



Source: Southampton Press, May 3, 2012



Igniting Change for Safer Communities



**Presentation by
Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning
and Policy Commission Staff:**

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Central Pine Barrens / Central Pine Barrens Commission

Why be concerned about wildfires
on Long Island

Wildfires and Structure Survival

CommunityWise - Home Ignition Zone Approach
Reducing the Ignition Potential of Your Home

Central Pine Barrens Commission Prescribed Fire Program

Central Pine Barrens Area

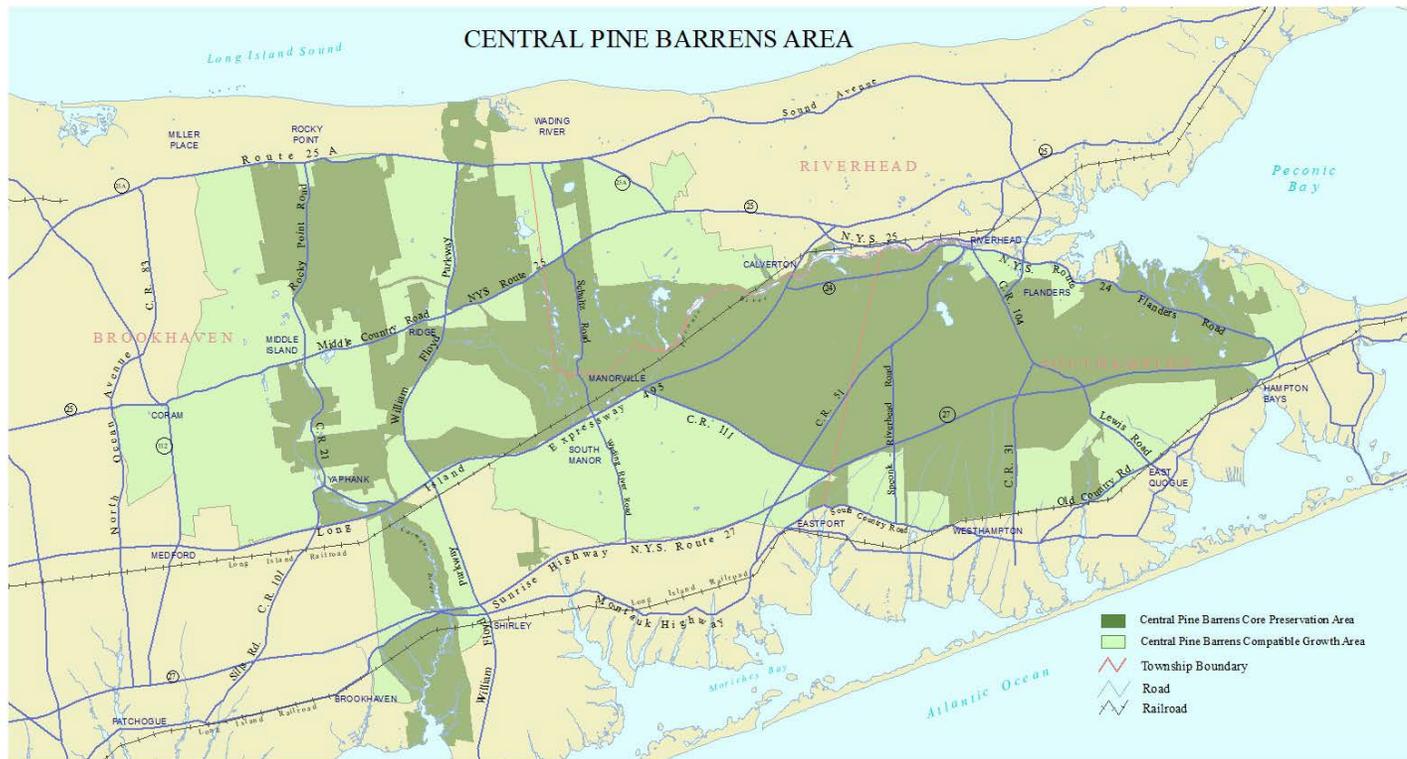
Created in 1993
NYS legislature – ECL Article 57
Long Island Pine Barrens
Protection Act

Largest remaining natural area on
Long Island

106,482 acres

Core Preservation Area
57,817 acres

Compatible Growth Area
48,665 acres



Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning & Policy Commission



5 Member Commission

- Governor's representative
- Suffolk County Executive
- Town Supervisors (Brookhaven, Southampton and Riverhead)

Duties of a state agency, planning board and park commission

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.”



Fire opens cones
allowing seeds to
release

Pine Barrens Fire Adapted Ecosystems

Fire is essential process in the life cycle of fire adapted ecosystems to regenerate and stay healthy.

Examples:

- Pitch pine-scrub oak barrens
- Pitch pine – oak heath
- Dwarf Pine Plains

Fire replenishes soil nutrients

- Removes dead and dying vegetation
- Creates conditions for healthy re-growth



Thick Bark
Plates

Epicormic
buds

Why be Concerned on LI?

Approx. 800 brush fires occur each year in Suffolk County

Brush fire season:

Spring and Late Summer

Causes:

Accidental or Arson

Rarely from lightning since usually accompanied by rain



Rocky Point and Sunrise Wildfires August 1995



What is the Problem?

Years of fire suppression to protect structures and the public has caused increased build up of dead vegetation (fuels) and overgrowth of vegetation in natural areas, creating potentially hazardous wildfire conditions should an ignition occur.



Rocky Point

Approximately 7,000 acres burned

400 people evacuated their homes

Occurred at height of tourism season for eastern Long Island



Impacts from Wildfire

Large economic impact to area homeowners and business owners

Displacement of homeowners

Impact to natural resources
loss of habitat, flora & fauna



Crescent Bow Wildfire 2012
Ridge and Manorville
1,200 acres burned

Wildfire Protection and Prevention Planning



Increasing development in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Communities at greater risk to loss of and damage to homes and property from wildfire

