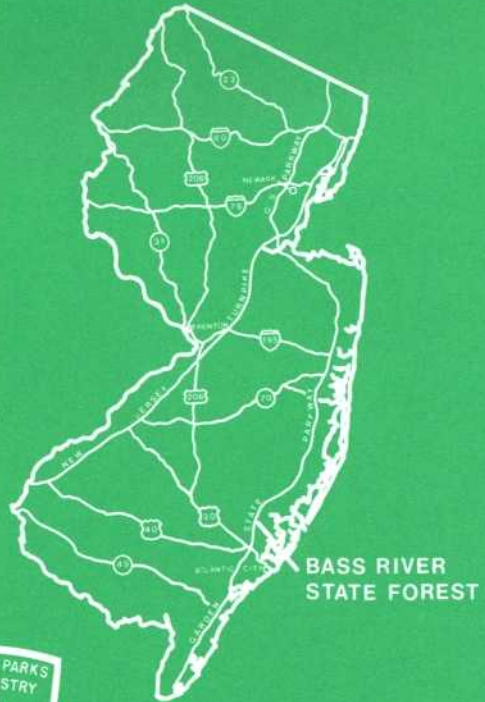




New Jersey Division  
of Parks & Forestry

# BASS RIVER STATE FOREST



Department of Environmental Protection



## Bass River State Forest

Bass River State Forest consists of 18,208 Acres (7,283 ha.) within the Pine Barrens of Burlington and Ocean Counties. Located in Bass River Township, the forest is about 25 miles north of Atlantic City and 6 miles west of Tuckerton. It is conveniently accessible from US route 9 and the Garden State Parkway (S. Exit 52, N. Exit 50).

## History

The State of New Jersey began acquiring land for Bass River State Forest in 1905. In the 1930's, 2 streams flowing through the park were impounded creating a 67 acre lake (27 ha.) which became the center of recreational activities. In the early 1940's, forest officials built fire lines and safety strips to prevent fires in the area. Bass River State Forest was created for public recreation, water conservation, wildlife and timber management.

## Park Features

### *Absegami Natural Area*

The Absegami Natural Area was designated to preserve native plants and animals. A half mile self guided nature trail, beginning at the eastern arm of Lake Absegami near the entrance road, provides a cross-section of typical pine, oak woods and a small white cedar bog. The visitor to this area may be able to observe a variety of birds and animals common to the area.

A Nature Center, located in the south camping area, serves as a contact point for nature study. Nature walks should be arranged in advance by contacting the Nature Center.

## Park Activities

### *Bathing*

The forest has a bathing area with lifeguard supervision during the summer located on the Eastern shore of Lake Absegami. Nearby are parking areas, a bathhouse, first aid station and a concession stand offering refreshments, novelties and beach supplies.

### *Picnicking*

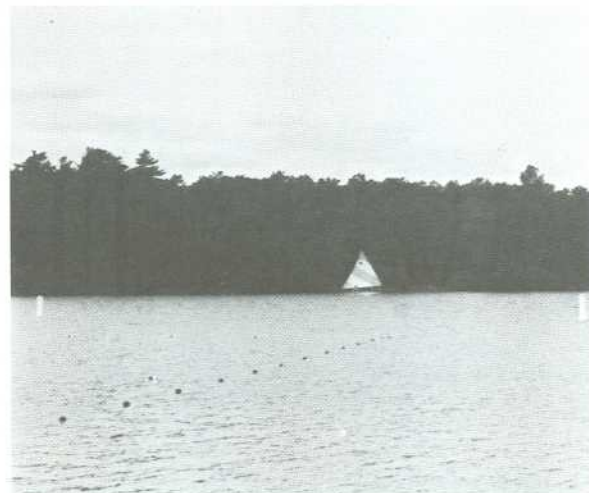
Picnic facilities are provided for family outings in attractive settings adjoining the bathing beach. An athletic field for games and playground equipment for children are nearby.

Charcoal grills are provided, but grills may be supplied by the visitor subject to approval by forest personnel. Fires are restricted to the above areas only.



### *Boating and Canoeing*

Lake Absegami offers a tranquil boating or canoeing experience. A boat and canoe concession is operated during the summer months. Powered boats are limited to electric motors only. Coast guard approved life preservers are required for each occupant.







## **Camping**

Well-spaced, in a wooded environment near the lake, are 178 family campsites. Each site has a picnic table, fire ring and a graded space for a tent or tent trailer. Dumping stations for trailers are nearby, but there are no water, electric or sewer connections for trailers available.

Six fully enclosed lean-to's, also situated along the lake, are available for year-round camping. Each lean-to consists of 1 unfurnished room accommodating up to 6 persons. There is a small stove for heating. Each site has a picnic table and charcoal grill.

There are 3 group campsites located east of the lake. Each site can accommodate up to 50 campers.

Drinking water, flush toilets, hot showers and laundry equipment are within walking distance of all sites. Pets are prohibited in all overnight facilities.

One-third of the family campsites are reservable in advance. Group sites must be reserved at least 5 days in advance. Please consult the forest office for further details.

## **Hunting and Fishing**

Hunting is allowed in large parts of the forest and is subject to New Jersey's Fish, Game and Wildlife laws. Game found in the forest include deer, rabbit and grouse. Contact the forest office for further details.

Fishing is permitted subject to New Jersey's Fish, Game and Wildlife laws. Freshwater fishing species are mainly pickerel, sunfish and catfish.

## **Hiking, Horseback Riding and Motorized Vehicles**

The forest has miles of sand and gravel roads open for year-round hiking and horseback riding. The use of forest roads by some motorized vehicles is permitted. Certain portions of the road network are closed to all motor vehicles. Contact the forest office for further details.

