



Southeastern Massachusetts—A Pine Barrens of Global Significance

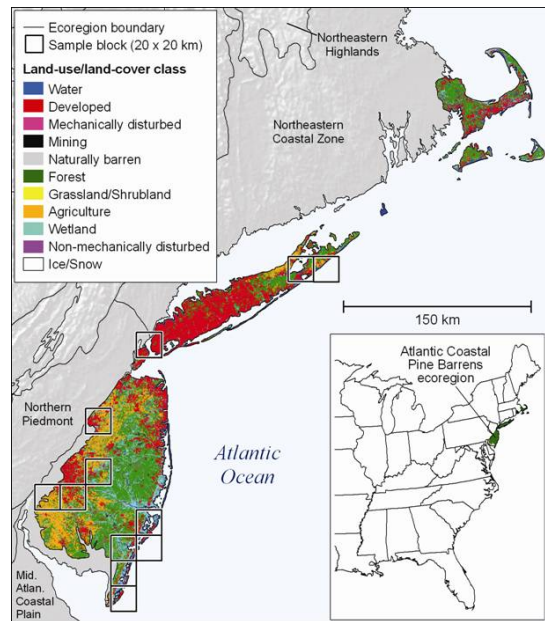
The Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens

(SEMPB) ecosystem is a community of living organisms (plants, animals, humans, and microbes) along with non-living organisms (air, water, mineral, soil, etc.), which interact to form a dynamic, yet fragile environmental system. On land the SEMPB extends from Duxbury to Provincetown along the Cape Cod Bay shoreline, covering Cape Cod, Nantucket Island, and Martha’s Vineyard. Inland, the Pine Barrens Region includes Plymouth, Kingston, Plympton, Carver, Middleboro, Wareham, Bourne and Mattapoisett. Together, these communities contain the world’s second largest extant Pine Barrens.

While Pine Barrens are distinguished by their sandy, nutrient–poor soil, both fresh and salt water are critical components. Off shore, the Pine Barrens ecosystem extends from the Stellwagen Bank and Nantucket Shoals to the shoreline and encompasses Massachusetts Bay, Cape Cod Bay, Plymouth Bay, and the Nantucket Sound. On land, four of the Nation’s 16 EPA designated Sole Source Aquifers fall within the Pine Barrens region: Plymouth/Carver, Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket Sole Source Aquifers. All types of surface and subsurface water—rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, vernal pools, groundwater, bogs, swamps, and wetlands and all types of terrain—shoreline, sand dunes, pitch pine and scrub oak forests, frost bottoms, Atlantic White Cedar swamps, rock formations and open grasslands—that slowly evolved after the Laurentian Ice Sheet began its retreat over 15,000 years ago, combine to create a rich and diverse geologic area.

An exceptional variety of flora and fauna species evolved that have adapted to the human induced, fire–dependent Pine Barrens ecology. Because of development, inconsiderate treatment of land, shoreline, water resources and fire suppression, the region contains a high number of endangered, threatened or species of special concern; including, the Pine Barrens Bluet, Barrens Tiger Beetle, Barrens Dagger Moth, Barrens Buck Moth, Pine Barrens Lucia, Barrens Metarranthis, Eastern Spadefoot Toad, Roseate Tern, Northern Red-Bellied Cooter, Plymouth Gentian, and New England Blazing Star. With 67 rare and endangered species identified in Plymouth alone, we need to do all we can to preserve this special region.

Please turn this page over to learn how you can be a part of a new effort to define, restore and protect the Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens.

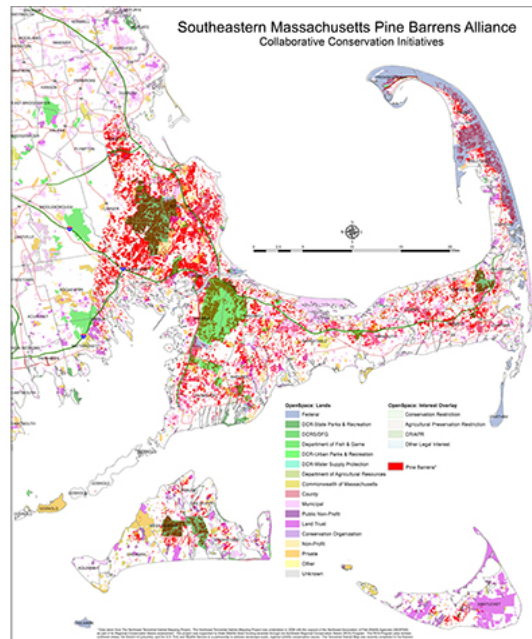


The Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance – joining forces (with you) to better protect an endangered ecosystem

The Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance (SEMPBA) builds partnerships with concerned citizens, governmental agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and businesses, to provide learning opportunities for the general public about the need to conserve, restore, interpret and celebrate the rare ecosystem of the Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens of Southeastern Massachusetts.

Specifically, SMPBA will:

- 1) **Establish** a regional alliance of conservation minded citizens, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations and businesses for greater advocacy and protection of the southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens region.
- 2) **Cooperate** with state and local agencies to develop an assessment program to prioritize lands for the purposes of protection, restoration and creating conservation corridors within the Pine Barrens region
- 3) **Promote** smart growth, low impact development in the southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens region.
- 4) **Develop** a database of research regarding region's Pine Barrens.
- 5) **Convene** public forums on issues affecting the region's environment, public health, social well being, and the economic benefits derived locally, regionally and nationally by protecting and maintaining a healthy Pine Barrens ecology.
- 6) **Create** learning opportunities for residents and tourists to raise public understanding, through hands-on activities and virtual reality, of why protection of the region's globally rare Pine Barrens is critical.
- 7) **Encourage** home and business owners involvement in the stewardship of land and water resources and native plant landscaping that help provide wildlife corridors, retain the natural 'Pine Barrens' character and maintain biodiversity.
- 8) **Serve** as a clearinghouse and information center for regional environmental organizations, government agencies and conservation-minded businesses.
- 9) **Support** sustainable recreation on land and water.
- 10) **Celebrate** and highlight the region's natural, historic and cultural resources through media, public programs and events.



To join or find out more about the Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance, please visit us online at www.pinebarrensalliance.com or e-mail: info@pinebarrensalliance.com