



PINELANDS
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INSIDE THE PINELANDS



The Redevelopment Study Area shown here gives you an idea of the size and location of this project in Manchester Township in Ocean County.

Massive Development Proposal Defeated - For Now

by Theresa Lettman, Director of Monitoring Programs

Manchester Township in Ocean County is a scenic municipality located within the Pinelands National Reserve and just minutes from the shore. In June 2015, the township formed a working group, made up of political and community leaders, to review a new redevelopment plan envisioned by a developer, Hovsons Inc., the owner of over 7,000 acres of land in the township known as the Heritage Minerals tract. After months of meeting this group presented the Heritage Town Center Redevelopment Plan which was introduced by the Manchester Council in the form of a land use ordinance on May 9, 2016.

The Council introduced and presented this plan and ordinance despite the fact that it violated a 2004 Federal Court order which created a settlement agreement between Hovsons Inc., the Pinelands Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection that restricted development at this site in order to better protect water resources and threatened and endangered species.

The 2004 settlement agreement was the outcome of many years of litigation over

the attempts of Hovsons Inc. to develop the site. The agreement allows 995-acres to be developed with up to 2,450 residential units and 20,000 square feet of commercial space. The remaining 6,475 acres, of which 3,450 acres are located in the state Pinelands Protection area, would be deed restricted as open space to protect the many threatened and endangered species which are known to inhabit the site.

The redevelopment proposal and ordinance vastly increased the size and impact of development at the site. It allows the construction of 6,543 homes and 1-million square feet of commercial development on the 4,000 acres of the site that is located south of Route 70 and stretches from Route 37 on the east to the Whiting Wildlife Management area on the west.

Despite this fact, ordinance #16-022 was introduced by the town council without discussion on May 9, 2016 and scheduled for final approval on May 23 just two weeks later.

PPA didn't feel that the residents of Manchester had enough time to provide

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Pinelands

Oh yes
this is beautiful
trees encircle a vernal pool
it sparkles
teems with life

away from the towns
far off from roads
it is so quiet
the peace envelops me

the spring rhythm
of a chorus
fills the air
with primordial chants

an amphibian choir
sings praise for life
to expand its members...
grateful for this outdoor cathedral
to worship existence of all
prodigy of mother nature

I absorb it in
the way frogs
soak in life sustaining heat
to keep living, replicating
singing their song...
the loudest sound I hear
during my respite
from the human world

but wait
what's that noise
in the distance
is it a vehicle
there are no roads here
it's getting closer...
the roar of the engine
now deafening
it approaches fast
I leap for the brush
creatures flee their aqua-home

the four wheeled predator
makes a big splash
changing everything
especially the forest tune

written by Hara © 2016

In Your Words

*If you have a piece of creative
writing about New Jersey's Pine
Barrens please share it with us.*

*Our editorial staff will review
your piece and consider placing it
in our newsletter. Narrative
pieces must be 500 words or
shorter.*

*Submissions accepted by email to
becky@pinelandsalliance.org or
you can mail them to us:*

*Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Attn: Becky Free
17 Pemberton Rd.
Southampton, NJ 08088*

Protecting Critical Dune Habitat in New Jersey

by Ryan Rebozo, Ph.D., Director of Conservation Science

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC) have partnered to help protect critical dune habitat on our state beaches. With funding from the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium, PPA and Dr. Jay Kelly from RVCC have placed informational signage and marker posts on our public state beaches to identify beach areas that are important for rare plant and bird species.

This team has also partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the NJ Office of Natural Lands Management, and State Park personnel to put improved back-beach management practices in place in conjunction with existing species conservation zones that protect both the mid and lower beach.

The project also includes research to measure the effectiveness of these practices, as well as education and outreach to coastal communities, land managers, and public officials. Using marker fencing on the upper portion of beach will protect beach vegetation and important habitat without impinging on human uses that are typically concentrated closer to the water. Monitoring will record vegetation colonization rates, sand accumulation and use of beach habitat by wildlife while comparing sites with different types of back-beach management.

