



NEW JERSEY PINELANDS COMMISSION

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



Fall foliage flanking a sand road at the 617-acre Warren Grove Recreation Area
in the Pinelands in October

OCTOBER 2022

1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE

1.1 ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1.1A COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Personnel & Budget (P&B) Committee:** The Committee did not meet in October.
- **Pinelands Climate Committee:** The Committee did not meet in October.
- **Policy & Implementation (P&I) Committee:** The Committee did not meet in October.

1.1B RULEMAKING

- **Stormwater Management:** Staff members continue to work on a draft model stormwater ordinance to be distributed to Pinelands municipalities for adoption. Completion of the ordinance has been delayed pending the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) proposal of amendments to its stormwater management rules that may need to be incorporated in the Pinelands model stormwater ordinance. NJDEP recently announced that its proposed inland flooding rules will be published in the New Jersey Register in early December.
- **Water Management (Kirkwood-Cohansey):** The public comment period for the Commission's proposed Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) amendments is open and will close on November 5, 2022. A public hearing was held via Zoom/YouTube on October 12, 2022. The public hearing was recorded and is available to stream on the Commission's YouTube channel. Six individuals provided comments, although one individual was calling only to indicate that Winslow Township would be submitting written comment. Due to an error in the public notice for the October 12, 2022 public hearing, a second hearing was scheduled for November 2, 2022. Commission staff met with NJDEP staff to discuss the Department's questions and concerns with the proposed rules on October 25, 2022.
- **Electric Transmission Right of Way (ROW) Maintenance Pilot Program:** Staff continues to work on new rules to permanently implement the requirements of the ROW Maintenance Pilot Program. In addition to continuing to require that spans contained within the 2009 Vegetation Management Plan follow the span specific vegetation management prescription contained within that Plan, the amendments will provide vegetation management prescriptions for ROW spans located in the Pinelands Area, but not included in the 2009 Plan.

1.1C OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

- A total of 11 Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests were received in October. Five were provided responsive material, one was advised that there was no responsive material, one was advised a file review can be held and four will be responded to in November.

1.1D PINELANDS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

- The Pinelands Municipal Council did not meet in October. The Council's next meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Commission's headquarters.

1.1E OTHER

- The Commission adopted a resolution at its October 14, 2022 meeting to honor the late Governor Florio and designate the James J. Florio Pinelands Library at the Commission's headquarters.
- The first half of the Commission's \$500,000 special appropriation for Fenwick Manor was received on October 21, 2022. As is the case with the Commission's regular, annual state appropriation, the special funding is routed through the NJDEP.

1.2 LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

1.2A LEGISLATION

- **S3123/A4782 – Increases goal for annual capacity of solar projects to be developed under Community Solar Program to 500 megawatts per year** – This bill would amend N.J.S.A. 48:3-87.11 to increase the annual development goal for solar energy projects from 50 megawatts per year to 500 megawatts per year.
- **S3177/A4758 – “Protecting Against Forever Chemicals Act”**; establishes requirements, prohibitions, and programs for regulation of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - This bill would prohibit the sale of certain products containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), require greater transparency in the labeling of certain products containing PFAS, establish a source reduction program concerning the proper management of PFAS, and appropriate money for PFAS-related research. As defined in the bill, “PFAS” means substances that include any member of the class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.
- **S3180/A4762 - Requires certain water purveyors to identify, and use, alternative water supply source when perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances exceed maximum contaminant levels** - This bill would require water purveyors to develop a plan that identifies an alternative water supply source to be used to provide water to the system's customers when an exceedance of a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is discovered. The bill further requires that when an exceedance of an MCL for PFAS is discovered,

the public community water system would take immediate action to use the identified alternative water supply in order to provide water to its customers.

