

INTRODUCTION

Belleplaine State Forest encompasses portions of Cape May and Cumberland Counties in the Pinelands National Reserve in southern New Jersey. This 23,000-acre forest, contains the greatest variety of habitats anywhere in New Jersey, including saltwater marsh, Atlantic white cedar swamp, mixed hardwood swamp and oak-hickory forest.

HISTORY

Belleplaine State Forest was established in 1928 for recreation, wildlife management, timber production and water conservation.

In 1933, three Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were set up in the area as a result of the Civilian Conservation Corps Reforestation Relief Act. The men of camp S-63 were housed in buildings within Belleplaine State Forest. They supplied labor to the forest for over an eight-year period. During their time here they converted Meisle Cranberry Bog into Lake Nummy, a popular swimming, boating and fishing area.

The CCC also constructed the original forest headquarters (now the interpretive center), maintenance buildings, a road system, bridges and dams.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

There are over forty miles of trails in Belleplaine State Forest for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Other activities include swimming at Lake Nummy, hunting, fishing, camping and stargazing. Belleplaine is a well-known birding spot, especially during the spring migration.

NJ Forest Service Management - This state forest contains stands of pine, oak and Atlantic white cedar trees, reflecting differing soil conditions and intensity of wildfire than found in the Pine Barrens. Various demonstrations of reforestation and silviculture are conducted in such forest stands to improve and adapt to the forest's needs.

Swimming

Swimming is permitted, while lifeguards are on duty, from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day. The beach area in the Lake Nummy Day Use Area includes parking, changing rooms, restrooms, showers, a first-aid station, playgrounds and a concession building where food and beach supplies may be purchased. Inner tubes, rafts and other flotation devices are not permitted in the swimming area. Only U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are allowed. Pets are prohibited on the beach. These facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Boating

Small boats or canoes may be launched near a floating dock on Lake Nummy and from a boat launch ramp at East Creek Pond. Powered boats are limited to electric motors only. Canoes are rented at Lake Nummy during the summer months. A U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) is required for each person on board a watercraft. Boaters in vessels under 14 feet or in a canoe or kayak must wear their PFD.

Picnicking

Family picnic facilities are attractively placed in a shaded area near the beach. Charcoal grills, tables and restroom facilities are available. An athletic field is located nearby and is ideal for softball games, kite flying and various field sports. Two reservable group pavilions offer secluded settings, parking and are ADA accessible.

Groups of 20 or more people need to reserve picnic facilities at least five days in advance. Such group use is not permitted on holidays except as authorized by the superintendent. For more information and to make a reservation contact the forest office.

Special Events

Many varied special events, such as weddings, endures, astronomy viewing, triathlons, volunteer efforts, etc., are scheduled throughout the year. Groups seeking information and permission to conduct similar gatherings must contact the Forest Superintendent for proper planning.



Camping

Within walking distance of Lake Nummy are three camping areas: CCC, Meisle Field and North Shore with a total of 170 family campsites. Each site offers a picnic table and fire ring. Most sites will accommodate a travel or camp trailer. Flush toilets, hot showers and laundry facilities are provided in each camping area. There is a dumping station for trailers located in the CCC camping area, as well as water and electric hookups.

Sanitary facilities in the North Shore and Meisle Field camping areas are accessible to persons with disabilities. The Meisle Field is open throughout the year.

Fourteen fully enclosed lean-tos and five shelters are located in the Meisle Field camping area. Each lean-to consists of one unfurnished room, which can accommodate up to six persons and the sites offer an outdoor picnic table, fire ring and charcoal grill. In the winter, an indoor propane heater provides adequate heat.

Each shelter contains 2 double bunk beds, accommodating a maximum of 6 persons. The shelter sites each have an outdoor picnic table, fire ring and charcoal grill. All lean-tos and shelters are accessible to individuals with disabilities and are available year-round. Two group sites are located .5 miles west of Lake Nummy along Dean's Branch Road. Each site can accommodate 50 people. Water and sanitary facilities are provided onsite and camping is offered year-round.

Reservations can be made up to 11 months in advance by visiting, www.camping.nj.gov or in person at the forest office.



Trails

The 7.16 mile "East Creek Trail" connects Lake Nummy to East Creek Pond. In addition, the forest has over 40 miles of marked, designated trails provided for hiking, biking, horseback riding and snowmobiling/cross-country skiing when conditions permit. Many of these trails are bisected by gravel and hard surface roads.

