

VEGETATION

VII

The landscape of West Cape May consists of a mosaic of upland and lowland areas. The lowland areas consist of both freshwater and tidal wetlands. The uplands consist of the downtown area, agricultural land, forests and fields.

Based on available mapping, approximately one third of West Cape May consists of wetlands, both coastal and freshwater. The tidal areas are associated with Cape Island Creek on the eastern side of town, Pond Creek on the western side of town and Cape May Meadows which border the southern side of town. Tidal marsh vegetation consists of indigenous species that can tolerate the salinity of the ocean and is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Species such as *Spartina*, sea lavender, glasswort, sea myrtle and high tide bush are a few of the plants found in tidal marsh areas.

Various types of freshwater wetlands are found throughout the Borough. They range from deciduous/evergreen forests to deciduous shrub/scrub wetlands to emergent wetlands and wetlands in agricultural production.

According to Borough records, approximately one-third of West Cape May consists of agricultural land. This figure includes farmed wetlands. The vegetation associated with crop production varies throughout the year.

The remaining third of the Borough consists of the developed town center and upland type forests and fields.

Figure VII-1, West Cape May Endangered Species Habitat, Figure VII-2, West Cape May Southern Gray Treefrog Habitat and Figure VII -3, West Cape May Wetlands, illustrate the generalized locations of wetlands, forests, and grasslands. Table VII-1 is a list of common vegetation found on Cape Island.