1.2B STATE RULEMAKING

- **NJDEP PACT Rules:** On October 19, 2022, staff from the Regulatory Programs and Planning Offices attended a virtual presentation by Vince Mazzei, NJDEP Assistant Commissioner for Watershed and Land Management on the NJ Inland Flood Protection Rule. The focus of the presentation was the NJDEP's proposal to move forward with updated (and increased) rainfall quantity data, attributable to climate change in the design of stormwater management BMPs and the need to update existing flood plain mapping. Commission staff is currently of the belief that rainfall quantity changes that are proposed for adoption by NJDEP will not require an amendment to the Pinelands CMP because of the CMP's adoption by reference of the relevant NJDEP standard in N.J.A.C. 7:8.

1.2C INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

- **Atlantic County Lake Lenape Memorandum of Agreement (MOA):** By letter dated July 28, 2022, Atlantic County requested that efforts to amend the 1998 MOA resume so that the old floating dock at Lake Lenape could be replaced with a new floating dock. The County previously discussed its request with the Policy and Implementation Committee in August 2019. For the proposed dock replacement project to move forward, the Commission and the County must agree to an amendment of the 1998 MOA that authorized various development activities within the Western Lake Shore of Lake Lenape Park and required the preservation of lands at the Park through the filing of a Deed of Conservation Restriction. Staff is working with representatives of Atlantic County and anticipates bringing this matter back to the Committee in January 2023.

1.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

- **Return to Office:** In accordance with the Pinelands Commission Return to the Office plan, all staff began reporting to work at the office on a full-time basis starting January 31, 2022, with weekly COVID-19 testing of unvaccinated employees beginning on April 1st. On August 15, 2022, the Governor's office notified the Commission that as of September 1st, weekly testing would no longer be required. Guidance remains the same for the month of October.
- **Recruitment/Promotions:** Recruitment continues for a Research Scientist. Applicants were scheduled for interviews. Recruitment began in late October for a new Cultural Resources Planner-Archaeologist to replace Tony McNichol, who has resigned from the Commission effective November 18, 2022.
- **NJ Employees Charitable Campaign:** The 2022/2023 NJECC virtual kickoff was held September 13, 2022. This year's campaign will run from September 2022 – December 2022.
- **Employee Benefits:** Open Enrollment was held during the month of October for staff needing to make any changes or updates to their health and/or dental plans.

2 INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- **Interagency Council on Climate Change (IAC):** A member of the Planning Office staff attended the October 11, 2022 meeting of the IAC. IAC member agencies were given additional guidance on the development of *Topic Specific* Resilience Action Plans (RAPs) that will focus on Extreme Heat and Community Health. Advisory Groups comprised of individuals with expertise in these two topics are still being assembled to assist each member agency in the development of their RAPs. RAP templates will also be provided. Specific RAPs are to be completed by October 2023.
- **Barnegat Bay Partnership (BPP):** On October 6, 2022, staff from the Planning Office attended an in-person meeting of the Toms River Watershed Restoration Committee and received an update on the development of the Watershed Restoration Plan. Mapping of stormwater management BMPs and concentrations of aging septic systems in the watershed have been identified as potential sources of non-point pollution and potential future mitigation projects.
- **NJDEP Outdoor Recreation Advisory Committee:** Planning Office staff attended several meetings of this Committee in October, as NJDEP continues to take input on principles of its upcoming "Outdoor, Together!" recreation plan. The principles discussed at the meetings held in October related to draft principle 2: enhancing climate resilience and sustainability through acquisition and development of open and green space, draft principle 3: empowering communities through investments in ecotourism and outdoor recreation, and principle 4: embracing the role of technology in conservation and outdoor recreation. The NJDEP is accepting edits to and comments on the draft principles through bi-weekly meetings and email with the members of the Committee. Bi-weekly meetings of this committee are planned through December.
- **NJDEP coordination meeting:** On October 27, 2022, NJDEP and Commission staff participated in a joint field trip to two sites where dredge spoils are being deposited and used for farming and nursery operations. Both sites are located in the Pinelands National Reserve, outside the state-designated Pinelands Area.
- **NJDEP Statewide Water Supply Plan:** NJDEP has begun holding stakeholder meetings to gather input on topics of concern for the planned update of the Water Supply Plan. Staff attended the first meeting in October, and it focused on considered changes to some variables that impact the calculation of the Low Flow Margin for hydrologic unit code – 11 (HUC-11) watersheds. The meeting also highlighted current and projected future water demands, including the finding that residential water demand per capita continues to decline during past decades. A second stakeholder meeting held in October discussed Environmental Justice issues related to water supply planning.

