

New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report



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

Catherine R. McCabe, Commissioner

Raymond Bukowski, Assistant Commissioner

Olivia C. Glenn, Director

Summary

The Annual Report provides an overview of the programs and properties managed by the Division of Parks and Forestry as well as the notable issues and accomplishments of fiscal year 2018.

Each year, more New Jersey land becomes developed and forests are fragmented. As a state resident and nature lover, you may wonder how this impacts the environment and our quality of life in New Jersey. The Division of Parks and Forestry team lives here too, and shares your concerns. Together, we can take care of the parks and forests we have set aside for New Jersey's nature lovers and future generations.

Parks and Forestry Fast Facts

Parks and Forestry is responsible for 45 percent of all publicly owned land in our state.

New Jersey is 40 percent forested.

Your parks

- 104 properties
- 450,000 acres
- 1,600+ structures
- 17 million visitors each year

To increase biodiversity, we:

- Monitor and manage for tree-killing pests
- Control invasive plant species
- Strive for a balanced distribution of age classes
- Plant new native species

To help private, municipal and county forest landowners, we:

- Offer grant and education programs
- Provide technical assistance
- Grow and sell tree seedlings

Challenges that impede our work

- Decrease in number of employees
- Increasing acreage
- Growing infrastructure improvement list

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COVER IMAGE:

HIGH POINT STATE PARK


Sussex County



“High point is absolutely beautiful. There’s diverse terrain with interesting hikes. The view from the monument is expansive and shows off much of the beauty of New Jersey’s Highlands. If you want to bring your family they have plenty of facilities to accommodate you. There’s 50’ rock faces on the Iris trail that already have down rope anchors. And lastly the Appalachian passes right through the park. If you decide to explore High Point I’m sure you won’t be disappointed.”

ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

Ocean County

 facebook.com/islandbeachstatepark



M.B.

“Whether you are looking for a simple day at the beach or one of exploration of Sedge Island byways by kayak, or canoe this is the place for it. The beaches are guarded and offer locker rooms, food vendors and showers. The nature center is staffed by volunteers who offer classes in all things NJ shore! We took a wonderful course in surf fishing!...If you come by boat, come and anchor at Tice’s Shoal where your fellow boaters meet almost everyday. Fees are very reasonable and you can bring the entire family without going broke. Enjoy and welcome to Barnegat Bay and Island Beach State Park”



From the Director

From the Highlands to the Pinelands and in our cities, suburbs, and countryside, **our state is teeming with beautiful natural and historic places.** Much work goes on behind the scenes to operate and conserve these special public areas.

The **division's men and women are stewards of the land.** We manage your parks so they provide clean water and air, homes and food for wildlife, a diversity of plants, as well as protection from forest fires and tree-killing insects and diseases. These lands also provide recreation opportunities and a place to learn about our state's history.

Parks are your second home—**these are your parks.** We work with partners and local government and hold public meetings to invite your views on policies and projects. We strive to find the balance between the needs of people and the need to conserve nature.

With thousands of structures to care for, we are always fixing and adding to your parks. From new cabins and nature centers to structure repairs, **your parks are improving.**

Our volunteers and friends groups add a little *je ne sais quoi* to our parks. They greet visitors, give tours and beautify the landscape. **Volunteers' many hands make light work** in your parks.

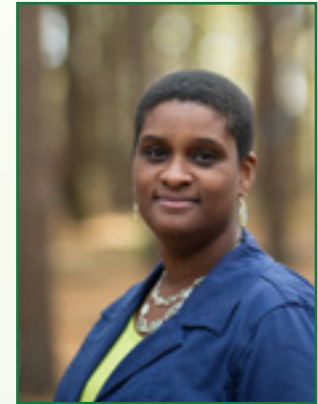
Thank you, New Jersey, for your role in making parks sustainable and beautiful. Your passion for nature helps to ensure that our grandchildren's grandchildren will know and love New Jersey's unique outdoor places, too.

Have you explored your park today?

I look forward to seeing you out there!

Olivia C. Glenn

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PARKS AND FORESTRY



Follow Me on Instagram

@njparksforestsdirector

ROUND VALLEY RECREATION AREA

Hunterdon County



facebook.com/roundvalleyrecreationarea



William S.

“Round Valley offers so much for outdoor fun--fishing, swimming, sailing (no speed boats), kayaking, canoeing, hiking, picnicking, and a great place to walk your dog. They even do scuba diving in the lake as it is very deep.”



Division History

We're 113 Years Old!

For over a century, the division has conserved and enhanced New Jersey's natural environment.



Camping at Stokes State Forest, 1932



*Managed forest at Lebanon State Forest, 1920
(Now Brendan T. Byrne State Forest)*

- 1905** Gov. Edward C. Stokes founds Forest Park Reservation Commission. The Commission purchases 597 acres in Bass River Township to establish the first forest park reserve. The property is now part of Bass River State Forest.
- 1915** Forest Park Reservation Commission merges with the new Department and Board of Conservation and Development. The department purchases 534 acres around Swartswood Lake for public recreation. The property is now part of Swartswood State Park.
- 1923** State Park Service forms. The 16,402 acres of state parks and forests are made available for recreation such as camping, fishing and hunting.
- 1933** Civilian Conservation Corps builds roads, bridges, picnic shelters and trails in parks throughout the state.
- 1945** Department and Board of Conservation and Development becomes Division of Forestry, Geology, Parks and Historic Sites, Department of Conservation.
- 1961** Name changes to Division of Parks, Forestry and Recreation. The Bureau of Forestry manages state forests, grows tree seedlings and stations firewardens across the state. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation maintains and operates the state forests, parks and historic sites; Office of Natural Lands Management created.
- 1966** Division of Parks, Forestry and Recreation re-established in the Department of Conservation and Economic Development to develop, improve, protect, interpret, and manage state forests, parks, recreation areas, historic sites and natural areas.
- 1970** Gov. William T. Cahill creates New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- 1971** The Division of Parks, Forestry and Recreation joins the Department of Environmental Protection and is designated the Division of Parks and Forestry.
- 2018** The Division of Parks and Forestry includes the NJ Forest Service, NJ State Park Service, NJ State Park Police, the Office of Natural Resource Restoration and the Office of Natural Lands Management.

