



**CENTRAL PINE BARRENS
JOINT PLANNING & POLICY COMMISSION**
624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978
631-288-1079
info@pb.state.ny.us
<https://pb.state.ny.us>



**Central Pine Barrens
Joint Planning & Policy
Commission**



A ONE-OF-A-KIND ENVIRONMENTAL TREASURE

Our Mission

To manage land use within the Central Pine Barrens to protect its vital groundwater and surface water and the region's vast and significant natural, agricultural, historical, cultural and recreational resources for current and future Long Island residents.



- 1 Our Mission
- 2 About the Central Pine Barrens
- 3 Message from the Executive Director
- 4 Compliance and Enforcement Division
- 6 Environmental Education and Outreach Division
- 8 Science and Stewardship Division
- 10 Land Use and Planning Division
- 12 New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy
- 14 Pine Barrens Credit Clearinghouse
- 16 Commission Members and Staff
- 17 Staff Photo

ABOUT THE CENTRAL PINE BARRENS

- Region created via New York State approval in 1993 of the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act
- The goals of the Act were the protection of groundwater supplies and the preservation of the area's vast and significant ecological resources
- The Act created a five-member Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission with members representing the state, Suffolk County and the Towns of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton
- The Act also created and mandated the implementation by the commission of the Central Pine Barrens comprehensive Land Use Plan, which guides the management of land use in the region
- The commission meets monthly with day-to-day operations managed by a staff of professionals



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

To all who love the Central Pine Barrens:

The Central Pine Barrens region of eastern Long Island is one of the most spectacular places you will find anywhere, a treasure of ecological diversity, culture, historical significance and boundless recreational opportunities. This has been true since a group of dedicated individuals and elected officials pushed for and ultimately brought to reality the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act, saving the region from unchecked development.

But the needs of the region are different now than they were when the Act became law in 1993, and so the mission of the Central Pine Barrens Commission and its staff has changed accordingly. A primary focus of the commission has always been, and continues to be, the meticulous management of development in both the region's Core Preservation Area and Compatible Growth Area. Nearly 30 years later, though, that mission has evolved to include the ecological management of the now nearly 106,000-acre region, perhaps most notably through the commission's work in mitigating the damage to our native pitch pines caused by the southern pine beetle and the launch of a comprehensive prescribed fire program to guard against the ravages of wildfire.

These and many other developments are covered in this report, which has been redesigned to show the region in all its splendor. I hope you enjoy the new design, and I hope you will take the time to explore the Central Pine Barrens and discover all it has to offer.

If we can answer any question for you about any aspect of our work or about the Central Pine Barrens, please do not hesitate to call us at 631-288-1079.

Judith Jakobsen

Judith Jakobsen

Executive Director, Central Pine Barrens
Joint Planning and Policy Commission

PROTECTING SENSITIVE LANDS

The Compliance and Enforcement Division coordinates enforcement matters pertaining to Article 57 of New York State Conservation Law, the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act. With numerous federal, state and local jurisdictions having oversight responsibilities within the region, the division's role is essential in protecting the ecological resources of the Central Pine Barrens.

In 2021-22, the division:

- Documented 132 new investigations and incidents.
- Investigated 70 solid waste complaints resulting in tens of thousands of dollars in fines levied.
- Documented instances of illegal activity at Suffolk County Water Authority well sites.
- Honed their skills at piloting drones used to monitor various conditions and activities within the Central Pine Barrens, helping to make drones an essential tool in protecting the region.
- Interfaced regularly with members of the Law Enforcement Council, code enforcement officials, town attorneys and other municipal officials to deter encroachment and other illegal activities in a coordinated fashion.
- Aided in details to curb the illegal use of ATVs and other off-road vehicles within the Central Pine Barrens. In 2021, coordinated law enforcement details led to the impound of 43 ATVs and 46 other off-road vehicles and the issuance of 93 ATV-related summonses and 50 summonses concerning other off-road vehicles.
- Improved use of computerized complaint system. Division is in the process of transitioning to fully computerized records.

132

DOCUMENTED NEW
INVESTIGATIONS AND
INCIDENTS

70

SOLID WASTE
COMPLAINTS
INVESTIGATED





Environmental Education and Outreach division

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN

The Environmental Education and Outreach Division creates, organizes and leads a wide range of public forums and events geared primarily toward helping children gain a lasting appreciation for the Central Pine Barrens region and all it has to offer.

