

WHARTON STATE FOREST Motorized Access Plan (MAP)



“OFF-ROADING” IS ILLEGAL!

It is illegal to drive on non-designated routes within Wharton State Forest. Approved, designated motorized recreation routes are identified on this map, but are not marked or identified on the ground. It is your responsibility to know where you are and to remain on the designated motorized recreation routes. Failure to stay on the designated motorized recreation routes will result in a summons. Wharton State Forest and the State of New Jersey will pursue all violators to the fullest extent of the law. Respect the environment and protect your privilege to operate a motor vehicle in Wharton State Forest.

Report violations to the 24 hour DEP Hotline 1-877-WARN-DEP (927-6337).

All motorized vehicles operating on designated motorized recreation routes must be licensed, registered and insured, and are subject to the motor vehicle laws of the State of New Jersey, N.J.S.A. 39:1-1, et seq. The maximum speed limit on approved, designated motorized recreation routes is 20 MPH.

Open Field or Grass	Designated Motorized Route	Boat Launch	Park Office
Forest	Non-Designated Route (Non-Motorized Access Only)	Canoe Launch	Picnic Area
Water	Multi-Use Trails	Campground	Restrooms
Wetland	Batona Trail	Parking Lot	
Natural Area	Barrier		
Franklin Parker Preserve			

As a motor vehicle operator in a State Forest, you must comply with this MAP. Protect your privilege to drive in Wharton by staying on designated routes. Use caution, drive slowly, and respect Wharton's plant, wildlife, and cultural resources.



Forest boundaries are for illustrative purposes only.

WHARTON STATE FOREST MOTORIZED ACCESS PLAN



The official guide to motorized recreation in Wharton State Forest.

State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry
State Park Service

WELCOME TO WHARTON STATE FOREST MOTORIZED ACCESS PLAN

Explore over 125,000 acres of protected and managed land in the heart of the Pinelands National Reserve.



Within the boundaries of Wharton State Forest there are hundreds of miles of access paths, unimproved roads, and motorized trails – together called “routes”. The purpose of this **Motorized Access Plan, or MAP** is to identify and illustrate the routes within Wharton State Forest that are designated for motorized recreation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 7:2-3, and to differentiate the routes that are open to non-motorized recreation.

Wharton State Forest hosts approximately 225 miles of unimproved, sand and gravel routes that are open to motorized recreation. It is important to note that none of the existing routes within Wharton State Forest were originally designed for motorized recreation. Many are historic roads used to support various industries during the 18th and 19th centuries; others are maintained for forest fire management. The goals of the MAP are to provide access, to promote responsible recreation, and to protect cultural and natural resources.

Responsible Motorized Recreation

Motor vehicles are a legitimate way for people to enjoy their State Parks and Forests — as long as they are used responsibly along routes that are designated for motorized recreation. Most visitors drive to Wharton State Forest to sightsee, kayak, conduct research, bird watch or enjoy other activities. Many visitors to Wharton also enjoy driving on the unimproved roads in a variety of licensed, registered, and insured vehicles.

Overall, this Motorized Access Plan will provide a cumulative benefit to the environment, including the protection of pristine water resources, sensitive ecological habitats, cultural resources and threatened and endangered species; all while providing sound, reasonable access for motorized recreation.



How Do You Like Your State Forests? YOU BE THE JUDGE.



Report environmental violations to the 24 hour DEP Hotline 1-877-WARN-DEP.

Plan Your Visit

All motorized vehicles operated on lands under the jurisdiction of the State Park Service are subject to motor vehicle laws of the State of New Jersey, N.J.S.A. 39:1-1, et seq. Because the routes are not paved, the operation of a motor vehicle on State Forest routes is different from driving on a city street or highway. Many State Forest routes are single lanes with a sandy, soft surface. Although not necessary to access all of the open routes in Wharton, four wheel drive vehicles are recommended.