Commission Response

After 1995 Wildfires

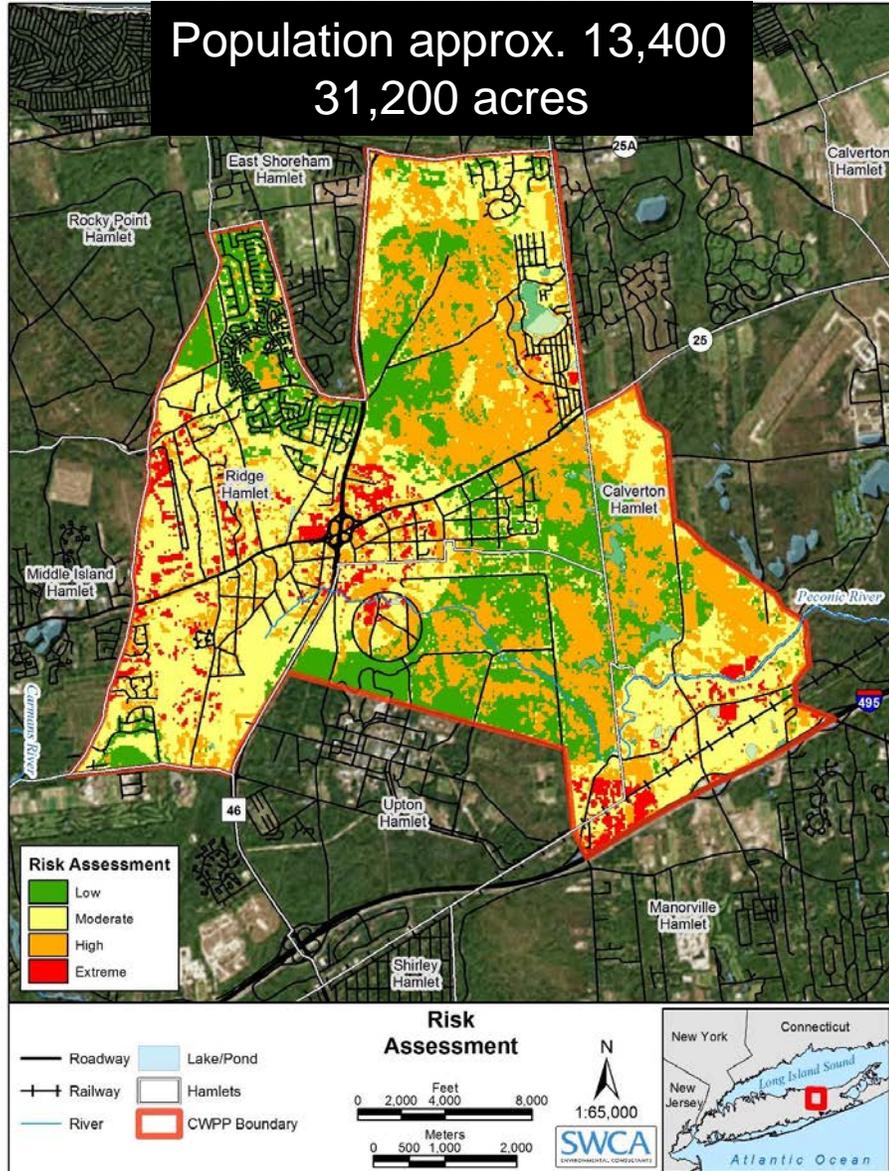
- created 42 member Wildfire Task Force
- Fire Management Plan created in 1999 (pre-fire planning for wildfire suppression response)
- Fire Weather Station – Daily Fire Danger Rating
- NY Wildfire & Incident Mgmt Academy

After 2012 Crescent Bow Wildfire

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

2021 Comprehensive Prescribed Fire Management Plan and Prescribed Fire Program

Population approx. 13,400
31,200 acres



Data Sources: ESRI ArcGIS Online World Imagery & The National Map (LANDFIRE). Accessed: January 2018. Created: 1/19/2016. Updated: 3/17/2016.

Ridge-Manorville-Calverton CWPP

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment on public land that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure and recommends measures to reduce structural ignitability throughout the at-risk community.

A CWPP may address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, or structure protection or all of the above.

Plan Strategies and Recommendations (public outreach, **home assessments**, workshops, wildfire mitigation (prescribed fire & mechanical fuel treatments etc.))

How do some houses survive a Wildfire?

1994-1998 US Forest Service research, post-fire investigations and using fire science examined factors that enabled certain homes to survive a wildfire relatively unscathed while adjacent homes were completely destroyed.



Based on fire science and research by the US Forest Service, it was found that a crown fire (fire in the top of trees) would have to be:

- <100 feet from a structure to ignite a wood wall.
- At 33 feet away, only a few ignitions occurred. (helped establish the need for 30 feet of survivable space around a home to protect it from igniting).
- Embers from a fire can travel up to 2-5 miles from a fire front and ignite combustible materials on a property. Most common cause for loss or damage to a structure.

Home Ignition Zone approach to protect structures from wildfire

CommunityWISE Program



Topics Covered

- Ignition sources
- Defensible Space
 - Home Ignition Zones
 - Firewise Construction and Landscaping
- Free Wildfire Prevention Home Assessments

Protecting the Home

Ignition Sources

***Ember Attacks:** Burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind.*

***Surface Fires:** Small fires burning through grass or ground litter.*

***Crown Fire:** Large flames burning in the tops or canopies of trees.*

(Source: NFPA)



Defensible Space

Home Ignition Zones

The Immediate Zone (0-5 feet from the home, including the home)

The Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet from the home)

The Extended Zone (30-100+ feet from the home)

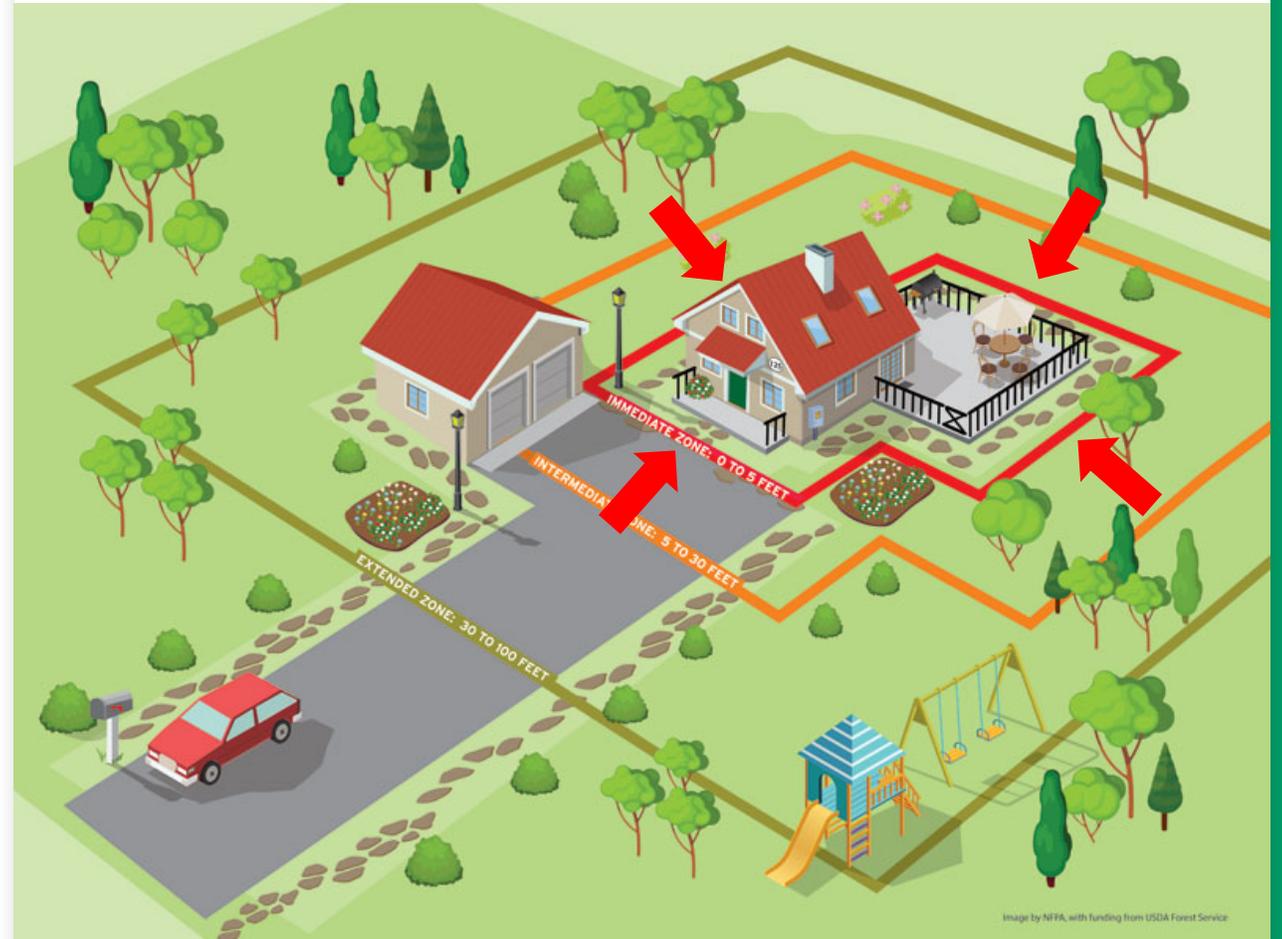
(Source: NFPA)



