

BORG'S WOODS

COUNTY: Bergen

MUNICIPALITY: Hackensack City, Maywood Borough

PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE: Piedmont

QUADRANGLE: Hackensack, N.J.

COORDINATES: 40 54'15" lat.; 74 03' 12" long.

ACREAGE: 23 (approximate)

BOUNDARY: The western boundary is formed by Coles Brook. All other boundaries are defined by the interface between natural forest and cleared land.

OWNERSHIP: Although the majority of the tract is privately owned, ownership of some edge tracts includes Hackensack City and Maywood Borough.

LAND USE: Borg's Woods is completely surrounded by roads and private homes, and contains several trails. Current use is passive recreational. Although dumping of refuse is not apparent in interior sections, trash disposal has been observed along Coles Brook. Immediate potential threats to site integrity include residential development, and tree mortality due to age, wind throw or infestation.

REASON FOR INCLUSION OF AREA IN NATURAL AREAS REGISTER:

Borg's Woods satisfies one of three standards for inclusion of sites on the Register of Natural Areas (fulfillment of only one standard is sufficient for Register consideration):

1. The site supports a remnant representative natural community of New Jersey.

Borg's Woods represents a remnant of the Mixed Oak Hardwood Forest Subtype of northern New Jersey as described by Breden (1987). Although not rare, this forest type once prevailed over much of the Piedmont, Highlands, and Ridge and Valley regions but has been heavily impacted by development. Mature trees at Borg's Woods are estimated to be up to 200 years old and are therefore reaching maturity (Jack Schuart, personal communication). The age and quality of the site is displayed by the distinct vertical stratification of canopy, understory and shrub vegetative layers. The largest canopy species include northern red oak (Quercus rubra), American beech (Fagus grandifolia) and tuliptree (Liriodendron tulipifera). Other individuals include white oak

(Q. alba), white ash (Fraxinus americana), sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua) and others. Understory trees and shrubs include flowering dogwood (Cornus florida), maple-leaf viburnum (Viburnum acerifolium) and witch hazel (Hamamelis virginiana). A small pond and surrounding associated wetland forest also are present.

REFERENCES:

Breden, T.F. 1987. A preliminary natural community classification for New Jersey. Draft internal report. New Jersey Natural Heritage Program, Office of Natural Lands Management, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

