



PINELANDS
PRESERVATION
ALLIANCE

Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Protecting New Jersey's Pinelands for Twenty-Four Years ... and Counting

The Pinelands Preservation Alliance (PPA) has been working to protect the Pinelands for over 24 years as the only organization devoted specifically to New Jersey's Pinelands. PPA's focus is essential, because both the laws and the ecology of the Pinelands are unique, requiring advocates and educators with the expertise and experience needed to overcome the specific legal, economic and conservation challenges facing the Pinelands.

In 1989, people watching how the program was unfolding realized these laws were not self-executing. An advocate based in the Pinelands and dedicated specifically to the Pinelands was needed to keep government on the right path and to develop the local presence necessary to building public support. That advocate is PPA.

Defending Boundaries and Improving the Plan

Throughout its life, the Pinelands has faced recurring efforts to abolish or weaken the Pinelands Protection Act of 1979 and Comprehensive Management Plan. PPA tracks, analyzes and organizes opposition to all such assaults.

Preserving Land by Defending the Plan

By defending the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), PPA enables public and private land trusts to buy far more land for conservation than they could with the CMP's restrictions on development – 300,000 acres since the rules came into effect in 1980.

key pinelands terms

PINE BARRENS

The 1.4 million acres of the Pine Barrens ecosystem, created by the unique geologic history of this region. Most but not all of the Pine Barrens is inside the Pinelands.

PINELANDS NATIONAL RESERVE

The 1.1 million acres of southern New Jersey we call the "Pinelands" because it is designated by state and federal statutes and subject to the Pinelands regional growth management Plan.

PINELANDS PROTECTION ACT OF 1979

the New Jersey state statute that creates the Pinelands Commission and directs it to adopt and implement the Comprehensive Management Plan. This state statute interlocks with Section 502 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which provides legal backing and standards for the state Pinelands program.

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN OR "CMP"

the regulations and maps that set out where development can go in the Pinelands and how it must be designed.

PINELANDS COMMISSION

the NJ state agency that promulgates and enforces the Pinelands CMP.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OR "DEP"

the NJ state agency with statewide environmental responsibilities, including the Pinelands.

PINELANDS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OR PPA

the leading non-profit advocacy and education organization devoted to preserving the resources of the Pinelands National Reserve.

Opposing Development Projects that Violate the CMP

By opposing development projects that violate the Pinelands CMP and its stringent environmental rules, PPA moves government to preserve land and discourages others from trying to bend the rules or apply political pressure to win special concessions at the expense of irreplaceable natural resources.

Advocating for State-wide Legislative Reforms

Even with the Pinelands Protection Act and CMP, there are threats that only additional state legislation can address, so PPA is active in Trenton as well as in the Pines.

Protecting Water

The water of the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer is the lifeblood of the Pine Barrens, sustaining its natural and human communities. This is also the fresh water that sustains our coastal estuaries, like Barnegat Bay, which also depend on clean water from the Pinelands. A major focus of PPA's work is to protect these aquifers from contamination and excessive pumping.

