



Photo by Michael Hogan

ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR

The graceful Atlantic White Cedar, prized by colonial-era shipbuilders for its natural resistance to rot and pests, is found near natural watercourses. Atlantic White Cedar was greatly depleted in New Jersey, but is now rebounding at the Franklin Parker Preserve due to permanent protection of the cedar forests as well as the planting of thousands of seedlings.



Photo by Blaine Rothhauser

BALD EAGLE

A breeding pair of Bald Eagles returns to the preserve each spring to nest and raise their young. Migrating and wintering eagles can be spotted almost daily during the colder seasons as they soar above open waters in the hunt for food.



Photo by Blaine Rothhauser

PINE BARRENS GENTIAN

The spectacular Pine Barrens Gentian, whose five-petal flowers are vivid blue or sometimes pink-flecked white, blossoms from early September to mid-October along the sides of damp, open trails.



Photo by Bob Zappaloni

PINE BARRENS TREE FROG

Vibrant green and brightly marked, the tiny Pine Barrens Tree Frog is an icon of the Pine Barrens. Its rapid “quonk-quonk-quonk” call can be heard throughout the Franklin Parker Preserve in the late spring and early summer.

flora&fauna

History of Franklin Parker Preserve

For the better part of the 20th century, the property now known as the Franklin Parker Preserve, was a cranberry farm owned by the DeMarco family of Hammonton, NJ. In the early 2000's, the DeMarcos decided to sell their property and New Jersey Conservation Foundation stepped in to ensure that the property – critical to conservation and ecological



Photo by Michael Hogan

restoration in the heart of the Pine Barrens – would not be split and sold to multiple private owners. Within a matter of months, New Jersey Conservation Foundation negotiated the purchase of the entire tract, culminating on December 31, 2003 in the largest private conservation transaction in state history – 9,400 acres for \$11.6 million!

After acquiring the land, The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service purchased an easement that prohibits a return to agricultural use on formerly farmed areas setting the stage for a dramatic wetland restoration (see below). In addition, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection purchased a 40% interest in the land to reinforce its preservation in perpetuity. Today, in conjunction with providing unique and high-quality public access, the primary goals for the property are to restore and enhance the biological diversity and critical natural resources of this portion of the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

The preserve is dedicated to Franklin E. Parker III, first chair of the Pinelands Commission and a courageous conservationist who greatly influenced the successful passage of the 1979 Pinelands Protection Act.

Wetland Restoration

New Jersey Conservation Foundation restored freshwater wetlands on nearly 1,000 acres of former cranberry bog within the Franklin Parker Preserve. Modern cranberry farms utilize a massive plumbing system of dikes, drains, canals and diesel pumps that manipulate water levels to promote high berry yields. At Franklin Parker Preserve, a more natural flow has been returned to six headwater tributaries of the Wading River,



enhancing its nearly pristine quality as wildlife habitat in the heart of the Pine Barrens. However, some familiar parts of the old cranberry farm remain: large expanses of manmade reservoirs that provide unique open-water habitats and uncommon scenic vistas. The restoration was designed in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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land conservation policies and helps to safe-
through acquisition and stewardship, promotes
protects threatened natural areas and farmland
the state. New Jersey Conservation Foundation
more than 120,000 acres of land throughout
non-profit organization has helped protect
Foundation. Founded in 1960, this private,
that's the mission of New Jersey Conservation
resources for the benefit of all –
Preserving land and natural

