



Accessible Trails in the Pinelands and Southern New Jersey:
Getting Started

We made a commitment starting in 2020 to work with people with disabilities to make natural places more accessible, spread information about accessible trails, and create inclusive guided trips for the public. You can learn more about *The Pinelands is for Everyone* project on our website. One big part of this project is to create a mobile-friendly website that will show people where they can find trails and scenic places in and around the Pinelands that are, at least to some degree, accessible. We launched **www.AccessNatureNJ.org** in October 2022. We hope you will use this site and provide feedback so we can keep improving it.

Listed below are some places to consider for your next nature trip. We hope you find this information helpful. If you have questions or feedback about the trails and nature areas, please reach out to Public Lands Advocate, Jason Howell at jason@pinelandsalliance.org. If you would like to learn more about “The Pinelands is for Everyone” project contact Executive Director, Carleton Montgomery at carleton@pinelandsalliance.org.

ATLANTIC COUNTY:

Red Trail at Batsto Village in Wharton State Forest. Hammonton, NJ

This is a 0.8-mile loop from the north end of the Batsto Village parking lot. The trail is well-maintained, flat, smooth, and packed with a fine gravel surface. The trail offers some views of Batsto Lake and runs through typical Pine Barrens habitats. There are permanent restrooms near the trailhead, but these are not always open. There are also permanent restrooms at the Visitors Center building at the south end of the parking lot.

Batsto Village itself is largely accessible on the main sand and gravel lane that runs through the village. The lane crosses the dam over the Batsto River and provides a fine view of Batsto Lake. There are some benches along the lane. The Visitor’s Center is accessible and has an excellent display of the nature and history of the Pine Barrens.

Learn more at www.batstovillage.org

Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. Galloway Township, NJ

The Forsythe Refuge has an 8-mile driving loop on hard-packed gravel around a freshwater marsh area and the saltwater Absecon Bay. It provides beautiful views of the bay and superb bird watching, which you can do from your car if you want. Down the slope from the parking lot to the beginning of the driver loop, there is a short ¼ mile



stone dust surface trail leading to a viewing gazebo and a very nice short boardwalk with viewing areas. There are several parking spaces for these two trails.

During certain weekend and weekday hours, the nature center has educational and interactive options for children with a viewing area out into the refuge. Binoculars are available to borrow from the nature center. There are permanent accessible bathrooms both inside and outside of the nature center, but these may not always be open. There are also accessible port-a-johns in the parking area.

Learn more at www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin-b-forsythe

Estell Manor Park. Mays Landing, NJ

The County Park has several accessible trails, including paved trails and a long boardwalk. The Swamp Trail is a wheelchair accessible 1.8 miles long boardwalk that offers great views of forest, swamp, marshland, and river. There is no handrail, however. The park also has the Warren Fox Nature Center and permanent restrooms. There are pavilion picnic areas available for rent and one open picnic area available free of charge. There are multiple playgrounds available for young children. The park is on Route 50 south of the village of Mays Landing.

Learn more at www.atlantic-county.org/parks/estell-manor-park.asp

BURLINGTON COUNTY:

Cranberry Trail at Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. Pemberton, NJ

The trail is 3.2 miles long trail with trailheads at both the State Forest headquarters parking lot and the Pakim Pond parking lot. The trail is maintained as an unpaved, accessible trail. The surface is flat, and packed, with sand and gravel. The trail runs through classic Pine Barrens habitats. There are permanent restrooms at both ends of the trail, but the one at Pakim Pond may not always be open. Pakim Pond also has a nice gazebo and pretty views of the pond. We suggest using the trail sections nearest to Pakim Pond or the State Forest office, as the surface has eroded some in the middle of the 3.2-mile-long trail.

Learn more at www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/brendantbyrnestateforest.html

Red and Blue Trails at Atsion Recreation Area. Shamong, NJ

The Red Trail is 0.5 miles long. The Blue Trail adds an additional mile to the loop. The trail starts near the boat dock at the western end of the parking lot (left end as you face the lake). The trails are well-maintained, flat, smooth, and packed, with a fine gravel surface. There are several benches and signs that are readable from a wheelchair.



There are no handrails. The trails offer lovely views of Atsion Lake. There are also: a large, paved parking lot, permanent restrooms, a swimming beach, and picnic areas.

Access the Recreation Area off Route 206 just south of Atsion Lake at the State Park entrance. The site is popular in the summer, especially on weekends, and the parking lot can fill up. You cannot get to the trail except by parking in the lot.

Learn more at www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/atsionrecreationarea.html

CAPE MAY COUNTY:

Cape May State Park. Cape May, NJ

Cape May State Park has a genuinely nice maritime forest-accessible boardwalk trail that is ½ mile long. There is also an accessible bird viewing platform that is especially popular during spring and fall migrations. Accessible Bathrooms are available in the parking lot.

Learn more at www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/parks/capemaypointstatepark.html

OCEAN COUNTY:

Cattus Island County Park. Toms River, NJ

Cattus Island County Park has one accessible 1,000-foot-long boardwalk trail that explores an estuarine marsh. There is a nice nature center with live native animals and interactive elements. There is a viewing deck over the marsh. There is also a playground and picnic area, but the accessibility of the picnic area could be improved. There are accessible bathrooms available at the nature center and the parking lot.

Learn more at www.oceancountyparks.org