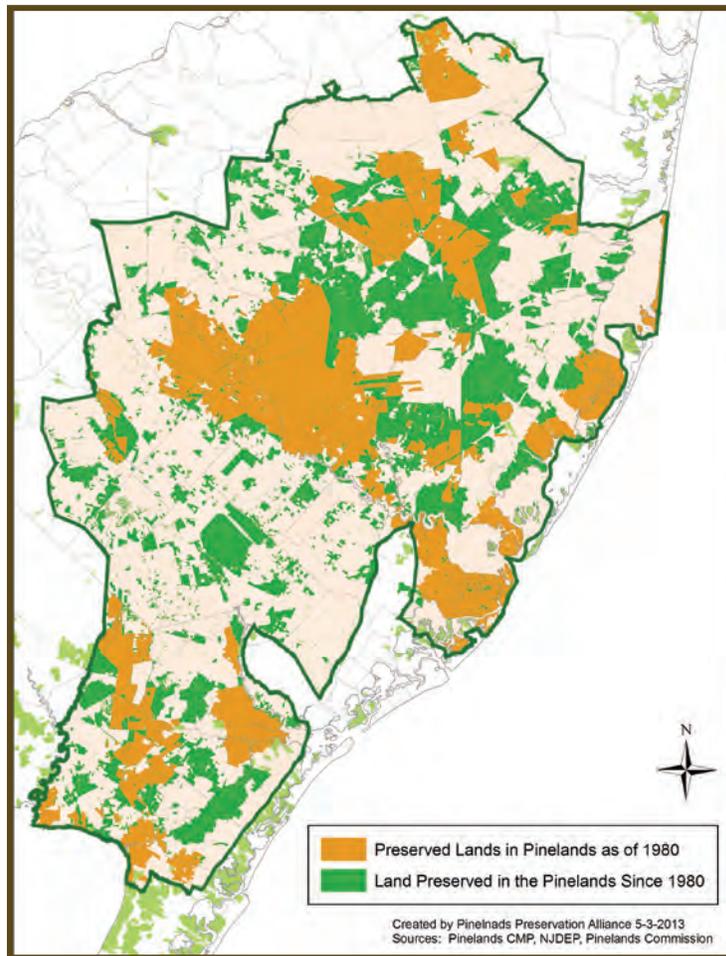
Protecting Rare Plants

The plants of the Pine Barrens make this region globally unique and important for preserving the planet's biodiversity, yet plants historically receive much less conservation attention than wildlife. PPA seeks to right that imbalance by being the lead advocate for plant protections.

Building a Constituency for Protection

The most successful conservation efforts are built on vocal citizen engagement. PPA helps people throughout the Pinelands and the State to make their voices heard on environmental issues that are vital to their own neighborhoods and to the region as a whole. Given the unrelenting pressures placed on public officials to revoke or compromise the Pinelands protection laws, we can only save the Pinelands if there is wide and equally unrelenting public support.

PRESERVING LAND BY DEFENDING THE PLAN



The permanently preserved land in the Pinelands has more than doubled since the CMP came into effect in 1980 – far more than the rest of the state combined. If not for the hard boundaries and restrictions in the CMP, land would have been too expensive and fragmented by development for this feat to be possible.





Here is a small but representative selection of PPA’s accomplishments:

DEFEATED A BILL TO REPEAL THE PINELANDS PROTECTION ACT

This effort by powerful South Jersey politicians to abolish the Pinelands Act and Plan unfolded between 1993 and 1995. PPA organized supporters to pack legislative hearings, producing sustained press coverage and defeating the proposed legislation. Since that time, no such frontal assault aimed at undoing the Pinelands in one fell swoop has been attempted.

STOPPED NEW MINING IN THE PINELANDS FOREST AREA

Recognizing the irrecoverable harm that expanding sand and gravel mining was doing to Pinelands forests, PPA successfully pressed the Pinelands Commissioners to prohibit new mining in the Pinelands Forest Area (it was already barred in the Preservation Area). This change to the CMP in 1994 permanently prevented 242,000 acres of forested land from being mined.

CMP BOUNDARIES CHANGED TO PROTECT KEY RESOURCES

The CMP is an extraordinary growth management plan, but it got some boundaries wrong. When scientific data reveals places

