

Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission

Facts About *Your* Woodstown-Pilesgrove Environment

Land Area - The greater Woodstown-Pilesgrove community totals nearly 37 square miles in size. Woodstown is 1.6 square miles and Pilesgrove is 35 square miles.

Landscape and Topography – Woodstown and Pilesgrove are on the inner coastal plain in a region that ecologists call the Southern Piedmont Plains of New Jersey. Part of the greater Delaware Bay Watershed, the area is drained by the Salem River, Oldmans Creek and Alloway Creek. The rolling terrain ranges in elevation from sea level to 150 feet above sea level. The towns lie within a vast agricultural region interspersed with upland and wetland deciduous forests of mixed oaks, beech, hickory and sweetgum.

Land Cover - Combined, the two towns are comprised of approximately:

- 15,000 acres of agricultural land;
- 2,400 acres of upland forests;
- 2,500 acres of wetlands and forested wetlands;
- 200 acres of rivers, lakes and streams; and
- 3,100 acres of residential and commercial developed areas.

Permanently Protected Open Space - Woodstown and Pilesgrove have:

- 65-acre Marlton Recreation Park;
- 52-acre Camp Crockett County Park;
- 50 acres of Woodstown Borough Parks, including Memorial Lake Park;
- 653 acres of State Wildlife Management lands; and
- 3,800 acres of preserved farmland.

Plant and Animal Species - Woodstown and Pilesgrove are home to about:

- 985 species of wild plants;
- 302 species of birds;
- 29 species of reptiles;
- 23 species of amphibians;
- 44 species of mammals; and
- 64 species of fish.

Rare Plants and Animals

- There are at least 16 species of threatened or endangered plants in Woodstown and Pilesgrove.
- There are at least 5 species of threatened and endangered animals.
- The area is a global stronghold of the federally-protected bog turtle.
- Woodstown and Pilesgrove have critical nesting and foraging habitat of American bald eagle.
- The area is recognized for its grasslands which provide important habitat for several species of threatened and endangered grassland-nesting birds.

Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission - The Woodstown-Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission (WPJEC) was established in 2003 by the governing bodies of both towns to advise the elected officials and planning boards on environmental matters. Out of 386 local environmental commissions throughout New Jersey, The WPJEC is only the second “joint” panel comprised of two municipalities which share many natural, cultural and community resources. The WPJEC is an advocate for sound environmental measures and natural resource protection in the community. It researches issues, reviews and reports on development plans and develops public education programs. In 2005, the WPJEC completed a comprehensive Environmental Resources Inventory. Nearly two years in the making, the document details the natural resources and environmental conditions within Woodstown and Pilesgrove. Members are appointed to three-year terms. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. (even months in Woodstown; odd months in Pilesgrove).