- Rutgers Cooperative Extension:** Throughout October, Commission staff weeded, watered, and maintained the 340-square-foot rain garden that was installed in front of the Richard J. Sullivan (RJS) Center for Environmental Policy & Education on June 28-30, 2022. In October, staff filmed and shared a video of the rain garden during a multi-day rainstorm. The video is available by clicking [here](#). Staff also fielded questions about the rain garden plant identification markers from a nearby university, and it provided information about native plant nurseries to a member of the public.



Above: The Pinelands Commission promoted its rain garden by sharing a video that was filmed during a multi-day rainstorm in October. The video is available on the Commission's YouTube channel.

3 PLANNING

3.1 CONFORMANCE ACTIVITY

	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
Master Plans/Ordinances Received		
Adopted	6	88
Drafted or Introduced	4	74
Total ¹	5	118
Substantial Issue Finding ²	0	6
No Substantial Issue Finding	1	47

¹The total accounts for unique master plans and ordinances received (i.e., it does not double count drafted, introduced, or adopted submissions for the same ordinance).

² Ordinances and Master Plans that are found to raise substantial issues with respect to the standards of the CMP require formal review and approval by the full Commission.

No Issue Finding	1	15
Total	2	68
Finding Letters Issued³	1	45

3.2 CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITY

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
Applications Reviewed	5	99
Surveys Required	1	9
Surveys Reviewed	1	6
Certificates of Appropriateness Required	0	4

Notable Activity

- On September 28, 2022, the Pinelands Commission was awarded a \$31,387 Historic Site Management grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust (NJHT) for the preparation of a Preservation Plan document for historic Fenwick Manor. The Plan will assess and prioritize future rehabilitation projects related to Fenwick, including engineering and structural needs as well as painting, repairs, and scheduled upkeep in the form of a comprehensive, cyclical maintenance plan. The Commission approved a resolution to accept the grant and award a contract for preparation of the Preservation Plan at its October 14, 2022 meeting. A kickoff meeting with the selected consultant will be scheduled for early November.
- The Commission's second Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium has been scheduled for November 18, 2022 at the Commission's office. It is being held in honor of Pinelands archaeologist Budd Wilson and will feature seven presentations on a wide variety of topics. As of the end of October, 57 people have registered to attend. All presentations will be livestreamed and recorded for future viewing.

3.3 PINELANDS DEVELOPMENT CREDIT (PDC) PROGRAM

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
PDCs Allocated	0.25	9.94
PDCs Severed	0	16.0
Acres Protected	0	345.39

³ A single finding letter can pertain to multiple master plans/ordinances from the same municipality.

PDCs Extinguished	0	0.50
Acres Protected	0	15.82
PDCs Sold	0.25	44.25
Average Sales Price per PDC	\$80,000	\$75,232
Average Sales Price per right	\$20,000	\$18,808
PDCs Redeemed	0.50	9.00

Notable Activity:

- **PDC Allocations:** 0.25 PDCs were allocated to 20 acres in Franklin Township's Agricultural Production Area.
- **PDC Redemptions:** A total of 0.50 PDCs were redeemed, 0.25 for a single-family detached dwelling in Egg Harbor Township and 0.25 for a single-family detached dwelling in Stafford Township.

3.4 SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Pinelands Infrastructure Trust:** Routine meetings are being held with NJDEP staff to smooth the NJDEP and I-Bank funding process for the infrastructure projects authorized in 2019 by the Pinelands Commission in its amendment of the Pinelands Infrastructure Master Plan. Of the authorized projects, the Pemberton Township water system upgrades and the Galloway Township sewer extension are currently active with NJDEP and the I-Bank.
- **Stockton University 2020 Facilities Master Plan:** Staff continued to work with Stockton on the development of a map that clarifies the extent of the conservation area on its Galloway campus, while addressing existing infrastructure needs and replacing any areas that will need to be removed from the Deed of Conservation Restriction as a result. Additionally, staff requested a letter from Stockton identifying how and when it will address outstanding violations that occurred on the campus as a result the College's infrastructure needs. Upon receipt of that information, staff will determine whether any pending development applications can be deemed complete and presented to the Commission for its consideration.

