

INTRODUCTION

With over 38,000 acres of protected lands in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, the fresh scent of pines greets visitors to Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. Walkers and hikers can follow the sandy trails and roads that crisscross the forest, sometimes passing through areas where the remains of stone or brick structures still stand and large depressions indicate the location of a once-bustling town. Iron-rich streams flow through acres of wetlands covered with dense stands of Atlantic white cedar trees.

HISTORY

Today's forested acres of Brendan T. Byrne State Forest present a strong contrast to the barren, cleared land that existed in the 1800s. The Lebanon Glass Works, after which the forest was originally named, was established in 1851 and was successful for a short time because wood for charcoal, sand and other natural resources that were needed for glass production were readily available. The glass industry devoured the surrounding forests, leaving vacant land for miles. After depleting the supply of wood, the furnace shut down and was abandoned in 1867.

The state began acquiring the land for this state forest in 1908. Standard forestry practices were followed to improve the natural reproduction of the forest and to prevent and control wildfires that notoriously swept through the Pine Barrens. Through natural succession, tree plantings by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and continuous forest management practices, the land is once again covered with a diverse forest of pine, oak, maple, sweet gum and Atlantic white cedar.

In 2002, Lebanon State Forest was renamed to honor Governor Brendan T. Byrne for his work in establishing the New Jersey Pinelands as a National Reserve.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES

The Forest - Brendan T. Byrne State Forest has a rich history of forest management activities including density, fuel, rare and threatened species and regeneration management. Large scale restoration projects for species of concern, including Atlantic white cedar and shortleaf pine, have taken place here.

Research is being conducted throughout the forest by various organizations including the US Forest Service, universities, and non-governmental partnerships with the New Jersey Forest Service. Research topics include tree genetics, water monitoring, insects and disease and forest assessments. These activities are part of the New Jersey Forest Service State Forest Action Plan which can be found at forestry.nj.gov.

Cedar Swamp Natural Area - The 735-acre Cedar Swamp Natural Area supports an outstanding example of an Atlantic white cedar swamp. The natural area encompasses the headwaters of Shinn's Branch, which flows slowly in a northwesterly direction through the cedar forest. The swamp and its surrounding pitch pine forest support two state endangered members of the lily family and a state endangered rush.

Other plants found in dryer areas include turkeybeard, pyxie moss, blueberry and false heather. Common bird species in the natural area include pine warbler, black-and-white warbler, eastern towhee, common yellowthroat and ovenbird. Several trails and sand roads, including the Batona Trail, provide access through this beautiful area.

Whitesbog Village - Whitesbog, founded in the 1870s by Joseph J. White, was an active blueberry producing community and a company town in the 1800s and 1900s. The commercial highbush blueberry was developed here by Elizabeth White in 1916. Once a thriving town and one of the largest cranberry farms in the state, Whitesbog Village tells the stories of the changes in agriculture in New Jersey.



The historic village is leased to the Whitesbog Preservation Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to its restoration and interpretation. Visitors are invited to tour the historic village and view the cranberry bogs, some of which are still farmed. The Trust sponsors an annual blueberry festival and other activities. For more information on the village and events sponsored by the Trust, call 609-893-4646 or visit them online at whitesbog.org.

Picnicking

A picnic area with tables and grills is located along the south shore of Pakim Pond. For larger groups, we also offer two picnic structures—an open-air pavilion and a gazebo—that can be reserved. The gazebo picnic area has a capacity of 50 people and the pavilion picnic area can accommodate 100 people. They may be reserved for a fee. Contact the forest office for reservations. Holidays cannot be reserved.

Camping

The spacious campsites in the vicinity of the old glass works have picnic tables, fire rings, lantern hooks and space for up to two tents. Camping facilities include restrooms with hot showers and drinking water. Groups up to 30 people may camp in our group sites. Parking at most sites can accommodate small travel and camp trailers. Advanced reservations can be made at camping.nj.gov. Same day reservations can be made at the forest office.

Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. Pets are permitted in designated pet-friendly campsites only. Please contact the forest office for other regulations and information.



Cabins

Three rustic cabins, near the south shore of Pakim Pond, are equipped with a furnished living room, a fireplace and bunks to accommodate four people. The kitchen has a sink with running water, an electric range with oven and a refrigerator. Dishes, cooking utensils and bedding are not supplied. The cabins also have half-baths with toilet and basin. Showers are available at the camping area. The cabins are open April through October. Reservations can be made at camping.nj.gov.



Hiking

The well-marked Batona Trail starts at Ong's Hat in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, passes through Wharton State Forest and ends in Bass River State Forest, a distance of more than 50 miles. As the trail is crossed by both sand and hard-surfaced roads, hikers can choose various locations to begin or end their walks. Batona Trail brochures are available at the forest offices. In addition to the Batona Trail, other trails and many miles of sand roads provide excellent hiking, biking and horseback riding opportunities. Information is available at the forest office.



Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing are permitted throughout the forest unless posted otherwise and are subject to New Jersey Fish and Wildlife regulations. Wildlife regularly hunted include deer, squirrel, rabbit and grouse. For more information about hunting and fishing refer to the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Digest which may be picked up at the forest office while supplies last.



Access For People With Disabilities

Brendan T. Byrne State Forest recreational facilities are partially accessible to persons with disabilities. Please contact the forest office for further information regarding disability access needs. Text telephone (TTY) users, call the NJ Relay & CapTel Service at 711 or 1-800-852-7897 for English or 1-866-658-7714 for Spanish.



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. Pets are permitted in designated pet-friendly campsites.



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!

NOT PERMITTED

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



*Smoking and vaping permitted only inside your personal vehicle.

To report an emergency or suspicious activity, call 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911.



BRENDAN T. BYRNE STATE FOREST
Highway Route 72 East (MM1)
New Libson, NJ 08064
609-726-1191

Directions: From the NJ Turnpike, take exit 7 and follow Route 206 south to Route 70 east. Follow signs to the forest.