Seasonal weather conditions and natural events may render approved, designated routes impassable for extended periods. Motorized vehicle users should never drive through a flooded route or leave the designated route to avoid obstacles such as downed trees or puddles. Forest routes are not plowed during the winter months. Winter visitors should be cautious of snow and ice. The maximum speed limit on all Wharton routes is 20 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted.



The following are recommendations for ensuring you have a safe and enjoyable visit to Wharton State Forest:

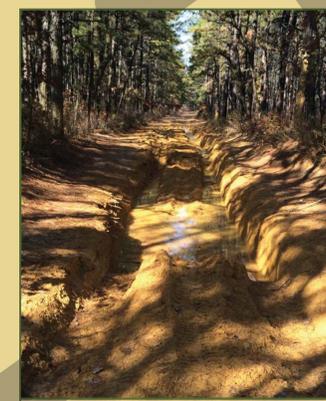
- Bring a current copy of the MAP.
- Bring a compass and/or GPS.
- Know your own personal limits.
- Know your vehicle's limits.
- Travel with a companion.
- Bring a cell phone. Be aware that service availability may be limited.
- Bring a sufficient amount of food and water.
- Be weather-wise and fire-wise.
- Watch for plants and wildlife.
- Protect yourself against biting insects.

Report hazards to the Wharton Offices.

Recommended Equipment

Carrying the equipment listed is recommended whenever the permitted vehicle is in Wharton:

- Functional Spare Tire
- Workable Jack and Board/Support for Sand Use (minimum size 3/4" x 12" x 12")
- Tow Chain, Tow Strap, or Snatch Line
- Shovel
- Flashlight
- Fire Extinguisher
- Auto First Aid Kit
- Litter/Trash Bag (Wharton State Forest practices Carry-In, Carry-Out.)
- Minimum of 1/2 Tank of Fuel



Driving through flooded roadways causes damage to the route infrastructure and may render the route closed.



Wharton State Forest is the largest single tract of land within the New Jersey State Park System. Wharton State Forest encompasses over 125,000 acres in three counties: Atlantic, Burlington and Camden. Located in the heart of the Pinelands National Reserve, about 20 miles northwest from Atlantic City and approximately 40 miles south-east of Philadelphia, the forest is conveniently accessible from the Garden State Parkway, Atlantic City Expressway, and Routes 30 and 206.

Funding provided by the National Recreational Trails Grant Program.

For Further Information:
Wharton State Forest
Batsto Office
Forest Headquarters
31 Batsto Road
Hammonton, NJ 08037
(609) 561-0024

Atsion Office
744 Route 206
Shamong, NJ 08088
(609) 268-0444

Visit Us Online
www.njparksandforests.org

Report environmental violations to the 24 hour DEP Hotline 1-877-WARN-DEP (927-6337). In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.

Pinelands National Reserve

Established in 1978 by the U.S. Congress, the Pinelands National Reserve is approximately 1.1 million acres and spans portions of seven counties. The Reserve occupies 22 percent of New Jersey's land area and it is the largest body of open space on the Mid-Atlantic seaboard between Boston and Richmond.



The Reserve is home to dozens of rare plants, nearly 500 animal species and the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer system. This system contains an estimated 17 trillion gallons of water, holding enough water to cover all of New Jersey in a lake 10-feet deep.

In 1979, New Jersey formed a partnership with the federal government to preserve, protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands. Today, the region is protected in a manner that maintains its unique ecology while permitting recreational opportunities and compatible development.

Wharton State Forest History

Wharton State Forest was once the hunting and fishing grounds of the native Leni Lenape Indians. In the 1600s, European exploration brought settlement. In the 1700s, industries such as iron furnaces and glassworks, were introduced attracting laborers that swelled the population and created many of the villages and towns found throughout Wharton.

By the late 1800s, the economy declined as the laborers moved on. Joseph Wharton, an industrialist from Philadelphia, began purchasing the land that would eventually become part of Wharton State Forest. Joseph Wharton experimented with agriculture, proposed water exportation, and championed forest conservation. By the time of his death in 1909, he had amassed 96,000 acres of property. The State of New Jersey began purchasing the Wharton lands in 1954, and continues to purchase land around the Forest to this day.