Challenges in Parks and Forests

Employee to Visitor Ratio
1 to 35,947

One full-time Park Service employee for every 35,947 visitors or 138 visitors per workday

Employee to Acres Ratio
1 to 5,457

One full-time Forest Service employee for every 5,457 acres



Cape May Point State Park boardwalk

Maintenance projects are backlogged due to budget constraints.

We have a limited budget with many backlogged maintenance and infrastructure projects including:

- Parking area paving and repair
- Bathroom facility repair
- Accessibility improvement
- Historic building repair
- Dam repair
- Storm damage repair

See our latest projects on p. 12 and 13



High Point State Park turns away visitors.

Public services are reduced or facilities are closed due to fewer staff.

Every year New Jersey's population increases, and more acres and infrastructure are added to state parks. But staffing is down 28 percent from 2006. With fewer staff, the public is impacted by:

- Nature centers staffed only seasonally or closed.
- Swim areas close earlier.
- Storm clean up is delayed.

See all we take care of on p. 11



The state endangered bobcat relies on young forests.

Fewer types of habitats are available for plants and animals due to a decline in the number of forests under 40 years old.

We are fortunate that forests more than 100 years old have been steadily increasing. However, young forests have been in decline. A healthy statewide ecosystem requires forest growth in various stages to support a greater number of plant and animal species.

See New Jersey's forest age class distribution chart on p. 24



Wharton State Forest Atlantic white-cedar damage.

More storms have damaged forests due to climate change.

Globally, there has been a trend toward warmer temperatures, and that has an effect on bird migrations, growing seasons, when flowers bloom, and ocean levels as well as an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms. These changes affect how we plan for and manage forests.

See our latest projects to restore native species on p. 26



Rare Virginia bluebells overtaken by invasive lesser celandine at Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park

More native species become threatened and endangered due to invasive species.

Invasive plants and animals easily invade the forest and displace or out-compete more desirable native species. Through forest management projects, we work to support native plants and animals and discourage invasives.

See the invasives we're combating on p. 25

SPRUCE RUN RECREATION AREA

Hunterdon County

 facebook.com/sprucerunrecreation



Ed D.

"Clean, Quiet, Perfect for Families. One of our favorite family camping destinations. Very clean, very peaceful, and perfect for families with relatively young kids, especially for that "first-time" camping experience."



By the Numbers

We Add Acres Each Year!

Parks and Forestry added 60,000 acres since 2004 including 804 acres in 2017. This brings our total acreage to more than 450,000. We're responsible for 45 percent of all publicly owned land in New Jersey.



450,330
ACRES



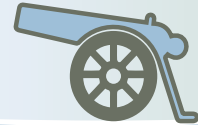
1,600+
STRUCTURES



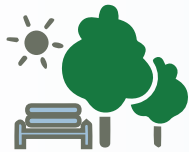
1,300+
OVERNIGHT
FACILITIES



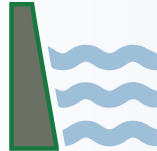
1,070
MILES OF TRAILS



57
HISTORIC
SITES



43
PARKS, FORESTS,
RECREATION AREAS



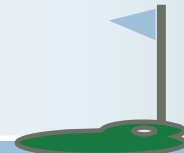
17
DAMS



4
RESERVOIRS



4
MARINAS



3
GOLF COURSES

Repairs and Improvements



TRAIL IMPROVEMENT

The division maintains 485 trails totaling 1,070 miles in 43 parks. Each year, maintenance workers clear away hundreds of fallen trees and branches to keep the paths accessible. In addition, we periodically inspect and improve or replace existing bridges over water bodies and boardwalks across swampy or low-lying areas.



MARINAS

Our Atlantic shoreline is home to four state marinas, which attract thousands of boaters. The incoming and outgoing tide and storms affect bulkheads, sea walls and boat ramps. Each year, we inspect and then maintain or replace as needed.



TREE PLANTING

Trees, and sometimes whole forest stands, can become overrun with competing non-native invasive species, damaged from storms and attacked by insects and diseases. We replant and restore these areas. We also plant single trees to shade streets and hundreds of trees to create a new forest. We use native tree species in all our planting projects.



REPAIRS

With more than 1,600 structures under its care, the division never takes off its tool belt. In 2017 alone, we fixed nine roofs, gave five buildings a fresh coat of paint, and replaced windows in two historic buildings. In addition, we razed seven structures.



FOREST FIRE PROTECTION

As New Jersey is the most densely populated state, people often live within or right on the edge of large swaths of forested land. To help keep people and their homes safe from forest fire, we thin the forest and prescribe burn. With this proactive management, a forest fire will have less fuel and will be easier for forest firefighters to control.



EMERALD ASH BORER

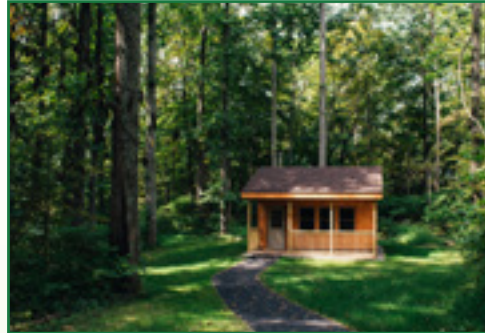
The emerald ash borer is infesting and killing ash trees across New Jersey. We proactively remove susceptible and infested ash trees in high-use areas of parks.



What's New Highlights

New activities and amenities

Each year, we offer new food concessions, camping options, recreational activities and more! We hope you jump at the chance to experience your parks in new ways.



