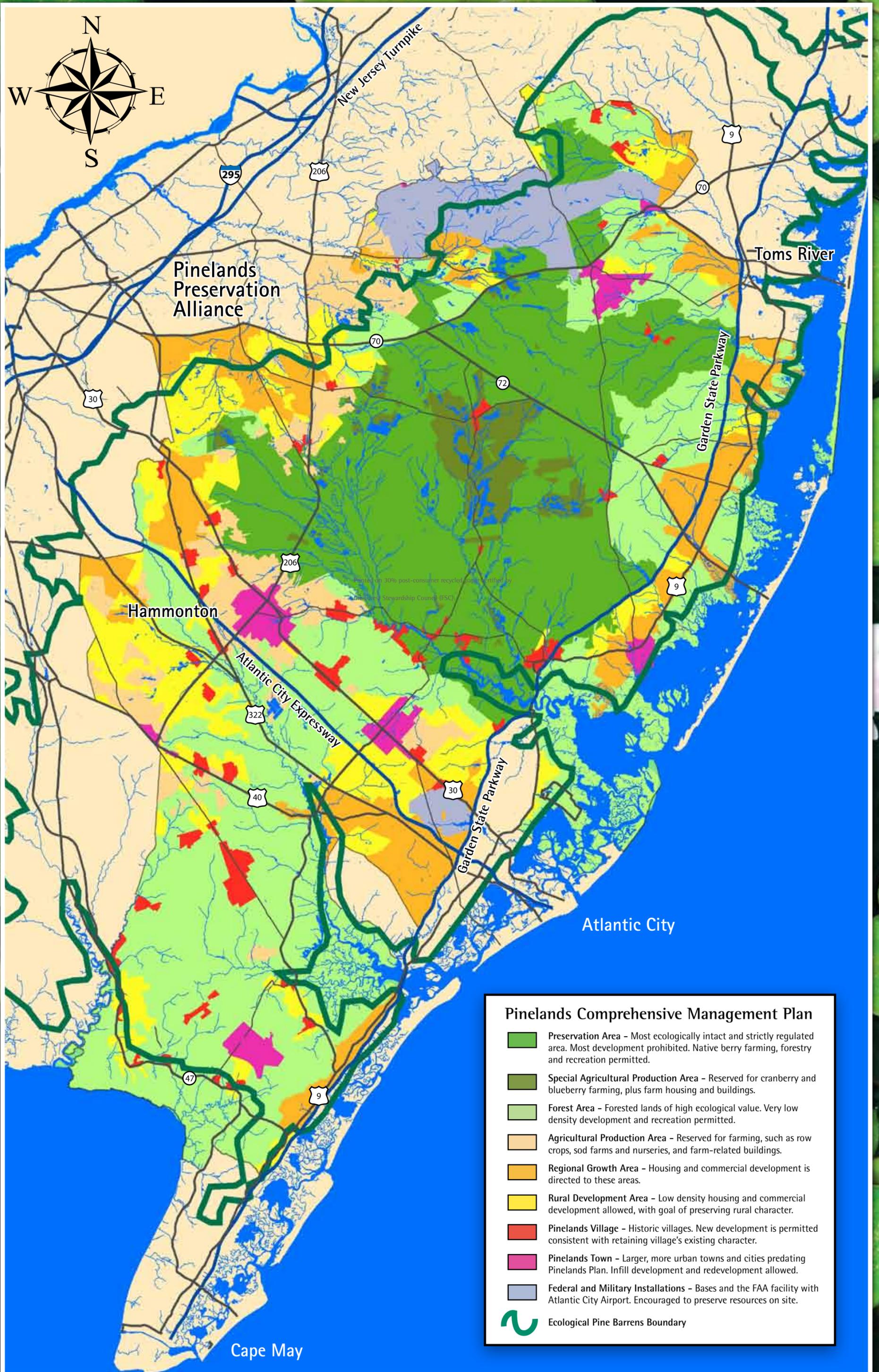
The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1989 and devoted to saving the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands. PPA serves as the public's watchdog over government, especially the Pinelands Commission, by monitoring all their permit reviews and other activities affecting the Pinelands. We are often able to prevent or change development projects that violate the goals or regulations of the Pinelands Protection Act.

PPA advocates for policy changes needed to meet the long-term goal of saving the Pinelands' natural and historic resources. We press for better rules and programs to protect water quality from non point source pollution, protect the aquifers from unsustainable pumping, and protect rare species from habitat destruction.

PPA builds grassroots support for saving the Pinelands by traveling around the state and region to show people the beauty and wonder of the Pine Barrens, by creating films, school curricula and web-based materials, by helping community groups organize to turn back threats in their own neighborhoods, by engaging activists in holding public officials to a very high standard in protecting the Pinelands, and by people into the Pine Barrens.

PPA depends on its members and welcomes new supporters. We also are happy to provide information on the Pinelands and how to explore its natural wonders. The Pinelands Visitors Center at PPA's headquarters provides maps, brochures, books and other information for visitors. Call us at (609) 859-8860 or visit our web site at www.pinelandsalliance.org.





Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan

- Preservation Area - Most ecologically intact and strictly regulated area. Most development prohibited. Native berry farming, forestry and recreation permitted.
- Special Agricultural Production Area - Reserved for cranberry and blueberry farming, plus farm housing and buildings.
- Forest Area - Forested lands of high ecological value. Very low density development and recreation permitted.
- Agricultural Production Area - Reserved for farming, such as row crops, sod farms and nurseries, and farm-related buildings.
- Regional Growth Area - Housing and commercial development is directed to these areas.
- Rural Development Area - Low density housing and commercial development allowed, with goal of preserving rural character.
- Pinelands Village - Historic villages. New development is permitted consistent with retaining village's existing character.
- Pinelands Town - Larger, more urban towns and cities predating Pinelands Plan. Infill development and redevelopment allowed.
- Federal and Military Installations - Bases and the FAA facility with Atlantic City Airport. Encouraged to preserve resources on site.
- Ecological Pine Barrens Boundary