Summary

The Annual Report provides an overview of the programs and properties managed by the Division of Parks and Forestry as well as the notable issues and accomplishments of fiscal year 2018.

Each year, more New Jersey land becomes developed and forests are fragmented. As a state resident and nature lover, you may wonder how this impacts the environment and our quality of life in New Jersey. The Division of Parks and Forestry team lives here too, and shares your concerns. Together, we can take care of the parks and forests we have set aside for New Jersey’s nature lovers and future generations.

Parks and Forestry Fast Facts

Parks and Forestry is responsible for 45 percent of all publicly owned land in our state.

New Jersey is 40 percent forested.

Your parks
- 104 properties
- 450,000 acres
- 1,600+ structures
- 17 million visitors each year

To increase biodiversity, we:
- Monitor and manage for tree-killing pests
- Control invasive plant species
- Strive for a balanced distribution of age classes
- Plant new native species

To help private, municipal and county forest landowners, we:
- Offer grant and education programs
- Provide technical assistance
- Grow and sell tree seedlings

Challenges that impede our work
- Decrease in number of employees
- Increasing acreage
- Growing infrastructure improvement list
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**COVER IMAGE:**

High Point State Park
Sussex County

facebook.com/highpointstatepark

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**Joseph Wisneski**

“High point is absolutely beautiful. There’s diverse terrain with interesting hikes. The view from the monument is expansive and shows off much of the beauty of New Jersey’s Highlands. If you want to bring your family they have plenty of facilities to accommodate you. There’s 50’ rock faces on the Iris trail that already have down rope anchors. And lastly the Appalachian passes right through the park. If you decide to explore High Point I’m sure you won’t be disappointed.”
“Whether you are looking for a simple day at the beach or one of exploration of Sedge Island byways by kayak, or canoe this is the place for it. The beaches are guarded and offer locker rooms, food vendors and showers. The nature center is staffed by volunteers who offer classes in all things NJ shore! We took a wonderful course in surf fishing!...If you come by boat, come and anchor at Tice’s Shoal where your fellow boaters meet almost everyday. Fees are very reasonable and you can bring the entire family without going broke. Enjoy and welcome to Barnegat Bay and Island Beach State Park”
From the Director

From the Highlands to the Pinelands and in our cities, suburbs, and countyside, our state is teeming with beautiful natural and historic places. Much work goes on behind the scenes to operate and conserve these special public areas.

The division’s men and women are stewards of the land. We manage your parks so they provide clean water and air, homes and food for wildlife, a diversity of plants, as well as protection from forest fires and tree-killing insects and diseases. These lands also provide recreation opportunities and a place to learn about our state’s history.

Parks are your second home—these are your parks. We work with partners and local government and hold public meetings to invite your views on policies and projects. We strive to find the balance between the needs of people and the need to conserve nature.

With thousands of structures to care for, we are always fixing and adding to your parks. From new cabins and nature centers to structure repairs, your parks are improving.

Our volunteers and friends groups add a little je ne sais quoi to our parks. They greet visitors, give tours and beautify the landscape. Volunteers’ many hands make light work in your parks.

Thank you, New Jersey, for your role in making parks sustainable and beautiful. Your passion for nature helps to ensure that our grandchildren’s grandchildren will know and love New Jersey’s unique outdoor places, too.

Have you explored your park today?
I look forward to seeing you out there!

Olivia C. Glenn
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PARKS AND FORESTRY

Follow Me on Instagram
@njparksforestsdirector
ROUND VALLEY RECREATION AREA
Hunterdon County

facebook.com/roundvalleyrecreationarea

William S.

“Round Valley offers so much for outdoor fun--fishing, swimming, sailing (no speed boats), kayaking, canoeing, hiking, picnicking, and a great place to walk your dog. They even do scuba diving in the lake as it is very deep.”
**Division History**

**We’re 113 Years Old!**
For over a century, the division has conserved and enhanced New Jersey’s natural environment.

1905  Gov. Edward C. Stokes founds Forest Park Reservation Commission. The Commission purchases 597 acres in Bass River Township to establish the first forest park reserve. The property is now part of Bass River State Forest.

