The Ballinger 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*

**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 • 0.1 mile • Hiking*

**Trailhead** At the signed parking area on south side of Route 9. **Creek Trail** follows both sides of Ballinger 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*

**Trailhead** From the Creek Trail after crossing to east side of Ballinger 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 pet.

**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**

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

**This brochure was funded by the NJDEP and the NJ HWAs Recreational Trail Program.**

**State of New Jersey**

**Department of Environmental Protection**

**Division of Parks and Forestry**

**State Park Services**

njparkandforests.org

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**TRAILS OF BASS RIVER STATE FOREST**

**Bass River State Forest**

Orange - 25 miles

**North Shore Trail**

*Blue • 0.6 miles • Hiking*

**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**

**North Shore Trail**

**Trailhead** North of day use area parking lot

**Poppy Allen Trail** follows four- to five-foot-wide, 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 Falkenburg 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 1903.

**Falkenburg Trail**

*Purple • 3 miles • Multi-use*

**Easy Trail around east side of forest**

**Trailhead** Trail kiosk, south end of day use area parking lot

**Falkenburg Trail** Stage Road then splits with Nicky Trail. Falkenburg 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 pavillion 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** 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.

**South Shore Trail**

*Red • 0.6 miles • Hiking*

**Easy 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.

**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. Greenleigh Road (CR 654), the trail passes by the forest from the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps camp, then leads to the Bass River State Forest Firefighters Memorial.