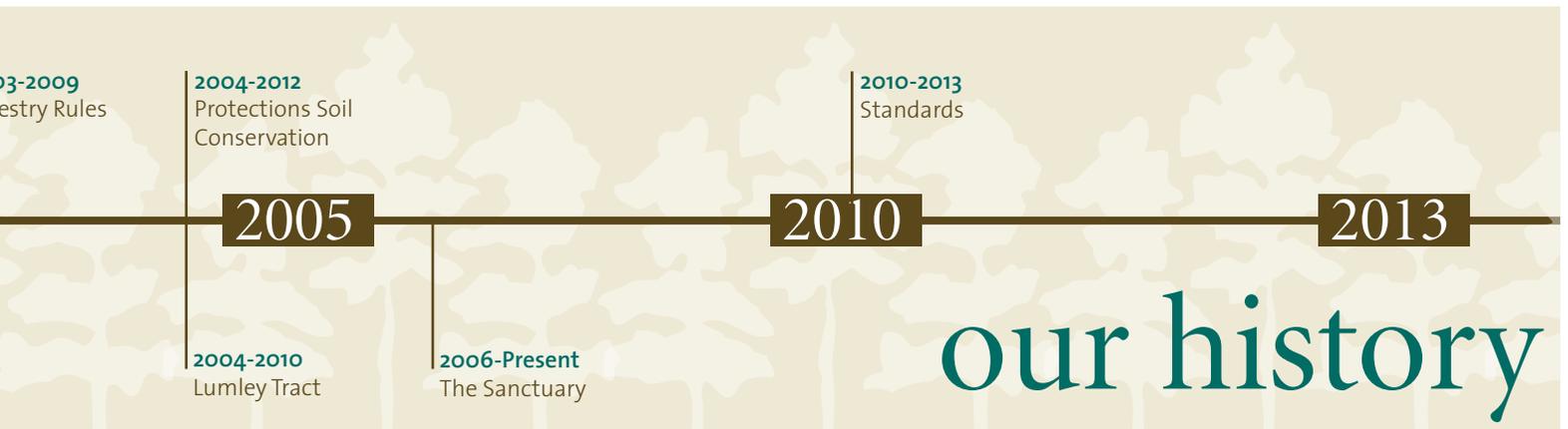
that should be protected based on their natural resources, PPA works to correct the error. For example in Ocean County, PPA and others were able to obtain regulatory protection for more than 6,000 acres of forest originally slated for development, and nearly 4,000 acres is now permanently protected.

STOPPED DEVELOPMENT OF LUMLEY TRACT, BERKELEY TOWNSHIP

In 2004, PPA worked with residents to organize over 600 area residents to oppose the development of this 300 acre tract of pristine Pine Barrens habitat, home to numerous native and rare species. As a result, the developer eventually sold the land in 2010 for preservation and it is now permanently protected.

LIMITED DEVELOPMENT OF HERITAGE MINERALS SITE

This development proposed 17,000 housing units, two shopping centers and a heliport on almost 3,000 acres of Pine Barrens habitats that are home to numerous native and rare species. PPA organized several hundred residents and extensive expert testimony to oppose the plan. After eight years of hearings, permit denials and litigation, the developer agreed to limit development to 995 acres of sand-mined land and preserve more than 6,800 of forests and wetlands. To date, nothing has been built.





OPPOSED STAFFORD PARK DEVELOPMENT

In a complex deal, the Pinelands Commission proposed to waive rare species protections for a massive housing and shopping center development, in exchange for the developer funding the proper closure of a municipal landfill which the township had ignored for decades. While the Commission approved the deal over PPA's strenuous objections, we persuaded it to include some beneficial measures, including the permanent protection of the landfill cover area as grassland habitat. By 2012, three species of threatened and endangered bird species had successfully colonized this habitat.

PRESERVED LAND IN LIMITING THE SANCTUARY DEVELOPMENT

In May 1998, PPA learned that a scientist had radio tracked an endangered Eastern Timber Rattlesnake to a hibernation den on Kettle Run stream inside the planned development of 300 new homes in Evesham Township. Over nearly ten years of advocacy and litigation, we succeeded in having the number of units reduced to 200, the layout changed to protect some of the critical habitat, and more than 1200 acres permanently preserved.

LED THE PASSAGE OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLE CONTROL LAW

For twelve years, PPA led the effort to require the registration and tagging of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs), so park rangers and police can keep ORVs off private property and public nature preserves. PPA helped municipalities pass ordinances regulating ORV use and gained their active support for state legislation. In 2009, the state legislature adopted legislation establishing mandatory registration and tagging of ORVs, increasing fines for illegal riders and establishing a fund that can be used to create dedicated ORV parks. The bill's key provisions are just now coming into effect.

REVIEW ALL WATER ALLOCATION REQUESTS

One of PPA's principal water resource protection strategies is to review all water allocation applications affecting southern New Jersey in order to prevent withdrawals of water from aquifers or

streams that will harm stream flow or wetlands. These reviews have moved the state to deny or significantly reduce 14 major allocations over the past fifteen years.

SHUT DOWN THE BERLIN WELL

In 1997, a new well was constructed, just *outside* of the Pinelands boundaries, to provide water from the Kirkwood Cohansey aquifer to Camden County residents. Berlin Well #12 started pumping water but was quickly shut down because it produced water with a bad smell and taste. It turned out the well was drawing water from wetlands located just 750 feet away. State and local government tried to solve the problem by installing expensive filtration, but when the well came back on line in 2000, it began to drain nearby wetlands in violation of Pinelands and state protections. Within a year, the state responded to public pressure from PPA and residents by shutting down the well – the first time the state had shut down a previously permitted well because of ecological impacts.