Why is it important to protect the fore-dune portions of our state beaches? New Jersey has seen more resources spent on beach replenishment than any other state in the country. While much of the resources used in beach replenishment have been focused on the protection of reconstructed dune systems, the beach or “berm” is equally important for shoreline protection and the health of the system as

a whole. Beach vegetation stabilizes and accumulates sand on the beach surface and promotes the natural development of new dunes on the upper beach. This back (landward) portion of the beach is vital for rare plants and like the lower beach, is utilized by many animals.

Approximately 70% of the New Jersey ocean shoreline is currently impacted by beach raking or other practices that disturb the back beach and limit the beaches’

as the federally listed Piping Plover along our coastline. We hope to expand this project next year to include municipal beaches as they develop beach management plans focused on beach use and habitat protections.



natural ability to develop dunes. However, research has shown that recreational beach uses like walking and sunbathing are concentrated lower on the beach, near the ocean. Therefore, maintaining the back-beach in a more natural condition is fully compatible with recreational beach use. Besides promoting growth of natural dunes and providing habitat, improved back-beach management can potentially result in cost-savings (e.g., from less raking) and diversify the range of recreational amenities (i.e., some visitors enjoy natural habitats featuring native plants, butterflies, etc.).

To date, Brigantine Natural Area, Cape May Point State Park, Corson’s Inlet State Park, and Island Beach State Park have been marked with fore-dune posts and signage totaling over 13 miles of beach. This greatly improves the protection of beach plants such as the federally listed Seabeach Amaranth and beach nesting birds such

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Dunes at Island Beach State Park

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**Pine Barren Jamboree
October 8th, 11am - 4pm**

at Wells Mills Park
Waretown, NJ

**Batsto Country Living Fair
October 16th, 10am - 4pm**

at Historic Batsto Village
in Wharton State Forest

Stop by our table!

Open Space Funding Bill Signed by Governor Christie

by Jaclyn Rhoads, Ph.D., Assistant Executive Director

In November 2014, voters in every county of the state approved a ballot measure to fund Green Acres, Blues Acres, Farmland and Historic Preservation programs. For nearly two years, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance as part of the Keep it Green Coalition, fought for implementation of that measure so that the money could begin making a difference, and we are happy to report that a bill was finally passed just before the legislature's summer break.

The ballot measure dedicates 4% of the Corporate Business Tax (CBT) through 2019 and then increases the amount to 6% which will provide consistent and critical funding for open space, farmland, and historic preservation. Under the measure, Green Acres, Blue Acres, farmland and historic preservation programs will receive an estimated \$71 million annually the first four years and then an estimated \$117 million annually thereafter. Comparatively, open space, farmland and historic preservation programs have received an average of \$200 million annually since the establishment of the Garden State Preservation Trust in 1998.

Implementing legislation is essential to further clarify the allocation of funds to different programs and the administration of funds by the departments and agencies. Since the ballot measure is a constitutional amendment, the source of the funding and the total amount cannot be changed by the legislature or the Governor, but can only be changed by the voters through a new referendum. Unfortunately, Governor Christie believed that he had the power to use the money in other matters which delayed implementing the legislation for almost 2 years.

The legislature acted twice to approve implementing legislation in order to get preservation efforts moving since 2014. In 2015, bills passed by the legislature were pocket-vetoed by the Governor and prevented the legislature from pursuing a legislative override. This year the legislature was successful again in passing implementing legislation in both houses, but in April 2016 Governor Christie issued a conditional veto. His changes would have allowed for the diversion of funds intended for preservation to be used for routine operations and maintenance, removed all oversight by the Legislature, and eliminated guaranteed funding of county, municipal, and non-profit projects.

With overwhelming support by the 185 organizations that form the Keep it Green Coalition and the sponsors of the open space implementation bills, a bill to override the Governor's conditional veto was placed before the Senate and Assembly in June. Hours before the Senate was prepared to override Governor Christie's conditional veto of the open space bill, the Governor compromised and finally agreed to fund open space preservation. The Coalition is thrilled the Legislature and the Governor were able to strike this deal. The bill was officially signed by Governor Christie at the end of June, so now the money can be used to preserve land as the voters intended.

Thank You!

We are amazed by all the people who choose to become members of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. You really make a difference!