4 REGULATORY PROGRAMS

4.1 APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Activity	Monthly Total	Calendar Year to Date
Pre-Application Conferences	2	88
Certificates of Filing	18	171
Public Development Reports	1	29
Forestry Certificates of Filing	1	5
PDC Letters of Interpretation	1	11
Non-PDC Letters of Interpretation	1	3
MOA Consistency Determinations	1	41
Review of Agency Determinations	56	592

4.2 NOTABLE APPLICATIONS

- **657 Residential Dwelling Units, Egg Harbor Township (App. No. 1985-1320.004):** On June 14, 2006, the Commission staff issued a Certificate of Filing for the development of 657 dwelling units on a 273.6-acre parcel in the Township's Regional Growth Area. On October 8, 2009, the Commission staff issued a letter indicating that a 2007 Township Planning Board final approval for the proposed development of 657 dwelling units could take effect.

The project did not proceed and no further information was submitted to the Commission regarding the proposed development until a general inquiry was received in July of 2022. By letter dated October 14, 2022, the Commission staff was advised that the Township Planning Board had granted a third extension of the 2007 Township Planning Board final approval. That letter provided a copy of a March 21, 2022 Township Planning Board Resolution granting the third extension. The Resolution approving the third extension also cites the New Jersey Permit Extension Act.

By letter dated October 27, 2022, the Commission staff received a copy of an October 15, 2018 Township Planning Board Resolution granting a second extension of the 2007 final Planning Board development approval. The Commission staff is awaiting submission of the Township Planning Board Resolution granting the first extension of the 2007 final development approval.

At the time of the final municipal subdivision approval in 2007, the proposed residential development was located in the Township's R-5 zoning district. At that time, the residential density of the proposed development did not trigger the need for the purchase of Pinelands Development Credits (PDCs). In 2018, the Commission certified an amendment to the Township land use ordinance requiring that proposed residential development in the Township's R-5 zoning district redeem PDCs for 25% of all proposed market rate dwelling units. The Commission

staff is currently reviewing the March 21, 2022 and October 15, 2018 Township Resolutions granting extensions of the final development approval to determine the need for the proposed development to purchase PDCs.

- **421 Residential Dwelling Units and Hotel, Borough of Wrightstown (App. No. 2007- 0301.004):** The Commission issued a Certificate of Filing for this application on February 10, 2022. The Certificate of Filing indicated that the proposed development was inconsistent with CMP stormwater management standards. To address the stormwater inconsistency, the applicant submitted additional stormwater management information to the Commission on February 16, 2022, April 8, 2022, and May 10, 2022. The Commission staff reviewed and responded to each stormwater submission. On July 20, 2022, the applicant submitted additional information to the Commission to address the stormwater management inconsistency. After review of that stormwater management information, the Commission's staff advised that proposed development remained inconsistent with CMP stormwater management standards. By letter dated October 7, 2022, the Commission staff indicated that the stormwater management design and review for this application was proving to be very time consuming for all parties and suggested that a meeting might be in everyone's best interest. On October 27, 2022, a meeting was held with the applicant, representatives of the applicant's engineering firm and the Commission staff to discuss the proposed stormwater management design. Based upon that meeting, the applicant will be submitting additional stormwater management information.
- **Change in Use, Manchester Township (App. No. 2003-0047.002):** On May 5, 2022, the Commission staff issued an inconsistent Certificate of Filing for a proposed change in use of a portion of an existing restaurant to a retail commercial use and a food bank. The existing and proposed development on the 1.9-acre parcel will be serviced by an existing onsite conventional septic system. The Certificate of Filing indicated that the proposed development was inconsistent with the CMP's 2 parts per million (ppm) nitrogen groundwater quality (septic dilution) standard. The issue is resolvable by either servicing the existing building with public sanitary sewer or replacing the existing onsite conventional septic system with an onsite wastewater treatment system. On August 9, 2022, the Commission staff issued a letter scheduling a public hearing to review the substantial issue raised by a Township site plan approval granted on June 6, 2022 for the proposed change of use. That public hearing is scheduled for November 9, 2022. By email dated October 21, 2022, the applicant proposed to deed restrict contiguous acres to enable the proposed change in use to meet the groundwater quality (septic dilution) standard. By letter dated October 28, 2022, the Commission staff confirmed that deed restricting 3.52 contiguous acres would enable the proposed change in use to meet the groundwater quality (septic dilution) standard. It is currently unclear as to whether the applicant will pursue the public hearing, the deed restriction of the contiguous acreage, or both.
- **Recreation Trails, Pemberton Township (App. No. 1982-3181.008):** A site inspection of the proposed trails was conducted by Commission staff and representatives of the applicant on January 14, 2022. The trails are proposed to be located primarily in wetlands and the required buffer to wetlands. On February 18, 2022, the Commission staff received a request to meet to discuss what materials could be used to surface trails in wetlands and the required buffer to wetlands. By letter dated February 28, 2022, the Commission staff advised of the information that must be provided for the staff to determine whether various trail surfacing materials identified by the applicant would be consistent with CMP wetlands protection standards. On

