



## **New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Pinelands Commission to focus on 11 changes to Pinelands Map**

NEW LISBON, N.J. – John C. Stokes, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, announced today that he has asked the Commission's Policy & Implementation Committee to consider 11 map changes comprising 28,700 acres.

The Committee will discuss the possible changes during a special meeting at 1 p.m. on Monday, March 23 at the Southampton Township Municipal Building on 5 Retreat Road in Southampton, Burlington County. Public comment will be taken during the meeting.

Preliminary analysis by the Commission's Planning Office identified up to 48,660 acres of possible changes to the Pinelands map, which ranged in size from nine to 4,300 acres.

Looking at the changes from a regional perspective, Stokes has recommended that the Committee focus on the largest and most significant changes.

These are:

- A 1,500-acre area in Galloway Township to the west of the Garden State Parkway and to the north and east of the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey;
- A 1,000-acre area in Egg Harbor Township near the Shore Mall;
- A 2,700-acre area in Hamilton Township to the south of Harding Highway;
- A 5,500-acre area in Hamilton Township stretching from just north of Harding Highway to just north of the Galloway Township border;
- A 7,400-acre area stretching from central Buena Vista Township through Monroe Township and into Franklin Township;
- A 1,100-acre area in Berkeley Township and Beachwood Borough;
- A 1,200-acre farm in Maurice River Township;
- A 1,500-acre area in Maurice River Township to the north of the Pinelands Village of Dorchester-Leesburg;

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- A 1,000-acre area in Pemberton Township between Route 70 and Pemberton-Browns Mills Road to the south of Whitesbog;
- A 2,100-acre area in Southampton Township and Medford Township to the west of Route 206 and south of Route 70; and
- A 3,700-acre area in Medford Township and Evesham Township to the east of Route 73 to the south of Route 70 and to the west of Route 206.

Of these 11 areas, 10 are recommended for new Forest Areas and one is recommended for a new Agricultural Production Area. There would be no additions to Pinelands Regional Growth Areas or other management areas that could have increased the potential for development in those areas.

Under the Pinelands protection program, there are nine land-use management areas with varying goals, objectives, development intensities and permitted uses. These management areas are charted on the Pinelands Land Capability Map.

The Commission is considering possible changes to this map based on a comprehensive re-examination of the region's ecological characteristics. Commission scientists recently completed a study that evaluates the current status of the Pinelands ecology by analyzing landscape and watershed conditions throughout the million-acre region. The Commission is using information from this study, among other data, in considering these management area changes, which seek to ensure that important natural areas receive the appropriate level of protection.

The Commission's Policy and Implementation Committee will continue to discuss these potential changes during two additional special meetings. The next special meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on April 6 at the Hamilton Township Municipal Building on 6101 Thirteenth Street in Hamilton, Atlantic County. The third meeting is currently being scheduled.

Updated information about this project, including new maps showing these possible changes, is available on the Commission's web site: [www.nj.gov/pinelands](http://www.nj.gov/pinelands). These maps are available as Adobe pdf files. Additionally, the Commission has posted an updated map that employs Google Earth™ technology. This map enables the public to type in their address, which is then plotted on an aerial map of the Pinelands and shows whether or not their land might be subject to possible changes. The possible changes are shaded in magenta. When you place your cursor over this shaded area, a box appears to show you the affected acreage, the current management designation and the recommended designation.

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