

2025 Permanent Land Preservation Summit



Policy & Implementation
Committee

April 25, 2025

Theme and Purpose

- “Creating Accessible Trails in the Pinelands Area”
- Commissioner interest
- Deviation MOA currently needed for existing trails in wetlands/wetlands buffers
- Accessible trails are important
- Opportunity to collaborate with partners



Participation

- 3rd annual summit
- 14 organizations represented
- Presentations from non-profit, state, and local partners
- New this year: option to participate virtually

Presentations

- **Funding and Resources for Creating Accessible Trails, NJ Green Acres**
- **“The Pinelands is for Everyone” Initiative, Pinelands Preservation Alliance**
- **Trail Construction Guidance, NY/NJ Trail Conference**



Presentations

- **Pinelands Conservation Fund Project Criteria and Schedule, Pinelands Commission**
- **Stafford Township Forecastle Basin Accessible Trail, Stafford Township**
- **Roundtable: Accessible Trail Standards in the Pinelands, Pinelands Commission**



Roundtable: Accessible Trail Standards in the Pinelands

1. Trail Materials and Construction
2. Impacts to Natural Surroundings
3. Accessibility Documentation



Trail Materials and Construction

- Gravel, crushed stone/shell, rake and blaze
 - Less intensive implementation, more maintenance
- Boardwalks, pavement
 - More intensive implementation, less maintenance
- Could the Commission provide a matrix with a menu of options?
- Should consider if the trail is existing or new
- Should consider site-specific conditions

Impacts to Natural Resources

- No new trails in wetlands
- T&E habitat should not be visible from trails
- Equal height inlet and outlet for culverts
- Consider the watershed - upstream and downstream
- NJ Barrier-Free Subcode American Association of State Highways Transit officials- trails minimum of 10ft width to be funded

Accessibility Documentation

- Outreach opportunities: surveys, billboards, social media, municipal websites
- Design based on the local feedback
- Refer to census data for overburdened communities and senior population
- Document barriers removed
- Different requirements for public, nonprofit and private applicants



Next Steps

- Staff will further review round table session feedback on standards
- Consider how CMP standards would need to be amended to allow existing, permitted trails to be improved in wetlands and wetlands buffers
- Drafting potential CMP amendments for future consideration by the P&I Committee

Questions?