SWARTSWOOD STATE PARK

New shelters



STOKES STATE FOREST

Now rent kayaks



PET FRIENDLY CAMPING AT 13 PARKS

Learn more: nj.gov/dep/petfriendlycamping



ALLAIRE STATE PARK

New disc golf course and new shelters



ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

Red Fox Beach Bar & Grill is now open. Also new lifeguard tower, benches and showers



LEONARDO STATE MARINA

New office building and education center



BRENDAN T. BYRNE STATE FOREST

New shelters, nature center reopened, canoe rentals, expanded camp store



WORTHINGTON STATE FOREST

Now rent stand-up paddleboards, kayaks and canoes



BELLEPLAIN STATE FOREST

New shelters, new parking area for horseback riders and new bluebird boxes




TWIN LIGHTS HISTORIC SITE

New uplighting to illuminate façade

CAPE MAY POINT STATE PARK

Cape May County

 facebook.com/capemaypointstatepark



Conor Davis

“Great place for family and nature lovers. Raised walking paths made out of composite decking allow access to terrain that is normally difficult to get to. Commonly seen wildlife along the trails are: swans, ducks, osprey (often hunting over lake), and many other birds. I have also seen at least once in the area animals like muskrats, frogs, snakes (small, non-venomous). Plenty of parking during the off-season. Busy in the summer. Also, there is beach access, a small museum, Bar-b-cues, and of course the lighthouse. Just down the road is Sunset Beach with what remains of the sunken concrete ship.”



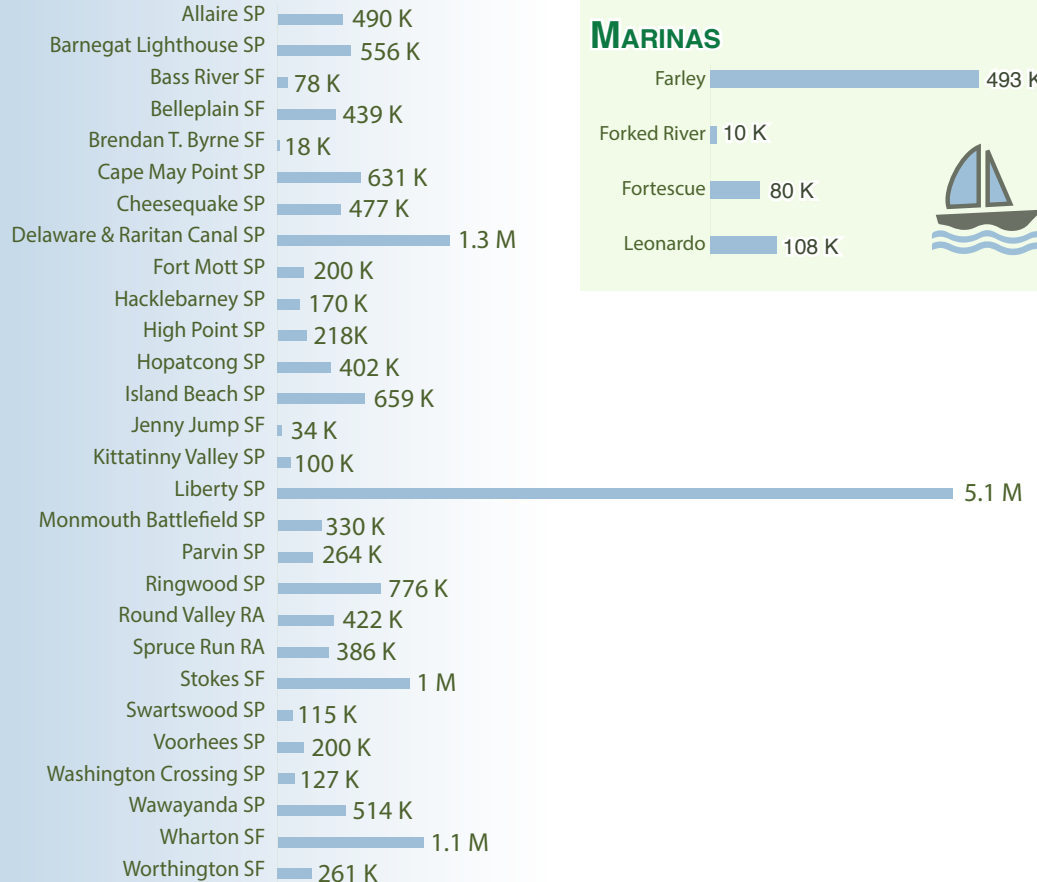
Day Use Attendance

Whether you cool off at one of our 14 swim areas, hike to an overlook with panoramic views or rent a kayak and explore the waterways, you're sure to have a unique and memorable day at your favorite park.



**TOTAL DAY USE
ATTENDANCE**

17 MILLION



STOKES STATE FOREST

Sussex County

 facebook.com/StokesSF



Steve S.

“Another brilliant New Jersey gem of a State Forest. Camping, abundant hiking through the beautiful woods and countryside, picnicking, swimming, a wonderful place to enjoy nature. In the winter there is snowshoeing, cross-country-skiing, and skating. Among many beautiful areas, the Sunset Mountain deserves special mention, particularly in the Autumn. It presents beautiful views of forests on one side and farmlands on the other. It can be hiked or driven up, and is well worth the trip. One of the most spectacular points on the Appalachian Trail.”