Wharton State Forest's purpose is to preserve the natural, cultural, and historical aspects of this once bustling area for benefit of future generations.



Natural Areas

Two Natural Areas have been designated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:5A et seq. within Wharton State Forest. They demonstrate a wide variety of Pinelands habitats, especially southern swamps and floodplains. Rare plant and animal species are present in these areas, as well as several cultural and historic points of interest.

Batsto Natural Area
This 9,449-acre natural area borders the Batsto and Mullica Rivers. It contains several forest communities that are representative of New Jersey Pinelands.

Oswego River Natural Area
In these 1,927 acres, extensive white cedar and pitch pine forests border the Oswego River. This freshwater wetland corridor is home to the rare Bog Asphodel, Pine Barren Boneset, Curly Grass Fern and Pine Barrens Treefrog.



Plants

Wharton State Forest is made up of low, dense forests of pine and oak, ribbons of cedar and hardwood swamps, pitch pine lowlands, and bogs and marshes combined to produce an assortment of vegetation. Wharton offers unique habitats for 850 species of plants, including wild orchids, sedges, ferns, grasses, and carnivorous plants. Several rare and endangered plants such as Bog Asphodel, Broom Crowberry, Spreading Pogonia, and Swamp Pink can also be found in the Forest.



Fire plays an important role in the ecology of plants in Wharton State Forest. Many plants have developed adaptations to the occurrence of natural fire. For example, pitch pines have serotinous cones that need the heat of fire to open, thick bark to protect the inside of the tree, and the ability to grow shoots from below the bark. The ecology of Wharton State Forest today is dependent upon the presence of wildfire.

The influence of human impact on vegetation has greatly increased. To protect high-risk plant species that prefer to grow between the road and the forest, such as the Pine Barren Gentian, it is important to remain on Wharton routes and keep off the vegetated shoulders.



Wildlife

Animal communities are shaped by many environmental factors including vegetation, fire, and water. Many unique species are dependent upon the special conditions present in Wharton State Forest. Maintaining this fragile environment is essential for the preservation of many Pinelands species.

The New Jersey Pinelands is home for a large variety of animals. To date, 39 mammals, 299 birds, 59 reptiles and amphibians, and 91 fish species have been identified. Of these, 43 animal species are listed as threatened or endangered by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Motorized recreation provides visitors a unique opportunity to see wildlife in its natural environment, but vehicles can pose a threat to many threatened and endangered species.

Use caution, drive slowly, and respect wildlife.



Fire and Forest Management



New Jersey State Forestry Services manages forests to improve forest health, reduce the risk of wildfire, and lessen insect and disease outbreaks. The Forest Fire Service was formed in 1905 to provide wildfire protection and prevention, monitor and manage our forests, and preserve the diversity of species in New Jersey's forests. During the fall and early spring, Forest Fire Service uses prescribed burns in forests to remove excess leaf litter and underbrush, making the forests less susceptible to an uncontrollable wildfire during the fire seasons. Smoke may impair visibility; visitors should use caution when approaching a prescribed burn and observe all posted signs. Wildfire danger may be high in forests any time the weather is dry. Visitors who encounter a fire that seems to be unattended should call 9-1-1 or 1-877-WARN-DEP to report the incident.

Wharton State Forest has been invaded by forest pests including the Southern Pine Beetle and Gypsy Moth. Visitors may notice areas of dying trees where these pests affected a cluster of trees. Visitors should exercise caution in these areas as there is an increased chance of falling branches.

While visiting Wharton, be "fire-wise" and know the current fire danger rating. Remember, only you can prevent forest fires.

Motorized Use

All motorized vehicles operating on designated motorized recreation routes must be licensed, registered and insured, and are subject to the motor vehicle laws of the State of New Jersey, N.J.S.A. 39:1-1, et seq.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES
Although not necessary to access all of the open routes in the Forest, four wheel drive vehicles are recommended. Over-sized tires and lift packages are subject to motor vehicle laws. Destruction to state lands including route infrastructures is illegal and poses a threat to other Wharton visitors and future access privileges. Motorized vehicle users should never drive through a flooded route or leave the designated route to avoid obstacles such as downed trees or puddles.

