



New Jersey Geospatial Forum General Meeting

Date	Friday, October 18, 2024
Time	10:00am to 12:00pm
Location	<u>2024 MAC URISA Conference</u> Resorts Casino & Hotel Ocean Ballroom 1133 Boardwalk Atlantic City, NJ 08401 (Google Maps)

Agenda

Welcome

Executive Committee Announcements

Constituency Group Updates & Task Force Reports

Open Discussion & Announcements

All members are encouraged to bring a GIS issue or topic of discussion to the Forum at this time. Anyone making an announcement at the meeting must provide a written summary of their comments to the [NJGF Executive Committee Secretary](#) so that they can be included in the meeting minutes. Members with a GIS issue or topic can also contact their [Executive Committee constituency group representative](#) between Forum meetings.

Scheduled Speakers & Presentations

Accessibility for all: Hopeworks harnesses the power of GIS for a renewed understanding of the Pinelands

Luis Olivieri, Director of GIS, Hopeworks

We'll showcase how the Hopeworks team utilized GIS technology to make the unique environmental and cultural landscape of the Pinelands more accessible and understandable. The focus was to improve access to natural places and promote their enjoyment by people with disabilities, their families and allies. A dynamic story map will be presented alongside a slide deck, led by Hopeworks staff and young professional(s) from our GIS team. Discover the impact of GIS in promoting accessibility and awareness of this vital region. [View the story map.](#)

Contested Land: Exploring the political and cultural conflict over mapping New Jersey's largest area of open space, Wharton State Forest

Jason Howell, Public Lands Advocate, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

Wharton State Forest is the core of the Pinelands National Reserve and the largest single open space area in New Jersey at 125,000 acres. In recent years, conservationists have been urging the State Park Service to implement a travel management map that would help to curtail damages occurring in sensitive habitats by illegal off-road vehicles. While simple, hand drawn maps had been issued by the visitor center for years, these were only intermittently enforced by land managers in the 20th century and so set up a cultural expectation of a land without rules. The proliferation of off-road vehicles in the late 20th and early

21st century created new urgency in the conservation community and advocates urged the Park Service to develop a formal travel management plan, setting up a contest between those who viewed the area as a lawless zone and those who wished to preserve the natural resources and scenic beauty that was the cause for its preservation as open space and the core of the National Reserve. In this presentation, Pinelands Preservation Alliance's public lands advocate, will show videos, photographs, and conduct a virtual tour of the area with consumer level GIS tools, weaving on the ground experience with historic aerial and satellite imagery, georeferenced to the State Forest.

Future General Meeting Dates

Held in-person at NJOIT ITC Room, 300 Riverview Plaza in Trenton ([directions](#)), as well as virtually via Microsoft Teams, unless indicated otherwise, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Thursday, December 5, 2024

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Future Executive Committee Meeting Dates

Held virtually via Microsoft Teams, 1:00pm to 2:30pm

Thursday, November 7, 2024

Thursday, January 9, 2025

Thursday, March 6, 2025