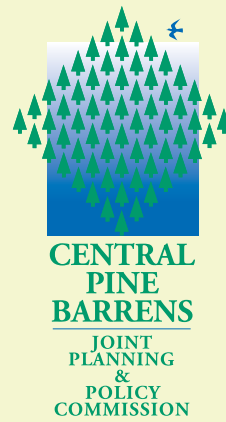




Illegal ATV use and dumping are destroying this precious ecosystem
But you can help stop the destruction with a simple call to the authorities



This brochure illustrates what you can do as a guardian of the Pine Barrens



Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission

The Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission was established by the state legislature to protect water and preserve other natural resources in the Central Pine Barrens region. In addition to its regional land use planning, land preservation, and regulatory functions, the Commission supports relevant scientific research and oversees the work of its Protected Lands Council, Law Enforcement Council, and Wildfire Task Force. These three stewardship councils consist of government agencies at every level, non-profit groups and volunteers working to protect Long Island's priceless ecosystem, the Pine Barrens.

For more information, visit the Commission's web site at www.pb.state.ny.us



Report non-emergency violations to the Law Enforcement Council at 1-877-BARRENS

There's a crisis in the Pine Barrens . . .



Defend the Barrens

There will always be some who fail to appreciate nature's gifts. Sadly, there is dumping in our Pine Barrens. Household trash, business garbage, even junk cars. Dumping yard waste in the woods can introduce threatening non-native species to the Pine Barrens ecosystem, and clearing and construction are largely prohibited in the Pine Barrens. The use of "quads," dirt bikes and other All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) are among the greatest threats to the Pine Barrens ecology. They scare wildlife, destroy plants, destroy nature trails, ruin the soil, and can increase the risk of wildfires. They are NEVER legal on public lands and roads. Riders will face heavy penalties, impoundment or even forfeiture of their ATVs.

Be a grownup scout. Lend your eyes and ears to protecting this natural world. Don't just shake your head and sigh.

Report transgressions. We'll do the rest. The Pine Barrens Commission's Law Enforcement Council has set up a hot line for non-emergency situations, when no immediate response is required. **Just call 1- 877-BARRENS. In an emergency, when immediate response is needed, never hesitate to call 911 and follow up with a call to 1- 877- BARRENS. It doesn't have to be a life or death situation. If you think the law is being broken or the Pine Barrens jeopardized, call for help.**

DO NOT intervene personally. As angry as you get when you see nature desecrated, don't put yourself at risk. You've done your part just by reporting bad behavior.

With your help we can stop illegal activity and protect this great natural treasure so that the special place we know as the Pine Barrens can be enjoyed and appreciated by all.

The Pine Barrens is Yours

The Long Island Pine Barrens is the island's premier ecosystem. It sits atop the greatest quantities of the purest drinking water and boasts the greatest diversity of plants and animals anywhere in New York State. Formed by a unique set of geological conditions over 15,000 years, it was protected by a state law in 1993 that created a forest preserve covering over 100,000 acres.

Now that most of the Pine Barrens land has been permanently preserved, Long Island's challenge is to protect it. That's where you come in.

Once, the biggest threat to this great natural treasure was over-development. Amidst a region dominated by suburban sprawl lies a great oasis – the Central Park of Long Island. Its rivers, ponds and meandering streams; its wetlands and woodlands; its greens and blues and browns are yours and mine. But we must protect them for our children and grandchildren.



Enjoy the Barrens

There's something for everyone to do in the Pine Barrens! Walk a secluded trail. Take a fast-paced hike or a quiet, peaceful stroll. See amazing birds, wild animals and colorful flowers everywhere. Climb a hill, relax by a lake, or run through a meadow.

Visit a maple swamp, see a stand of Atlantic white cedar, or walk through shaded oak-pine forests and waist-high huckleberry thickets. Trek the Paumanok Path, escape to the Quogue Wildlife Refuge, or visit the globally rare Dwarf Pine Plains.

Study the Calverton Ponds, canoe the Carmans River or kayak at Red Creek. Ride a horse at Southaven County Park or a mountain bike at the Rocky Point preserve. Hunt, fish or camp. Take wonderful pictures. Get lost in space and time.*

* Permits may be required for some of these activities. For more information contact the public land owner or visit http://pb.state.ny.us/recreation/recreation_brochure.pdf