1915  Forest Park Reservation Commission merges with the new Department and Board of Conservation and Development. The department purchases 534 acres around Swartswood Lake for public recreation. The property is now part of Swartswood State Park.

1923  State Park Service forms. The 16,402 acres of state parks and forests are made available for recreation such as camping, fishing and hunting.

1933  Civilian Conservation Corps builds roads, bridges, picnic shelters and trails in parks throughout the state.

1945  Department and Board of Conservation and Development becomes Division of Forestry, Geology, Parks and Historic Sites, Department of Conservation.

1961  Name changes to Division of Parks, Forestry and Recreation. The Bureau of Forestry manages state forests, grows tree seedlings and stations firewardens across the state. The Bureau of Parks and Recreation maintains and operates the state forests, parks and historic sites; Office of Natural Lands Management created.

1966  Division of Parks, Forestry and Recreation re-established in the Department of Conservation and Economic Development to develop, improve, protect, interpret, and manage state forests, parks, recreation areas, historic sites and natural areas.

1970  Gov. William T. Cahill creates New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

1971  The Division of Parks, Forestry and Recreation joins the Department of Environmental Protection and is designated the Division of Parks and Forestry.

2018  The Division of Parks and Forestry includes the NJ Forest Service, NJ State Park Service, NJ State Park Police, the Office of Natural Resource Restoration and the Office of Natural Lands Management.
Challenges in Parks and Forests

Employee to Visitor Ratio

1 to 35,947
One full-time Park Service employee for every 35,947 visitors or 138 visitors per workday

Employee to Acres Ratio

1 to 5,457
One full-time Forest Service employee for every 5,457 acres

Maintenance projects are backlogged due to budget constraints.

We have a limited budget with many backlogged maintenance and infrastructure projects including:

- Parking area paving and repair
- Bathroom facility repair
- Accessibility improvement
- Historic building repair
- Dam repair
- Storm damage repair

See our latest projects on p. 12 and 13

Public services are reduced or facilities are closed due to fewer staff.

Every year New Jersey’s population increases, and more acres and infrastructure are added to state parks. But staffing is down 28 percent from 2006. With fewer staff, the public is impacted by:

- Nature centers staffed only seasonally or closed.
- Swim areas close earlier.
- Storm clean up is delayed.

See all we take care of on p. 11
Fewer types of habitats are available for plants and animals due to a decline in the number of forests under 40 years old. We are fortunate that forests more than 100 years old have been steadily increasing. However, young forests have been in decline. A healthy statewide ecosystem requires forest growth in various stages to support a greater number of plant and animal species.

More storms have damaged forests due to climate change. Globally, there has been a trend toward warmer temperatures, and that has an effect on bird migrations, growing seasons, when flowers bloom, and ocean levels as well as an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms. These changes affect how we plan for and manage forests.

More native species become threatened and endangered due to invasive species. Invasive plants and animals easily invade the forest and displace or out-compete more desirable native species. Through forest management projects, we work to support native plants and animals and discourage invasives.

See New Jersey’s forest age class distribution chart on p. 24

See our latest projects to restore native species on p. 26

See the invasives we’re combating on p. 25
Ed D.

“Clean, Quiet, Perfect for Families. One of our favorite family camping destinations. Very clean, very peaceful, and perfect for families with relatively young kids, especially for that “first-time” camping experience.”
We Add Acres Each Year!
Parks and Forestry added 60,000 acres since 2004 including 804 acres in 2017. This brings our total acreage to more than 450,000. We’re responsible for 45 percent of all publicly owned land in New Jersey.
Repairs and Improvements

TRAIL IMPROVEMENT
The division maintains 485 trails totaling 1,070 miles in 43 parks. Each year, maintenance workers clear away hundreds of fallen trees and branches to keep the paths accessible. In addition, we periodically inspect and improve or replace existing bridges over water bodies and boardwalks across swampy or low-lying areas.