West Cape May Endangered Species Habitat

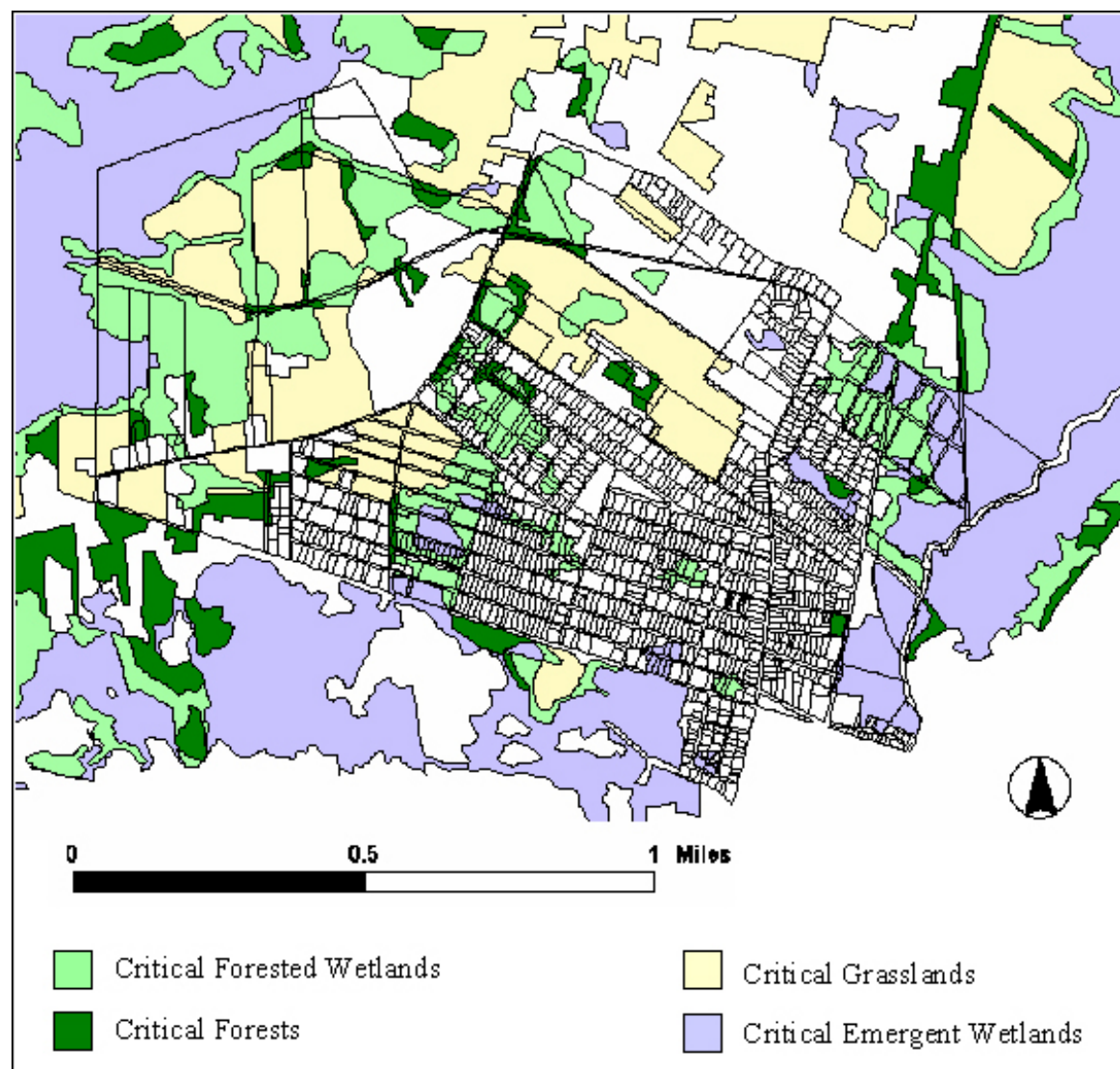


Figure VII-1. Habitats Within West Cape May that are Considered to be Critical to the Survival of Threatened and Endangered Species in New Jersey. Map Produced Using NJDEP's Landscape Project (v.2a), which Identifies Critical Wildlife Habitat in New Jersey.

West Cape May Southern Gray Treefrog Habitat

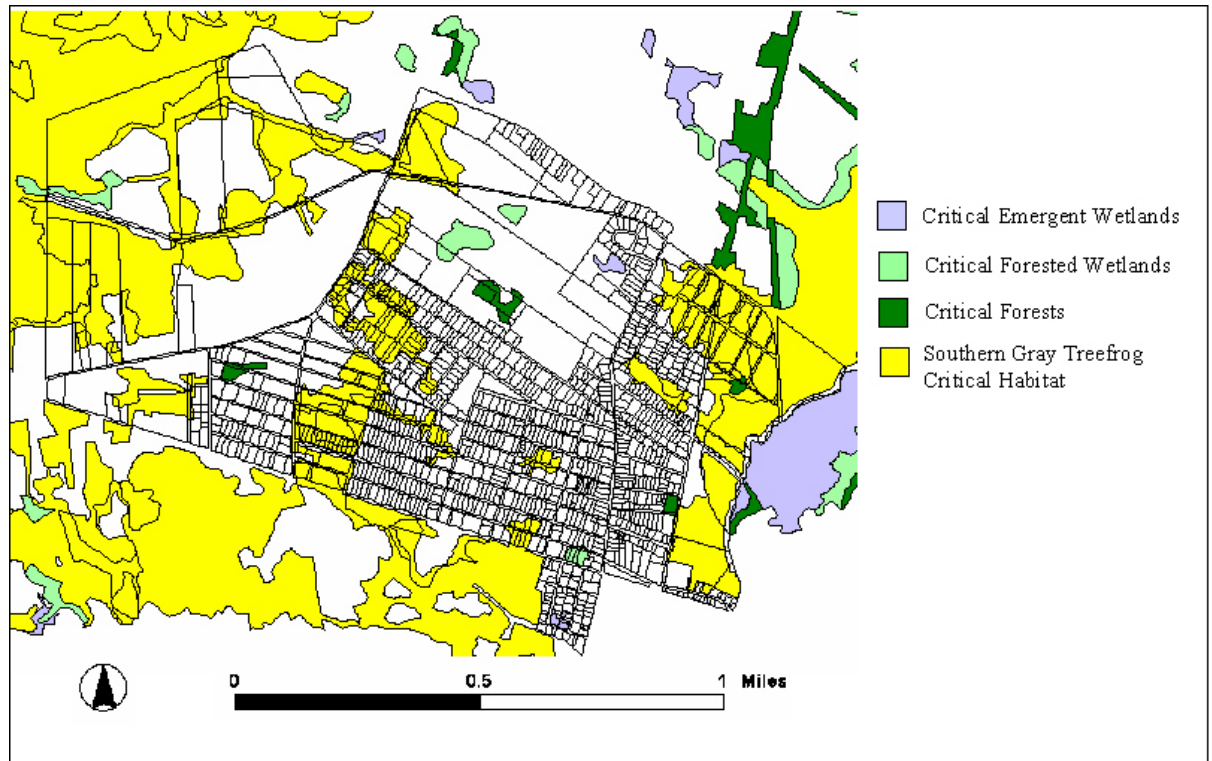


Figure VII-2. Critical Southern Gray Treefrog Habitats within West Cape May as Identified by NJDEP's Landscape Project (v.2a).