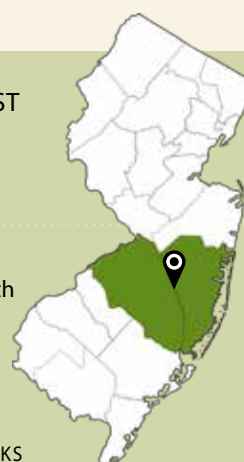
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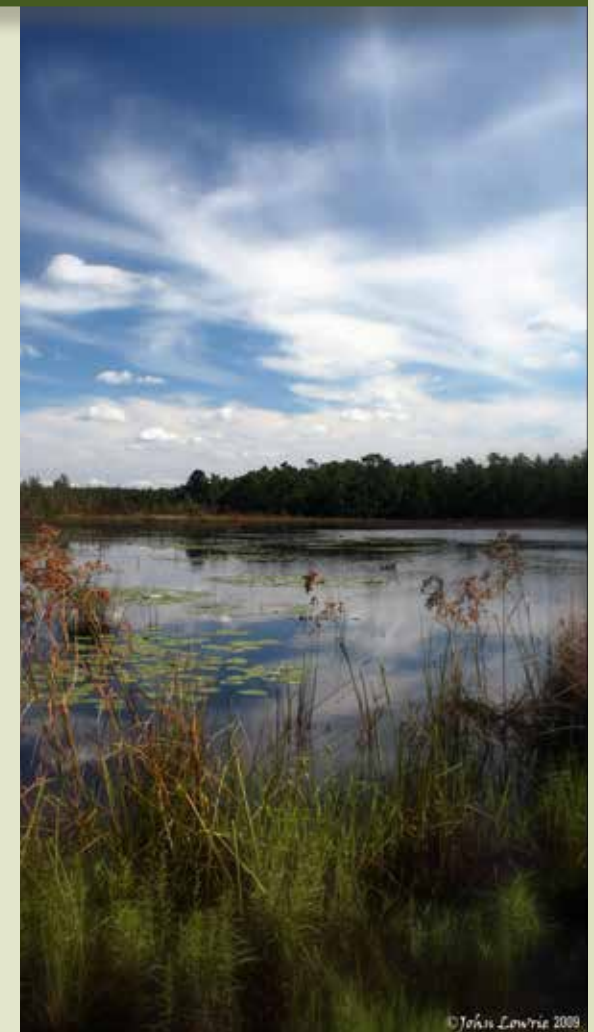
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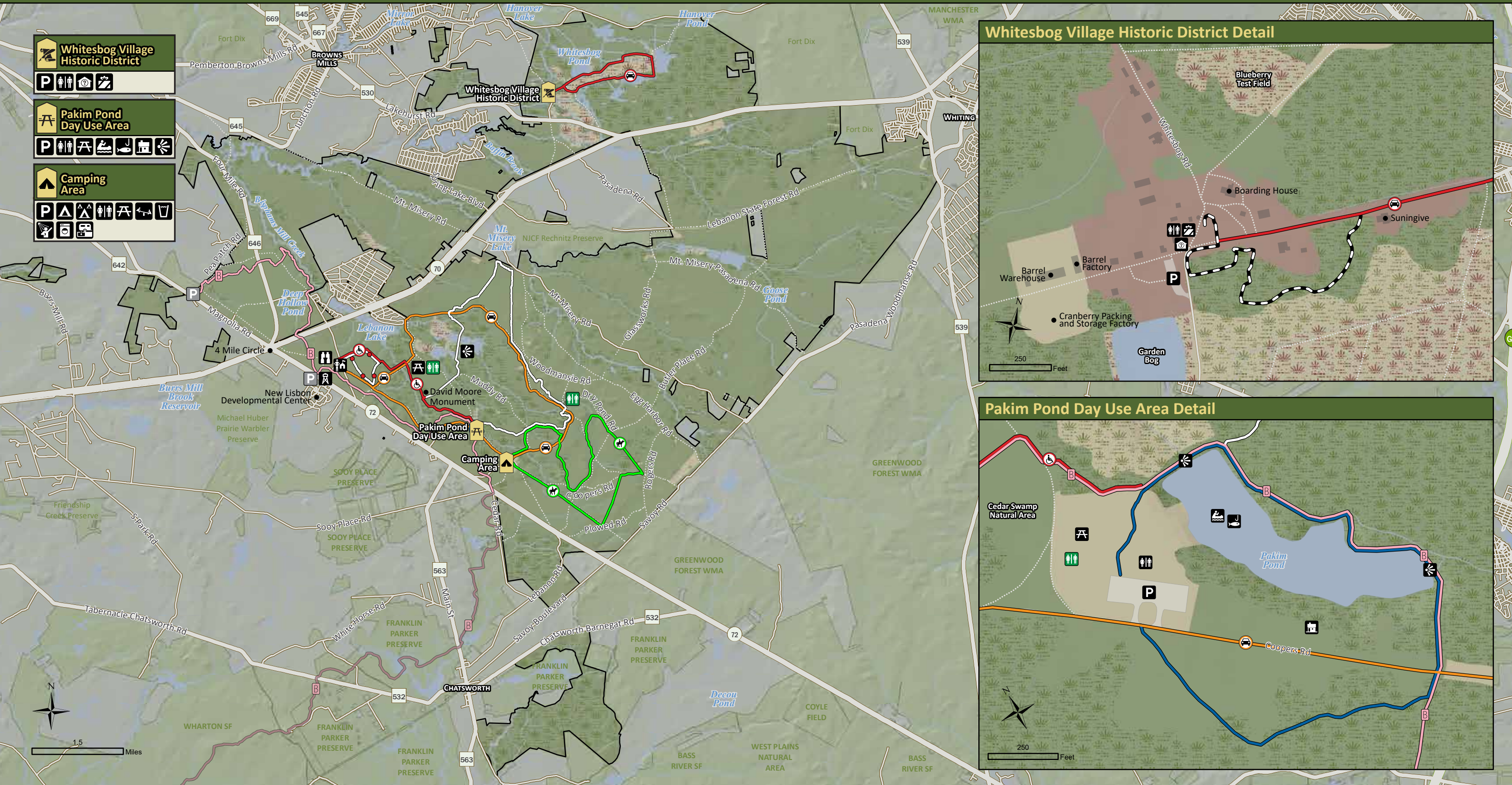
Brendan T. Byrne State Forest



