

## Ballanger Creek Trails

The Ballanger Creek area of Bass River State Forest is a natural area that includes forested habitat, saltwater marsh, and freshwater wetlands. Once cranberry bogs, the site has been the focus of intensive conservation efforts, including habitat restoration, debris removal, and replanting.

### Field (Loop) Trail

Yellow dot • 0.4 miles • Hiking

Easy • Loop trail through restored meadow

**Trailhead** At the signed parking area on south side of Route 9. **Field Trail** is a short loop through a meadow in the middle of a restoration process. A combination of prescribed burns, replanting, and wildflower enhancement is bringing this field back into a natural state.



### Creek (Loop) Trail

Red dot • 1 mile • Hiking

Moderate • Loop trail along Ballanger Creek

**Trailhead** At the signed parking area on south side of Route 9. **Creek Trail** follows both sides of Ballanger Creek and marsh. This loop trail roughly follows the waters edge and crosses a series of short boardwalks.



spstrailtracker.nj.gov

Explore Trail Tracker  
The Interactive Trails  
Map of NJ State Parks

### Forest (Loop) Trail

Green dot • 0.6 miles • Hiking

Easy • Loop trail through pine and oak woodland

**Trailhead** From the Creek Trail after crossing to east side of Ballanger Creek. **Forest Trail** is a short loop that follows a six- to eight-foot-wide grassy road through a section of woods.

## TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY

**Trail Markings** Official trails are marked with colored blazes on posts and trees. For habitat protection and your safety, please stay on the trails and don't alter trail markings or create new trails.

**Preparations** Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when you will return.

**Hunting** Sections are open to hunting. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season.

**Pets** All pets must be on a leash (maximum 6') and under the physical control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets.

**Carry-in/Carry-out** Help keep the park clean and beautiful by carrying out your trash.

**Tick Protection** Bring insect repellent, wear light-colored clothing, tuck pants into socks, stay on trails, check yourself thoroughly, shower, and launder clothes immediately.

**Report Trail Issues** (609) 296-1114

### Emergency Numbers

1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911

*This brochure was funded by the NJDEP and the FHWA Recreational Trails Program.*

### Bass River State Forest

762 Stage Road

Bass River Township, NJ 08224

### Mailing Address

762 Stage Road

Tuckerton, NJ 08087

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# TRAILS

of  
Bass River  
State Forest



State of New Jersey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
**Division of Parks and Forestry**  
**State Park Service**  
njparksandforests.org

## TRAILS OF BASS RIVER STATE FOREST

Bass River State Forest offers over 23 miles of official, blazed trails. There are 13 marked trails within the forest: 10 trails in and around the Lake Absegami Day Use Area and 3 trails around the Ballanger Creek area. Many trails are multi-use (hiking, biking, horseback riding), but trails close to the day use area are hiking only. Look for permitted uses on the signs.

### Absegami Trail

Silver • 0.4 miles • Hiking

Easy • Nature trail near forest office

**Trailhead** Road to group campground.

**Absegami Trail** is a short interpretive trail that traverses the Absegami Natural Area through typical pine barrens landscape, including a pine-oak forest and an Atlantic white cedar swamp. The trail is along a wide gravel path and elevated wooden boardwalk as it explores these landscapes.

### Batona Trail

Pink • 7 miles (in Bass River) • Hiking

Moderate • Long distance hiking trail

**Trailhead** At Dan's Bridge Road or 1.1 miles west of the forest entrance on the north side of Stage Road. At 53 miles, **Batona Trail** is a long-distance trail that begins in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. The Batona (**BAck-TO-NAture**) Trail connects three state forests in the heart of the New Jersey Pinelands. The last 7 miles of the Batona Trail are in Bass River State Forest.

### CCC Trail

Orange • 4 miles • Multi-use

Easy to moderate • Winding sandy paths

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. Named for the Civilian Conservation Corps, **CCC Trail** follows a network of sand roads and sandy paths as it winds through pine and scrub oak and skirts a large marsh along the Bass River. As it nears E. Greenbush Road (CR 654), the trail passes a series of stone foundations from the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps camp, then leads to the Bass River State Forest Firefighters Memorial.

### Connector Trail

Light brown • 0.5 miles • Hiking and biking

Easy • Flat sand road

**Trailhead** Off group campground road and turns left (northwest). **Connector Trail** follows a four- to six-foot-wide straight, sand trail. It rejoins the North Shore Campground road and serves as an alternate to taking the road to North Shore Campground.



### Falkinburg Trail

Purple • 3 miles • Multi-use

Easy • Trail around east side of forest

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **Falkinburg Trail** crosses Stage Road then splits with Nisky Trail. Falkinburg Trail then heads northeast adjacent to the Garden State Parkway and the forest boundary to join with the far end of Poppy Allen Trail. The trail traverses a small pine plantation that was planted in the 1920s.

### Joe's Trail

Letters "JT" on white • 0.65 miles • Hiking

Easy • Follows lake edge

**Trailhead** Across the road from forest office.

**Joe's Trail** is a two- to three-foot-wide sand path that follows the south shore of the lake and ends at a large historic picnic pavilion at the South Shore Campground.

### Nisky Trail

Green • 1.7 miles • Multi-use

Easy • Trail on sand roads

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **Nisky Trail** crosses Stage Road then follows a network of sand roads through pine forests. This trail is named for John Nisky who was a member of the CCC Camp, Co. 225.

### North Shore Trail

Blue • 0.6 miles • Hiking

Easy • Connects day use area to North Shore Campground

**Trailhead** North of day use area parking lot. **North Shore Trail** is a two- to four-foot-wide pine needle covered sand path that joins with the North Shore Campground road as it nears the campground. This road and the northern section of North Shore Trail are closed in winter.