CARS
The operation of a motor vehicle on Wharton routes is different from driving on a city street or highway. Many routes are single lanes with a sandy, soft surface. Use caution and common sense when operating a non-four wheel drive vehicle on designated motorized routes.

MOTORCYCLES
Motorcycles are permitted on designated motorized routes and are prohibited from all non-designated routes including plowed lines, or "fire-cuts".

ATVs
All Terrain Vehicles are prohibited in Wharton State Forest.



Observe posted regulations

Activities

CAMPING
Camping in Wharton State Forest is available year-round. Facilities range from family-style campsites to primitive sites that are only accessible by hiking and paddling. Primitive campgrounds offer a limited number of amenities. Cabin rentals are available seasonally along Atsion Lake. For more information, please contact the Wharton State Forest Offices.

PADDLING
Four rivers flow through Wharton State Forest and provide excellent opportunities for canoeing and kayaking. These rivers are the Mullica, Batsto, Oswego, and the West Branch of the Wading. Access points are conveniently situated for trips of varying lengths.

BOATING
A public launching ramp for motorized boats is located at Crowley's Landing on the Mullica River. Day use or seasonal passes are required for use from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. Atsion Lake and Batsto Lake are open for boating, however gas powered motors are prohibited. Personal floatation devices are required for each occupant of any vessel.

HORSEBACK RIDING
Horseback riding is permitted on all designated and non-designated routes. Three blazed horseback riding (multi-use) trails are located in Waterford Township starting at Burnt Mill Road. Horses are not permitted on hiking or all-terrain bicycling trails. Some designated camping areas permit horses. Contact the Wharton Offices for more information.

ALL-TERRAIN BICYCLING
Twenty-five miles of all-terrain bicycling trails are accessible from the Batsto Visitor Center parking lot. The trailhead is located in the rear of the lot. All-terrain bicycling is permitted on the designated and non-designated routes. However, bicyclists should be prepared for soft, sandy soils. Mountain bikes are not permitted on hiking trails.

HUNTING & FISHING
Hunting and fishing is permitted in Wharton State Forest and is subject to the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife regulations. Consult the Wharton Offices for further and up-to-date information.

SWIMMING
Wharton State Forest maintains one swimming area with lifeguard supervision at the Atsion Recreation Area. This facility is open for swimming Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, unless otherwise posted. Swimming is not permitted at any other location within the Forest.

HIKING
Wharton State Forest offers approximately 50 miles of marked hiking trails to explore. More than 27 miles of the Batona Trail are located within Wharton.

Brochures detailing the various activities within Wharton may be found at the Batsto and Atsion Offices.

Historic Batsto Village



Batsto Village is a former iron and glass industrial center. It was in operation from the 1760s until the 1860s. From the 1880s until the 1950s, it was the South Jersey home of Joseph Wharton and his family. The village consists of thirty-three historic buildings and structures including a mansion, gristmill, sawmill, general store, workers' houses, and a post office.

Today, Batsto serves as the Wharton State Forest Headquarters, trailhead for many trails, and a visitor center that contains a museum and gift shop. Events and guided tours at Batsto Village are available year-round.

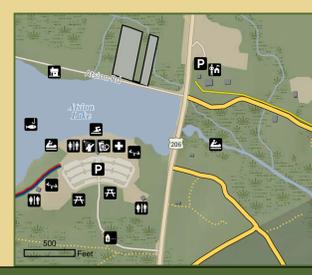


Atsion Recreation Area



Atsion was once a thriving village centered around the iron industry. The forge was operational from the 1760s until the 1840s, with later forays into paper manufacturing and cotton milling. Atsion was at one time a planned community and was part of Joseph Wharton's agricultural pursuits. Reminders of Atsion's past, such as the general store, now a Wharton Office, and the mansion are open for visitation.