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Park Service



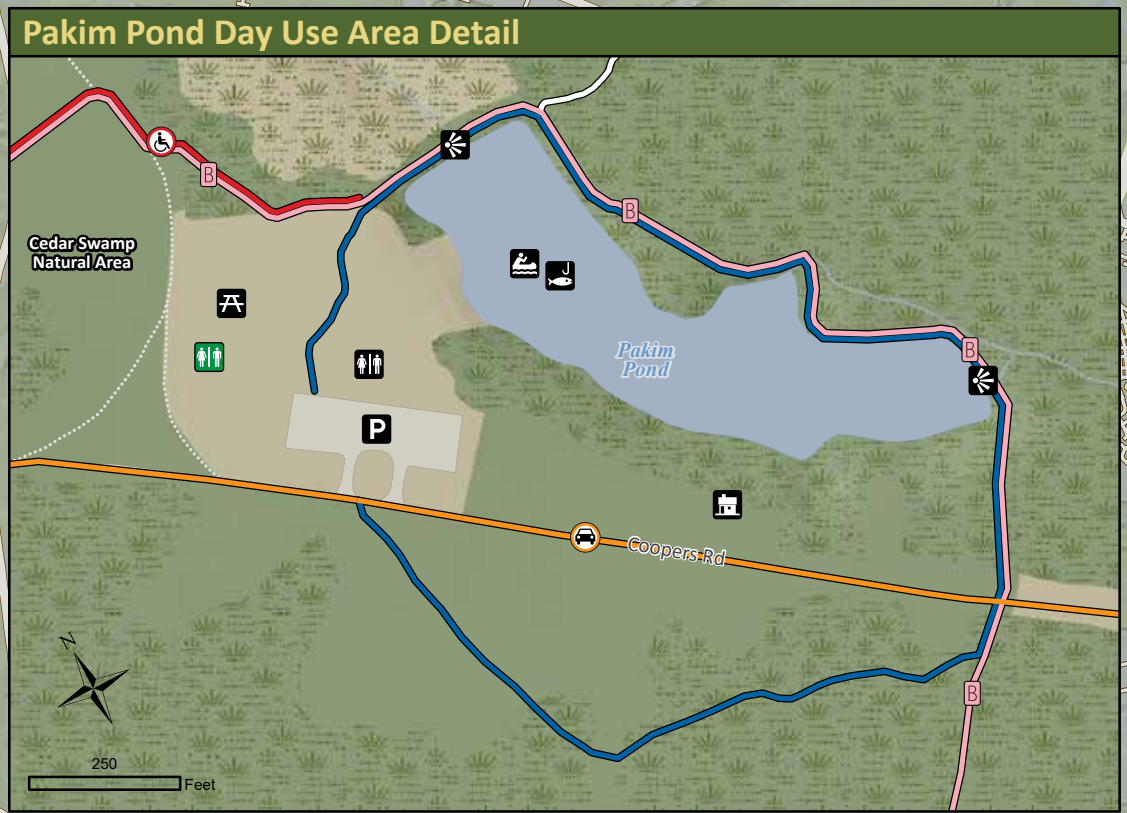
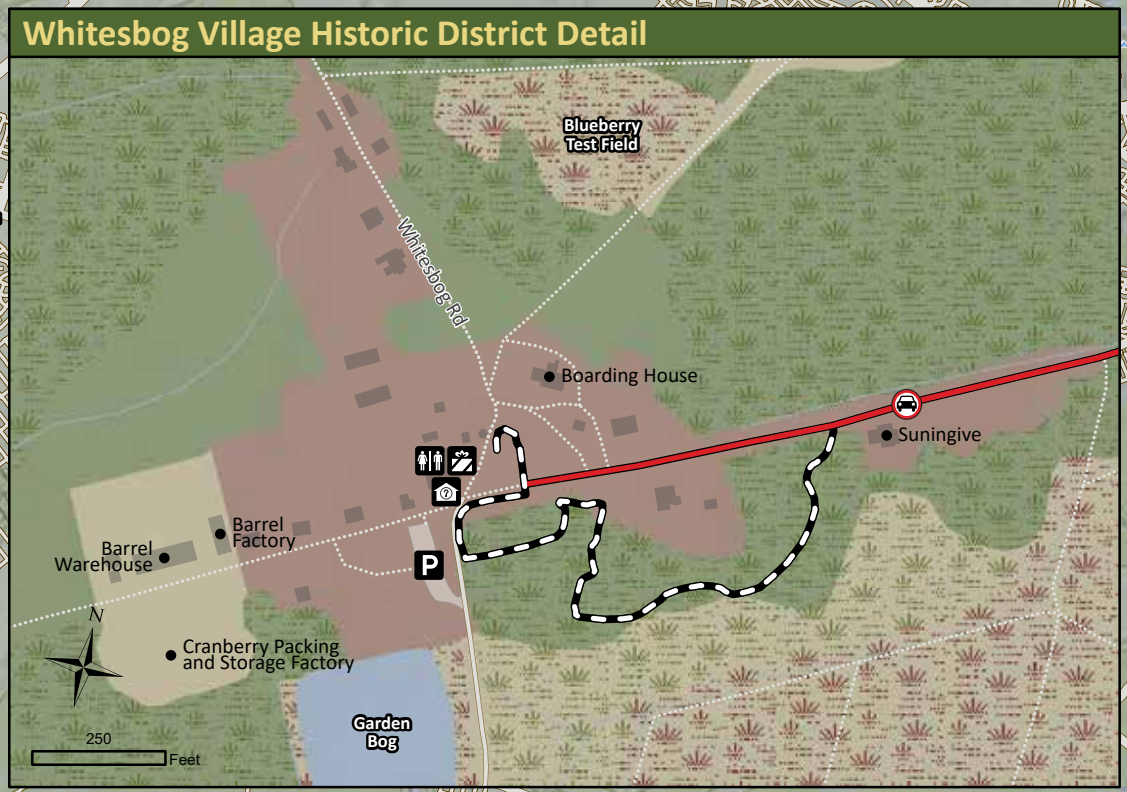
BRENDAN T. BYRNE State Forest



Whitesbog Village Historic District

Pakim Pond Day Use Area

Camping Area



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|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Open Field or Grass | Wetland | Batona Trail (10 mi) | Mt. Misery Trail (8.6 mi) | Birding | Fire Tower | Nature Center | Restrooms | Shop |
| Forest | Agricultural Wetland | Cranberry Dot Trail (2 mi) | Nature Trail (0.65 mi) | Cabins | Fishing | Parking Lot | Primitive Restrooms | Trailer Sanitary Station |
| Developed Area | | Cranberry Trail (3.2 mi) | Old Bog Nature Trail (0.35 mi) | Campground | Forest Office | Pull Off Parking | Scenic View | |
| Water | | Glassworks Trail (8.4 mi) | Whitesbog Driving Tour (3.8 mi) | Canoeing | Group Campground | Picnic Area | Shelter | |
| | | Lebanon Trail (10.7 mi) | | Drinking Water | Laundry | Playground | Shower | |