MARINAS
Our Atlantic shoreline is home to four state marinas, which attract thousands of boaters. The incoming and outgoing tide and storms affect bulkheads, sea walls and boat ramps. Each year, we inspect and then maintain or replace as needed.

TREE PLANTING
Trees, and sometimes whole forest stands, can become overrun with competing non-native invasive species, damaged from storms and attacked by insects and diseases. We replant and restore these areas. We also plant single trees to shade streets and hundreds of trees to create a new forest. We use native tree species in all our planting projects.
REPAIRS
With more than 1,600 structures under its care, the division never takes off its tool belt. In 2017 alone, we fixed nine roofs, gave five buildings a fresh coat of paint, and replaced windows in two historic buildings. In addition, we razed seven structures.

FOREST FIRE PROTECTION
As New Jersey is the most densely populated state, people often live within or right on the edge of large swaths of forested land. To help keep people and their homes safe from forest fire, we thin the forest and prescribe burn. With this proactive management, a forest fire will have less fuel and will be easier for forest firefighters to control.

EMERALD ASH BORER
The emerald ash borer is infesting and killing ash trees across New Jersey. We proactively remove susceptible and infested ash trees in high-use areas of parks.
What’s New
Highlights

New activities and amenities
Each year, we offer new food concessions, camping options, recreational activities and more! We hope you jump at the chance to experience your parks in new ways.

- **SWARTSWOOD STATE PARK**
  - New shelters

- **STOKES STATE FOREST**
  - Now rent kayaks

- **PET FRIENDLY CAMPING AT 13 PARKS**
  - Learn more: [nj.gov/dep/petfriendlycamping](http://nj.gov/dep/petfriendlycamping)

- **ALLAIRE STATE PARK**
  - New disc golf course and new shelters
ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK
Red Fox Beach Bar & Grill is now open. Also new lifeguard tower, benches and showers

LEONARDO STATE MARINA
New office building and education center

BRENDAN T. BYRNE STATE FOREST
New shelters, nature center reopened, canoe rentals, expanded camp store

WORTHINGTON STATE FOREST
Now rent stand-up paddleboards, kayaks and canoes

BELLEPLAIN STATE FOREST
New shelters, new parking area for horseback riders and new bluebird boxes

TWIN LIGHTS HISTORIC SITE
New uplighting to illuminate façade
Conor Davis

“Great place for family and nature lovers. Raised walking paths made out of composite decking allow access to terrain that is normally difficult to get to. Commonly seen wildlife along the trails are: swans, ducks, osprey (often hunting over lake), and many other birds. I have also seen at least once in the area animals like muskrats, frogs, snakes (small, non-venomous). Plenty of parking during the off-season. Busy in the summer. Also, there is beach access, a small museum, Bar-b-cues, and of course the lighthouse. Just down the road is Sunset Beach with what remains of the sunken concrete ship.”
Day Use Attendance

Whether you cool off at one of our 14 swim areas, hike to an overlook with panoramic views or rent a kayak and explore the waterways, you’re sure to have a unique and memorable day at your favorite park.

**Total Day Use Attendance**

17 Million

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**MARINAS**

- Farley: 493 K
- Fortescue: 80 K
- Leonardo: 108 K
“Another brilliant New Jersey gem of a State Forest. Camping, abundant hiking through the beautiful woods and countryside, picnicking, swimming, a wonderful place to enjoy nature. In the winter there is snowshoeing, cross-country-skiing, and skating. Among many beautiful areas, the Sunset Mountain deserves special mention, particularly in the Autumn. It presents beautiful views of forests on one side and farmlands on the other. It can be hiked or driven up, and is well worth the trip. One of the most spectacular points on the Appalachian Trail.”
Stay the night at parks! Rent cabins with electricity and running water. Find a campsite for your tent or trailer near the park amenities or for the most adventurous, hike into the depths of the forest for backcountry camping. What type of camper are you?

