

## *Central Pine Barrens Milestones*

*Updated January 2009*

- 1993: Passage of the LI PB Protection Act (amending NY ECL Article 57), including creation of Central Pine Barrens (CPB) area, Core Preservation Area, Compatible Growth Area (CGA), Commission, Advisory Committee, statutory milestones, goals of Act, and development restrictions
- 1993: Work commences on Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- 1993: First meetings of Commission, Advisory Committee
- 1993: Agreement with the Suffolk County Water Authority to provide technical and administrative staff and support
- 1993: Adoption of Interim Goals and Standards for Development in the CGA
- 1994: First CGA, Core permits issued
- 1994: First litigation filed against the Commission
- 1994: Draft Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and economic analysis of the proposed development rights transfer program completed
- 1995: Adoption of the CPB Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Generic Environmental Impact Statement, and Findings Statement
- 1995: Creation of the Pine Barrens Credit Program and PBC Clearinghouse Board of Advisors through the Plan
- 1995: Creation of the Pine Barrens Law Enforcement Council (LEC) through the Plan
- 1995: Creation of the Pine Barrens Protected Lands Council (PLC) through the Plan
- 1995: Funding of the Pine Barrens Credit Program through an agreement with the NYS DEC's Natural Resource Damages Fund
- 1995: Signing of agreement with Suffolk County Treasurer to handle the Clearinghouse's funds
- 1995: Suffolk County Health Department adopts Central Pine Barrens transfer of development rights regulations to support the Pine Barrens Credit Program
- 1995: Rocky Point and Sunrise (Westhampton) wildfires, followed by the establishment of the Central Pine Barrens Wildfire Task Force (WTF) by the Commission
- 1996: First technical amendment to the Plan
- 1996: First Pine Barrens Credit Certificate issued and first conservation easement acquired
- 1996: First sale of Pine Barrens Credits on the open market (occurs in Brookhaven Town between private parties)
- 1996: Amendment of the Act to approve the Core parcel residential exemption list recommended in the original Plan
- 1996: Start of the Law Enforcement Council's Abandoned Vehicle Helicopter Airlift Program with the NY Army National Guard's Aviation Support Facility

- 1996: Establishment of the Pine Barrens Research Forum
- 1997: First sales of Pine Barrens Credits within Riverhead and Southampton Towns
- 1997: First purchase of Credits by the Clearinghouse, from a 47.9 acre parcel along the Peconic River in Riverhead, in exchange for a conservation easement
- 1997: PLC's first major field project, a two day cleanup of the Hot Water Street and Toppings Path areas in Manorville and Calverton
- 1997: Conclusion of Commission's first land use violation case (which was in the Core Preservation Area) with a stipulation agreement for a fine and dedicated trail easement.
- 1997: First prescribed burn in the Central Pine Barrens, at the NYS DEC's Rocky Point Natural Resource Management Area, conducted by NYS Forest Rangers
- 1997: Commission logos (regular and student logos) are selected through a public contest
- 1997: 100th acre is placed under a Pine Barrens Credit Program conservation easement
- 1997: LEC undertakes community service project to airlift new bridge into Montauk portion of Paumanok Path
- 1998: 50<sup>th</sup> abandoned vehicle airlifted from CPB by the LEC and NY Army National Guard
- 1998: Addition of the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge to both the Central Pine Barrens and the Core Preservation Area
- 1998: First interagency NY Wildfire and Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA) held as an ad hoc training session
- 1999: Formal "adoption" of the NYWIMA by the Commission
- 1999: Adoption of the Central Pine Barrens Fire Management Plan
- 1999: Purchase and installation of the Commission's fire weather station, complementing the Wertheim Refuge station, and signing of an agreement with SCWA to house the station at a SCWA wellfield and assumption of responsibility for daily fire danger rating broadcasts via SC Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
- 1999: Anti-dumping program and 1-877-BARRENS hotline are introduced
- 1999: LEC undertakes community service project for Southold Town to remove abandoned vehicles from Fishers Island
- 1999: First intermunicipal transfers of Pine Barrens Credits occurs with the transfer of 0.20 Credit from the unincorporated area of Southampton to Quogue Village through the SC Health Dept.
- 1999: Drought and fire danger monitoring result in coordinated interagency closure of public lands through the WTF's Public Education Committee
- 1999: Commission receives favorable decision in first litigation regarding Credit Program allocations to specific parcels
- 1999: First direct auction to the public of Pine Barrens Credits previously purchased and held by the Clearinghouse

