

THROUGH THE SEASONS:

Winter: White-tailed deer make their presence known as they scatter from shrubs. Look carefully in mud or snow for tracks of coyote, fox, raccoon and river otter. Canada Goose, Black Duck and Mallard are present in pockets of open water. Listen for Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl and Screech Owl at dusk and dawn. Spring: Listen for the trills of Pine Warbler, and the “teacher-teacher-teacher” call of the Ovenbird. Amphibians such as Pine Barrens treefrog, gray treefrog, carpenter frog, spring peeper and Fowler's toad are active. Check mossy areas, wet leaves and the vernal pools in the middle of the trail for salamanders. Look carefully for the often hidden blooms of wildflowers and orchids.

Summer: Nesting birds include Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee and Whip-poor-Will. Dragonflies and damselflies are abundant over the lake, as are Tree Swallows and Barn Swallows. Reptiles to keep an eye out for are red-bellied turtle, painted turtle, musk turtle and black rat snake. Less common reptiles that occur here include pine snake, rough green snake, king snake and spotted turtle. Watch for bats and Common Nighthawk over the lake at dusk.

Fall: Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks stop along their southbound migration to hunt in the woods and waterfowl are abundant in the lake. Occasionally, river otter and beaver can be spotted swimming. Red squirrels and Wild Turkey rustle through the understory. The fall foliage is a splendid sight to behold.

Trees

Self-guided Tour

(Look for corresponding letter on trees)

A - White Oak (*Quercus alba*)- Acorns from this tree are one of the most valuable food sources in the forest for wildlife.

B - Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)- Common in oak-pine uplands of the Pinelands.

C - Southern Red Oak (*Quercus falcate*)- This oak tree reaches the northern limit of its range in New Jersey.

D - Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*)- The most abundant tree of the Pinelands and the most important resource of New Jersey's early industrial age.

E - Short-leaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)- Commonly cultivated for lumber.

F - Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*)- Used by Native Americans for medicinal purposes. Roots of Sassafras were originally used to make the root beer.

G - Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)- One of the most common trees in New Jersey.

H - Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)- Often the first tree to change color in the fall.

I - Atlantic White Cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*)- The Atlantic white cedar is a tall evergreen tree that is actually a cypress, not a cedar. It grows in swamps, marshes and other wet areas.

Piney Hollow Preservation Area



- No Motorized Vehicles/ATV's
- No Dumping
- No Hunting/Trapping

TRAIL MAP



SITE DESCRIPTION: Piney Hollow Preservation Area consists of 222 acres of mixed forest, swamp and lakes in the Western reaches of the Pinelands National Reserve. Uplands with multiple species of oaks give way to Atlantic white cedar swamp mixed with Pitch and Short-leaf Pine, Red Maple, and an understory of mountain laurel and highbush blueberry. The trail borders McCarthy Lake, which was created from former cranberry bogs. The dikes crossing these bogs are fairly overgrown, but can be navigated enough to find vantage points from which to scan the wetlands. A wide variety of reptiles and amphibians, as well as rare plants, insects, birds and mammals can be found in these secluded woods.

DON'T MISS: Visit in July to see the wonderful display of water lilies blooming. Insect repellent is highly recommended!

Trail Legend:

Main Trail: .5 Mile

Trail 2: .6 Mile

Trail 3: .3 Mile

Dike Length: .25 Mile

Volunteers needed to help with cleanups and trail maintenance. For more information please contact the Environmental Commission through the Franklin Township Clerk's office at 856-694-1234 x7