The Immediate Zone

0-5 feet from the home, including the home

- Most vulnerable to embers
- Install hard surfaces
- No wood mulch
- Use non-combustible landscaping
- Avoid storing combustible materials (Firewood, Propane Tanks, etc.)
- “Hardening” home (more in following slides)



Source: NFPA

The Intermediate Zone

5-30 feet from the home

- Create fuel breaks
- Keep lawn mowed and well watered
- Remove ladder fuels
- Tree spacing
 - >18 ft. between crowns
- Break up continuity of vegetation

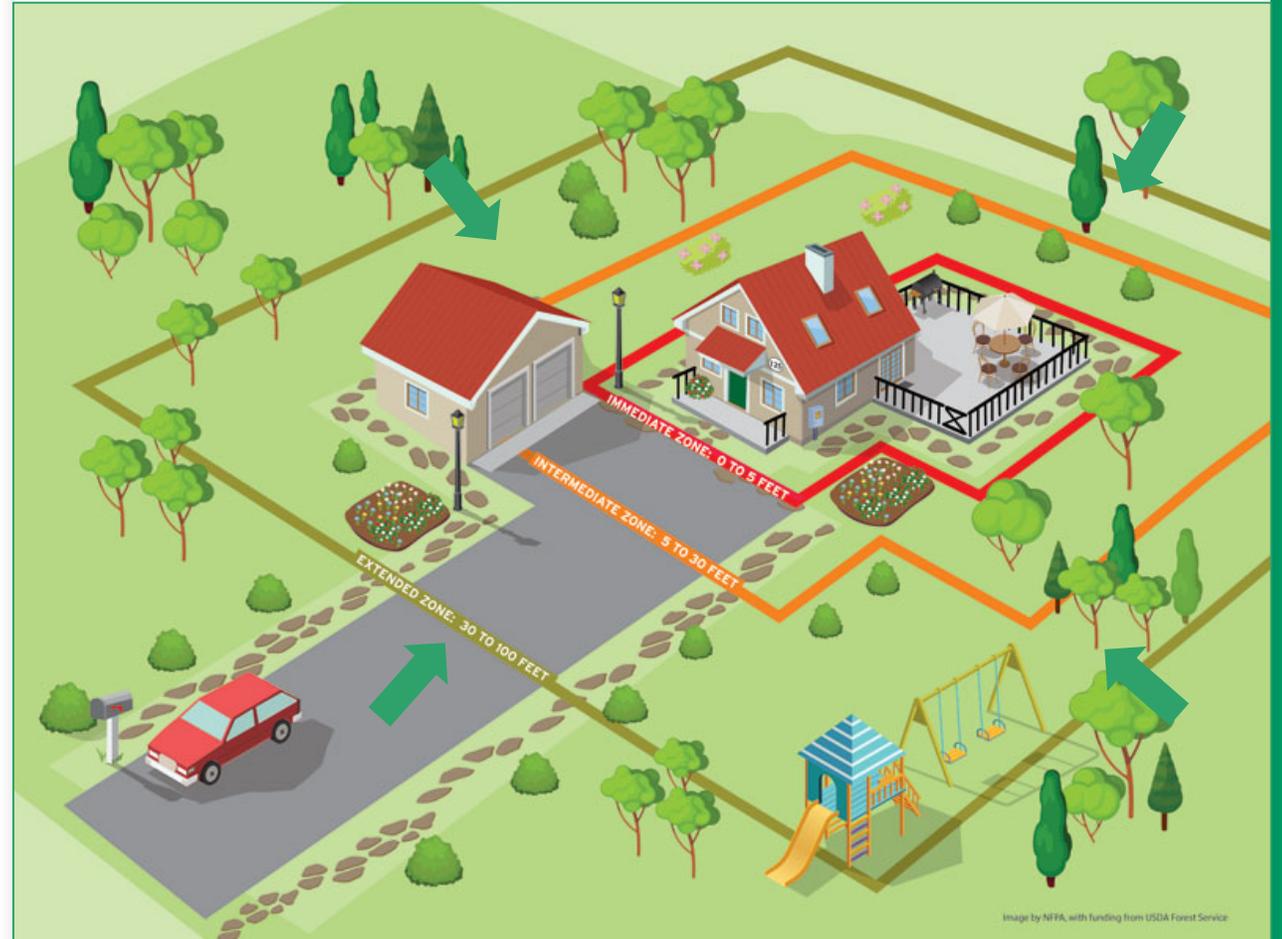


Source: NFPA

The Extended Zone

30-100+ feet from the home

- Remove litter and debris on ground
- Remove dead plant material
- Remove vegetation adjacent to sheds or outbuildings
- Tree Spacing
 - 30-60 ft. from house (>12 ft. between canopy tops)
 - 60-100 ft. from home (>6ft between canopy tops)