**Total Overnight Attendance**

175,000
Learn About History

Waterloo Village
Visit this former bustling port along the once prosperous Morris Canal. This site features an early 19th-century restored village with working gristmills and sawmills, a general store, blacksmith shop and several historic houses.

Washington Crossing
General George Washington and the Continental Army crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey at this site on December 25, 1776.

Rockingham
The site features a mansion, a historic barn, several outbuildings and an orchard. The site looks much like it did when General Washington stayed there.

Ringwood Manor
Victorian summer estate of the Hewitts, one of the wealthiest and most influential families of 19th-century America.

Central Railroad of NJ Terminal
From 1892 through 1954, the terminal, along with Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, saw massive immigration through the Port of New York and New Jersey.
Walt Whitman House
The renowned poet lived here from 1884 until his death in 1892. The house is furnished with a number of pieces owned and used by Whitman.

Fort Mott
Fort Mott was designed after the Civil War as part of a coastal defense system. Visitors can wander through the old gun batteries and follow interpretive signs with detailed descriptions of the fort.

Batsto Village
Batsto was founded in 1766 by Charles Read. He built an ironworks at the mouth of the Batsto River where cannonballs were made during the Revolutionary War.

Monmouth Battlefield
The battle, fought on June 28, 1778, was the largest single-day battle of the war with nearly 25,000 men involved.

Allaire Village
The village reflects a well-preserved early 19th-century iron-making town with a general store, blacksmith shop, carpenter’s shop, owner’s house, foreman’s house, church, and carriage house. The visitor center offers exhibits on the site’s history.

LEARN MORE: journeythroughjersey.com or nj.gov/dep/historic
“This is a very nice place. There are lots of trails where you can take a walk through the woods. There’s an educational center where you can learn about nature. They also have an annual Fall Festival each year in October where they have different displays, exhibits, and demonstrations. Highly recommended if you are interested in learning about nature.”

Stan Fernandes
Learn About Nature

Across the state, our interpretive naturalists teach all nature lovers, from pre-schoolers to senior citizens, about the environment. During programs, naturalists may identify native plants and animals, teach you to make a craft, lead you on a kayak tour or even teach you the basics of camping. Find a nature center or nature program at your park.

### Park Nature Education Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature Center</th>
<th>Nature Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year-round</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seasonal</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature Center</th>
<th>Nature Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allaire State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bass River State Forest</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Belleplain State Forest</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brendan T. Byrne State Forest</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cape May Point State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheesquake State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Resource Education Center</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hacklebarney State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Point State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Island Beach State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jenny Jump State Forest</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kittatinny Valley State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leonardo State Marina</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parvin State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rancocas State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Round Valley Recreation Area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spruce Run Recreation Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen’s State Park</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stokes State Forest</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Voorhees State Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Crossing State Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wawayanda State Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wharton State Forest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worthington State Forest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Jersey's Forests Overview

Data from US Department of Agriculture's Forest Inventory Analysis

Forest Age Class Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>0-20 years</th>
<th>21-40 years</th>
<th>41-60 years</th>
<th>61-80 years</th>
<th>81-100+ years</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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</table>

Stand Class Size Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>0-500000</th>
<th>500000-1000000</th>
<th>1000000-1500000</th>
<th>1500000-2000000</th>
<th>2000000-2500000</th>
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<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Decreasing numbers of trees and increasing volume are indicative of a maturing forest resource.”

-Resource Bulletin NRS-109
New Jersey Forests 2013

Trees per acre

Tree Volume per acre

Forest Pests

**Gypsy Moth**

**DAMAGED**

13,547 Acres in 2017

**What’s at risk:**
This pest affects hundreds of plant species including oaks and older trees. The vast oak-dominated 919,000 acres of the Skylands and Highlands are particularly susceptible.

