



Pinelands National Reserve

A Cooperative State & Federal Partnership

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FEDERAL ROLE IN THE PINELANDS

- Pinelands National Reserve (PNR) created by Congress under the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. PNR is the First National Reserve in the nation.
- PNR encompasses approximately 1.1 million acres covering portions of seven counties and all or parts of 56 municipalities.
- Pinelands Commission – Fifteen-member commission, includes a representative of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.
- National Park Service monitors the administration of the the NJ Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) - the State regulatory code which governs land use and resource management.
- Approximately 100,000 acres of federal Land in the PNR:
 - Fort Dix Army Base;
 - McGuire Air Force Base;
 - Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station;
 - Cape May National Wildlife Refuge;
 - Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge;
 - W. Hughes FAA Technical Center; and
 - Warren Grove ANG Weapons Range.
- Since 1980, 73,000 acres have been permanently protected under the federally funded “Section 502” Pinelands land acquisition program.
- An additional 1,150 acres have been protected through the federally authorized and supported Pinelands Limited Practical Use Program, which acquires properties that cannot be reasonably used or developed in accordance with Pinelands regulations.
- Since 1994, the National Park Service has provided the Pinelands Commission with more than \$2.4 million to fund the Pinelands long-term environmental and economic monitoring programs.
- Since 1992, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has provided nearly \$860,000 in Wetland Protection grants to fund seven major scientific studies of wetland resources.
- Study the of long-term sustainability of Atlantic White Cedar swamps funded by National Science Foundation.
- The Pinelands Commission is working with the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners on a comprehensive five-year study of the hydrology and ecology of the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer.
- The Pinelands Commission, National Park Service, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Parks and Forestry was awarded two federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grants totaling over \$1 million for implementation of the Pinelands Interpretive Plan, including creation of interpretive exhibits, maps, and signage.
- Pinelands Commission Cooperative Agreements with Federal Agencies:
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - verification of wetlands boundaries (active);
 - National Park Service and National Guard - management of Warren Grove Range (expired);
 - National Park Service - development of a Pinelands Interpretive Plan (active);
 - U.S. Department of the Interior - development of local management plans for Great Egg Harbor Wild & Scenic River (expired);
 - National Park Service - management of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail (active);
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - coordination of management of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuary Research Reserve at Mullica River-Great Bay managed by The Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University (active).

SPECIAL FEDERAL DESIGNATIONS

- Two Pinelands river systems are part of the National Wild and Scenic River System – The Great Egg Harbor River National Scenic and Recreational River and the Maurice National Scenic and Recreational River. Some 165 linear miles of the two rivers and their tributaries have the designation.
- In 1998, Congress and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration designated estuarine portions of the Mullica River watershed as the Jacques Cousteau National Estuary Research Reserve at Mullica River-Great Bay, which includes a large area of the Pinelands. The designation was based largely on the exceptional long-term scientific research and monitoring opportunities presented by the high-quality of the estuary -- regarded as one of the least disturbed in the Northeast U.S.
- In 1995, the Barnegat Bay, located along the eastern portion of the Pinelands National Reserve, was accepted into the National Estuary Program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- In 1986, the Edwin B. Forsyth National Wildlife Refuge was designated as a “wetland of international importance” under the Ramsar Convention Treaty of 1971. Forsythe is one of only 17 such sites in the United States. Ramsar was established to protect globally significant waterfowl habitat.
- In 1975, Congress designated 6,600 acres of the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge as the Brigantine Wilderness Area, managed under the federal Wilderness Act of 1964.
- There are 29 Pinelands sites on the National Register of Historic Site, including restored historic villages and settlements, town historic districts, and historic structures and ruins.

(Revised August 2012)