Source: NFPA

Hardening the Home



Roof and Chimney

Eaves, Soffits, and Gutters

Windows and Vents

Siding

Decks and Porches

Garage

Fencing

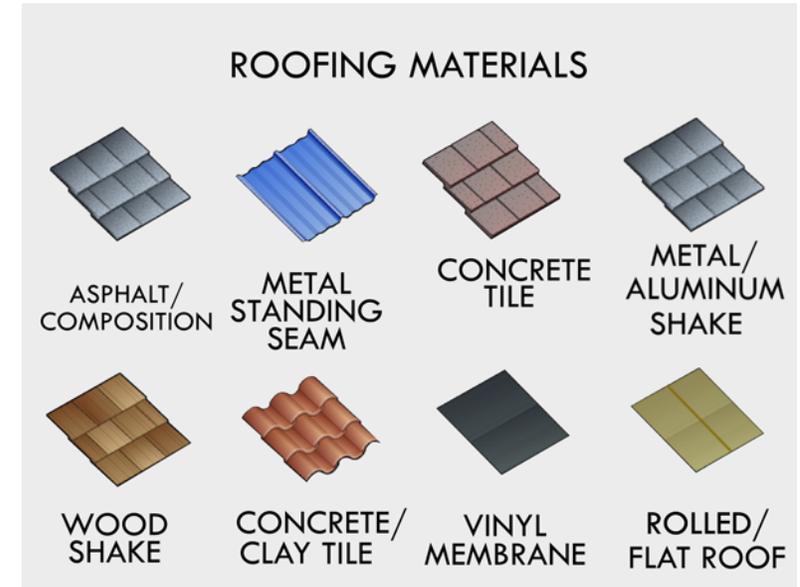
1. Roof and Chimney

Roof Material and Condition

- **Combustible Materials:** Wood shake
- **Non-Combustible Materials:** Class A fire rated (e.g. metal, concrete, and asphalt)
- No gaps or missing shingles
- Remove leaf litter and debris

Other

- Skylights (acrylic dome vs glass) and solar panels
- Leaf and debris accumulation
- Overhanging branches
- Chimney cap and spark arrestor



2. Eaves, Soffits, and Gutters

Materials and Specification

- Combustible Materials: Vinyl and wood
- Non-Combustible: Aluminum
- Vent openings: <math><1/8</math> inch.
- Exposed rafters
- Gutter guards

Condition

- Gaps or holes
- Litter and debris



3. Windows and Vents

Materials

- Tempered glass (double pane)
- Trim
- Screens

Condition

- No cracks or holes in glass or screen
- Vegetation <3ft from window
- Screen in vents <1/8 in. openings



4. Siding

Materials

- Combustible: Wood and Vinyl
- Non-Combustible: Brick, fiber cement board, stucco, or aluminum

Condition

- Holes and gaps
- Paint



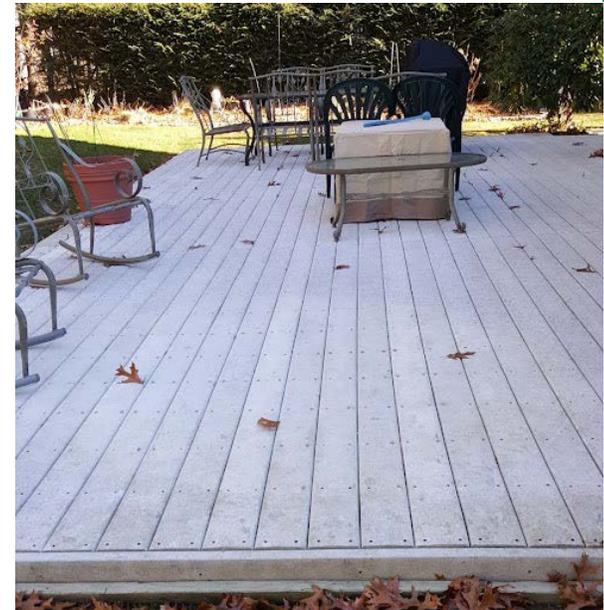
5. Decks and Porches

Materials

- Combustible: Wood
- Non-Combustible: Metal
- Skirt and Railing

Condition

- Remove flammable furniture, cushions, rugs, and propane tanks during fire season
- Screen in raised decks/porches
- Remove leaves and woody debris



6. Garage

Materials

- Trim

Condition:

- Gaps
- Damaged windows
- Remove flammable materials during fire season



7. Fencing

Materials

- Combustible: Wood, Vinyl
- Non-Combustible: Metal
- Separate wooden fences from the house with a metal barrier or install a metal fence section or gate.

Vegetation

- Trim overhanging and touching vegetation





8. Landscape Vegetation

Fire Resistant Plants

- Hardwood/Herbaceous
- High moisture content
- Little or no seasonal accumulation of dead vegetation



Highly Flammable Plants

- Conifers/Hollies
- Low moisture content
- Retain dead material
- Contain volatile substances (ie. Oils, resins, wax, pitch)



Additional Ways to Prepare for a Wildfire

Emergency Responder Access: Driveway, House Number

Emergency Action Plan: Evacuation Checklist and Emergency Bag

Water Supply: Spigots and Garden Hoses

Update Insurance and Home Inventory

REMEMBER!

BE LEAN, CLEAN AND GREEN!

THINK LIKE AN EMBER!

Free Wildfire Prevention Home Assessments

for Residents within the

Ridge, Manorville, Calverton Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Boundary

USFS Cooperative Forestry Assistance Grant for Wildfire Risk Reduction

The Central Pine Barrens Commission is offering **free wildfire prevention assessments** to homeowners who live in the Ridge-Manorville-Calverton Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) area that includes Ridge and portions of Manorville and Calverton.

What's involved?

A wildfire prevention specialist will review the exterior of your home and yard to identify areas vulnerable to wildfire. It takes about 1 to 1.5 hours to complete and then a customized written report will be sent to you with recommendations to reduce your home's wildfire vulnerability.

This is a voluntary program with no obligation to implement the suggestions offered.

To schedule an appointment call 631-563-9755 or email CommunityWise@pb.state.ny.us