West Cape May Wetlands

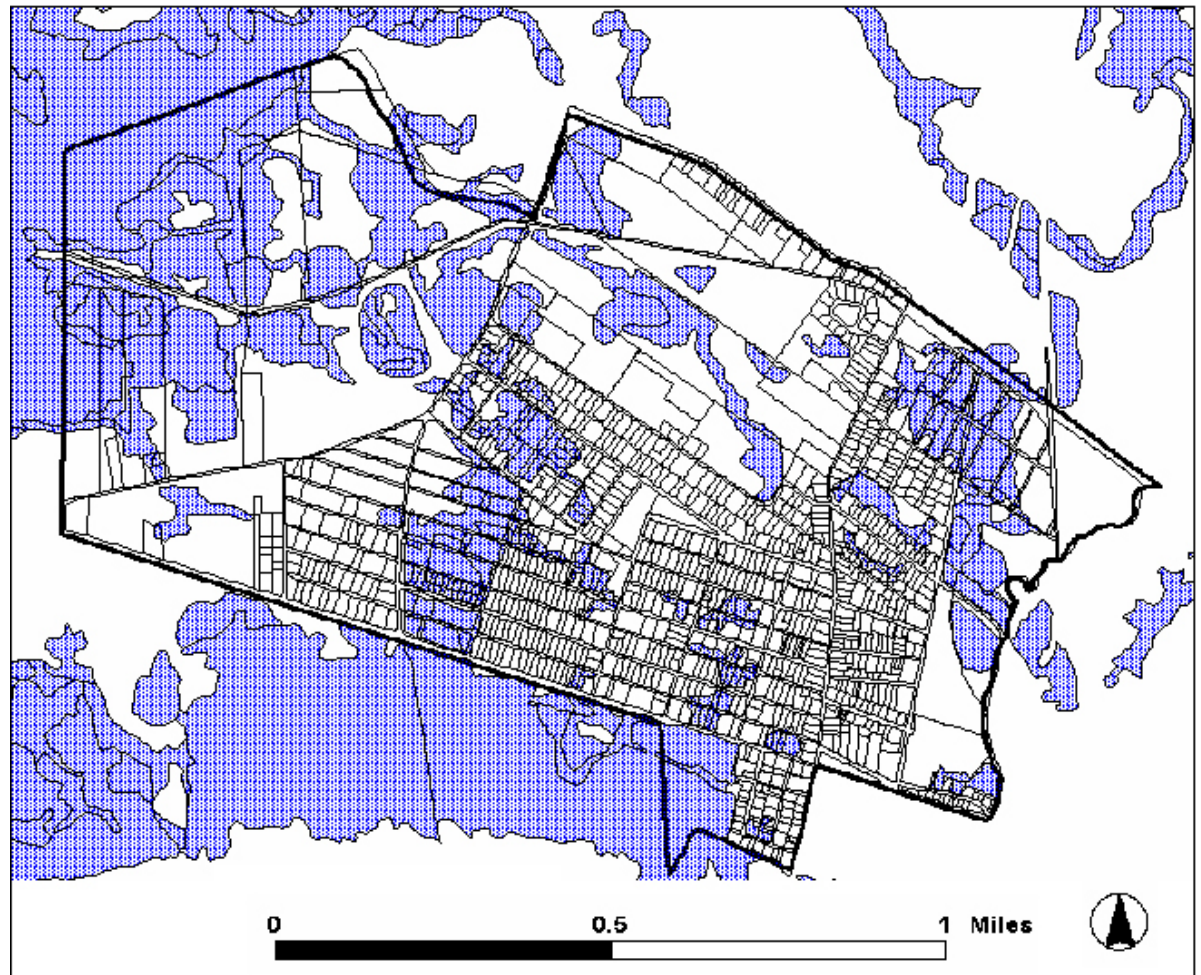


Figure VII-3. Wetlands In and Around the Borough of West Cape May.

Table VII-1. Common Vegetation Found on Cape Island***Page 1 of 7**

*Provided by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Cape May Court House Office

Common Tree Species of Cape Island and West Cape May Borough			
Common Names Botanical Names	introduced /native	traits/height	Deer Resistant
American Basswood <i>Tilia Americana</i>	native	S-D/60'	*
Autumn Olive <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	native	S-D/10'	
Black Cherry <i>Prunus serotina</i>	native	S-D/50'	
Black gum <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	native	S-D-WS/40-50'	
Black Japanese Pine <i>Pinus Thunbergiana</i>	introduced	S-E/35'	
Black Willow <i>Salix nigra</i>	native	S-D/30-40'	
Blue Atlas cedar <i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	introduced	S-E/50-60'	
Blue Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	introduced	S-E/50-60'	
Callery Pear, <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> var. 'Bradford'	introduced	S-D/30'	
Catalpa <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> Crepe Myrtle	native	S-D/40-50'	*

Key:

S – Sun

SH – Shade

E – Evergreen

WS - Wet Site

N/A - Not Available

Table VII-1. Common Vegetation Found on Cape Island

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Common Tree Species of Cape Island and West Cape May Borough			
Common Names Botanical Names	introduced /native	traits/height	Deer Resistant
Chinese Elm <i>Ulmus spp.</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crepe Myrtle	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	native	S-SH-D/25'	*
Flowering Plum <i>Prunus spp.</i>	introduced	S-SH-D/35'	
Green Ash <i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	native	S-D/70-80'	*
Common Hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i>	native	S-SH-WS-D/10-30'	*
Eastern Hophornbeam <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	native	S-SH-WS-D/20-30'	*
Kwansan Cherry <i>Prunus spp. (cv.)</i>	introduced	S-D/30'	
Larch, Japanese <i>Larix kaempferi</i>	introduced	S-D/40-80'	*
Leland Cypress <i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>	introduced	S-E/60-80'	
Nelly Steven Holly <i>Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'</i>	native/cv.	S-SH-E/50'	

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Common Names Botanical Names	introduced /native	traits/height	Deer Resistant
Norway Maple <i>Acer platanoides</i>	native	S-D/40-60'	
Red Maple <i>Acer rubrum</i>	native	S-WS-D/50-70'	
Silver Maple <i>Acer saccharinum</i>	native	S-D/40-70'	
Crimson Maple <i>Acer platanoides</i> introduced/cv. 'Crimson Maple'	introduced/cv. 35-40'	S-D/35-40'	*
Mimosa <i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	introduced	S-D/30'	*
Post Oak <i>Quercus stellata</i>	native	S-D/50-60'	
Pin Oak <i>Quercus palustris</i>	native	S-D/60-80'	
Southern Magnolia <i>Magnolia spp.</i>	native	S-E/60-70'	*
Sycamore <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	native	S-D/75-125'	*
White Spruce <i>Picea glauca</i>	native	S-E/45-50'	*

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Common Tree Species of Cape Island and West Cape May Borough			
Common Names Botanical Names	introduced /native	traits/height	Deer Resistant
American Holly <i>Ilex opaca</i>	native	S-E/50'	*
Persimmons <i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	native	S-D/30-50'	*
Pond Pine <i>Pinus spp.</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
White Poplar <i>Populus alba</i>	native	S-D/50'	*
Sassafras <i>Sassafras albidum</i>	native	S-D/40-50'	*
Sweet gum <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	native	S-D-WS/50-70'	
Honey Locust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	native	S-D/40-60'	*
Mockernut Hickory <i>Carya tomentosa</i>	native	S-D/50-75'	*
White Mulberry <i>Morus alba</i>	introduced	S-D/40-50'	*

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Table VII-1. Common Vegetation Found on Cape Island

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Common Shrub Species of Cape Island and West Cape May Borough			
Common Names Botanical Names	introduced /native	traits/height	Deer Resistant
Arrowwood Spirea Spirea spp.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Elderberry Sambucus canadensis	native	S-WS-D/6-8'	
Groundsel Baccharis halimifolia	native	S-D-WS/8-10'	
Honeysuckle Lonicera Americana	native	S-D/climber	
Polygonia Mexican Bamboo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sumac Rhus spp.	native	S-D/8-10'	
Wax Myrtle Myrica cerifera	native	S-SH-semi E/25'	
Wild rose (multiflora) Rosa multiflora	native	S-D/climber	
Boxwood Buxus sempervirens	introduced	S-SH-E/3-8'	
Bridal Wreath Spirea Spirea prunifolia	native	S-SH-D/3-10'	

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Table VII-1. Common Vegetation Found on Cape Island**Page 6 of 7**

Common Shrub Species of Cape Island and West Cape May Borough			
Common Names Botanical Names	introduced /native	traits/height	Deer Resistant
Butterfly Bush Buddleia spp.	introduced	S-D/5-15'	*
Euonymus Euonymus spp.	introduced	S-E/3-10'	
Lilac Common Syringa vulgaris	native	S-D/8-10'	
California Privet Ligustrum ovalifolium	introduced	S-D/5-20'	
Rugosa Rose Rugosa spp.	introduced	S-D/3-8'	
Vitex Vitex agnus-castus	introduced	S-D/8-15'	
Narrow Leaf Arborvitae Arborvitae spp.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Table VII-1. Common Vegetation Found on Cape Island

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Common Vine Species of Cape Island and West Cape May Borough			
Common Names Botanical Names	introduced /native	traits/height	Deer Resistant
Blackberry Bramble spp.	native	S-D/3-6'	
Carolina rose	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fox grape Vitis labrusca Greenbrier	native	S-D/climber	
Pasture rose	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trumpet vine Campsis radicans	native	S-D/climber	
Virginia creeper Parthenocissus quinquefolia	native	S-D/climber	
White Avers	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wild Clematis Clematis spp. 'Autumn sweet'	native	S-D/climber	*
Wild Grapevine Vitis spp.	native	S-D/climber	*
Wild Sweet Pea Legume spp.	native	S/climber	

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