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Franklin Parker Preserve

TRAIL GUIDE



Photo by Michael Hogan

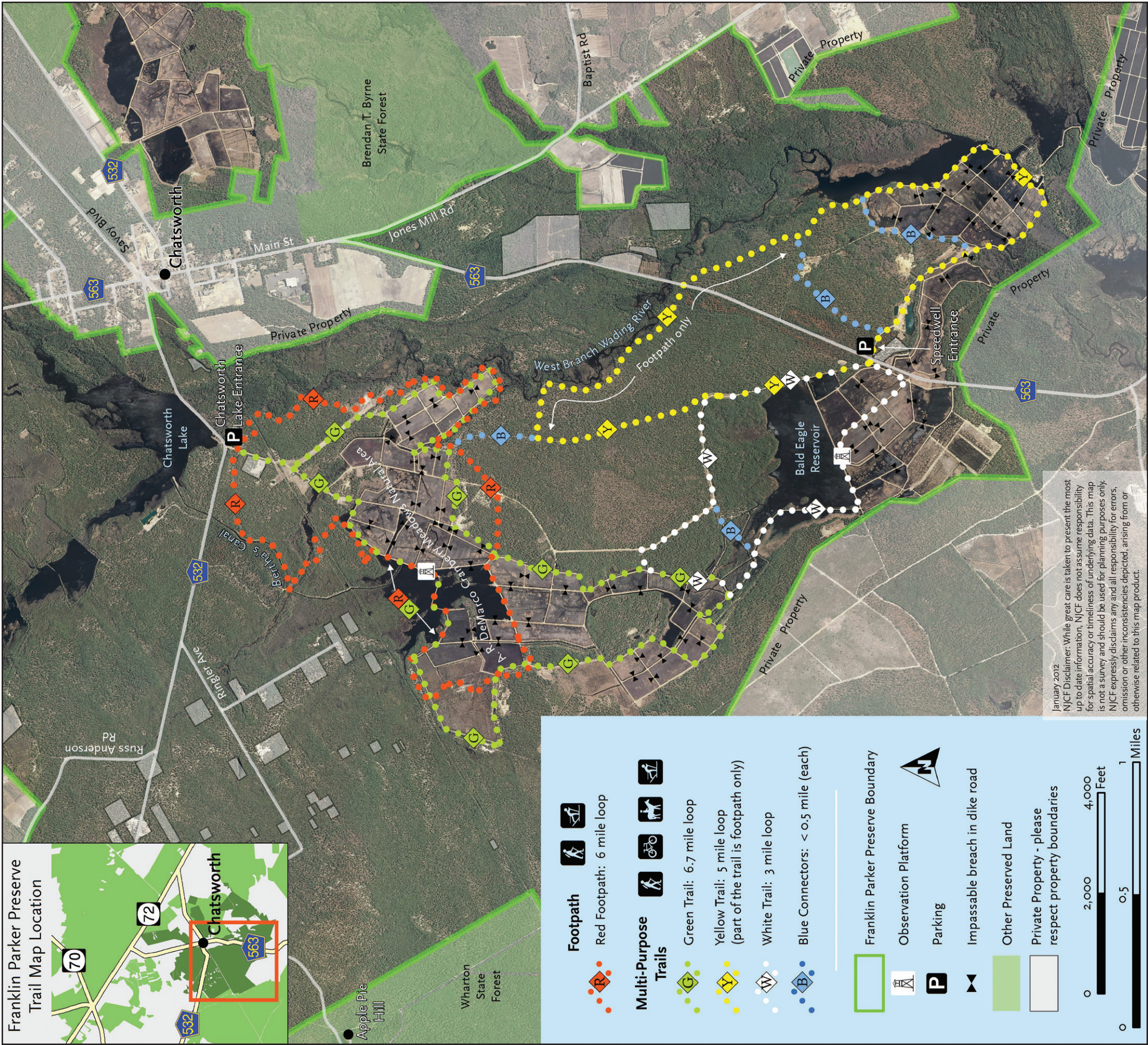
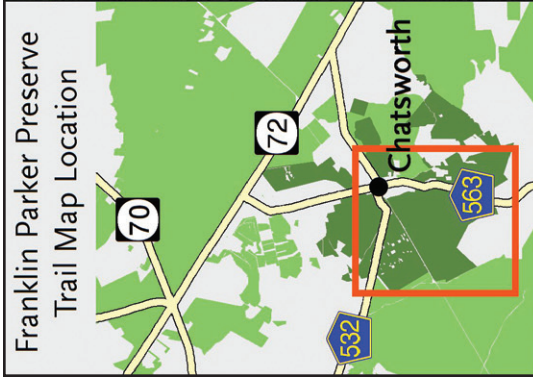


New Jersey Conservation

F O U N D A T I O N

Franklin Parker Preserve

A 9,400 acre Preserve in Woodland & Tabernade Townships, Burlington County | Chatsworth Lake Entrance (Route 532): 0.8 miles west of the Route 532 & 563 intersection, Chatsworth, NJ | Speedwell Entrance (Route 563): 2.6 miles south of the Route 532 & 563 intersection, Chatsworth, NJ



TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS



Open to foot travel only, the **six-mile Red Footpath** leads hikers through a variety of habitats: uplands, wetlands, forests, thickets and openings. Climb the observation platform to look for eagles, hawks, herons, ducks and geese in and around the reservoir.



The **6.7-mile Green Trail** provides an excellent tour of open water and former cranberry bogs that have been restored to their natural hydrology. This multi-use trail passes by an observation platform and is open to bicyclists and horseback riders.



Savor sweeping views of Bald Eagle Reservoir on the **three-mile White Trail**. A shorter multi-use option, the White Trail offers open vistas and shady passages along swamps and woodlands.



Enjoy a variety of terrain along the **five-mile Yellow Trail**. The footpath-only portion guides hikers along a serene stretch of the Wading River, while the multi-use portion follows the route of the former "haul road" used for transporting cranberries and blueberries.

PRESERVE RULES

NO motorized vehicles except in designated parking areas.

Bicycling and horseback riding on designated trails only.

NO disturbance to any plant, animal or physical feature of any kind.

NO fires or overnight camping.

NO alcohol.

Hunting by permit only.

NO possession of firearms.

NO public access after dark.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

NEW JERSEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION | 170 LONGVIEW ROAD | FAR HILLS, NJ 07931 | 908-234-1225 | www.njconservation.org