The Pinelands: An Evolved and Evolving Natural and Cultural Community

Featuring some of the largest unbroken tracts of forest in the northeastern United States, the Pinelands presents an unparalleled experience and educational opportunity. Much of this opportunity lies along the Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail.

The Trail follows existing roadways in the southern

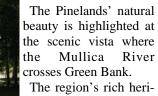


region of the 1.1-million-acre Pinelands National Reserve through a landscape dotted with small farms, pastures, and river towns and punctuated by eccentric historical ruins, such as the paper mill built over the iron furnace at Weymouth and the World

War I munitions complex in the oak/pine woods at Belcoville. At night the lightly settled byway is a stargazer's paradise, and during the day it provides sights and points of interests for a wide variety of tastes. It is also easily accessible to vacationers and day-trippers, surrounded as it is by New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and the Jersey shore.

The route traverses a landscape of fields, forests, bogs, marshes, swamps, and villages, emphasizing both the natural beauty of the Pinelands and the ways humans have adapted to the region's unique environment over





The region's rich heritage and historic sites are featured at the 18th century settlement of Batsto, the Woodbine

Brotherhood Synagogue and the port of Tuckerton.

The byway and its spur routes reflect the natural and cultural currents of the Pinelands. Along the roughly 130-mile stretch of the byway and its major offshoots, visitors will see some of the largest cranberry and blueberry operations in the world; small furnace complexes that made glass and smelted the bog iron of the Pines;

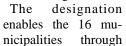


Revolutionary War sites; animals and plants found nowhere else; two federally designated Wild and Scenic rivers; a pristine, protected estuary at the mouth of the Mullica River; quaint and picturesque towns with unique

shopping opportunities; thousands of acres of state forest land and federally protected natural areas; wildlife management areas at almost every turn; a federally administered marine preserve and research center; and vast tracts of pine and oak forest. All of this can be found within a half-hour's car ride from Jersey shore points and less than an hour from Philadelphia.

The effort to create a Scenic Byway in the Pinelands is a major outgrowth of the Pinelands Commission's Rural Economic Development Program. The Scenic Byway is part of the implementation of legislation passed in 1997

that appropriated \$250,000 to the Pinelands Commission to help rural communities identify and plan economic development strategies.





which the trail travels to apply for federal grants. The funds would be used to work with byway stakeholders to develop a Corridor Management Plan for the trail, including a marketing plan, signage and usage studies and strategies for preserving, protecting and maintaining the intrinsic qualities of the trail.

For more information about the Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail, please contact the Pinelands Commission at P.O. Box 7, New Lisbon, NJ 08064, or (609) 894-7300, or log on to www.nj.gov/pinelands. Also, visit the Department of Transportation website at www.nj.gov/transportation/community/scenic/pinelands.shtm

The Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail

A State Scenic Byway





NORTHERN ROUTE

Start on Rt. 9 in Tuckerton at the junction with Rt. 539 (Green St.). Go west on Rt. 9.

Turn R on Stage Rd. and bear L continuing on Stage Rd. going west.

In Bass River Twp., turn L onto Rt. 653 (Leektown Rd.). Just prior to crossing over the Wading River, Rt. 653 intersects with Rt. 542 (Batsto

Bridgeport Rd.). Take Rt. 542 traveling west.

At the Village of Greenbank in Washington Twp., Burlington County..

Continue on Rt. 542 toward the Histori

c Village of Batsto.

Bear L following Rt. 542 (Batsto Bridgeport Rd.) and cross over the Mullica River into Mullica Twp., Atlantic County (where Rt. 542 turns from Batsto Bridgeport Rd. to Hammonton-Pleasant Mills Rd.).

From Rt. 542 (Hammonton-Pleasant Mills Rd.) turn L onto Rt. 643 (Weekstown-Pleasant

Mills Rd.) heading southeast. Turn L onto Rt. 612 (Elwood-Weekstown Rd.) which turns

into Rt. 563 (Green Bank Rd.) at the junction with Rt. 563 (Egg Harbor-Green Bank Rd.)

From the intersection of Rt. 612, 563, and 563 in the Village of Weekstown, Mullica Twp.,

take Rt. 563 (Green Bank Rd.) heading south. In Egg Harbor City, make a sharp L turn onto

Rt. 624 (Clarks Landing Rd.). Continue on Rt. 624 (Clarks Landing Rd.) heading southeast

into Port Republic.