## **Cabins**

Six rustic cabins are located along a secluded wooded shore of Lake Absegami. Accommodating 6 persons, the cabins have a living room with fireplace, bathroom, 2 bunk rooms, full kitchen and screened porch.

Six camp shelters are also available beside the lake shore. Fully enclosed, each contains a small living room with Franklin stove for heating, bunk accommodations for 4 persons and a table and benches. Each site has an outdoor charcoal grill for cooking, but there is no running water or electricity available.

Details on reservations can be obtained from the forest office.



## *Help Us Maintain a Clean and Attractive Forest*

Litter and debris along roads and in recreation areas detracts from the beauty of the forest and increases our maintenance expense. Please leave the forest as attractive as you found it so others may enjoy all that it has to offer. The forest is open during daylight hours throughout the year.

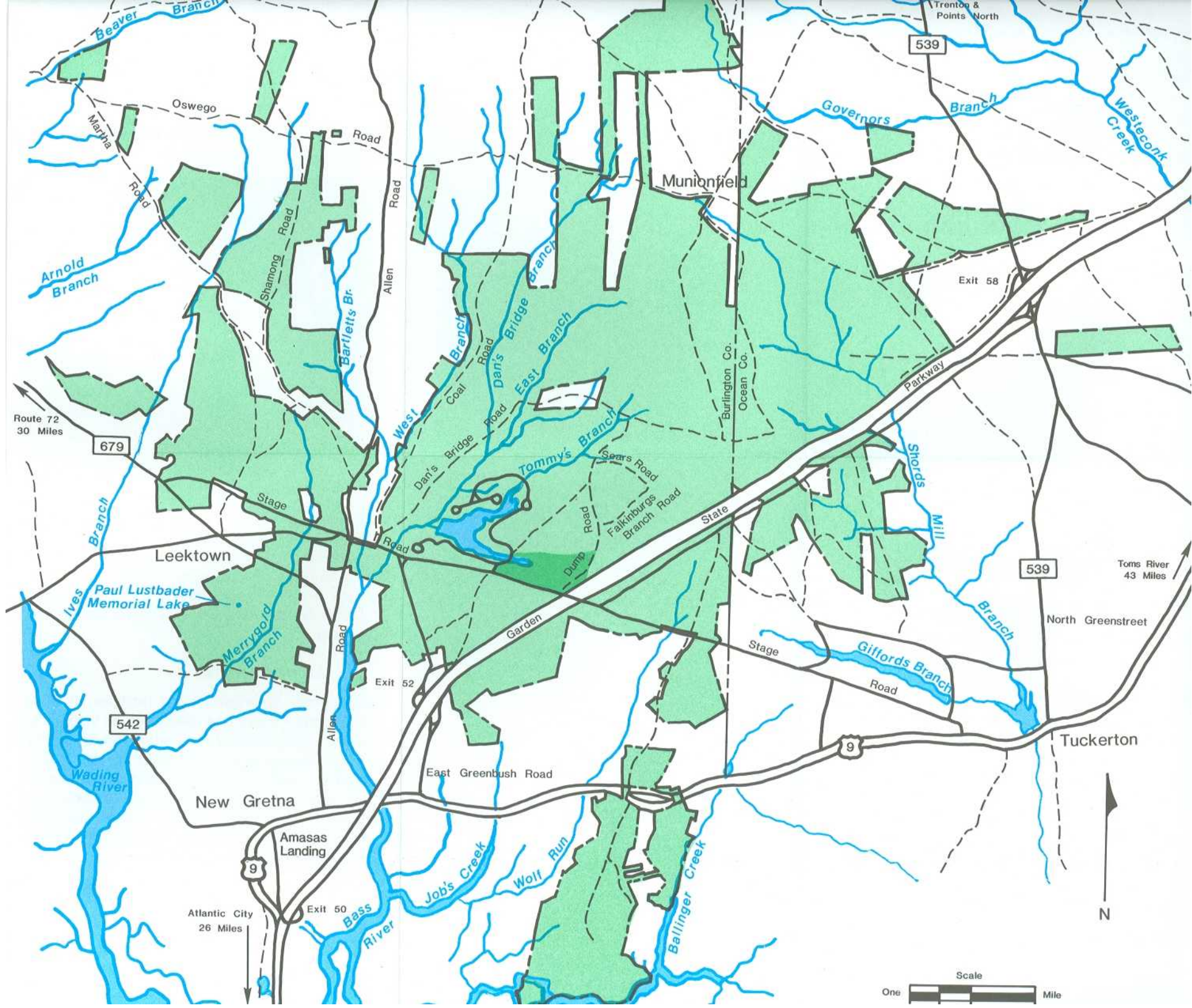
## *Administration*

New Jersey is proud of the facilities at Bass River State Forest and welcomes all visitors to the area. New Jersey residents who are either senior citizens age 62 or older or totally disabled are entitled by law to free admission. A free pass is issued by the Division of Parks and Forestry field offices. Please consult the park office for further details. For further information on the park, contact:

Bass River State Forest  
P.O. Box 118  
New Gretna, New Jersey 08224  
Telephone: (609) 296-1114















If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Department of Environmental Protection or the Office for Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.








# Legend

-  Park Office
-  Parking
-  Camping
-  Restrooms
-  Laundry-Shower House
-  Picnic Area
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Playground
-  Swimming
-  Trailer Dumping Station
-  Handicapped Accessible
-  Natural Area
-  Canoe Rental
-  Boat Launch Area

1.  Indicates Campsite Number
2. South Shore Campsites 9 - 22 are Reserved Sites.  
North Shore Campsites 94 - 123 are Reserved Sites.
3. Group Sites Require a 5 - day Advanced Notice.