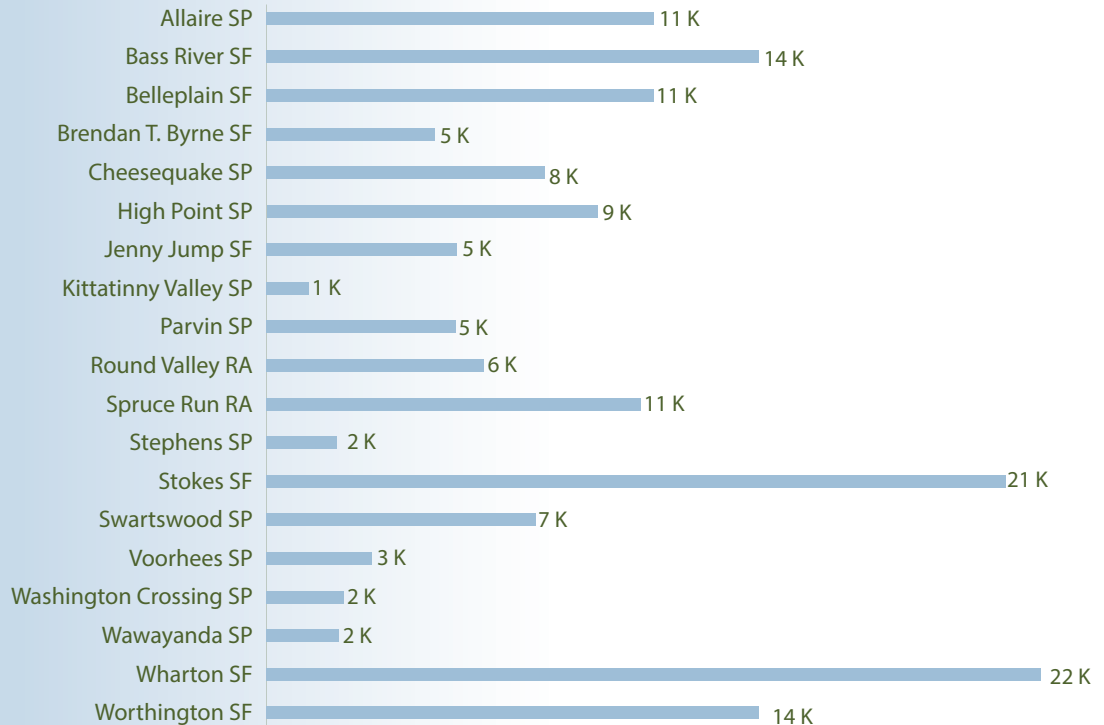
Overnight Attendance

Stay the night at parks! Rent cabins with electricity and running water. Find a campsite for your tent or trailer near the park amenities or for the most adventurous, hike into the depths of the forest for backcountry camping. What type of camper are you?



**TOTAL OVERNIGHT
ATTENDANCE**

175,000



Learn About History



Waterloo Village

Visit this former bustling port along the once prosperous Morris Canal. This site features an early 19th-century restored village with working gristmills and sawmills, a general store, blacksmith shop and several historic houses.



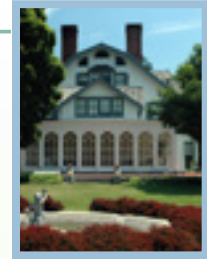
Washington Crossing

General George Washington and the Continental Army crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey at this site on December 25, 1776.



Rockingham

The site features a mansion, a historic barn, several outbuildings and an orchard. The site looks much like it did when General Washington stayed there.



Ringwood Manor

Victorian summer estate of the Hewitts, one of the wealthiest and most influential families of 19th-century America.



Central Railroad of NJ Terminal

From 1892 through 1954, the terminal, along with Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, saw massive immigration through the Port of New York and New Jersey.



Walt Whitman House

The renowned poet lived here from 1884 until his death in 1892. The house is furnished with a number of pieces owned and used by Whitman.



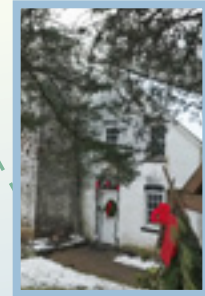
Fort Mott

Fort Mott was designed after the Civil War as part of a coastal defense system. Visitors can wander through the old gun batteries and follow interpretive signs with detailed descriptions of the fort.



Monmouth Battlefield

The battle, fought on June 28, 1778, was the largest single-day battle of the war with nearly 25,000 men involved.



Allaire Village

The village reflects a well-preserved early 19th-century iron-making town with a general store, blacksmith shop, carpenter's shop, owner's house, foreman's house, church, and carriage house. The visitor center offers exhibits on the site's history.



Batsto Village

Batsto was founded in 1766 by Charles Read. He built an ironworks at the mouth of the Batsto River where cannonballs were made during the Revolutionary War.

LEARN MORE: journeythroughjersey.com or nj.gov/dep/historic

FOREST RESOURCE EDUCATION CENTER

Ocean County

 facebook.com/forestrycenter

 **Stan Fernandes**

"This is a very nice place. There are lots of trails where you can take a walk through the woods. There's an educational center where you can learn about nature. They also have an annual Fall Festival each year in October where they have different displays, exhibits, and demonstrations. Highly recommended if you are interested in learning about nature."







Statewide Student Programs





































Learn About Nature

Across the state, our interpretive naturalists teach all nature lovers, from pre-schoolers to senior citizens, about the environment. During programs, naturalists may identify native plants and animals, teach you to make a craft, lead you on a kayak tour or even teach you the basics of camping. Find a nature center or nature program at your park.

Park Nature Education Key

	Nature Center	Nature Program
Year-round		
Seasonal		

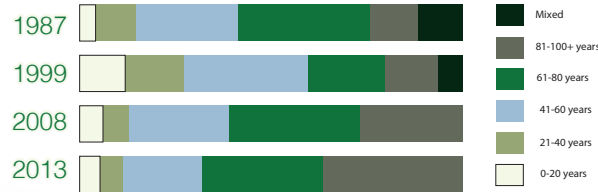
Allaire State Park		
Bass River State Forest		
Belleplaine State Forest		
Brendan T. Byrne State Forest		
Cape May Point State Park		
Cheesequake State Park		
Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park		
Forest Resource Education Center		
Hacklebarney State Park		
High Point State Park		
Island Beach State Park		
Jenny Jump State Forest		
Kittatinny Valley State Park		

Leonardo State Marina		
Liberty State Park		
Parvin State Park		
Rancocas State Park		
Round Valley Recreation Area		
Spruce Run Recreation Area		
Stephen's State Park		
Stokes State Forest		
Voorhees State Park		
Washington Crossing State Park		
Wawayanda State Park		
Wharton State Forest		
Worthington State Forest		

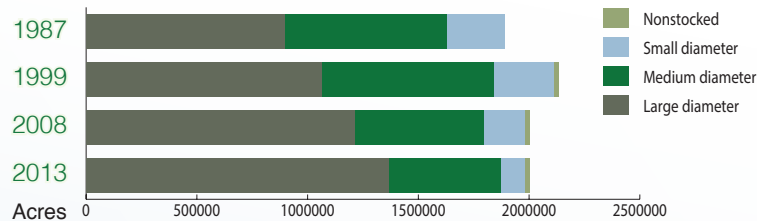
New Jersey's Forests Overview

Data from US Department of Agriculture's Forest Inventory Analysis

Forest Age Class Distribution

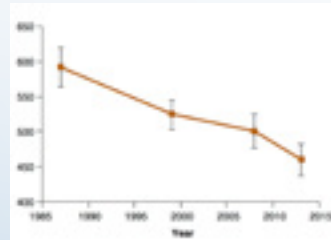


Stand Class Size Distribution

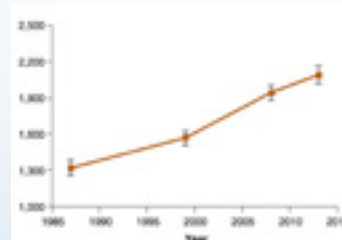


40 %
OF NJ IS FORESTED
(Two Million Acres!)

