

Ballanger Creek Trails

The Ballanger Creek area of Bass River State Forest is a natural area that includes forested habitat, saltwater marsh and freshwater wetlands. Once cranberry bogs, the site has been the focus of intensive conservation efforts, including habitat restoration, debris removal and replanting.

Field Trail

Yellow dot • 0.4 miles • Hiking

Easy • Loop trail through restored meadow

Trailhead: At the signed parking area on south side of Route 9. **Field Trail** is a short loop through a meadow in the middle of a restoration process. A combination of prescribed burns, replanting and wildflower enhancement is bringing this field back into a natural state.

Creek Trail

Red dot • 1 mile • Hiking

Moderate • Loop trail along Ballanger Creek

Trailhead: At the signed parking area on south side of Route 9. **Creek Trail** follows both sides of Ballanger Creek and marsh. This loop trail roughly follows the waters edge and crosses a series of short boardwalks.

Forest Trail

Green dot • 0.6 miles • Hiking

Easy • Loop trail through pine and oak woodland

Trailhead: From the Creek Trail after crossing to east side of Ballanger Creek. **Forest Trail** is a short loop that follows a six- to eight-foot-wide grassy road through a section of woods.

Explore Trail Tracker
The Interactive Trails
Map of NJ State Parks



spstrailtracker.nj.gov

This brochure was funded by Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY

Trail Markings: Official trails are marked by colored blazes on posts and trees. For your safety and habitat protection, please stay on the trails and do not alter trail markings or create new trails. Be aware of changing trail conditions.

Be Prepared: Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when you expect to return.

Hunting: Sections are open to hunting. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season.

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 and take the waste with you.

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!

Tick Protection: Bring insect repellent, wear light-colored clothing, tuck pants into socks, stay on trails, check yourself thoroughly, shower and launder clothes immediately.

Report Trail Issues: 1-609-296-1114

Emergency Numbers:
1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911



BASS RIVER STATE FOREST

762 Stage Road
Bass River Twp, NJ 08224
609-296-1114

Mailing Address
762 Stage Rd
Tuckerton, NJ 08087

Directions: Bass River State Forest is about 25 miles north of Atlantic City and six miles west of Tuckerton. From GSP South take Exit 52 and follow signs. From GSP North take Exit 50 and follow signs.



NJPARKSANDFORESTS.ORG



FACEBOOK.COM/NEWJERSEYSTAEPARKS



@NEWJERSEYSTAEPARKS

CMY 9/23

TRAILS

Bass River State Forest



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Park Service

TRAILS OF BASS RIVER STATE FOREST

Bass River State Forest offers over 23 miles of official, blazed trails. There are 13 marked trails within the forest: 10 trails in and around the Lake Absegami Day Use Area and 3 trails around the Ballanger Creek area. Many trails are multiuse (hiking, biking, horseback riding), but trails close to the day use area are hiking only. Look for permitted uses on the signs.

Absegami Trail

Silver • 0.4 miles • Hiking

Easy • Nature trail near forest office

Trailhead: Road to group campground.

Absegami Trail is a short interpretive trail that traverses the Absegami Natural Area through typical pine barrens landscape, including a pine-oak forest and an Atlantic white cedar swamp. The trail is along a wide gravel path and elevated wooden boardwalk as it explores these landscapes.

Batona Trail

Pink • 7 miles (in Bass River) • Hiking

Moderate • Long distance hiking trail

Trailhead: At Dan's Bridge Road or 1.1 miles west of the forest entrance on the north side of Stage Road. At 53 miles, **Batona Trail** is a long-distance trail that begins in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. The Batona (**BAck-TO-NAture**) Trail connects three state forests in the heart of the New Jersey Pinelands. The last 7 miles of the Batona Trail are in Bass River State Forest.

CCC Trail

Orange • 4 miles • Multiuse

Easy to moderate • Winding sandy paths

Trailhead: Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. Named for the Civilian Conservation Corps, **CCC Trail** follows a network of sand roads and sandy paths as it winds through pine and scrub oak and skirts a large marsh along the Bass River. As it nears E. Greenbush Road (CR 654), the trail passes a series of stone foundations from the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps camp, then leads to the Bass River State Forest Firefighters Memorial.