In 2021-22, the division:

- Reached approximately 8,000 children and adults through speaking engagements, events and school programs.
- Coordinated in-person “A Day in the Life” events with local schools on the Carmans, Nissequogue, Forge, Connetquot, Carlls and Mill Rivers as well as within the Massapequa Preserve and Peconic Estuary. Additional programs were held on Greens and Bedell Creek; on Fire Island; and at Gardiner County Park..
- Partnered with various school districts and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory’s DNA Learning Center on the lab’s “Barcode Long Island” project. (In 2021, the focus was on macro-invertebrate barcoding.)
- Educated 200 children at the annual “Barrens to Bay” summer camp, held in conjunction with Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge.
- Created an interactive Pine Barrens Discovery Day, including scavenger hunts at various locations within the Central Pine Barrens. (COVID-19 protocols prevented the traditional full Pine Barrens Discovery Day festivities.) Participants submitted videos of their experiences, with awards offered to those finding the most items.
- Presented at programs and conferences including the Climate Reality Project New York Coalition and Citizens Climate Lobby on topics including climate change on Long Island, Central Pine Barrens ecology and Long Island biodiversity. Served as keynote speaker for the New York State Educators Association, Save the Great South Bay and the Seatuck Environmental Association.
- Developed new marketing tools to better promote division activities.



8,000
CHILDREN AND ADULTS REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

200
CHILDREN EDUCATED AT THE ANNUAL “BARRENS TO BAY” SUMMER CAMP

ADDRESSING REGIONAL ECOLOGICAL THREATS

The Science and Stewardship Division conducts a wide variety of activities designed to improve forest health, increase diversity of Central Pine Barrens-dependent species and enhance the public's awareness of the region's ecology, especially as it relates to ecological restoration and prescribed fire.

In 2021-22, the division:

- Finalized and adopted the landmark Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Prescribed Fire Management Plan, which provides essential guidance for jurisdictions seeking to conduct prescribed fire within the region.
- Fully outfitted burn program with purchase of two Type 7 fire engines, trailers and a full cache of equipment.
- Hired first seasonal prescribed fire squad including a squad boss and four crew members to facilitate the first full season of interagency prescribed fire operations in the Central Pine Barrens.
- Finalized Sarnoff West burn plan.
- Conducted prescribed fire operations on 218 acres of grasslands in 2021 and 315 acres in 2022 as well as 56 acres of woodlands, the most currently underway in the region.
- Created and distributed materials to the public, including a notification card, social media, a video and a webpage, to educate them about the importance of prescribed fire. The effort also included presentations to fire departments and civic associations. The division's prescribed fire work was covered extensively by the media.
- Conducted more than a dozen home assessments to help residents living in an areas of heightened wildfire risk to better protect their families and property and published and distributed a wildfire prevention guide for homeowners.
- Supported rapid detection and suppression response upon detections of southern pine beetle infestations via drone flights and ground truthing. The neo-native species has established itself as a persistent and impactful pest causing substantial loss of pitch pines. Hosted a workshop for regional land managers to help address the threat of the beetle as it spreads beyond Long Island.
- Continued collaborative partnerships with the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area and Protected Land Council partners in the management of invasive species including the purple swallow-wort, caper spurge, miscanthus sinensis and linden viburnum.
- Monitored with other agencies for the spotted lanternfly at various locations.
- Provided extensive technical assistance to the New York State Attorney General's Office with a restoration plan necessitated by a significant clearing and dumping case in the Core Preservation Area of the Central Pine Barrens.



ACRES OF GRASSLAND
ON WHICH PRESCRIBED FIRES
WERE CONDUCTED IN 2022

MANAGING AN ECOLOGICAL TREASURE

The Land Use and Planning division diligently reviews development proposals and applications under the Central Pine Barrens Commission's regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to New York State Environmental Conservation Law Article 57 and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

In 2021-22, the division:

- Completed a Preliminary Supplemental Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan Amendments.
- Managed the joint commission/United States Geological Survey five-year water resources monitoring study in the Central Pine Barrens.
- Performed site inspections and oversaw restoration activities on development project sites to confirm compliance with conditional decisions granted by the commission.
- Reviewed land use development applications for hardship waiver exemptions, assertion of jurisdiction, development of regional significance and other proposals.
- Provided comments on SEQRA coordination referrals on development projects received from the Towns of Southampton, Brookhaven and Riverhead, Suffolk County and New York State. These projects included residential, commercial, industrial land use-related actions, such as zone changes. Approximately 76 referrals, inquiries, applications and requests for activities were received.
- Participated in the committees of the Peconic Estuary Partnership.
- Assisted with Freedom of Information Law requests concerning land use development projects.
- Monitored compliance with decisions made by the commission.