Trees per acre



Tree Volume per acre



“Decreasing numbers of trees and increasing volume are indicative of a maturing forest resource.”

-Resource Bulletin NRS-109
New Jersey Forests 2013

LEARN MORE: www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/rb/rb_nrs109.pdf

Forest Pests



Gypsy Moth

DAMAGED

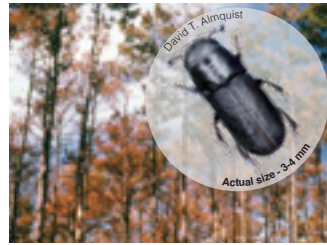
**13,547 Acres
in 2017**

What's at risk:

This pest affects hundreds of plant species including oaks and older trees. The vast oak-dominated 919,000 acres of the Skylands and Highlands are particularly susceptible.

What we do:

- Survey for infestations
- Spray insecticide aerially
- Educate public



Southern Pine Beetle

DAMAGED

**2,100 Acres
in 2017**

What's at risk:

The 1.1 million acres of the Pinelands National Reserve

What we do:

- Survey for infestations
- Educate and assist landowners and communities
- Educate public

southernpinebeetle.nj.gov



Emerald Ash Borer

DETECTED IN

**13 Counties
& 66 Towns**

What's at risk:

Millions of ash trees across the state including street trees and ash on private properties and in parks

What we do:

- Identify and manage susceptible trees on state land
- Educate and assist landowners and communities
- Educate public

emeraldashborer.nj.gov



Spotted Lanternfly

DETECTED IN

**Warren, Mercer and
Hunterdon Counties**

[*These counties are under quarantine.*](#)

What's at risk:

The Garden State will be greatly affected as this pest infests agriculture such as fruit and ornamental trees. Oak, sycamore, and pine are also affected.

What we do:

- Survey for infestations
- Educate public

**We also monitor
and manage for
emerging threats:**

Bacterial leaf scorch
Beech bark disease
Goudy oak gall

Hemlock woolly adelgid
Sirex woodwasp
Thousand cankers disease

White pine decline
Winter moth
Oak wilt

Walnut twig beetle
Beech leaf disease

Forest Improvement Projects

Acres Managed to Restore & Regenerate Native Species



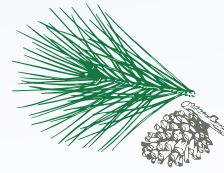
**EASTERN
HEMLOCK**



**OAK
FOREST**



**ATLANTIC
WHITE-CEDAR**



**SHORTLEAF
PINE**

Habitat for

Acres
created

Location

Ecosystem
Value

Stokes
State Forest

Hemlock has been dying due to infestations of hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect. Hemlock trees produce dense shade, which is particularly important along waterways. The shade moderates stream temperatures. If the trees die and water temperatures increase, it can negatively affect aquatic species such as trout.

Brendan T. Byrne
State Forest

Oaks are particularly important for food, shelter and nesting for many animals. However, oak seedlings need ample sunlight to regenerate. Oaks are also long-lived species that adapt better than most tree species to climate change.

Double Trouble
State Park

Before European settlement, New Jersey had 115,000 acres of Atlantic white-cedar stands. Less than 30 percent of these forests exist today. These stands provide the unique habitat for the endangered Pine Barrens treefrog and the endangered plant swamp pink.

Brendan T. Byrne
State Forest

Since the 1980s, shortleaf pine declined 53 percent due to insect damage, disease and land use changes. New Jersey is part of a multi-state effort to restore this species for its ecological, cultural and economic values. Shortleaf pine is also a good species for our changing climate; these trees adapt to greater ranges of temperature, precipitation and soil quality than other pines.

193

64

80

106



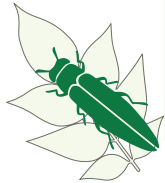
1,078 ACRES
MANAGED TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

Risk reduced in communities neighboring Wharton State Forest, Double Trouble State Park and Whiting Wildlife Management Area

113 ACRES

MANAGED TO PROMOTE RARE SPECIES HABITAT

at Double Trouble State Park



REMOVED TREES AFFECTED BY EMERALD ASH BORER

ON 65 MILES

of trails along Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park

LEARN MORE: manageforests.nj.gov

Before any work is done in a forest, each project plan undergoes a Lands Management Review.

This means rare plants experts, biologists, historians, forest firefighters, and foresters all review the project and add recommendations. Then external stakeholders may also review and comment. The work can begin once the plan has been finalized with all concerns and comments considered.

Forest management plans are reviewed internally by:



And externally by stakeholders such as:



Tree Seedlings



The nursery grows and distributes trees of tomorrow.

The New Jersey Forest Service Nursery in Jackson produces seedlings on 10 acres of fields and in two greenhouses.

Nursery's special species

- Endangered species, such as American chaffseed, for reintroduction to ecosystem
- Historical species, such as oaks from acorns from the Mercer white oak

Nursery Program

Seedlings Distributed 2017-2018

Description

NJ Tree Recovery	90K seedlings	Free trees and shrubs distributed by municipalities at local spring events. We've distributed 500,000 trees since 2014. Sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation.
Seedlings for Reforestation	90K seedlings	The nursery sells 40 different species of bare-root tree and shrub seedlings in packs of 50. Prices start at \$12 per pack of 50.
Arbor Day Trees	35K seedlings	The tree seedlings in plastic tubes, called tubelings, are offered in packs of 98 for \$35. Communities and groups give away the seedlings at Arbor Day events.

LEARN MORE: forestnursery.nj.gov

Private Forests

Whether a private woods is six acres or 600, it's an integral part of the state-wide forest landscape. These private forests often border Division of Parks and Forestry land as well as other forested open space. With these continuous tracts of forest, there are more homes for wildlife, better air and water quality, and fewer chances for invasives to spread.