Two self-guided interpretive trails, totaling almost a mile, are designed to show visitors a cross section of the forest's natural attractions. Trail 1, marked in white, forms a loop and is connected to Trail 2, which is marked in yellow by a wooded arch bridge.

The trail experience begins in the picnic area and is completely accessible to individuals with disabilities, the first such trail established in New Jersey's Parks System.

A careful observer on this short walk can discover many species of trees, shrub, wildflowers and animals native to the area, including Bald eagles. It is also possible to see, or find signs of, deer, coyote, bobcat, fox, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, red and gray flying squirrels, muskrat, beaver and several kinds of smaller rodents.

Travel over forest roads by licensed and insured motor vehicles is permitted. Certain portions of the network are closed to all motor vehicles and are routinely patrolled by Park Police.

Eagle Fitness Trail

A self-guided fitness trail is located between the Meisle Field and CCC camping areas. It consists of 10 physically challenging stations, spaced along a mile-long oval, gravel surfaced running track. A children's playground and a parking lot are conveniently located within a short distance of the trail.

Hunting, Fishing and Trapping

These recreational activities are permitted in the forest, subject to New Jersey DEP Fish and Game laws. For more information contact the forest office.

Fishing is permitted in Lake Nummy, East Creek Pond, Holly Lake and Cedar Lake. Typical freshwater species include pickerel, perch, catfish, largemouth bass and sunfish. A current NJ Fishing License must be in the angler's possession and displayed.

Access For People With Disabilities

Belleplaine State Forest recreational facilities are partially accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the forest office for further information regarding disability access needs. Text telephone (TTY) users, call the NJ Relay & CapTel Service at 711 or 1-800-852-7897 for English or 1-866-658-7714 for Spanish.



Be Bear Aware

Black bears are found throughout New Jersey. Do not approach or attract bears by making food available. Feeding bears is dangerous and illegal. Never run from a bear! To report an aggressive bear, call 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337) immediately. Please report any damage or nuisance behavior to the forest office. Visit New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife at njfishandwildlife.com for additional information on bear safety.



Pets

Pets must always be on a leash no longer than six feet in length and under the control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets. Pets are permitted in designated pet-friendly campsites. Pets are not permitted in overnight facilities.



Keep It Clean and Green

Bring a bag or two and carry your trash out with you. Trash cans are not provided. Don't forget to recycle!

NOT PERMITTED

ATVs, alcoholic beverages and smoking and vaping* are NOT permitted in this park.



*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

To report an emergency or suspicious activity, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911.

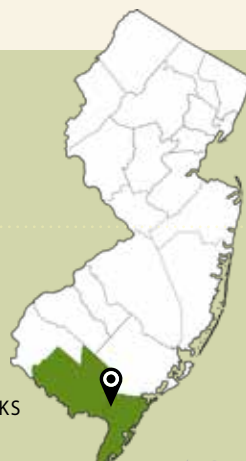


BELLEPLAINE STATE FOREST
1 Henkinsifkin Road
Woodbine, NJ 08270
609-861-2404

Directions:



NJPARKSANDFORESTS.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/NEWJERSEYSTAEPARKS
@NEWJERSEYSTAEPARKS



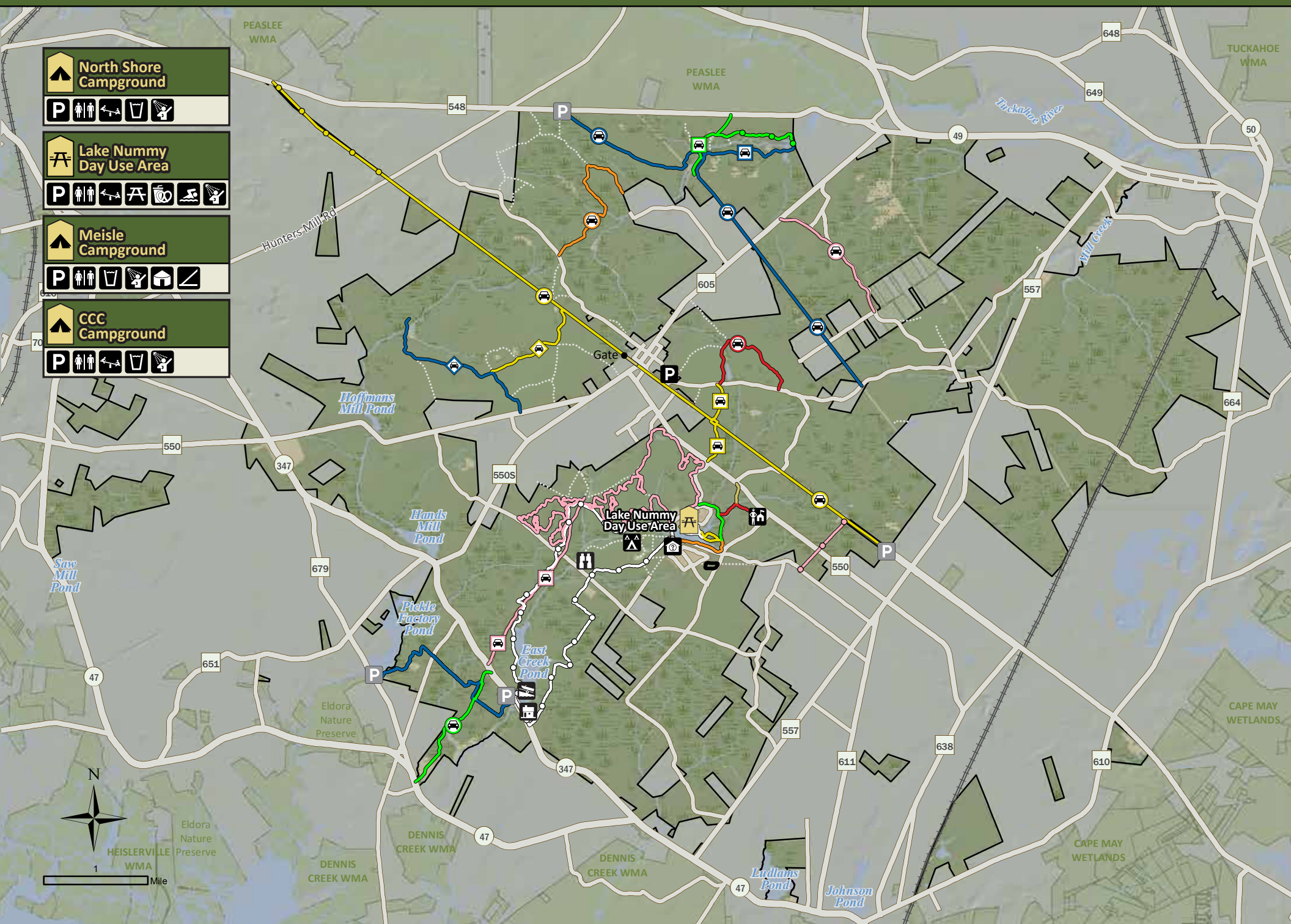
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Belleplaine State Forest



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Park Service

BELLEPLAIN State Forest



Lake Nummy Detail



Open Field or Grass	Boundary Trail (0.7 mi)	Ponds Trail (2.2 mi)	Kalker's Pond Trail (1.7 mi)	Birding	Parking Lot
Forest	Eagle Fitness Trail (0.3 mi)	Tarkiln Bogs Trail (0.85 mi)	Narrows Road Trail (1.4 mi)	Boat Launch	Parking (Pull Off)
Developed Area	East Creek Trail (7 mi)	Seashore Line Trail (1.5 mi)	Old Cape Trail (4.5 mi)	Cabin	Picnic Area
Water	Goosekill Trail (0.5 mi)	Champion Trail (0.9 mi)	Sally's Pond Trail (1.2 mi)	Campground	Playground
Wetland	Meisle Trail (0.62 mi)	Cinder Trail (0.8 mi)	Seashore Line Trail (5.8 mi)	Concession	Restrooms
	Mountain Bike Trail (9.2 mi)	Duck Pond Trail (1.8 mi)	Tom Field Trail (2 mi)	Drinking Water	Shower
	Nature Trail 1 (0.5 mi)	Dundrea Trail (1.3 mi)	Turtle Walk Trail (1.4 mi)	Interpretive Center	Swimming
	Nature Trail 2 (0.5 mi)	John's Run Trail (1 mi)	Trail Connector	Group Campground	Yurt
	North Shore Trail (0.5 mi)			Lean-to	Visitor Contact Station
				Park Office	