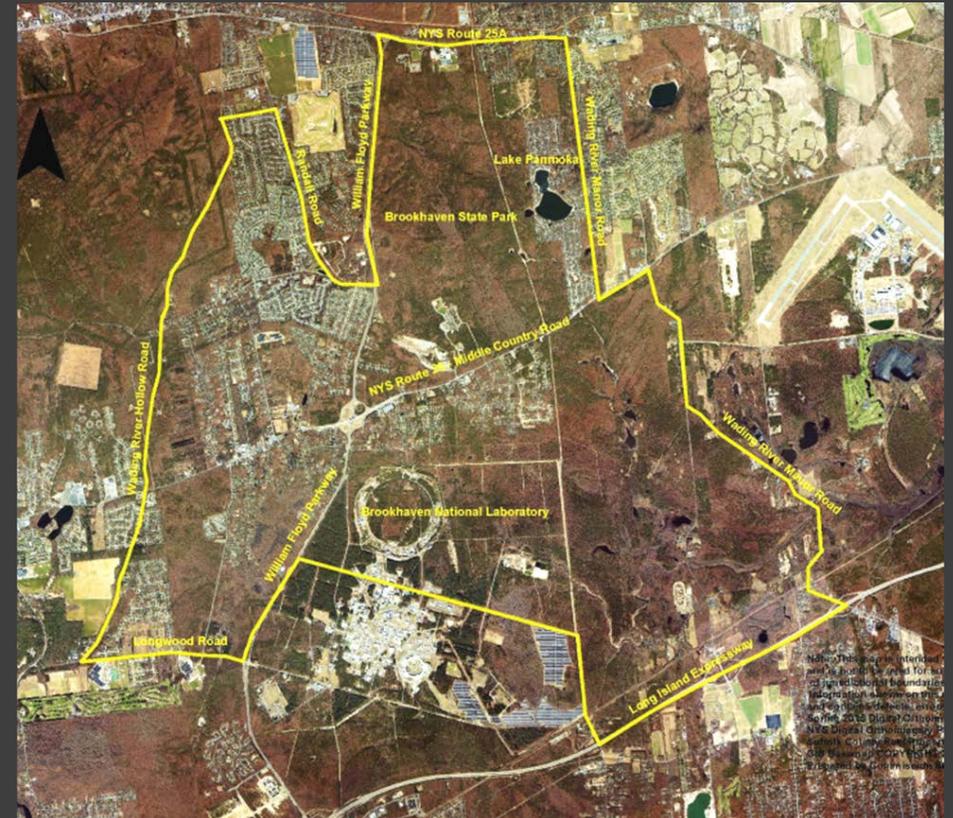
Don't let this happen to your home!
FREE Wildfire Prevention Home Assessments



2012 Crescent Bow Fire—photo courtesy of the Center Moriches Fire Department

ACT NOW!

For a limited time only, **funding is available** to reimburse homeowners located in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan area **up to \$5,000** for eligible and approved wildfire mitigation projects.



Ridge Calverton Manorville CWPP Boundary Map

Sign Up: CommunityWise@pb.state.ny.us

Additional Resources

National Fire Protection Association

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA>

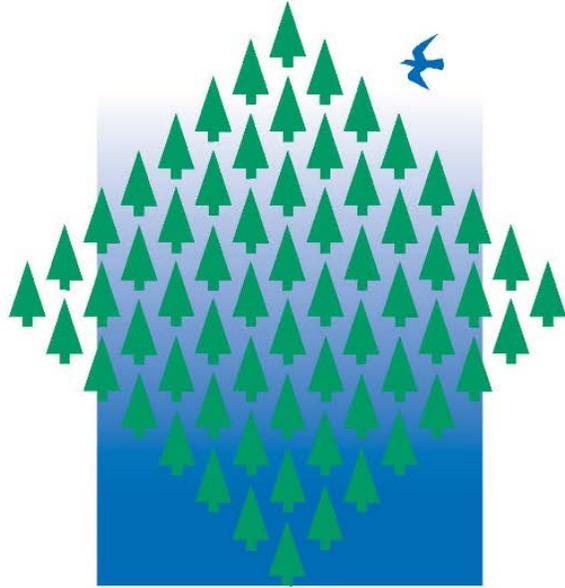
Ready, Set, Go!

https://www.wildlandfirersg.org/s/are-you-wildfire-ready?language=en_US

Video

IBHS Wildfire Research

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQIHtMQ_y5k



**CENTRAL
PINE
BARRENS**

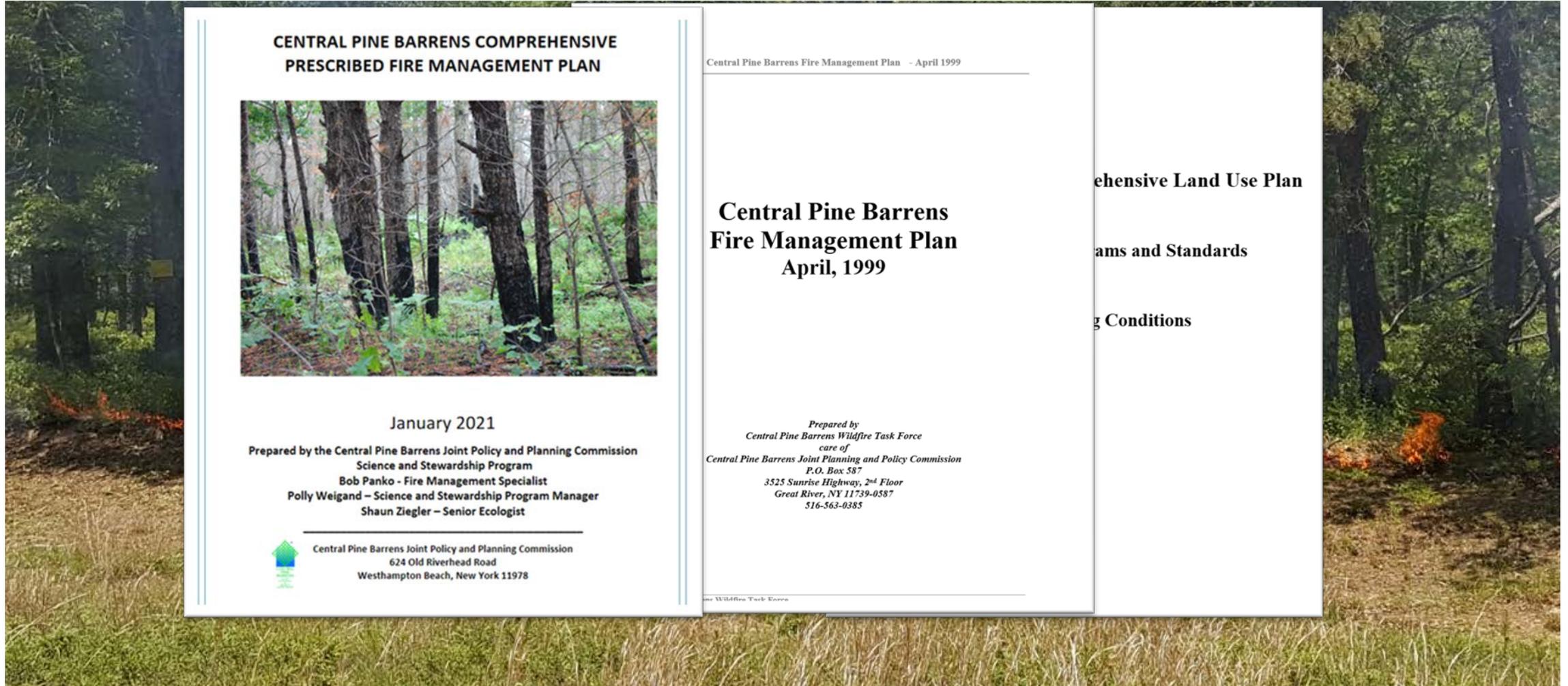
**JOINT
PLANNING
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POLICY
COMMISSION**



Central Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Program

Protecting Public Safety and Ecological Health

Why Prescribed Fire?