June 10, 2022, the Commission received additional information addressing how the proposed trails could be constructed consistent with the Commission's wetlands protection standards. By letter dated September 13, 2022, the Commission staff advised that the purposed stone surfacing of existing trails located in the required buffer to wetlands was not consistent with wetland protection standards. On September 23, 2022, the Commission staff met with the Township Administrator and a representative of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance to further discuss the issue. The proposed stone surfacing of trails to allow for wheelchair access was extensively discussed. A follow up meeting was held on October 28, 2022 to further discuss the issue. An additional meeting has been scheduled for November 14, 2022 to further discuss pursuing an application with the Commission for the proposed trail surfacing or the prospects for the Township and the Commission to enter into an MOA for the proposed development.

- **Single Family Dwelling, Lacey Township (App. No. 2021-0038.001):** This application proposes the development of one single family dwelling on a 1.75-acre lot. A threatened and endangered (T&E) animal species survey was completed and submitted to the Commission on August 10, 2022. The survey identified the presence of a threatened animal species on the lot. After completion of that review, on September 12, 2022, the Commission staff issued a letter indicating that the proposed development was inconsistent with the T&E species protection standard. The letter further indicated that the proposed development would require a Waiver of Strict Compliance from the T&E species protection standard. At the request of the applicant, on September 26, 2022, the Commission staff issued an Inconsistent Certificate of Filing for the proposed development. The Certificate of Filing indicated that receipt of any county or municipal permits or approvals for the proposed dwelling would probably result in the Commission staff scheduling a public hearing to review the consistency of the proposed development with the T&E species protection standard. On September 22, 2022, the applicant submitted additional T&E species information. Upon review of that information, the Commission staff issued a letter on October 26, 2022 indicating that after review of the additional information, it remained the Commission staff's opinion that it had not been demonstrated that the proposed development was consistent with the T&E animal species protection standard.

4.3 OFF-ROAD VEHICLE EVENT APPROVALS

- **Application #1982-3054.097**
Pine Barrens Adventure Camp, LLC
Approval Issued: 10/26/2022
Event Name: Pine Barrens 500
Event Date: October 28, 29 & 30
Lands Utilized: Bass River, Brendan T. Byrne, Penn & Wharton State Forests
Route Length: 340 miles

SCIENCE

5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

- **Water Level Monitoring:** In October, Communications staff measured water levels at forest plots and ponds in the Commission network of long-term monitoring sites. This work is

completed each month with assistance from the Communications Office. Science staff downloaded water level data from the seven ponds and one forest plot outfitted with continuous water level recorders.