- 1999: Town Boards of East Hampton and Southampton pass resolutions regarding possible expansion of CPB area (Southampton later rescinded; no expansion occurred)
- 2000: Installation and dedication of the first Smokey Bear Daily Fire Danger roadside sign at Southaven County Park
- 2000: PLC commences “5S Process”, a consensus effort to identify major conservation “systems”, “stresses”, “sources of stress”, and other attributes of CPB resources
- 2000: American Planning Association's (APA) National Audio Conference on "Transfers of Development Rights" includes Commission and Credit Program
- 2001: Second amendment of both the Plan and the Act to approve an expanded Core parcel residential exemption list
- 2001: First “reverse auction” held by Clearinghouse to purchase Pine Barrens Credits from private landowners
- 2001: Approval of an international “twinning” agreement with Migliarino - San Rossore - Massaciuccoli Regional Park of Tuscany, Italy (due to 9/11/01 events, agreement is not actually signed until 2004)
- 2002: “Wildfire Safety and Awareness” video is produced by the WTF’s Public Education Committee
- 2002: First intertown redemption of Pine Barrens Credits occurs with the transfer of total of 0.45 Credit from the Brookhaven Town to Southampton Town through the SC Health Dept.
- 2003: PLC finalizes “5S Process” for ecological consensus analysis begun in 2000
- 2003: Amendment of Pine Barrens law to provide both civil and criminal enforcement penalties for violations
- 2003: Commission assists with the formation of the Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast (FERN) as a private 501(c)(3) foundation to assist the Upton Reserve and facilitate scientific research in the greater CPB and Pine Barrens Maritime Reserve areas
- 2004: Inclusion of the fire weather station in the satellite based, federal GOES network (Geostationary Orbiting Environmental Satellite) of the US Forest Service
- 2004: Adoption of a Land Use Complaint Investigation Protocol
- 2004: Signing of the international “twinning” agreement with Migliarino - San Rossore - Massaciuccoli Regional Park of Tuscany, Italy at the October Research Forum
- 2004: Plan amendment to recommend change in law restricting government entities to only be able to seek compelling public need permits in the Core area (i.e., excluding them from receiving “extraordinary hardships” in the Core)
- 2004: Commission receives a \$175,000 donation for use by Law Enforcement Council as part of a NYS DEC settlement with a private firm outside the pine barrens
- 2005: Pine barrens law is amended and now restricts government to only seeking

- compelling public need permits in the Core area (as per 2004 Plan amendment)
- 2005: An instructor's version of the Wildfire Safety and Awareness video is released by the WTF's Public Education Committee
- 2005: Purchase of 300 acres in dwarf pine barrens by State and County is assisted by Pine Barrens Credit Program
- 2005: 1000th acre is placed under a Pine Barrens Credit Program conservation easement
- 2005: Commission completes first Staffing and Administrative Needs Report to guide future focus, expansion, budget and hiring
- 2006: Commission hires first dedicated personnel for Land Use Planning
- 2006: \$5 million dollar, 10 year loan for starting up the Credit Program is returned to NYS DEC by Commission; approximately \$3 million remains for PBC Program
- 2006: Suffolk County Water Authority receives American Water Works Association's Source Water Protection Award, based in part upon its involvement with protecting the Central Pine Barrens
- 2006: Pine Barrens Act becomes Title I of ECL Article 57 and Peconic Bay Region Watershed Protection Act becomes Title II
- 2006: Total monetary value of Pine Barrens Credit sales from 1995 to date exceeds the \$20 million level
- 2006: First region wide Invasive Plants Assessment summer field project and internship
- 2006: ATV Damage Mitigation Project starts
- 2006: Commission cosponsors "Regional Planning Comes of Age Conference" in New Jersey commemorating 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NJ Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan
- 2007: Commission hires first dedicated personnel for Compliance and Enforcement, and for Environmental Education and Outreach
- 2007: Pine Barrens Credit Program sales exceed \$25,000,000 since inception of Program.
- 2008: Commission partners with Long Island Maritime Museum to sponsor first year of the Barrens To Bay summer discovery program for elementary school students.
- 2008: Dedication of Dwarf Pine Plain Trail informational kiosks in Westhampton.
- 2008: Commission adopts the Fire Tower Project Feasibility Report and authorizes preparation of next design steps.
- 2008: Pine Barrens Credit Program staff and Suffolk County Health Department staff complete an analysis of all Credit redemptions through the Health Dept.
- 2008: Commission initiates a Committee Structure and Needs study through the Advisory Committee.
- 2008: Nassau County Council of the Boy Scouts of America enrolls the 403 acre Camp Wauwepex Scout Camp in the Pine Barrens Credit Program, placing a conservation easement on the largest single tax parcel to date to be enrolled in the Program.