Private Landowners Participating in Forest Service Programs

Farmland Assessment

- 5,715 landowners
- 257,600 acres

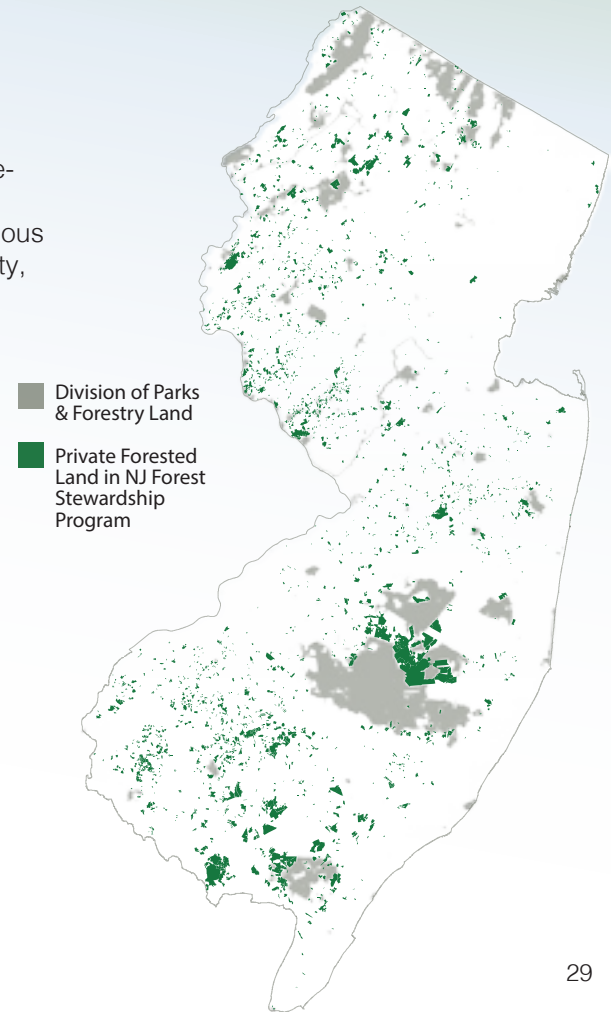
Forest Stewardship

- 2,552 landowners
- 155,000 acres

Landowners in these programs

- ✓ May be eligible for reduced property taxes
- ✓ May receive money back for a forest management plan
- ✓ Manage invasive insects and plants
- ✓ Make the forest more resilient to storms
- ✓ Provide wildlife habitat

LEARN MORE: myhealthywoods.nj.gov



Urban and Community Forests

Proactive Management of Trees and Forests

- Conserves energy
- Saves money and staff time
- Keeps roads open
- Keeps residents safe
- Increases environmental benefits
- Improves air quality

How Your Community Can Improve Urban Forests

- ✓ Establish a Shade Tree Commission
- ✓ Certify Your Program by Becoming a Tree City USA
- ✓ Become Accredited by the NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program

\$2.1
MILLION

IN GRANTS AWARDED

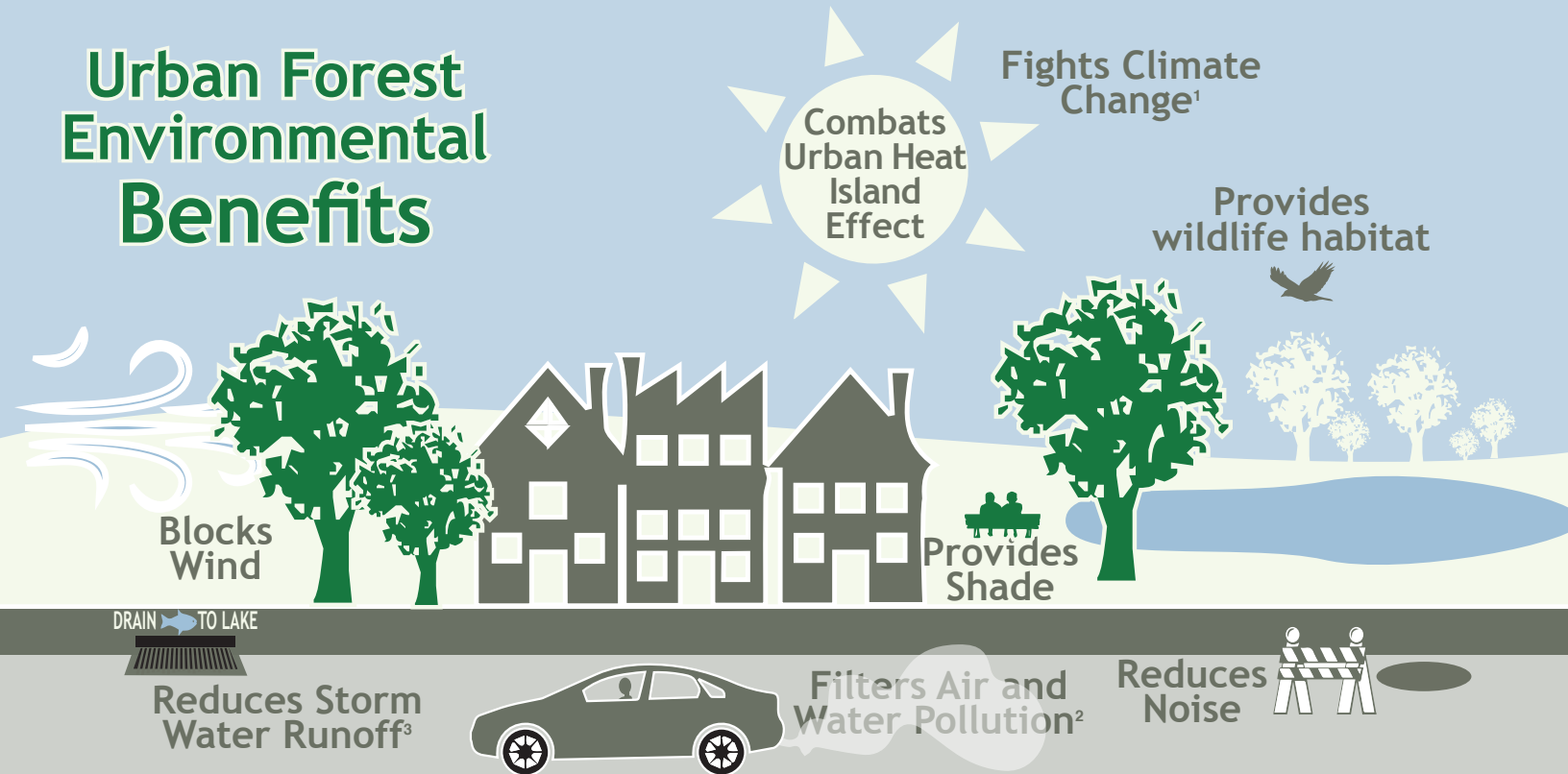


Local governments accredited by the NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program are eligible for grant money.

NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program By the Numbers

Total Population	8,791,894
Residents assisted	7,576,847
Population assisted	86 %
Municipalities with a Community Forestry Management Plan	224
Municipalities accredited	141
Counties with a Community Forestry Management Plan	38 %
Counties accredited	24 %
Tree City USA Communities in NJ	160
Residents living in a Tree City USA Community	46 %

Urban Forest Environmental Benefits



1. A young healthy tree provides a cooling effect equal to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
2. A mature tree removes up to 8.4 pounds of air pollutants per year.
3. A young red maple can transpire 400 gallons of water per week.

LEARN MORE: communityforestry.nj.gov

New Jersey's Endangered Plants

Rare plants matter in New Jersey because our state has a surprisingly high concentration of native plant species compared to other states. New Jersey is five percent of the Northeast regional land area, but home to 50 percent of the plant species found from Pennsylvania to Maine.

Facts about New Jersey's Plant Species

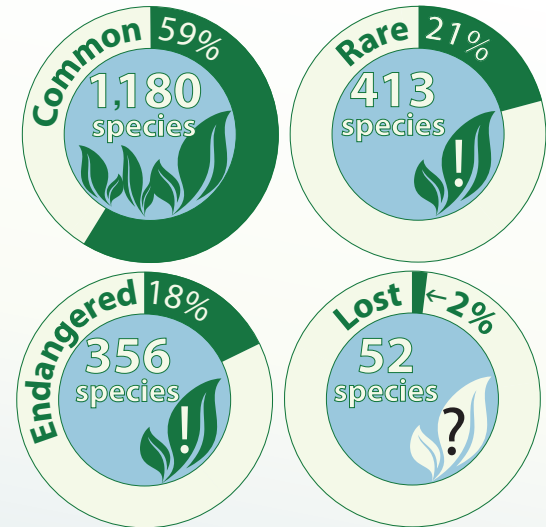
- Four plants are found nowhere else in the world
- 37 plants have always had only one population in NJ
- 52 plants are rare worldwide

Factors That Cause Plant Rarity and Loss

- Habitat destruction
- Invasive plant species
- Deer browse
- Climate change
- Changes in forest fire frequency and intensity

The Office of Natural Lands Management maintains the New Jersey Endangered Plant Species List and monitors the status of all native New Jersey plant species.

Status of New Jersey's 2,001 Native Plant Species



Of the 356 native plants listed as state endangered, most exist at five or fewer locations statewide.

Native Plant Species Successes in 2018



Small whorled pogonia
(*Isotria medeoloides*)
Stokes State Forest

Biologists discovered a previously unknown population of the federally threatened orchid, small whorled pogonia, in Stokes State Forest. This is just one of three known occurrences of this rare orchid in the state.



Stalked woolgrass
(*Scirpus pedicellatus*)
Near Worthington State Forest

This state endangered plant species, stalked woolgrass, last seen in New Jersey a century ago on July 4, 1918, was discovered growing north of Worthington State Forest in July 2018.



American chaffseed
(*Schwalbea americana*)
Brendan T. Byrne State Forest

To increase the survival of New Jersey's last population of American chaffseed, the NJ Forest Fire Service conducted prescribed burns and thinned the surrounding trees to increase sunlight. This resulted in double the number of flowering plants compared to 2017.



Seabeach amaranth
(*Amaranthus pumilus*)
Island Beach State Park and all along the coast

Annual census for the federally threatened and state endangered coastal plant seabeach amaranth indicated a 91 percent increase in plants compared to 2017, from 550 to 1,053 plants. At Island Beach State Park plants increased from 12 to 307 in the same period.

LEARN MORE: nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/index.html

LIBERTY STATE PARK

Hudson County

 facebook.com/LibertyStateParkOfficial



Maura T.

“Gorgeous park, unparalleled views of lower Manhattan, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and the Verrazano. A must visit for NJ/NYC tourist. Liberty House is a wonderful refresh for food and beverage — outdoor seating on nice days and evenings must be experienced. During the off bird migration period there are beaches and trails that will defy one’s belief of urban ecology.”

Future natural resource restoration project at Liberty State Park

A project that will transform 240 acres of Liberty State Park is now in the works. This section of our most popular state park has been closed to the public for decades due to low levels of contamination from historic fill. The construction will transform the site into a mosaic of freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, forests and grasslands to benefit both people and wildlife.

Construction is scheduled to begin by 2020.



Natural Resource Restoration Projects

These projects are funded primarily through natural resource damages settlements secured by the state from polluters. These settlements compensate the public for the lost enjoyment of and adverse impacts to a natural resource. This is separate from and in addition to any costs responsible parties incur to remediate pollution.