Tour de Pines

Sept. 28 to Oct. 2, 2016

Bicycle the length and breadth of the Pinelands National Reserve over 5 days.

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Ride one, two or all days of the Tour. Learn more or register here:

www.pinelandsalliance.org

2016 Ride Schedule:

9/28: Ride Like the Devil (48 or 24 miles) from Historic Batsto Village.

9/29: Tuckerton Seaport Journey (49 miles) from Tuckerton Seaport.

9/30: Historic Atlantic County (50 miles) from Hammonton Lake Park.

10/1: Pinelands Discovery Loop (50 or 23 miles) from Whitesbog Village.

10/2: Pinelands Adventure Loop (45 or 27 miles) from PPA Headquarters.



Tour de Pines riders in Brendan Byrne State Forest.

Massive Development Proposal Defeated - For Now

continued from cover

input on this huge development proposal. Thanks to a team of dedicated volunteers we were able to send out 15,000 letters and postcards to residents during the process notifying them about what they could do. We answered dozens of phone calls and emails from concerned residents who were troubled by the size of the development.

PPA also videotaped the Council's meetings and shared these videos with residents who were unable to attend. You can find these videos and others on YouTube - our page is called pinelandsalliance. PPA hired a lawyer who attended the planning board and town council meetings to remind Manchester officials of the settlement agreement that governed development at this site.

This ordinance was introduced and presented for second reading with a public hearing on June 20, 2016. Many residents attended both the Council and the Planning Board meetings to voice their objections to the proposal. If they couldn't attend they called the Mayor or sent a letter.

Despite the public outcry the Manchester Council passed Ordinance 16-022 by a vote of 3-2.

Yet, the following week Manchester's Mayor, Ken Palmer, vetoed the ordinance. In his statement to residents the Mayor stated that they "still believe Manchester needs to reconsider the 2004 settlement agreement and the manner in which the Heritage Minerals Tract is developed."

If it weren't for the public outcry, Manchester would have implemented an ordinance that would have permitted this massive Redevelopment Plan to move forward only two weeks after disclosing its terms. We want to thank all the residents of Manchester who spoke out about the redevelopment plan and the ordinance. They spent many hours in meetings waiting their turn to speak. It appears that the Mayor took your statements to heart.

The main positive the Township listed for the Redevelopment plan proposal was making money to "off-

set the increasing costs of running a town" through tax revenues. But there are obvious reasons why no one should rely on this development plan making more money than it costs for the municipal services that would have to be provided.

The fiscal impact analysis of the project, which was completed by the working group, is based on predicted tax revenues 20 years from now - telling us nothing about the impact on the town's taxes over the next 20 years. It is also based on the assumption that 100% of all the proposed residential, commercial and industrial space is fully occupied - an assumption that Mayor Palmer himself says is not realistic. The analysis relies on the assumption that Hovsons will build and sell more than 1800 three-bedroom units as age-restricted. This assumption is not based on real business plans: The first draft of the analysis showed the town taking a bath, even on its other unrealistic assumptions, so they just changed all these 3-bedroom units to age restricted and artificially eliminated a lot of school children. Would you bet the fiscal health of your town on such an analysis?

Most suburban towns in New Jersey will not adopt plans like this anymore because they know the math doesn't work out. Study after study has shown that more development results in a net loss to municipalities - every time. And the costs of new development, once built, always increase. Commercial development is often touted as the answer to offset the increased cost of services that is necessary when increasing housing units in a community. But that is also a Trojan horse. Commercial development also brings municipal costs, and towns with lots of commercial development usually have higher taxes than those with less. That's only partly because new commercial rateables often displace existing ones - another point which the fiscal impact analysis completely ignored.

Manchester Township's Mayor and Council have indicated that they will continue to explore concepts with Hovsons for the development

of the site. PPA feels the Redevelopment Plan is illegal, because it violates a slew of environmental rules and the legal settlement agreement reached in 2004.

Residents can stay updated on any new concepts that Manchester Township may put forward by visiting our web page www.pinelandsalliance.org/heritageminerals. You can also join our email list by emailing us at ppa@pinelandsalliance.org.

If any new proposals or meetings are scheduled we will quickly pass along the information. The public outcry was heard! Please stay involved.