“Managing Fire with Fire”

Recent Trends in Fire History:



TEN LARGEST WILDFIRES
1930-2021
CENTRAL PINE BARRENS

0 2.5 5 Miles



Trend:

- From 1930 to 2000 - Multiple large fires (100 acres or greater) in every decade.
- Since 1995 - There has only been 1 large fire!

Implication:

- Inconsistent w/fire history
- Fuels are accumulating
- High risk for intense wildfire
- Demonstrates need for prescribed fire

1. Improve Public Safety by Reducing Wildfire Risk

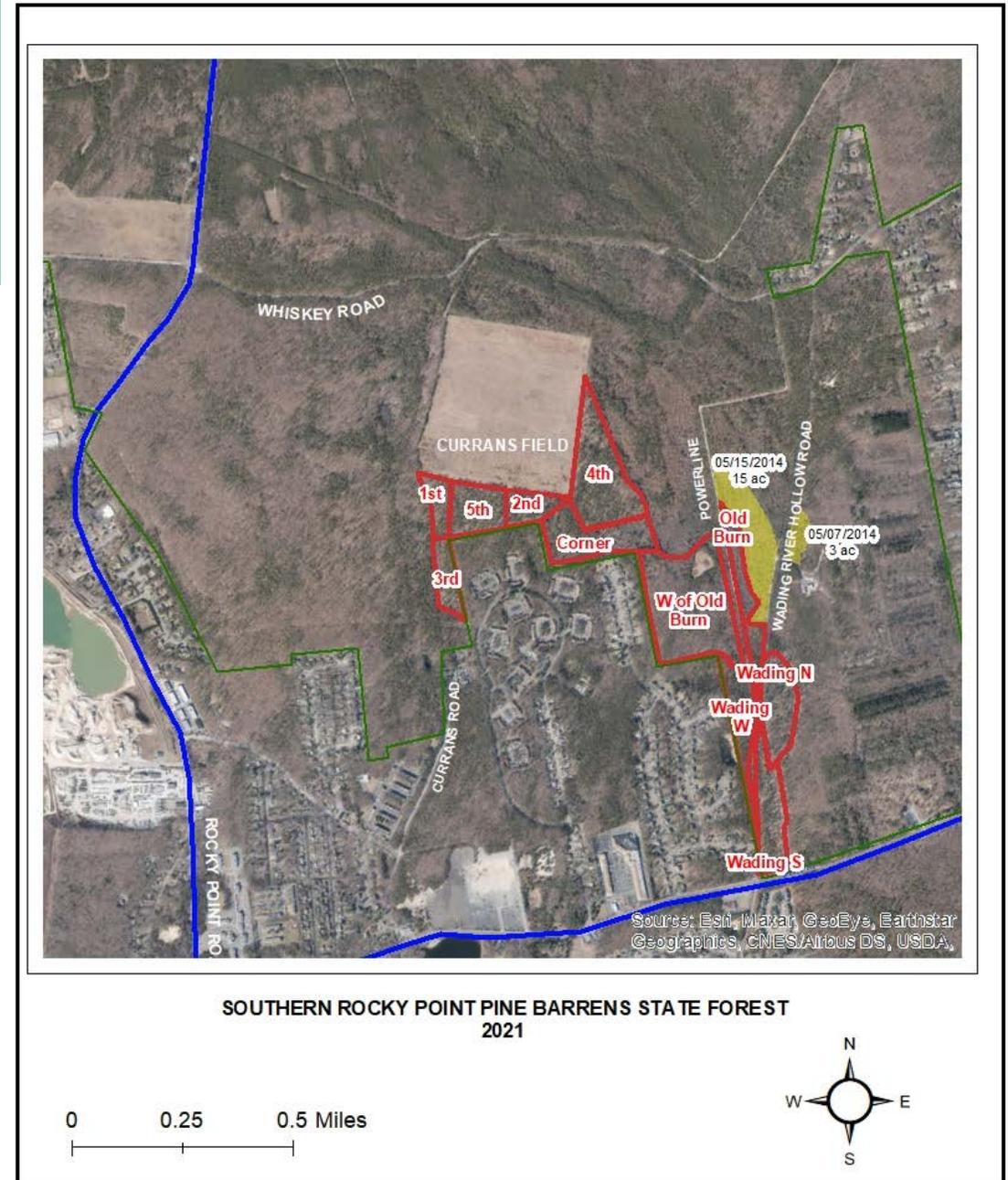


Wildfire is not “if” but “when” in the Central Pine Barrens

- High levels of development adjacent to forests Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- High fuel loading in forests as a result of wildfire suppression.

Prescribed Fire

Reduces Fuel Loads and Intensity
of Future Wildfires



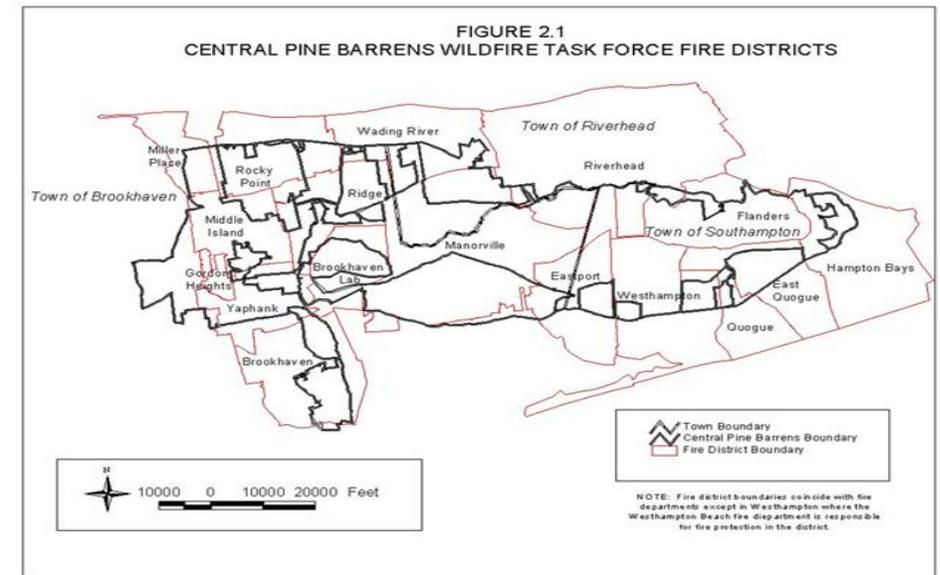
2. Firefighter Safety

Fire Departments:

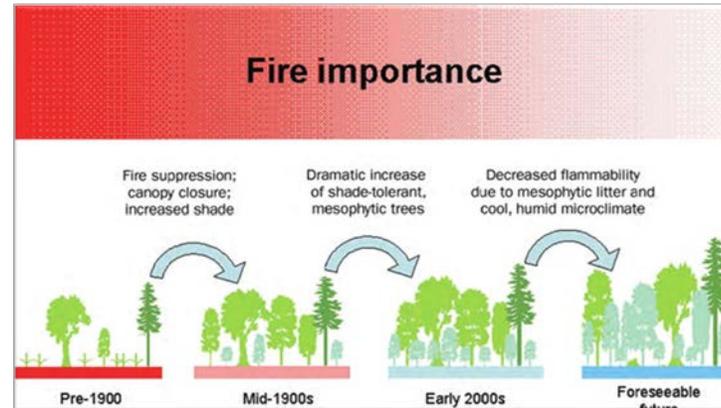
- Command wildfire suppression
- Numerous (16) Fire Districts in Central Pine Barrens
- High risk in suppressing wildfires