**What we do:**
- Survey for infestations
- Spray insecticide aerially
- Educate public

southernpinebeetle.nj.gov

**Southern Pine Beetle**

**DAMAGED**

2,100 Acres in 2017

**What’s at risk:**
The 1.1 million acres of the Pinelands National Reserve

**What we do:**
- Survey for infestations
- Educate and assist landowners and communities
- Educate public

southernpinebeetle.nj.gov

**Emerald Ash Borer**

**DETECTED IN**

13 Counties & 66 Towns

**What’s at risk:**
Millions of ash trees across the state including street trees and ash on private properties and in parks

**What we do:**
- Identify and manage susceptible trees on state land
- Educate and assist landowners and communities
- Educate public

emeraldashborer.nj.gov

**Spotted Lanternfly**

**DETECTED IN**

Warren, Mercer and Hunterdon Counties

*These counties are under quarantine.*

**What’s at risk:**
The Garden State will be greatly affected as this pest infests agriculture such as fruit and ornamental trees. Oak, sycamore, and pine are also affected.

**What we do:**
- Survey for infestations
- Educate public

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**We also monitor and manage for emerging threats:**

- Bacterial leaf scorch
- Beech bark disease
- Goudy oak gall
- Hemlock woolly adelgid
- Sirex woodwasp
- Thousand cankers disease
- White pine decline
- Winter moth
- Oak wilt
- Walnut twig beetle
- Beech leaf disease
### Forest Improvement Projects

**Acres Managed to Restore & Regenerate Native Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat for</th>
<th>EASTERN HEMLOCK</th>
<th>OAK FOREST</th>
<th>ATLANTIC WHITE-CEDAR</th>
<th>SHORTLEAF PINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acres created</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Stokes State Forest</td>
<td>Brendan T. Byrne State Forest</td>
<td>Double Trouble State Park</td>
<td>Brendan T. Byrne State Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystem Value</td>
<td>Hemlock has been dying due to infestations of hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect. Hemlock trees produce dense shade, which is particularly important along waterways. The shade moderates stream temperatures. If the trees die and water temperatures increase, it can negatively affect aquatic species such as trout.</td>
<td>Oaks are particularly important for food, shelter and nesting for many animals. However, oak seedlings need ample sunlight to regenerate. Oaks are also long-lived species that adapt better than most tree species to climate change.</td>
<td>Before European settlement, New Jersey had 115,000 acres of Atlantic white-cedar stands. Less than 30 percent of these forests exist today. These stands provide the unique habitat for the endangered Pine Barrens treefrog and the endangered plant swamp pink.</td>
<td>Since the 1980s, shortleaf pine declined 53 percent due to insect damage, disease and land use changes. New Jersey is part of a multi-state effort to restore this species for its ecological, cultural and economic values. Shortleaf pine is also a good species for our changing climate; these trees adapt to greater ranges of temperature, precipitation and soil quality than other pines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before any work is done in a forest, each project plan undergoes a Lands Management Review. This means rare plants experts, biologists, historians, forest firefighters, and foresters all review the project and add recommendations. Then external stakeholders may also review and comment. The work can begin once the plan has been finalized with all concerns and comments considered.

Forest management plans are reviewed internally by:

And externally by stakeholders such as:

LEARN MORE: manageforests.nj.gov
### Tree Seedlings

The nursery grows and distributes trees of tomorrow.

The New Jersey Forest Service Nursery in Jackson produces seedlings on 10 acres of fields and in two greenhouses.