Today, the Atsion Recreational Area serves as the focal point of Atsion, offering swimming in Atsion Lake, picnicking, hiking, and camping.



Points of Interest

Wharton State Forest contains many remote places including abandoned towns, hidden vistas, and monuments. The MAP will assist in getting visitors safely to these hidden gems in Wharton.

Apple Pie Hill
The highest point in the Pinelands at over 200 feet above sea level, Apple Pie Hill offers great panoramic views of Wharton State Forest and the Pinelands National Reserve. The New Jersey Forest Fire Service maintains an active fire observation tower at this site.

Bulltown
Site of a former glassworks, in the 1860s this village contained houses for the laborers and a school for children.

Carranza Memorial
Inspired by Charles Lindbergh's trans-Atlantic flight, Emilio Carranza, a Mexican aviator, planned a goodwill flight from Mexico to New York City. On his return trip, Carranza's plane crashed at this site on July 12, 1928 during a thunderstorm.

Crowleytown
The first mason jar is alleged to have first been blown at this former glassworks. The glassworks was established in the early 1850s and glass bottles and jars were produced here for the next two decades. The village, consisting of houses, stores, and a hotel, was created to serve the glassworks. Today, Crowleytown, now Crowley's Landing, serves as a boat launch and picnic area along the Mullica River.

Points of Interest

Friendship
This village was created to support the area's growing cranberry industry. It consisted of houses, stores, a school, and a packing house. The bogs were developed in the 1870s and were farmed until the 1950s.

Hampton
As an 18th century village, iron furnace and an iron forge, this industry operated from the 1790s until the 1820s. One of its founders was Richard Stockton. In the early 1900s, cranberry bogs were created from old mill ponds and farmed by the family of Andrew Rider, namesake of Rider University.

Harrisville
This site is best known for a paperworks that was, for a time, the largest and most successful in the nation. Prior to the paperworks, there was an iron furnace, forge, and slitting mill. McCartyville, as it was once known, was populated from the 1790s until the 1880s. The village, consisting of a sawmill, gristmill, houses, school, and store, was one of the first in the area to be lit by gaslight.

Herman
Although only in operation for a few months in 1870, this glassworks produced a wide variety of glass items. A planned community was designed around the glassworks, however due to its short existence most of the village was never built.

Points of Interest

Jemima Mount
Pine Barrens hilltops are actually ancient river bottoms of gravel or ironstone. Jemima Mount is a prime example of this unique natural history.

Lower Forge
The intermediate products of iron production, known as iron "pigs", were manufactured into finished iron products at this forge from the 1810s until the 1840s.

Martha
Beginning in the 1790s, this village contained an iron furnace, stamping mill, sawmill, and gristmill. One of the larger villages in the area, Martha peaked in the early 1800s with approximately 400 residents. Iron production ceased operation by the 1840s.

Mount
A hotel and tavern at this crossroads served two early stagecoach routes during the mid-1800s.

Parkdale
Andrew Rider, also known for his endeavors at Hampton, established Cranberry bogs and an early 20th century village. As a leading force in the industry, Rider was known as the Cranberry King of New Jersey.

Points of Interest

Quaker Bridge
Built in the 1770s, this bridge enabled area Quakers to cross the Batsto River. In the early 1800s, Thompson's Tavern was constructed along the stage route nearby. The inn operated until the 1820s and was often the location for public functions.

Rockwood
One of many forgotten cranberry bogs, Rockwood was owned by geologist and Princeton professor Charles Rockwood, Jr.

Speedwell
At this site Benjamin Randolph established an iron furnace first put into production in the 1780s. Randolph was a renowned cabinet maker from Philadelphia who, at his shop "Sign of the Golden Eagle", hosted George Washington and Thomas Jefferson during the Second Continental Congress in 1776.

Washington
Located at the hub of many stage routes, Swoy's Inn, later called Washington Tavern, was used for town meetings through the early 1800s. A village developed with the Inn at its center that would exist through the first half of the 18th century. The area was later used by Joseph Wharton as a cattle farm.