Connector Trail

Light Brown • 0.5 miles • Hiking and biking

Easy • Flat sand road

Trailhead: Off group campground road and turns left (northwest). **Connector Trail** follows a four- to six-foot-wide straight, sand trail. It rejoins the North Shore Campground road and serves as an alternate to taking the road to North Shore Campground.

Falkinburg Trail

Purple • 3 miles • Multiuse

Easy • Trail around east side of forest

Trailhead: Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **Falkinburg Trail** crosses Stage Road then splits with Nisky Trail. Falkinburg Trail then heads northeast adjacent to the Garden State Parkway and the forest boundary to join with the far end of Poppy Allen Trail. The trail traverses a small pine plantation that was planted in the 1920s.

Joe's Trail

Letters "JT" on white • 0.65 miles • Hiking

Easy • Follows lake edge

Trailhead: Across the road from forest office.

Joe's Trail is a two- to three-foot-wide sand path that follows the south shore of the lake and ends at a large historic picnic pavilion at the South Shore Campground.

Nisky Trail

Green • 1.7 miles • Multiuse

Easy • Trail on sand roads

Trailhead: Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **Nisky Trail** crosses Stage Road then follows a network of sand roads through pine forests. This trail is named for John Nisky who was a member of the CCC Camp, Co. 225.

North Shore Trail

Blue • 0.6 miles • Hiking

Easy • Connects day use area to North Shore Campground

Trailhead: North of day use area parking lot.

North Shore Trail is a two- to four-foot-wide pine needle covered sand path that joins with the North Shore Campground road as it nears the campground. This road and the northern section of North Shore Trail are closed in winter.

Poppy Allen Trail

Yellow • 3.1 miles • Multiuse

Easy • Trail through oak and pine forest

Trailhead: North of day use area parking lot.

Poppy Allen Trail follows four- to five-foot-wide, flat, pine needle covered paths and some short sections of sand roads. The trail makes a large open loop, winding through mature pine-oak forest. At the far end, it connects with Falkinburg Trail and leads back to the south end of the group campground road. This trail is open to multiuse outside the day use area. "Poppy" Allen was the first caretaker of Bass River State Forest in 1905.