Prescribed Fire Management:

- Decreases firefighter, property risk and equipment loss
- Reduces wildfire intensity allowing for indirect attack
- Reduces hazards (dead trees, fuel loading) by improving site access and forest health
- Increases dialog about fire management tactics across jurisdictions
- Creates the opportunity for different wildfire suppression tactics



3. Ecosystem Health Improvement



Nowacki, G. J., Abrams, M. D.: 2008. The Demise of Fire and "Mesophication" of Forests in the Eastern United States. *Bioscience* 58:2 123 - 138

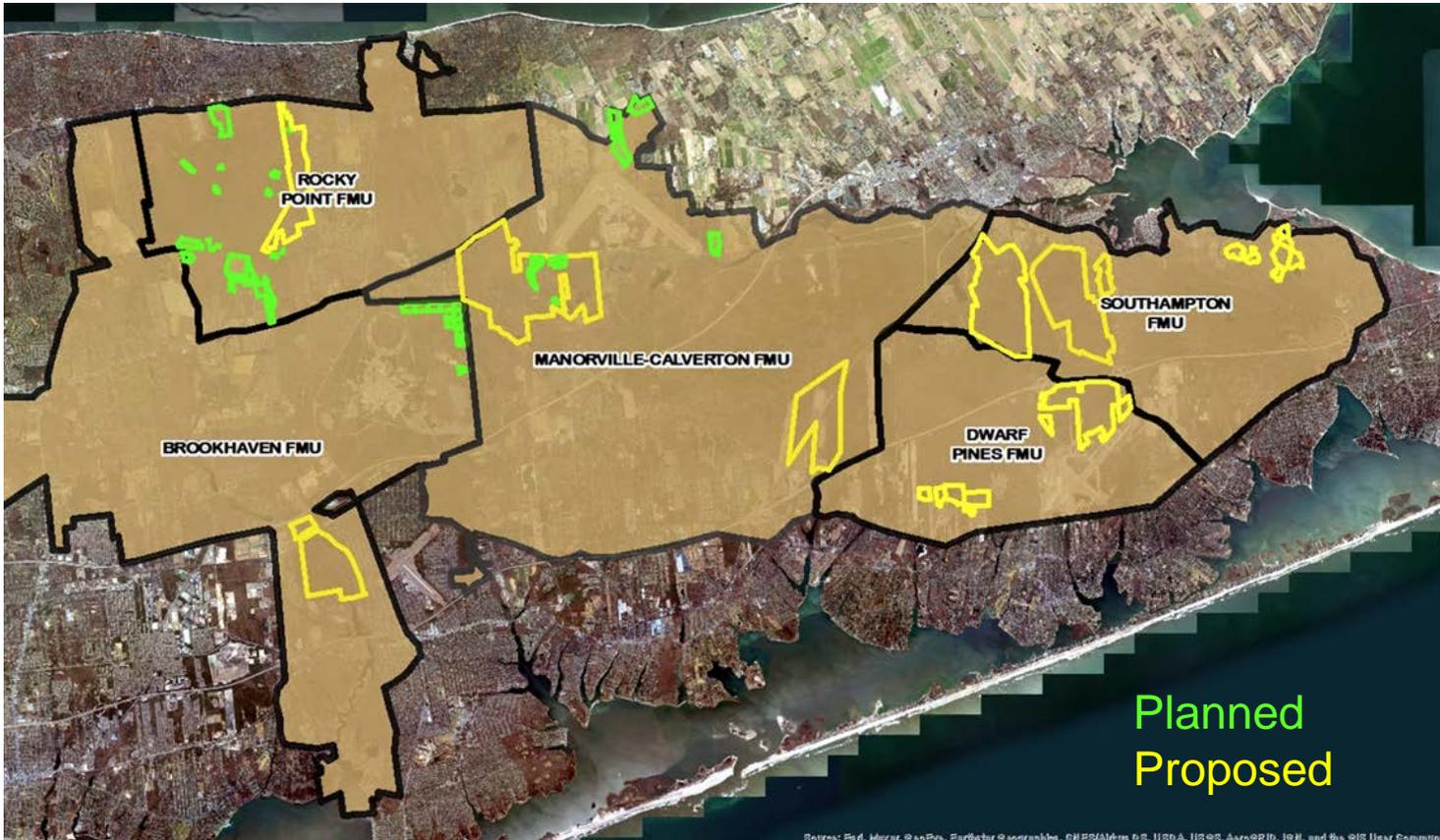
Prescribed Fire:

- Maintains unique species to the pine barrens
- Reduces dead and dying trees
- Reduces disease and pests

Southern Pine Beetle – Important Indicator of Degraded Forest Health

- Increases nutrient, space and light availability
- Ensures suitable habitat (enriched food resources, higher seed set, reproduction, shelter)
- Ensures ecosystem services (ground water recharge and cleansing)
- Keeps the "Pine" in the Pine Barrens

Central Pine Barrens Prescribed Fire Management Program



Prescribed Fire Management Program Development

1. **5-year Prescribed Fire Contract** w/ NYSDEC – EPF \$\$
2. **Landscape Scale** w/ Routine Operations for Restoration and Maintenance
3. **Prioritization of Operations:**
 - Management plans, CWPP, existing forest mgmt., recent wildfire
 - WUI Protections
 - Unique Ecosystem
4. **Burn Plan Development**
 - Meet all CRR-NY194 for prescribed fire
 - SEQRA
 - Permitting
5. **Pre-Fire Vegetation Treatment**



Prescribed Fire Program Structure

5. Staffing
 - RBX2 – Burn Boss
 - Commission Qualified staff
 - Squad Boss
 - Prescribed Fire Crew
 - NYSDEC staff and volunteers
6. Insured
7. Equipped
8. Education and Outreach
9. Prescribed Fire Implementation
10. Pre and Post Fire Vegetation Monitoring