76

REFERRALS, INQUIRIES,
APPLICATIONS AND
REQUESTS FOR ACTIVITIES
RECEIVED

New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy

TRAINING TOMORROW'S HEROES

The New York Wildfire and Incident Management Academy has provided essential training in wildfire and brushfire response for local and regional firefighters and agencies with responsibilities for wildfire prevention and response for nearly 20 years.

In 2021, the academy was severely limited to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic; the spring academy was reduced to three classes and the fall academy was postponed until 2022.

In 2022, spring and fall academies were held at Stony Brook Southampton University. A total of 120 students attended the spring academy, taking the following classes:

- Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior
- Wildfire Chainsaws
- Portable Pumps and Water Usage
- Firefighter Type 1
- Firing Operations
- Task Force/Strike Leader
- Command and General Staff
- All-Terrain Vehicle and Driver Operations
- Off-Highway Vehicle basic Driver Course

The fall academy included many of the same courses, plus:

- Initial Attack Incident Commander
- Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface
- Crew Boss
- Engine Boss
- Heavy Equipment Boss
- Medical Unit Leader
- Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination



120
STUDENTS TRAINED
DURING SPRING 2022
ACADEMY



**Pine Barrens
Credit Clearinghouse**

BALANCING DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION

The Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act specified the need for land use protection mechanisms to protect the Core Preservation Area that included the purchase of development rights that came to fruition when the 1995 Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan was completed and the Pine Barrens Credit Program was created. This program facilitates the transfer of development rights so the most environmentally-sensitive lands in the region are preserved, with the property owner securing enhanced development rights at other locations.

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan created a five-member Clearinghouse Board of Advisors to oversee the implementation of the credit program.

Owners and purchasers of pine barrens credits transact business in an open market, with all credits and transactions tracked by the clearinghouse from beginning to end.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits

(As of January 1, 2023)

	Brookhaven	2021	Riverhead	2022	Southampton	2022	Total	2022
Parcels	515	3	37	–	458	5	1,010	8
Acreage	826.71	12.16	516.78	–	876.78	0.96	2,220.27	13.112
Average parcel Size	1.61	4.05	13.97	–	1.91	0.19	2.20	1.65
Credits generated	545.46	6.97	172.39	–	338.17	6.55	1,056.02	13.52
Credits redeemed	418.65	17.80	142.25	11.09	180.83	18.38	741.73	47.27
Credits not redeemed	126.81	-10.83	30.14	–	157.34	-11.83	314.29	-33.75
Credits sold	594.99	19.6	238.09	13.19	283.02	8.44	1,116.1	41.23
Total value of PBC transactions through this date	\$33,082,519	\$1,999,100	\$9,234,147	\$1,003,400	\$19,923,082	\$729,640	\$62,239,748	\$3,372,140
Average credits value	–	\$101,995	–	\$76,073	–	\$86,450	–	\$90,520
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	0.54	–	–	–	–	–	0.54	–
# of Inspected CE Parcels	–	55	–	6	–	12	–	73
# of Installed CE Signs	134	11	18	5	92	6	244	22

Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission

Robert Calarco
Chairman

Steven Bellone
Member and County Executive
*Designated Representatives: Dorian Dale, Sarah
Lansdale, Andrew Freleng*

Yvette Aguiar
Member and Riverhead Town Supervisor
Designated Representative: Daniel McCormick

Edward P. Romaine
Member and Brookhaven Town Supervisor
Designated Representatives: Emily Pines

Jay H. Schneiderman
Member and Southampton Town Supervisor
*Designated Representatives: Janice Scherer,
Martin Shea*

Staff

(as of December 2022)

Judy Jakobsen, *Executive Director*

Julie Hargrave, *Manager of Policy and Planning*

Samantha Acampora, *Ecological Field Specialist*

Angela Brown-Walton, *Administrative Assistant*

Frank Carbone, *Chief Enforcement Officer*

Sabrina Cohn, *Ecological Field Specialist*

Gary Enright, *Enforcement Officer*

Katherine Malangone, *Academy Coordinator*

John Milazzo, *Legal Counsel*

Tim Motz, *Director of Communications*

Robert Panko, *Fire Management Specialist*

Melissa Griffiths Parrott, *Environmental
Education and Outreach Coordinator*

Jerry Tverdyy, *Senior Environmental Analyst*

Polly Weigand, *Science and Stewardship Manager*



2022 STAFF



The staff of the Central Pine Barrens Commission. From left: Jerry Tverdyy, Frank Carbone, Polly Weigand, Gary Enright, Samantha Acampora, Robert Panko, Tim Motz, Judy Jakobsen, Angela Brown-Walton, Melissa Griffiths Parrott, Julie Hargrave and Sabrina Cohn. Not pictured are John Milazzo and Katherine Malangone.