South Shore Trail

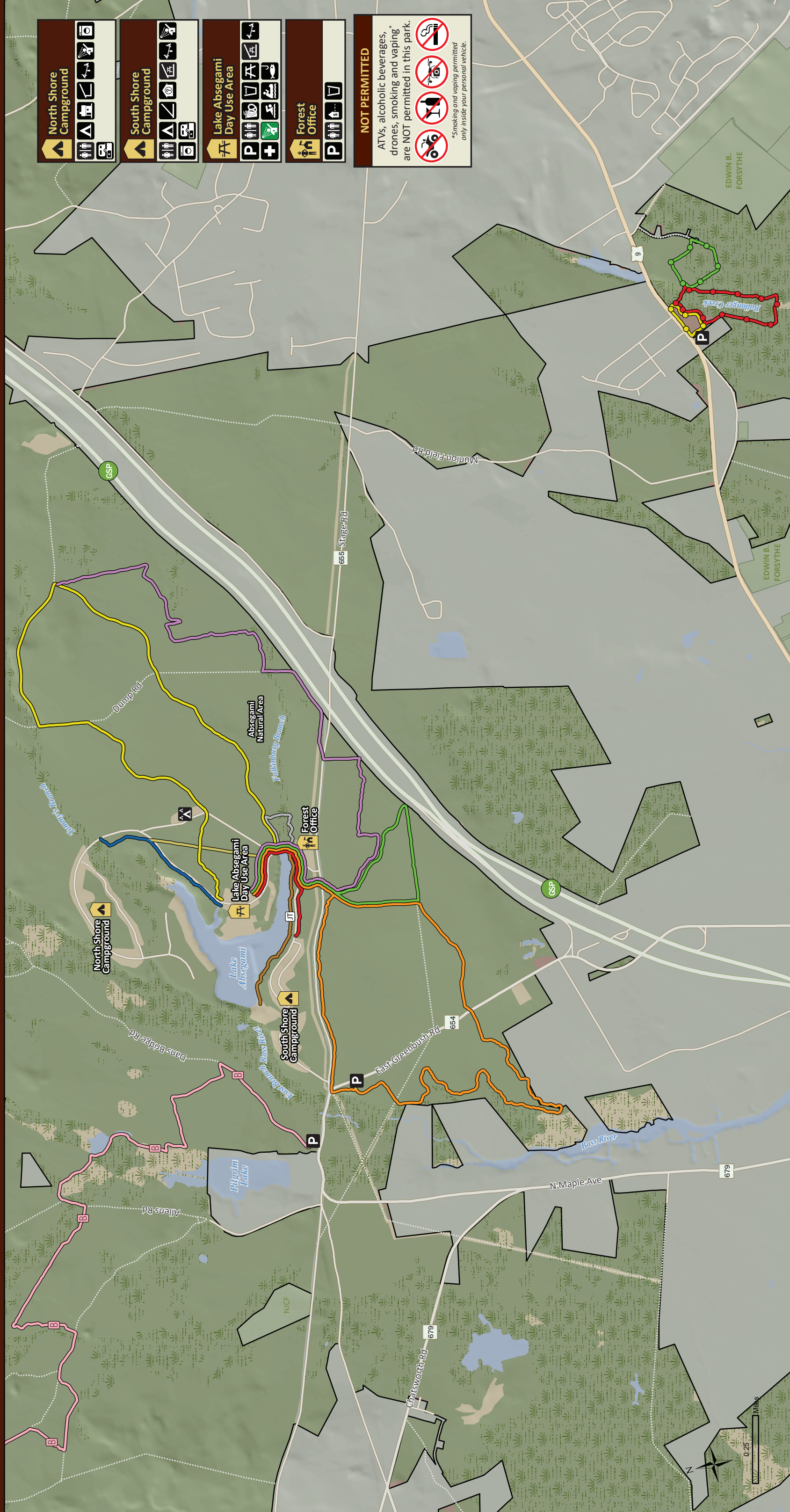
Red • 0.6 miles • Hiking

Easy • Main trail from day use area to South Shore Campground

Trailhead: Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **South Shore Trail** connects the day use parking area with the south shore camping area. This trail runs from the parking area to the forest office and then parallels the south side of the South Shore Campground road.



BASS RIVER State Forest



North Shore Campground

- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Forest Office
- Group Campground

South Shore Campground

- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Forest Office
- Group Campground

Lake Absegamii Day Use Area

- Parking
- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Forest Office
- Group Campground

Forest Office

- Parking
- Restroom
- Drinking Water
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Forest Office
- Group Campground

NOT PERMITTED

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

- ATV
- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Vaping
- Drones

*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

- Open Field or Grass
- Forest
- Water
- Wetlands
- Improved Road
- Unimproved Road
- Absegamii Trail (0.4 mi)
- Batona Trail (7 mi)
- CCC Trail (4 mi)
- Connector Trail (0.5 mi)
- Falkinburg Trail (3 mi)
- Joe's Trail (0.65 mi)
- Nisky Trail (1.7 mi)
- North Shore Trail (0.6 mi)
- Poppy Allen Trail (3.1 mi)
- South Shore Trail (0.6 mi)
- Field Trail (0.4 mi)
- Creek Trail (1 mi)
- Forest Trail (0.6 mi)
- Boat Launch
- Cabins
- Campground
- Canoeing
- Concession
- Drinking Water
- First Aid
- Fishing
- Forest Office
- Group Campground
- Interpretive Center
- Laundry
- Lean-to
- Outdoor Shower
- Parking Lot
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Shelter
- Shower
- Swimming
- Trailer Sanitary Station
- Visitor Contact Station