



# Pinelands Preservation Alliance

*Your eyes, ears and voice for saving New Jersey's Pinelands*

## Protecting New Jersey's Last Wilderness

Dear Friend,

**We recognize this is a challenging time for you and your family.** You have many other priorities as you try to figure out what your life will look like for the next several weeks or more.

I am in the same boat. In order to prioritize the health and safety of our staff many of us are working remotely. We are determined not to lose ground in the fight to protect the Pinelands National Reserve.

This past weekend I took my family on a hike in Wharton State Forest in New Jersey for some relief from the stress that we are all under right now. I have never seen so many cars in the parking lot on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

Youth and professional sports seasons have been suspended, movie theaters, gyms and other entertainment facilities are closed for an extended period of time – the list goes on and on. **We are left with the outdoors.** Open natural areas are great places to refresh our spirits and our bodies, and the coronavirus pandemic hasn't closed them down.

*We are very lucky in New Jersey. We have the Pinelands National Reserve.*

## Pinelands National Reserve

**A National Reserve is not a National Park.** It is a landscape where people live and work. The great majority is designated for conservation and the rest is for development. This is done through a set of rules called the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.

This bold experiment to balance conservation and development in a landscape this large has never been replicated in the United States. Which shows how difficult it is to do.

### **But can this plan survive?**

Today some politicians and parties with deep pockets are taking unprecedented actions to weaken the rules that protect the Pinelands. Our job is to stop that from happening.

**The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) was established to protect the Pinelands.** We are your eyes, ears and voice protecting land, water and wildlife in the Pines. For more than 30 years we have built public support and protected the Pinelands' unique natural resources through advocacy, science, outreach, and educational programs.

***Will you join us by donating? Your donation protects New Jersey's Pinelands so this place is always here - no matter what challenges we face in the future.***





## **Pinelands Forests Under Attack**

**Did you know there are 800,000 acres of forests and wetlands in the Pinelands?** These forests protect the air we breathe and the water we drink. They provide habitat for animals, prevent soil erosion and mitigate climate change. Not to mention how a walk through a Pinelands forest soothes your soul . . .

**But our forests are under siege by off-road vehicles.**

Wharton State Forest is New Jersey's largest state forest and is located right in the heart of the Pinelands.

Its 125,000-acres protects rare plants and endangered animals and historic sites, offering wonderful hiking and the best kayaking in all of New Jersey.

***But there is a huge problem.***

**Jacked-up four-wheel drive jeeps, trucks, all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes are causing terrible damage.**

Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) like these are illegally destroying sensitive habitat, damaging roads and making access to the forest almost impossible for other users. It has made firefighting and search and rescue efforts much more difficult due to the condition of the roads.



*Destruction in Wharton State Forest*

The state has not done nearly enough to address the problem. This type of damage can be found throughout the Pinelands on public and private property (and in many other parts of New Jersey).

Stopping the damage done by off-road vehicles is part of our long-term effort to protect the Pinelands and make it a welcoming place for all residents and visitors.

**Your donation supports the work of hundreds of volunteers who remove 40,000 pounds of trash from the Pinelands each year.**

It funds the planting of trees and shrubs in areas that have been destroyed by ORVs. It funds scientific studies to determine the best way to restore these badly damaged places.

**Your donation also allows my staff to press for badly needed policy changes that are crucial to ending the destruction of public land by motorized vehicles.** Our position is not to eliminate driving in the Pines but protect sensitive habitats and species by keeping vehicles to the officially established sand roads.

*Will you stand with us against ORV damage by donating today?*

Your eyes, ears and voice for saving New Jersey's Pinelands



## **Natural Gas Pipelines Threaten the Pinelands**

**“I think our Pinelands are worth more than a gas company’s necessity to make more money.”**

*- Andrea K., NJ resident lives nearby proposed pipeline*

**The construction of high-pressure natural gas pipelines through protected areas in the Pinelands National Reserve continues to be a major threat to the environment and the safety of New Jersey residents.**

Unfortunately, state agencies have approved two pipeline projects, even though they violate the rules that protect the Pinelands. There is good news and bad news.

## **South Jersey Gas Pipeline Defeated!**

**In February 2019, the South Jersey Gas pipeline project was defeated** - leading to one of the biggest victories in the fight to protect the Pinelands National Reserve in recent history.

This large natural gas pipeline was proposed for construction in the Pinelands National Reserve in 2013. In 2017, this project was approved by the state despite violating Pinelands protection rules. After more than 6 years of opposition and lawsuits, this project was finally defeated.

*Our legal challenges and the advocacy of people like you slowed the project down and led to its eventual defeat.*

## **New Jersey Natural Gas Pipeline in the Courts**

New Jersey Natural Gas (a separate utility company) received approvals to construct a 30-inch diameter natural gas pipeline through neighborhoods like Andrea's and through the Pinelands National Reserve in 2017.

We have several lawsuits pending to stop this illegal pipeline. Despite the legal challenges New Jersey Natural Gas began construction in December 2018. There have been issues with its construction and we continue to take action to stop this terrible project.

The fact that these projects were approved shows how vulnerable the Pinelands is to political and legal manipulation, no matter what the rules say.

***Your donation helps us stand up for citizens like Andrea.***

***Will you donate and support our work today? Let's make sure the Pinelands remain protected.***



## **Make a Difference Today!**

**These unprecedented times show us how important our protected natural areas are.** You are facing challenges that you never expected. Any donation you can make is greatly appreciated. Your donation gives you:

1. **A Voice.** We represent your interests in the face of powerful forces that are pressing to develop the Pinelands.
2. **Action.** We take legal action when the situation demands it.
3. **Information.** *Knowledge is power.* We provide you with information based on facts and sound science, not someone's personal or political point of view.
4. **Community.** You join thousands of other like-minded individuals who are providing critical support of our mission to protect New Jersey's Pinelands.
5. **Participation.** You have a busy schedule. We keep track of the issues so you don't have to. We help you make a difference – with the click of a button.

**Your donation is a powerful act.** When you donate you are protecting the Pinelands for everyone to enjoy. You are speaking for land and all the creatures that depend on it for their survival. There are three easy ways to donate:

- ◆ Online at [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org)
- ◆ By phone at 609-859-8860
- ◆ By mail using the envelope we provided.

**For a donation of \$25 or more** I will send you our first ever "Save the Pines" full color magnet! Thank you for standing with us.

On behalf of the Pinelands,

Carleton Montgomery  
Executive Director

*P.S. I hope you will join today! You can donate securely online at [www.pinelandsalliance.org](http://www.pinelandsalliance.org) thank you!*