ReThink Energy New Jersey

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www.RethinkEnergyNJ.org

ReThink Energy NJ was launched by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and citizen leaders.

Where our energy comes from matters a great deal to our families, our communities and our economy.

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Pinelands Commission

Next Monthly Meetings:

Fri., Oct. 14th, 9:30 am

Fri., Nov. 4th, 9:30 am

**Open to the public.*

Location:

15 Springfield Road
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Ph: (609) 894-7300

www.nj.gov/pinelands

Pinelands Roadside Management

by Ryan Rebozo, Ph.D., Director of Conservation Science

All along our Pinelands roadsides, mowing is used to maintain a safe area for motorists to pull over in the event of an emergency. Roadsides also function as habitat for many of our native Pinelands plant species including orchids and rare species such as the Sickle-leaf Golden-aster and the Pine Barren Gentian. It is estimated that 11,000 acres of early successional habitat currently occurs along roadsides in the New Jersey Pine Barrens (Van Clef 2009). Mowing that maintains open-sunny areas supports higher plant species richness when compared to some surrounding late successional sites (Bakker 1989, Lepš 1999, Jutila and Grace 2002). Thus, mowed roadsides represent a potential refuge for early successional plants and mowing has the potential to be as important as fire in maintaining species diversity under certain conditions (Collins et al. 1998).

While keeping our roadsides free from woody vegetation creates conditions beneficial for some early successional plants, mowing alone is not enough to ensure a positive response in these plant communities. The form and timing of roadside practices are critical when managing for plant populations. For example, our roadside plant species flower throughout the growing season, and mowing before a plant sets seed will prevent its ability to successfully reproduce. Roadsides are often mowed well beyond the eight feet required for vehicles to pull off of the road, which limits the roadsides ability to support certain plant species. Roadsides are also often mowed well below the six inch height recommended by the Pinelands Commission, and in certain cases and mowed down to bare mineral soil, effectively removing all vegetation.

In 2010, the Pinelands Commission entered into a memorandum of agreement with some Pinelands Counties for a streamlined review process that included the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for county roadsides. The result was a greater awareness of our roadsides as suitable plant habitat, and certain stretches of roadsides were signed for specific mowing periods. Unfortunately since that time, there have been many examples of inappropriate management

of our roadsides from cutting beyond eight feet from the roadway, cutting below six inch vegetation height, and mowing during the “no-mow” period on signed portions of roadways. Also, over time some no-mow signs have been damaged or removed and are in need of replacement along our roadsides.

In addition, some roadside maintenance practices have been detrimental to surrounding native plants. In 2015, roadside maintenance along Evan’s Bridge in Burlington County resulted in the destruction of two populations of protected Pinelands plant species. The Pinelands Commission needs to reaffirm its commitment to enhancing our roadsides as suitable habitat by reminding our County officials of the importance of these areas and the Best Management Practices. As stated by John Stokes, the Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission at the time of the BMP release in 2010, “...these practices will reduce maintenance costs, hinder the spread of invasive, non-native vegetation, and help to curb the use of costly soil amendments and herbicides.” Write the Commission or attend an upcoming public meeting to remind the Commissioners of the importance of our roadsides as habitat, and how simple management practices can have very positive impacts on our local plant diversity. For more information contact me at 609-859-8860 ext. 26 or by email ryan@pinelandsalliance.org.

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An example of roadside management sign along Dover Road in Barnegat Township, Ocean County NJ.

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Calendar of Events Pinelands Adventures Field Trips

Fall 2016

The events listed below are just a few of the great Pinelands trips this summer.

Visit www.pinelandsalliance.org and click on **Event Calendar** for a complete listing of Pinelands programs and trips provided by a wide variety of groups and organizations



Learn more on the web:

www.pinelandsadventures.org

Canoe and kayak rentals, guided tours, and other outdoor programs. Pinelands Adventures is an initiative of PPA. Call 609-268-0189.

Pine Barrens Time Machine

Sept. 21, Oct. 16 & Nov. 19, 2016.
Trip departs at 10am. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Change is the key to life on earth. Join former social studies and science teacher, John Volpa, for a journey exploring the region's geologic past to the present. We'll focus on the human interplay with its natural resources, its unique flora and fauna, how it became the Pinelands National Reserve and what we can learn from its history as society grapples with today's local and global environmental issues. This is a 5 hour small group bus tour.