ROADSIDE PROTECTIONS ADOPTED

One of the best places to see the Pinelands' distinctive plant life is along roadsides, where permanent openings in the forest can be havens for many native plants. Making up about 10,000 acres of land altogether, roadsides can only serve an ecological and scenic role if they are maintained correctly. Unfortunately, for many years Pinelands roadsides have been mistreated by importing foreign soil, planting non-native grasses, applying fertilizers and excessive mowing. PPA worked with state and local road agencies, DEP and the Pinelands Commission to develop Pinelands-friendly standards for road maintenance. In 2012, the Pinelands Commission began the process of adopting these nature-and-money-saving measures through agreements with county and municipal governments.

PINELANDS-FRIENDLY SOIL CONSERVATION STANDARDS ADOPTED

For many years, state soil conservation regulations have conflicted with Pinelands requirements by, among other things, requiring the addition of lime, non-native grass planting, and



fertilization for any soil disturbance, to the detriment of Pine Barrens water quality and native plant life. In 2013, after five years of PPA advocacy, the state adopted a Pinelands specific standard that respects the low nutrient, acidic soils that are characteristic of this ecosystem.

GUIDED THE CREATION OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BLACK RUN PRESERVE

As part of a decade-long project to protect the pristine water quality and Pine Barrens habitats of the Black Run watershed in Evesham, at the edge of the Pinelands, PPA worked with local activists and teachers to raise public awareness and bring good stewardship to township-owned open space that had long been neglected – now known as the Black Run Preserve. PPA guided the creation of the Friends of the Black Run Preserve, founded in 2012 to serve as a local body of residents and supporters of the preserve to further restoration work, trail creation and acquisition of adjacent lands to protect the headwaters of the pristine stretch of water ways passing through the area.

TELLING THE PINELANDS STORY AND BUILDING PUBLIC SUPPORT

PPA has a broad array of public education and outreach achievements, such as:

- > **Teaching** thousands of citizens how the Pinelands permitting system works and helped them express their support for enforcing Pinelands protections.
- > **Leading** the effort to create the Pinelands License Plate in 1996, the proceeds of which have preserved over 5,500 acres of Pine Barrens habitats.
- > **Taking thousands of people of all ages and abilities into the Pinelands** so they can learn to love its forests, streams, bogs and historic sites – and help us protect them forever.

- > Conducting intensive **teacher training programs** helping more than 300 teachers incorporate the Pinelands into their teaching reaching thousands of students.
- > Selling over 11,700 **native plants** to more than 3,000 gardeners since our first native plant sale in 2006. Our *Gardening with Nature* guide provides accessible but detailed information on using Pinelands natives.
- > Establishing the ***Pine Barrens Hall of Fame*** to honor those individuals in the fields of science, policy, education and activism who have played a key role in preserving and protecting the Pinelands. Among our many honorees are political heroes like Governor Brendan T. Byrne, writers like Howard Boyd, and citizen activists like Nan Hunter-Walnut.
- > Creating the annual *State of the Pinelands Report* in which we rate the actions of government agencies, elected officials and the courts on how well they are carrying out the conservation mandate of the Pinelands Protection Act and Comprehensive Management Plan.
- > Creating and distributing two films: *The Pine Barrens: Up Close and Natural* and *The Pinelands: A Region at Risk* (with Caucus New Jersey). These films capture the scenery, and ecology and conservation challenges of the Pinelands.
- > Building an extraordinary web site, www.pinelandsalliance.org, with beautiful images and unequalled information on hot issues, Pinelands ecology and history, and events taking place in the region.



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The Pinelands Preservation Alliance is a private, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization devoted to saving the natural and historic resources of the Pinelands. The Alliance is not a government agency and is wholly independent of the state Pinelands Commission (the agency charged with implementing the Pinelands Protection Act). PPA does not receive government funding in support of its conservation policy and public education work, but relies on private donations from our thousands of members and from charitable foundations and companies.

Sunset photograph by Ernest Cozens; all others by PPA.