

Pinelands

Recognized as an important national and international environmental asset, state and federal legislation in the late 1970's formed a partnership to preserve, protect and enhance the Pinelands' special natural and cultural resources. In 1983, the US Man and the Biosphere Program and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated the Pinelands as the first National Reserve in the US.

Overview

The "Pinelands" is an area of 1.1 million acres designated for special growth management rules by the New Jersey [Pinelands Protection Act of 1979](#) and the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. These laws constitute America's foremost effort to control growth so that people and the rest of nature can live compatibly, preserving vast stretches of forest, rare species of plants and wildlife, and vulnerable freshwater aquifers. The Pinelands encompasses most, but not all of the Pine Barrens ecosystem.

The Pinelands is the largest forested area on the Eastern Seaboard between Maine and the Florida Everglades. It is patchwork of pine-oak forests, tea colored streams and rivers, spacious farms, crossroad hamlets and small towns, contains 56 municipalities in seven counties, contains 17 trillion gallons of some of the world's cleanest water in aquifers and more than 35 threatened and endangered species in south central New Jersey.

Implementation of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan protects the unique ecology of the area while permitting compatible development.

Information Sources

- [NJ Pinelands Protection Act](#) (1979) in partnership with the federal government, established the country's first National Reserve and the New Jersey Pinelands Commission.
- The [New Jersey Pinelands Commission](#), aims to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands National Reserve, and to encourage compatible and consistent economic and other human activities.
- The non-profit organization [Pinelands Preservation Alliance](#) (PPA) aims to protect and preserve the resources of the New Jersey Pinelands through advocacy, landscape and habitat protection, communications and outreach.
- The New Jersey Pinelands Commission's [Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan](#), aims to maintain the area's unique ecology and permit compatible development over 1.1 million acres in 56 municipalities in seven counties.