

## **TRAILS OF BASS RIVER STATE FOREST**

Bass River State Forest offers over 23 miles of official, blazed trails. There are 13 marked trails within the forest: 10 trails in and around the Lake Absegami Day Use Area and 3 trails around the Ballanger Creek area. Many trails are multi-use (hiking, biking, horseback riding), but trails close to the day use area are hiking only. Look for permitted uses on the signs.

### **Absegami Trail**

*Silver • 0.4 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Nature trail near forest office*

**Trailhead Road** to group campground. **Absegami Trail** is a short interpretive trail that traverses the Absegami Natural Area through typical pine barrens landscape, including a pine-oak forest and an Atlantic white cedar swamp. The trail is along a wide gravel path and elevated wooden boardwalk as it explores these landscapes.

### **Batona Trail**

*Pink • 7 miles (in Bass River) • Hiking*

*Moderate • Long distance hiking trail*

**Trailhead** At Dan's Bridge Road or 1.1 miles west of the forest entrance on the north side of Stage Road. At 53 miles, **Batona Trail** is a long-distance trail that begins in Brendan T. Byrne State Forest. The Batona (**BAck-TO-Nature**) Trail connects three state forests in the heart of the New Jersey Pinelands. The last 7 miles of the Batona Trail are in Bass River State Forest.

### **CCC Trail**

*Orange • 4 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy to moderate • Winding sandy paths*

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. Named for the Civilian Conservation Corps, **CCC Trail** follows a network of sand roads and sandy paths as it winds through pine and scrub oak and skirts a large marsh along the Bass River. As it nears E. Greenbush Road (CR 654), the trail passes a series of stone foundations from the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps camp, then leads to the Bass River State Forest Firefighters Memorial.

### **Falkinburg Trail**

*Purple • 3 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Trail around east side of forest*

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **Falkinburg Trail** crosses Stage Road then splits with Nisky Trail. Falkinburg Trail then heads northeast adjacent to the Garden State Parkway and the forest boundary to join with the far end of Poppy Allen Trail. The trail traverses a small pine plantation that was planted in the 1920s.

### **Joe's Trail**

*Letters "JT" on white • 0.65 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Follows lake edge*

**Trailhead** Across the road from forest office. **Joe's Trail** is a two- to three-foot-wide sand path that follows the south shore of the lake and ends at a large historic picnic pavilion at the South Shore Campground.

### **Nisky Trail**

*Green • 1.7 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Trail on sand roads*

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **Nisky Trail** crosses Stage Road then follows a network of sand roads through pine forests. This trail is named for John Nisky who was a member of the CCC Camp, Co. 225.

### **North Shore Trail**

*Blue • 0.6 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Connects day use area to North Shore Campground*

**Trailhead** North of day use area parking lot **North Shore Trail** is a two- to four-foot-wide pine needle covered sand path that joins with the North Shore Campground road as it nears the campground. This road and the northern section of North Shore Trail are closed in winter.

### **Poppy Allen Trail**

*Yellow • 3.1 miles • Multi-use*

*Easy • Trail through oak and pine forest*

**Trailhead** North of day use area parking lot. **Poppy Allen Trail** follows four- to five-footwide, flat, pine needle covered paths and some short sections of sand roads. The trail makes a large open loop, winding through mature pine-oak forest. At the far end, it connects with Falkinburg Trail and leads back to the south end of the group campground road. This trail is open to multi-use outside the day use area. “Poppy” Allen was the first caretaker of Bass River State Forest in 1905.

### **South Shore Trail**

*Red • 0.6 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Main trail from day use area to South Shore Campground*

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot. **South Shore Trail** connects the day use parking area with the south shore camping area. This trail runs from the parking area to the forest office and then parallels the south side of the South Shore Campground road.

## **Ballanger Creek Trails**

The Ballanger Creek area of Bass River State Forest is a natural area that includes forested habitat, saltwater marsh, and freshwater wetlands. Once cranberry bogs, the site has been the focus of intensive conservation efforts, including habitat restoration, debris removal, and replanting.

### **Field (Loop) Trail**

*Yellow dot • 0.4 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Loop trail through restored meadow*

**Trailhead** At the signed parking area on south side of Route 9. Field Trail is a short loop through a meadow in the middle of a restoration process. A combination of prescribed burns, replanting, and wildflower enhancement is bringing this field back into a natural state.

### **Creek (Loop) Trail**

*Red dot • 1 mile • Hiking*

*Moderate • Loop trail along Ballanger Creek*

**Trailhead** At the signed parking area on south side of Route 9. Creek Trail follows both sides of Ballanger Creek and marsh. This loop trail roughly follows the waters edge and crosses a series of short boardwalks.

### **Forest (Loop) Trail**

*Green dot • 0.6 miles • Hiking*

*Easy • Loop trail through pine and oak woodland*

Trailhead From the Creek Trail after crossing to east side of Ballanger Creek. Forest Trail is a short loop that follows a six- to eight-foot-wide grassy road through a section of woods.

**TRAIL SENSE AND SAFETY**

**Trail Markings** Official trails are marked with colored blazes on posts and trees. For habitat protection and your safety, please stay on the trails and don't alter trail markings or create new trails.

**Preparations** Consider bringing water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a hat. Dress for the weather. Tell someone where you plan to go and when you will return.

**Hunting** Sections are open to hunting. Bright orange clothing is recommended during hunting season.

**Pets** All pets must be on a leash (maximum 6') and under the physical control of the owner at all times. Please clean up after your pets.

**Carry-in/Carry-out** Help keep the park clean and beautiful by carrying out your trash.

**Tick Protection** Bring insect repellent, wear light-colored clothing, tuck pants into socks, stay on trails, check yourself thoroughly, shower, and launder clothes immediately.

**Report Trail Issues** (609) 296-1114

**Emergency Numbers** 1-877-WARN-DEP (1-877-927-6337) or 911

**Bass River State Forest**

762 Stage Road

Bass River Township, NJ 08224