- **Pinelands-wide Water-quality Monitoring:** Science staff sampled pH and specific conductance at the 47 Pinelands-wide stream sites. This sampling occurs in April, June, August, and October of each year to monitor long-term changes in these two parameters.

5.2 LONG TERM STUDIES

- **Microorganism Study:** Science staff completed this study, which was a collaboration with the NJDEP and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A final report that describes the water quality conditions and diatom, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and benthic macroinvertebrate assemblages of natural ponds, excavated ponds, and stormwater basins was submitted to the EPA. This study is part two of the investigation into the comparability of natural and created wetlands:

Bunnell, J.F., K.J. Laidig, M.C. Sobel, P.M. Burritt, J.K. Dragon, M. Enache, D. Bryson, and A.M. Signor. 2022. Comparability of natural and created wetlands – Part II. Final report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Pinelands Commission, New Lisbon, New Jersey, USA.

- **Endocrine Disruption Study:** This study has been completed and USGS and Commission researchers published the study in a scientific journal:

Breitmeyer, S. E., H. L. Walsh, V. S. Blazer, J. F. Bunnell, P. M. Burritt, J. Dragon, M. L. Hladik, P. M. Bradley, K. M. Romanok, and K. L. Smalling. 2022. Potential health effects of contaminant mixtures from point and nonpoint sources on fish and frogs in the New Jersey Pinelands. *Science of the Total Environment* 851 (2022) 158205. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.158205>

- **King Snake Study:** In October, Science and Herpetological Associates (HA) staff continued to track king snakes in several different study areas. Almost all king snakes are near or inside their winter dens. King snake tracking data from 2019 – 2021 has been finalized and staff are working to provide the NJDEP data to satisfy permit requirements.
- **Joint Corn Snake Study:** In October, Science and HA staff continued to monitor the nest area drift fence array for animals found under the wood and metal cover and in box traps established along the drift fence. The box traps were removed from the fence at the end of October, which concludes the drift fence portion of the study. Science staff will continue to monitor some of the wood and metal cover left in place and other cover that has been established in the much larger study area around the nest area. The drift fence data will be analyzed during 2023.
- **Rare Snake Monitoring:** Science staff continued to radio track pine snakes, corn snakes, and hognose snakes as part of this monitoring project. Most snakes are near or inside their winter dens.

- **Box Turtle Study:** Science staff continued to radio track box turtles and replaced old transmitters on several box turtles. Currently, there are 37 turtles included in the study.

5.3 OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Science staff began to collaborate with Rutgers University researchers to determine if snakes are infected with adenoviruses. Science staff are swabbing the snakes encountered during their studies and the Rutgers researchers are using PCR (polymerase chain reaction) to amplify virus DNA for possible detection.

6 COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- **Website:** In October, staff continued to work on plans to create a new Cultural Resources webpage on the Commission's website.
- **Inquiries/Correspondence:** The Communications Office received and responded to 42 inquiries from the public in October, including phone calls, e-mails, and media inquiries.
- **Press Releases:** Staff prepared and issued a press release on October 4th to promote the Commission's Archaeology & Anthropology Symposium, and it prepared and issued a release on October 14th to announce the Commission's naming of the James J. Florio Pinelands Library.
- **Pinelands National Reserve Wall Calendar:** In October, staff selected a theme and compiled and categorized dozens of photos that will be considered for use in the 2023 wall calendar.



Above (from left to right): Pinelands Commission Acting Executive Director Susan R. Grogan, Vice Chairman Alan W. Avery, Jr., Chair Laura E Matos, Commissioner Mark Lohbauer and Commissioner Jerome Irick stand in the newly designated James J. Florio Pinelands Library at the Commission's headquarters on October 14, 2022.

6.2 EVENTS, OUTREACH & INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

- **Pinelands-themed World Water Monitoring Challenge:** Staff from several offices educated more than 130 students about the Pinelands during the fall version of the daylong event at Batsto Lake on October 21, 2022. The event is co-organized and staffed by the Commission, NJDEP, New Jersey Division of Parks & Forestry, the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Americorps Ambassadors.