### Nursery Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursery Program</th>
<th>Seedlings Distributed 2017-2018</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NJ Tree Recovery</td>
<td>90K seedlings</td>
<td>Free trees and shrubs distributed by municipalities at local spring events. We’ve distributed 500,000 trees since 2014. Sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seedlings for Reforestation</td>
<td>90K seedlings</td>
<td>The nursery sells 40 different species of bare-root tree and shrub seedlings in packs of 50. Prices start at $12 per pack of 50.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbor Day Trees</td>
<td>35K seedlings</td>
<td>The tree seedlings in plastic tubes, called tubelings, are offered in packs of 98 for $35. Communities and groups give away the seedlings at Arbor Day events.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nursery’s special species

- Endangered species, such as American chaffseed, for reintroduction to ecosystem
- Historical species, such as oaks from acorns from the Mercer white oak

LEARN MORE: [forestnursery.nj.gov](forestnursery.nj.gov)
Private Forests

Whether a private woods is six acres or 600, it’s an integral part of the state-wide forest landscape. These private forests often border Division of Parks and Forestry land as well as other forested open space. With these continuous tracts of forest, there are more homes for wildlife, better air and water quality, and fewer chances for invasives to spread.

Private Landowners Participating in Forest Service Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmland Assessment</th>
<th>Forest Stewardship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,715 landowners</td>
<td>2,552 landowners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>257,600 acres</td>
<td>155,000 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Landowners in these programs

- ✓ May be eligible for reduced property taxes
- ✓ May receive money back for a forest management plan
- ✓ Manage invasive insects and plants
- ✓ Make the forest more resilient to storms
- ✓ Provide wildlife habitat

LEARN MORE: myhealthywoods.nj.gov
Urban and Community Forests

Proactive Management of Trees and Forests
- Conserves energy
- Saves money and staff time
- Keeps roads open
- Keeps residents safe
- Increases environmental benefits
- Improves air quality

How Your Community Can Improve Urban Forests
- Establish a Shade Tree Commission
- Certify Your Program by Becoming a Tree City USA
- Become Accredited by the NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program

NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>8,791,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents assisted</td>
<td>7,576,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population assisted</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities with a Community Forestry Management Plan</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities accredited</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties with a Community Forestry Management Plan</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties accredited</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree City USA Communities in NJ</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents living in a Tree City USA Community</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Local governments accredited by the NJ Urban & Community Forestry Program are eligible for grant money.

$2.1 MILLION IN GRANTS AWARDED
1. A young healthy tree provides a cooling effect equal to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.
2. A mature tree removes up to 8.4 pounds of air pollutants per year.
3. A young red maple can transpire 400 gallons of water per week.

LEARN MORE: communityforestry.nj.gov
New Jersey's Endangered Plants

Rare plants matter in New Jersey because our state has a surprisingly high concentration of native plant species compared to other states. New Jersey is five percent of the Northeast regional land area, but home to 50 percent of the plant species found from Pennsylvania to Maine.

Facts about New Jersey’s Plant Species
- Four plants are found nowhere else in the world
- 37 plants have always had only one population in NJ
- 52 plants are rare worldwide

Factors That Cause Plant Rarity and Loss
- Habitat destruction
- Invasive plant species
- Deer browse
- Climate change
- Changes in forest fire frequency and intensity

The Office of Natural Lands Management maintains the New Jersey Endangered Plant Species List and monitors the status of all native New Jersey plant species.

Status of New Jersey’s 2,001 Native Plant Species

- Common 59% (1,180 species)
- Rare 21% (413 species)
- Endangered 18% (356 species)
- Lost 2% (52 species)

Of the 356 native plants listed as state endangered, most exist at five or fewer locations statewide.
Native Plant Species Successes in 2018

Biologists discovered a previously unknown population of the federally threatened orchid, small whorled pogonia, in Stokes State Forest. This is just one of three known occurrences of this rare orchid in the state.

Stalked woolgrass

*Scirpus pedicellatus*

Near Worthington State Forest

This state endangered plant species, stalked woolgrass, last seen in New Jersey a century ago on July 4, 1918, was discovered growing north of Worthington State Forest in July 2018.