### Poppy Allen Trail

Yellow • 3.1 miles • Multi-use

Easy • Trail through oak and pine forest

**Trailhead** North of day use area parking lot. **Poppy Allen Trail** follows four- to five-foot-wide, flat, pine needle covered paths and some short sections of sand roads. The trail makes a large open loop, winding through mature pine-oak forest. At the far end, it connects with Falkinburg Trail and leads back to the south end of the group campground road. This trail is open to multi-use outside the day use area. "Poppy" Allen was the first caretaker of Bass River State Forest in 1905.



### South Shore Trail

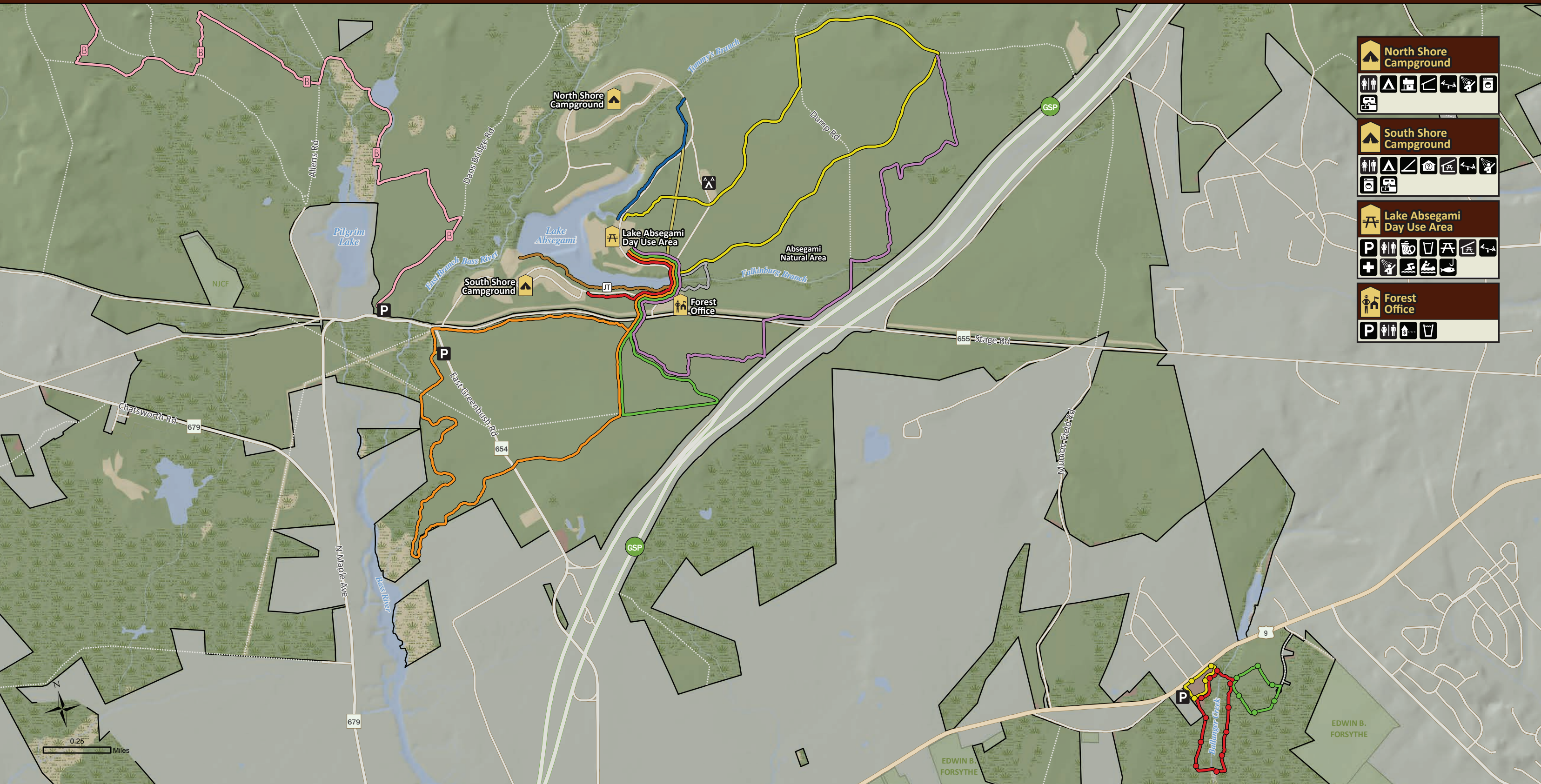
Red • 0.6 miles • Hiking

Easy • Main trail from day use area to South Shore Campground

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **South Shore Trail** connects the day use parking area with the south shore camping area. This trail runs from the parking area to the forest office and then parallels the south side of the South Shore Campground road.



# BASS RIVER State Forest



North Shore Campground

South Shore Campground

Lake Absegami Day Use Area

Forest Office

- Open Field or Grass

Forest

Water

Wetland

Absegami Trail (0.4 mi)

Batona Trail (7 mi)

CCC Trail (4 mi)

Connector Trail (0.5 mi)

Falkinburg Trail (3 mi)

Joe's Trail (0.65 mi)

Nisky Trail (1.7 mi)

North Shore Trail (0.6 mi)

Poppy Allen Trail (3.1 mi)

South Shore Trail (0.6 mi)

Field (Loop) Trail (0.4 mi)

Creek (Loop) Trail (1 mi)

Forest (Loop) Trail (0.6 mi)

Cabins

Campground

Canoeing

Concession

Drinking Water

First Aid

Fishing

Group Campground

Interpretive Center

Laundry

Lean-to

Parking Lot

Picnic Area

Picnic Shelter

Playground

Restrooms

Shelter

Shower

Swimming

Trailer Sanitary Station

Visitor Contact Station