Just past the Garden State Parkway (GSP), bear R onto Mill St..

Take Mill St. to Riverside Dr. and make a R.

Take Riverside Dr. to Moss Mill Rd. (Alt 561). Make a L onto Moss Mill Rd. (Alt 561)

heading southeast.

Turn L onto Rt. 9 (New York Rd.) heading north.

Bear L onto the GSP (exit 48) heading north.

Take Exit 50 to follow Rt. 9 North. This loops you through the Village of New Gretna, Bass

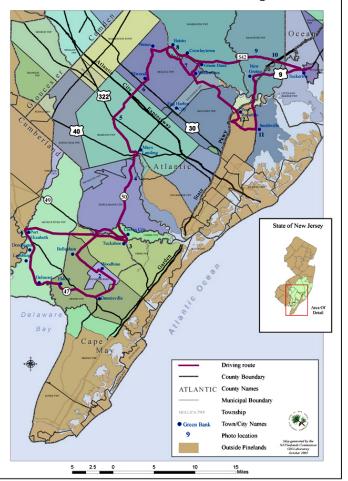
River Twp., Burlington County.

Follow Rt. 9 into Ocean County, where it also becomes known as Atlantic Byld., then as

West Main St. in the Pinelands Town of Tuckerton.

This ends the North Loop.

The Southern Pinelands Natural Heritage Trail



CENTRAL CONNECTOR ROUTE

Take Rt. 542 (Hammonton-Pleasant Mills Rd.) heading west toward the Village of Nesco,

Mullica Twp..

Make a L onto Rt. 658 (Columbia Rd.) heading south into the Village of Elwood, Mullica

Twp..

Turn R onto Rt. 623 (Weymouth-Elwood Rd.) heading southwest.

In Hamilton Twp., Rt. 623 runs into and becomes Rt. 559 (Weymouth Rd.). Take Rt.

559 (Weymouth Rd.) heading south.

Bear L when Rt. 559 joins Rt. 606 (Old Harding High-

way) heading toward May's Landing.

Continue on Rt. 559 by turning L onto Rt. 616 (Mill St.).

Bear R onto Main St. (still Rt. 559).

Make a R onto Cape May Ave. (Rt. 40 West and Rt. 50 South).

Make a L onto Rt. 50 South.

Continue on Rt. 50 toward Corbin City. Bear L at the junction with Rt. 645 and where Rt.

50 joins with Rt. 557.

Make a R onto Rt. 611 (Main St.). Here the Central Route merges with the South Loop.

This ends the Central Route.

SOUTHERN ROUTE

The South Loop begins on Rt. 611 (Main St.) in Corbin City, Atlantic County at the junction

with Rt. 649 (Aetna Rd.).

Travel South on Main S9t. and continue on it as it joins Rt. 50 South. Cross over the Tuckahoe

River into Upper Township, Cape May County.

Make a R onto Rt. 49 traveling west.

Bear R onto Rt. 632 (Marshallville Rd.). Stay on Rt. 632 until it joins up again with

Rt. 49.

Follow Rt. 49 to the junction with Rt. 548.

Take Rt. 548 (Weatherby Rd.) at the junction of Rt. 49 and head west into Cumberland

County.

In Port Elizabeth, make a L onto Rt. 47 (Delsea Dr.). Follow Rt. 47 into Cape May

County.

In Eldora, bear L onto Old State Highway.

Make a R onto Rt. 550 (Paper Mill Rd.). Take Rt. 550 until it joins up with Rt. 47.

In Dennisville, make a L onto Rt. 610 (Dennisville—Petersburg Rd.).

Make a L onto Rt. 550 (Dehirsch Ave.).

In Woodbine, make a L onto Rt. 557 (Washington Ave.). Make a R onto Rt. 550 (Webster St., which then turns into Woodbine Ave.).

Follow Rt. 550 to Belleplain. Make a R onto Rt. 605 (Broad. St., which turns into Tuckahoe Rd., which turns into Belleplain Rd.).

Take Rt. 605 to the junction of Rt. 548 (Weatherby Rd.).