American chaffseed

*Schwalbea americana*

Brendan T. Byrne State Forest

To increase the survival of New Jersey’s last population of American chaffseed, the NJ Forest Fire Service conducted prescribed burns and thinned the surrounding trees to increase sunlight. This resulted in double the number of flowering plants compared to 2017.

Seabeach amaranth

*Amaranthus pumilus*

Island Beach State Park and all along the coast

Annual census for the federally threatened and state endangered coastal plant seabeach amaranth indicated a 91 percent increase in plants compared to 2017, from 550 to 1,053 plants. At Island Beach State Park plants increased from 12 to 307 in the same period.

LEARN MORE: nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/index.html
“Gorgeous park, unparalleled views of lower Manhattan, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and the Verrazano. A must visit for NJ/NYC tourist. Liberty House is a wonderful refresh for food and beverage — outdoor seating on nice days and evenings must be experienced. During the off bird migration period there are beaches and trails that will defy one’s belief of urban ecology.”

Future natural resource restoration project at Liberty State Park

A project that will transform 240 acres of Liberty State Park is now in the works. This section of our most popular state park has been closed to the public for decades due to low levels of contamination from historic fill. The construction will transform the site into a mosaic of freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, forests and grasslands to benefit both people and wildlife.

Construction is scheduled to begin by 2020.
Natural Resource Restoration Projects

These projects are funded primarily through natural resource damages settlements secured by the state from polluters. These settlements compensate the public for the lost enjoyment of and adverse impacts to a natural resource. This is separate from and in addition to any costs responsible parties incur to remediate pollution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Lake Dam Removal</td>
<td>The dam created a 32-acre impoundment at the third largest tributary to the Delaware River. It blocked spawning and nursery habitat for migratory fish species. The dam removal will reconnect 11 miles of the Paulins Kill’s mainstem and 20 miles of river and stream habitat. The project began in August 2018.</td>
<td>The Nature Conservancy, American Rivers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.</td>
<td>$5.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between Manville and Franklin Townships</td>
<td>For more than 170 years, the dam presented a safety hazard for recreation and obstructed migratory fish, specifically American shad. The dam was removed August 2017 and opened up a 4.5-mile stretch of the Millstone River. Biologists will continue to study the dam removal’s effect on the migration and spawning of the fish until 2020.</td>
<td>Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, American Rivers, Conservation Resources, Inc., The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Horizon Foundation and the Raritan River Fish Passage Initiative.</td>
<td>$1.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cramer Hill neighborhood of Camden</td>
<td>This former city landfill operated from 1952-1971. A 62-acre portion will now include a 2-acre fishing pond, 3-acre forested land for bald eagle forage areas, an amphitheater, a kayak launch and trails. Tree plantings on 26 acres will prevent erosion and re-establish undergrowth. Site preparation began in March 2018. The park is scheduled to open in 2021.</td>
<td>Division of Coastal Engineering the City of Camden, Camden Redevelopment Agency, Coopers Ferry, the Camden County Police Department and the Salvation Army.</td>
<td>$47 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LEARN MORE: nj.gov/dep/nrr/
Work With Us!

Job opportunities
We need full-time, part-time and seasonal employees to help keep all 450,000 acres we manage green and growing. Each summer, we hire more than 800 seasonal employees such as lifeguards, visitor service representatives, naturalists, historians and maintenance workers to help our parks, forests and historic sites run smoothly.

LEARN MORE: nj.gov/dep/workinparks

Business opportunities
Local businesses and organizations run leases and concessions in our parks. From kayaks and ice cream cones to fine dining and weddings, we are always looking for qualified vendors to help offer services to our visitors.

LEARN MORE: nj.gov/dep/businessopportunities

Volunteer
From reforestation projects to litter clean ups, we need all hands on deck to make our parks beautiful and provide many benefits for years to come. Are you willing to pitch in?
We offer three types of volunteer opportunities: serve as an individual volunteer, as a group or apply to join one of 31 officially recognized friends organizations.