Call 609-268-0189 or www.pinelandsadventures.org
Cost is \$60 per person.

John McPhee Pine Barrens Today Tour

Oct. 12, Nov. 11 & Dec. 17, 2016.
Trip departs at 10am. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Join Pinelands Adventures Education Director John Volpa on a driving tour to visit many of the places described

in John McPhee's landmark 1968 book *The Pine Barrens*. John will read excerpts from the book and lead a discussion of McPhee's relevant work as it pertains to the areas visited. This is a 5 hour small group bus tour.

Call 609-268-0189 or www.pinelandsadventures.org
Cost is \$60 per person.

Pine Barrens Ghost Towns Tours

Sept. 25th - Trip departs at 10am. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

The Pine Barrens of New Jersey contain more ghost towns, some say, than the entire American west. The Pinelands of today with its pristine woodlands and unique plant and animal communities, is a very different place than the busy industrial center it once was several hundred years ago. Barbara Solem, author of *Ghost Towns and Other Quirky Places in the New Jersey Pine Barrens*, will take participants on a tour of many of the forgotten industrial towns that once thrived in the Pine Barrens. This is a 5 hour small group bus tour.

Call 609-268-0189 or www.pinelandsadventures.org
Cost is \$60 per person.

Batsto River Guided Trip

Sept. 11, Oct. 2nd, 15th and 30th, 8:30am to 4pm at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Explore the Batsto River with guide John Volpa. Learn about Pine Barrens habitats, history and plants. Stop along the way to investigate Pine Barrens plants, learn about fire in the Pine Barrens, and the history of bog iron in the pines. Great trip for families, scouts or groups. For 8 years old and up. Must be physically fit and able to canoe or kayak for about 4 hours while also exploring on land. Paddling instruction is not a component of this trip. Cost is \$60/person for a canoe.

Call 609-268-0189 or www.pinelandsadventures.org

Canoeing Lessons

Oct. 8 and 22, 9am-12 pm, Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

Learn the basics of canoeing with instructor John Volpa in our three hour class. This introductory program is designed to help you feel comfortable while enjoying this classic outdoor activity. You'll learn to paddle on calm water close to the edge of the lake and: technique and strokes to direct your canoe where you want it to go; canoeing posture and how to paddle efficiently; how to handle your canoe in case it flips over (demonstration only); Canoeing safety skills.

Call 609-268-0189 or www.pinelandsadventures.org
Cost is \$35 per person.

Hampton Furnace Exploration

Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and Dec. 4 from 10 am to noon, at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

This Pine Barrens primer is perfect for everyone who wants to learn about Pinelands history, ecology and culture, including families with children from ages 6 and up. Explore a serene Atlantic White Cedar swamp and discover life in a Pine Barrens stream between the Upper Batsto River and Skit Branch creek. Step back into the history of Hampton Furnace, its 18th century bog iron manufacturing, its transition to the cranberry industry, and the scene of a vicious 1916 robbery attempt. Adults and kids will be able to explore the streams, use dip nets to look for aquatic life and examine unique carnivorous Pine Barrens plants.

Call 609-268-0189 or www.pinelandsadventures.org
Cost is \$25 adults and \$15 for children.

Pine Barrens Habitats Tour

Nov. 5. Trip departs at 10am. Meet at Pinelands Adventures, 1005 Atsion Rd, Shamong NJ

This trip will be an exploration into the various habitats that exist in the pinelands. This 5-hour small group bus tour will visit swamps, forests and other aquatic environments.

Call 609-268-0189 or www.pinelandsadventures.org
Cost is \$60 per person.



Pinelands Preservation Alliance

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Benefactors receive *The Pine Barrens of New Jersey*, a photographic history of this region

Chairman's Circle members receive the book *Seasons of the Pines* and a personalized tour of the Pinelands

*Our mission is to protect and
preserve the natural and cultural
resources of
New Jersey's Pinelands.*



Please Recycle this newsletter! When finished give it to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to learn about PPA's mission and programs.