	Columbia Lake Dam Removal	Weston Mill Dam Removal	Cramer Hill Waterfront Park
Location	Columbia Wildlife Management Area	Between Manville and Franklin Townships	Cramer Hill neighborhood of Camden
Project Description	The dam created a 32-acre impoundment at the third largest tributary to the Delaware River. It blocked spawning and nursery habitat for migratory fish species. The dam removal will reconnect 11 miles of the Paulins Kill's mainstem and 20 miles of river and stream habitat. The project began in August 2018.	For more than 170 years, the dam presented a safety hazard for recreation and obstructed migratory fish, specifically American shad. The dam was removed August 2017 and opened up a 4.5-mile stretch of the Millstone River. Biologists will continue to study the dam removal's effect on the migration and spawning of the fish until 2020.	This former city landfill operated from 1952-1971. A 62-acre portion will now include a 2-acre fishing pond, 3-acre forested land for bald eagle forage areas, an amphitheater, a kayak launch and trails. Tree plantings on 26 acres will prevent erosion and re-establish undergrowth. Site preparation began in March 2018. The park is scheduled to open in 2021.
Partners	The Nature Conservancy, American Rivers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.	Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, American Rivers, Conservation Resources, Inc., The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Horizon Foundation and the Raritan River Fish Passage Initiative.	Division of Coastal Engineering the City of Camden, Camden Redevelopment Agency, Coopers Ferry, the Camden County Police Department and the Salvation Army.
Funding	\$5.1 million	\$1.9 million	\$47 million



Columbia Lake Dam removal



View from the future Cramer Hill Waterfront Park

LEARN MORE: nj.gov/dep/nrr/

Work With Us!

Job opportunities

We need full-time, part-time and seasonal employees to help keep all 450,000 acres we manage green and growing. Each summer, we hire more than 800 seasonal employees such as lifeguards, visitor service representatives, naturalists, historians and maintenance workers to help our parks, forests and historic sites run smoothly.

LEARN MORE: nj.gov/dep/workinparks

Business opportunities

Local businesses and organizations run leases and concessions in our parks. From kayaks and ice cream cones to fine dining and weddings, we are always looking for qualified vendors to help offer services to our visitors.

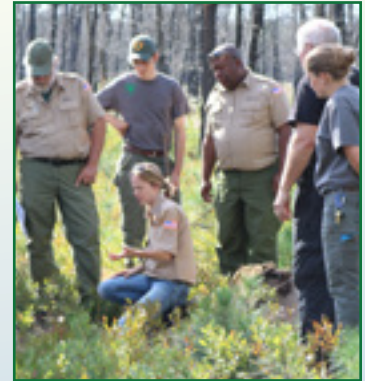
LEARN MORE: nj.gov/dep/businessopportunities

Volunteer

From reforestation projects to litter clean ups, we need all hands on deck to make our parks beautiful and provide many benefits for years to come. Are you willing to pitch in? We offer three types of volunteer opportunities: serve as an individual volunteer, as a group or apply to join one of 31 officially recognized friends organizations.

LEARN MORE: Contact your park office

GET EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS for new job, business and volunteer opportunities: alertmedep.nj.gov



Learn More and Plan Your Visit

Trail Tracker

Trail Tracker is an interactive trails map of New Jersey's State Parks. Track your current location, view trails and points of interest, and search for park activities.

LEARN MORE:

spstrailtracker.nj.gov



Camp in parks

Find available camping at State Parks across New Jersey and reserve your campsite today. Search by location, availability and park amenities to find the perfect campsite for you. Begin your adventure now!

LEARN MORE:

camping.nj.gov



Follow us on social media

Learn the latest news, events, and programs in your parks.



[facebook.com/newjerseystateparks](https://www.facebook.com/newjerseystateparks)
[facebook.com/newjerseyforests](https://www.facebook.com/newjerseyforests)

Also follow our 26 other pages
listed here: nj.gov/dep/facebook.html



[@newjerseystateparks](https://www.instagram.com/newjerseystateparks)
[@njparkforestsdirector](https://www.instagram.com/njparkforestsdirector)

Events and Festivals



Vintage Camping at Barnegat Lighthouse State Park



Soldiers Christmas at Fort Mott State Park



Country Living Fair at Wharton State Forest

JAN	First Day Hikes	Parks Statewide
FEB	Blue Comet Day	Liberty State Park
APRIL	Earth Day & Arbor Day	Statewide
MAY	May Day Spring Festival Ocean Fun Days Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Spring Antique, Glass and Bottle and Classic Car Show	Island Beach State Park Island Beach State Park Island Beach State Park Wharton State Forest
JUNE	Get Outdoors Month National Trails Day Barnegat Bay Conservation Celebration Battle of Monmouth Re-enactment Whitesbog Blueberry Festival	Parks Statewide Parks Statewide Island Beach State Park Monmouth Battlefield State Park Whitesbog Village Historic Site
SEPT	Wild Outdoor Expo Beach Plum Festival Critter Festival Vintage Camping Historic Soldier's Weekend	Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area Island Beach State Park Cape May Point State Park Barnegat Lighthouse State Park Fort Mott State Park
OCT	Fall Forestry Festival Country Living Fair	Forest Resource Education Center Wharton State Forest
DEC	Soldiers Christmas Christmas Day Crossing Re-enactment	Fort Mott State Park Washington Crossing State Park

GET EVENT EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS: alertmedep.nj.gov

Yearly Passes



STATE PARK PASS

FEE → **\$50*** NJ Resident
\$75* Non-Resident

The State Park Pass grants free entrance to the 17 parks that charge an entrance or parking fee.

*For oversized vehicles, the State Park Pass is \$100 for NJ residents and \$150 for non-residents



MOBILE SPORT FISHING PASS

FEE → **\$195** NJ Resident
\$225 Non-Resident

Island Beach State Park

FEE → **\$50** NJ Resident
\$75 Non-Resident

Corson's Inlet State Park
or
North Brigantine Natural Area



BOAT LAUNCH PASS

FEE → **\$60** NJ Resident
\$80 Non-Resident

Corson's Inlet, Bulls Island, Parvin & Hopatcong State Parks and Wharton State Forest

FEE → **\$170** NJ Resident
\$200 Non-Resident

All five parks above plus Liberty State Park and Leonardo State Marina

LEARN MORE: parkpass.nj.gov

WHARTON STATE FOREST

Burlington County

 facebook.com/WhartonSF

 **Kirsten VR**

“I love this area. A friend and I took a canoe along the Atsion Lake (pronounced, at-sign). The water is tea colored, and just as clear. Cedar water. In many ways, it reminded us of the Caribbean. You can see from your neck to your feet! We saw Osprey, loons, great blue heron, beaver and a river otter. The campground at Atsion has potable water, showers and flush toilets within walking distance of the campsites. At night you can hear the loons calling to each other. All in all, Wharton State Forest in the Pine Barrens of NJ is an amazing place to camp.”



LEARN MORE: njparksandforests.org