Prescribed Burn Seasons

Spring: March 1 – May 31

Fall: August 1 – October 31

Winter: Periodic

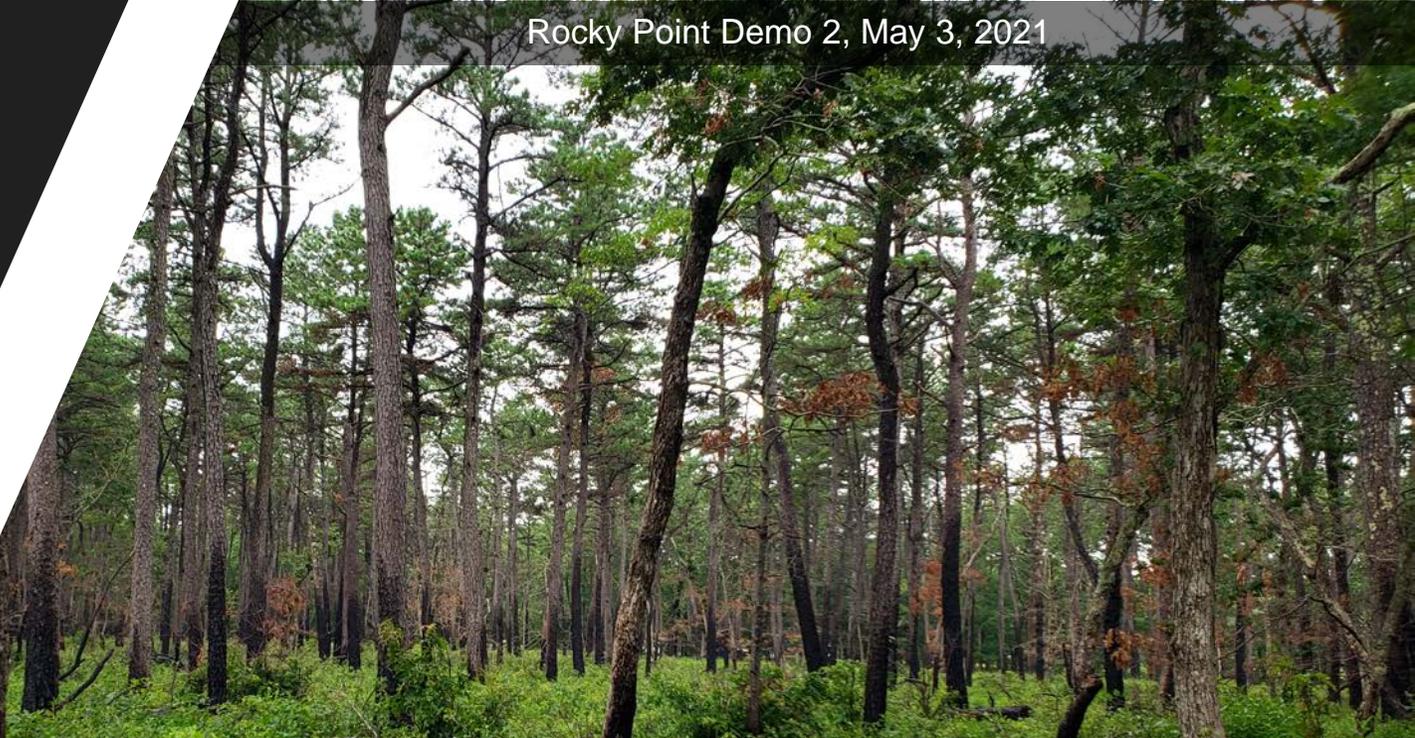
Burn Restriction:

June 1st – July 31st for the protection of the federally threatened

Northern Long Eared Bat
(*Myotis septentrionalis*)



Rocky Point Demo 2, May 3, 2021



Rocky Point Demo 2, August 9, 2021

Prescribed Fire Implementation

FALL 2021:

- Rocky Point Demo Forest II - 9 acres, 3 Units
- South of Currans Block 1 – 5 acres

SPRING 2021

- Rocky Point FMU
- **Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest**
 - Demo Forest I (9 ac)
 - South of Currans Woodlands (123 ac) SEQRA
 - Rocky Point State Forest Grasslands
- Brookhaven FMU
- **Brookhaven National Laboratory (80 ac)**
- Southampton FMU
- **David Sarnoff Pine Barrens State Forest**
 - Sarnoff West - West of CR 104/CR 31 (1212 ac) SEQRA

Prescribed Fire Operations

Middle Island/Ridge Area
South Of Currans Woodland Burn Unit
Rocky Point Pine Barrens State Forest

South of Currans Woodland Burn Units

Central Pine Barrens Interagency Prescribed Fire Program
protecting public safety and ecological health

For More Information:
 Email: prescribedfire@pb.state.ny.us
 Call: (631) 288-1079
 Visit: www.facebook.com/CPBCFire
 or www.pb.state.ny.us





Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Sarnoff West Burn Unit

2020 Suffolk County Orthoimagery

0 0.425 0.85 Miles

Legend

- BURN UNIT PERIMETER
- SW BURN UNIT BLOCKS
- NO RX ZONE
- THE TRUCK TRAIL
- POWERLINE
- HAMPTON HILLS RD

Education & Outreach

Website

- Commission General - <https://pb.state.ny.us/>
- **Wildfire Prevention**
- **Prescribed Fire**
- **NYWIMA**

Join our Mailing List!

- “Stay in Touch” - Contact Us Page on Commission website

Stay Connected: Social Media

- Facebook Pages
 - [CentralPineBarrensCommission](#)
 - [RidgeCalvertonManorvilleCWPP](#)
 - [Prescribed Fire - #CPBCFIRE](#)
 - [NYWIMA](#)
- **Instagram**

Fire Danger Rating: **LOW** | Commission Login | NYWIMA | Freedom of Information | Contact Us | Report Non-Emergency Incidents: 1-877-BARRENS

CENTRAL PINE BARRENS
JOINT PLANNING & POLICY COMMISSION

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CONTACT US



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Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 631-288-1079
Fax: 631-288-1367
info@pb.state.ny.us (not FOIL)

[Submit a Freedom of Information Request \(FOIL\)](#)

Follow our [Prescribed Fire Facebook Page](#) for info & updates on firing operations!

Stay in Touch

Sign up to receive updates on the Commission's numerous activities:

- Educational webinars
- Training and volunteer opportunities
- Project updates
- FIREWISE safety tips
- Special events
- Prescribed fire operations

Receive prescribed fire updates specifically related to the Fire Management Units (FMUs) closest to you! Use the map below to identify the extent of each FMU and sign by checking its corresponding email list.



* Email

* First Name

* Last Name

* Phone

* Email Lists

- General Interest (Events, Education Programs, Webinars, & Meetings)
- Prescribed Fire Notifications (All FMUs)
- Prescribed Fire: Brookhaven FMU
- Prescribed Fire: Dwarf Pines FMU
- Prescribed Fire: Manorville-Calverton FMU
- Prescribed Fire: Rocky Point FMU
- Prescribed Fire: Southampton FMU
- Volunteer Opportunities

By submitting this form, you are consenting to receive marketing emails from: Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission, 624 Old Riverhead Road, Westhampton Beach, NY, 11978, US. <http://pb.state.ny.us/>. You can revoke your consent to receive emails at any time by using the [SafeUnsubscribe](#) link, found at the bottom of every email. [Emails are serviced by Constant Contact.](#)

Sign Up!

Constant Contact

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