Above: Pinelands Commission staff educated more than 130 students during the World Water Monitoring Challenge at Batsto Lake on October 21, 2022.

- **Science Office Assistance:** A member of the Communications Office assisted the Science Office by measuring water levels on October 11 and 12, 2022.
- **Pinelands Short Course:** Staff continues to plan the 33rd annual Pinelands Short Course, which will be held on March 11, 2023.
- **Public Education Programs:** A member of the Communications Office delivered a presentation on Pinelands flora and fauna to approximately 50 people at the Crestwood Village Women's Club on October 18, 2022.
- **Pinelands Speaker Series Webinars:** Staff hosted a Pinelands Speaker Series webinar entitled "Fungal Biodiversity and Functions in the Pine Barrens Ecosystem" on October 6, 2022. The Commission also held its first Moth Night on October 6, 2022. The evening began with an indoor presentation that focused on the attributes and beneficial features of moths. Following the presentation, more than 20 attendees went outside to identify and photograph moths at two stations.



Above: More than 20 attendees participated in the Pinelands Commission's first-ever Moth Night at its headquarters on October 6, 2022.

- **Barnegat Bay Partnership:** A member of the Communications Office participated in the Barnegat Bay Partnership's Advisory Committee meeting on October 13, 2022 and chaired the Partnership's Communication and Education Committee meeting on October 26, 2022.



- **Social Media Enhancements:** In October, staff shared 184 photos on the Commission's Instagram site and 49 tweets on Twitter. Four photos taken by Commission staff were featured on other Instagram sites in October, reaching more than 407,300 additional accounts.

Above: The Commission shared 184 photos on Instagram in October, including this photo of a hiking trail at Double Trouble State Park.

7 INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- **Pinelands Commission Information System Upgrades:** The Pinelands Commission Information System (PCIS) is the internal system of record for all applications to the Pinelands and associated transactions. Staff provided desktop support, implemented enhancements and bug fixes. Additional features were added to the Local Conformance System (LCS) system. Staff continued efforts to digitize and import paper Certificates of Filing from legacy applications into PCIS. Approximately 300 of the 927 documents were scanned and will be linked to the electronic records. Bluebeam Revu software was configured and deployed for evaluation by all offices at the Commission.
- **Cybersecurity:** Vigilance to protect the internal networks, hardware, and data of the Pinelands Commission is critical in today's networked world. The Information Systems office participated in the monthly call hosted by the New Jersey Cybersecurity & Communications Integration Cell (NJCCIC). Staff configured and brought two new servers onto the network to replace outdated hardware.
- **Permanent Land Protection (PLP) Data System:** The PLP system manages the data related to all the preserved land in the Pinelands National Reserve. Staff supported the Planning Office in maintaining PLP records.
- **Pinelands Development Credit Bank:** The Pinelands Development Credit (PDC) Bank utilizes custom software to manage all operations including tracking data and issuing certificates.

- **Technology Enhancements:** Staff members continually evaluate emerging technologies for how they can impact or enhance the office environment. Research was done on the existing data storage architecture of the Pinelands Commission including cost benefit analysis of available backup solutions. Virtual meetings were held with representatives of Microsoft, the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, and Dell to gather necessary information. A new Network Attached Storage (NAS) server was purchased along with the evaluation of the CommVault backup system. Staff worked with the Business Services office and Planning office to print and frame the annual Permanent Land Protection and Land Capability maps for display in the Commission's meeting spaces. Staff worked with the Business Services office to set up hardware for the update and dedication of the Pinelands James J. Florio Library.

8 BUSINESS OFFICE

8.1 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- **Application Fees:** October 2022, Net Total: \$100,973.13; Fiscal Year to Date Total: \$401,558.94.
- Members of the Commission's Audit Committee and staff met with the Auditors from the Office of the State Auditor for the Fiscal Year 2021 Audit Kick-Off meeting.
- The Commission approved resolution PC4-22-41 to accept a Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund Grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust and authorize the Acting Executive Director to enter into a contract for development of a Preservation Plan for Historic Fenwick Manor. A contract with the selected consultant is currently being drafted.