LEARN MORE: Contact your park office

GET EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS for new job, business and volunteer opportunities: alertmedep.nj.gov
Learn More and Plan Your Visit

Trail Tracker
Trail Tracker is an interactive trails map of New Jersey’s State Parks. Track your current location, view trails and points of interest, and search for park activities.

LEARN MORE:
spstrailtracker.nj.gov

Camp in parks
Find available camping at State Parks across New Jersey and reserve your campsite today. Search by location, availability and park amenities to find the perfect campsite for you. Begin your adventure now!

LEARN MORE:
camping.nj.gov

Follow us on social media
Learn the latest news, events, and programs in your parks.

facebook.com/newjerseystateparks
facebook.com/newjerseyforests
@newjerseystateparks
@njparksforestsdirector
Also follow our 26 other pages listed here: nj.gov/dep/facebook.html
# Events and Festivals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>First Day Hikes</td>
<td>Parks Statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>Blue Comet Day</td>
<td>Liberty State Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>Earth Day &amp; Arbor Day</td>
<td>Statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>May Day Spring Festival</td>
<td>Island Beach State Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ocean Fun Days</td>
<td>Island Beach State Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament</td>
<td>Island Beach State Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spring Antique, Glass and Bottle and Classic Car Show</td>
<td>Wharton State Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>Get Outdoors Month</td>
<td>Parks Statewide</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Trails Day</td>
<td>Parks Statewide</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barnegat Bay Conservation Celebration</td>
<td>Island Beach State Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Battle of Monmouth Re-enactment</td>
<td>Monmouth Battlefield State Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Whitesbog Blueberry Festival</td>
<td>Whitesbog Village Historic Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT</td>
<td>Wild Outdoor Expo</td>
<td>Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Beach Plum Festival</td>
<td>Island Beach State Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Critter Festival</td>
<td>Cape May Point State Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Vintage Camping</td>
<td>Barnegat Lighthouse State Park</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Historic Soldier’s Weekend</td>
<td>Fort Mott State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT</td>
<td>Fall Forestry Festival</td>
<td>Forest Resource Education Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Country Living Fair</td>
<td>Wharton State Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEC</td>
<td>Soldiers Christmas</td>
<td>Fort Mott State Park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Day Crossing Re-enactment</td>
<td>Washington Crossing State Park</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**GET EVENT EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS:** [alertmedep.nj.gov](mailto:alertmedep.nj.gov)
Yearly Passes

**STATE PARK PASS**

FEE $50* NJ Resident
$75* Non-Resident

The State Park Pass grants free entrance to the 17 parks that charge an entrance or parking fee.

*For oversized vehicles, the State Park Pass is $100 for NJ residents and $150 for non-residents

**MOBILE SPORT FISHING PASS**

FEE $195 NJ Resident
$225 Non-Resident

Island Beach State Park
Corson’s Inlet State Park or North Brigantine Natural Area

**BOAT LAUNCH PASS**

FEE $60 NJ Resident
$80 Non-Resident

Corson’s Inlet, Bulls Island, Parvin & Hopatcong State Parks and Wharton State Forest

FEE $170 NJ Resident
$200 Non-Resident

All five parks above plus Liberty State Park and Leonardo State Marina

LEARN MORE: [parkpass.nj.gov](http://parkpass.nj.gov)
I love this area. A friend and I took a canoe along the Atsion Lake (pronounced, at-sign). The water is tea colored, and just as clear. Cedar water. In many ways, it reminded us of the Caribbean. You can see from your neck to your feet! We saw Osprey, loons, great blue heron, beaver and a river otter. The campground at Atsion has potable water, showers and flush toilets within walking distance of the campsites. At night you can hear the loons calling to each other. All in all, Wharton State Forest in the Pine Barrens of NJ is an amazing place to camp.